

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective
Wednesday 13 April 2022
by Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in **RED**)

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave W, Eccentric, Elle, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Joe, Mike, Natasha, Moss Pawel, Simon Mr

Apologies: Dave S, Gavin, Katie, Paul He, Sophie

Afterparty

The Vaults is more expensive than anticipated with a £5000 minimum spend. Eccentric has found a venue near the Olympic Park that has a lower minimum spend and has offered a good deal. It would have space for cycles; there is a company on the same estate that could provide food; the VP start could also be the finish point. The meeting considered that this venue is too far from any likely finish points and significantly out of the way for any riders not from that side of London.

Action: *Moss will check whether there is any possibility of fitting in to Electrowerkz before the conflicting Goblin King's Ball event if we finish early enough. We should also consider booking the venue for 2023.*

Action: *Dave S and Eccentric to continue the search for the best afterparty venue.*

Elle agreed to do a stand-up routine at the afterparty.

Starts

Is there an alternative to Hyde Park (which will be closed to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee)? Several suggestions were made including squares between Marble Arch and Notting Hill which would need to be looked at. Two plausible suggestions to consider are Wellington Arch (which could also be a finish point as in previous years), and a roadside start on Park Lane (which might also be an emergency contingency location).

Action: *Dave W to ask police about Wellington Arch.*

Given our lack of certainty over the route options, we have not yet declared a start point for the accessible option. Elle needs info re the accessible start and any alternative to HP for social media. In the meantime, we should just say details are to be confirmed. Other starts have been published.

Listed start times are based on last year's timings. We need to adjust the muster times as they were kept very short in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Action: *Cy will check with ride leaders and update our listings in advance of publicity blast on all channels.*

Finish

Wellington Arch needs more research as a possible start and finish, which it has been in some previous years. Forum Magnum Square is the other clear choice for a finish – but we remain undecided. Another possibility to consider would be a 2-leg route with a longer alternative 2nd leg – eg rendezvous at LIF then take a circuitous route to a finish at FMS. We should only make a final call when we can see exactly what closures have been made for the Queen's Jubilee.

Action: *Dave W will talk to Westminster City Council/Police. We should also check out the "Mound" area that was recently decommissioned (and has previously been our starting point).*

Route

We agreed to alter as little as possible the route between the starts and Lincoln's Inn Fields (LIF), including the usual rendezvous at FMS. We anticipate a fairly usual first and second leg for the ride. The third leg between LIF and the finish will have to change due to closures. Simon Mr pointed out that Aldwych has changed and is now two-way with a new traffic light.

We may want to avoid Whitehall this year due to past incidents. The alternative for people coming from the North would be Northumberland Ave then right onto the Embankment cycle path. People coming from the East should cut out the optional diversion via Trafalgar Square. Riders should use the cycle path because the road does not have an option to turn left at Westminster Bridge.

Action: *add Simon M to Ride Leader Group*

Action: *Cy to send incident number for the incident in Whitehall to Dave W to follow up with Met.*

Action: *All ride leaders to confirm their planned routes to Dave W so that he can inform the police.*

Rules and Guidance Video

Joe has written a script. Collective members representing the range of riders will speak on camera. Pawel will edit the content into a video. We would like this to be ready by the next meeting.

Action: *volunteers - make the video!*

Social Media/Web

The team met today. Elle and Paul He are actively engaged and there has been great acceleration in output and followership. An important theme to tackle is recruiting more marshals.

WNBR Romford

Some members of the collective are involved in starting up the WNBR Romford ride. As this is within Greater London, the question is - what relationship should WNBR London have with it. The consensus was that we would be supportive and allow publicity and posts – but make it clear that it is an independent ride for which we have no accountability or control.

Flag making pre-party

Eccentric will organise this again. He needs a venue.

Action: *Eccentric will confirm venue and then promote.*

Any other business

Moss raised the role of marshals in controlling creeps. We need to consider actions to ensure all marshals understand their role; Moss suggested some marshals could be dedicated to being alert to that behaviour and having a role in stopping it. All marshals should be alert, but that is the theory but in practice it is not always happening. Marshals should be briefed that their role includes behaviour at the finish.

Action: *make this part of the marshals' briefing*

Eccentric raised the suggestion of paid security at the end of the ride, as had been touted at the 2021 debrief. Moss suggested that the security women at Electrowerkz were very good and nonconfrontational; they might be a good option. Pawel said the security from Wormwood Scrubs might also be an option.

Action: *those with contact with security staff to get ideas about services and costs*

Next meeting

11th May 2022 Harvey to be Zoom Master.