

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 11 May 2022
by Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in **RED**)

Present: Barbara, Brad T, Cy, Dave W, Dave S, Eccentric, Gavin, Harvey, Ian, Paul He, Paul Ho, Pawel, Simon Mr, Sophie

Apologies: Graeme, Katie, Mike, Moss, Natasha, Richard

Updates

- Bike hire is set up and social media has been burning hot about it.
- We have listed as part of Bike Week.
- Our social media has been buzzing!
- Subject to any changes we agree, we need to do a big publicity push using mailing list and social media.
- The press release is ready to go.
- Some of our team have been involved in setting up the new rides WNBR Romford (6/8) and WNBR Croydon (7/6) rides, but these are separate from WNBR London and not our responsibility.
- WNBR UK is working on the insurance; we said we'd pay half.
- Eccentric is organising a flag-making meet-up on the day before the ride at the Shakespeare pub. Publicity is on social media.
- We discussed flag making at length. It has been a long time since we were able to organise bulk production of flags, although we raise the need every year. We have templates and slogans. We would allocate a reasonable amount of funding for screen printing templates, equipment, environmentally friendly ink, fabric and printing etc if someone takes the lead on making it happen. **Action:** *Dave S will investigate.*

Video – almost everything you need to know about WNBR London

The video has been completed and was streamed for the meeting. All agreed it was an excellent video. This provides an alternative to the existing advice on the website and social media. It will be published and promoted on social media.

Routes

Cyclists are already outraged at the 6-week closure of E-W superhighway with police and security people out in force to catch them riding through the park. We cannot be sure of the impact of the closures as public information remains sketchy.

We will need to do test rides before and during the Jubilee as some start leaders will be unable to get to the 4th June, but it is only at the height of the Jubilee chaos that we can evaluate potential routes and locations.

It was agreed that we need to do test rides 2 weeks and 1 week before the ride. The first one will be more about checking the first two legs from the starts. The second one will be more about the chaos around the Royal areas and whether we can get to and from Wellington Arch or other alternatives. Therefore, we can't confirm routes and locations until our meeting on 8th June.

Our working assumption is that the first 2 legs will be as normal – rendezvous at FMS, ride on to LIF. We do not yet know where we plan to finish. We discussed three options for the third leg:

- ride on to Wellington Arch (probably via Pall Mall and Piccadilly to avoid Piccadilly Circus)
- looping route back to FMS (probably via St Pauls)
- Only have two legs with longer routing between FMS and LIF (or vice versa).

It is probably a good idea to avoid Whitehall this year. Start leaders should adjust routes as required to avoid the past trouble spot. TH and Deptford can miss out the detour via Trafalgar Sq. Routes from the north could take Northumberland Avenue, although good corking would be required for the right turn onto the Embankment. Remember that you need to use the bike lane to turn left at Westminster Bridge as the main road does not have a left turn. Another alternative would be to cut through from Northumberland Ave to Whitehall via Great Scotland Yard, Scotland Place and Whitehall Place, which would bring us past but still close to the trouble spot. **Action:** *Start leaders to consider and adjust their routes as they see fit.*

We may want to use a new route from LIF to TSq due to problems with the Covent Garden area, which is still choked by road blocks and restaurants. Leave LIF by the lower exit and take Kingsway to the new right turn at Aldwych (which has now become 2-way).

Extensive route plans have been shared with the police, but we should update these with our final route decisions.

Marshalling

Currently we have 32 marshals with 2 or 3 stewards and 2 or 3 dedicated first aiders (in addition to marshals who have first aid certificates). They will all be supplied with an information pack and invited to a briefing or asked to watch a recording. This will be after the final decisions are made at our meeting on 8th June.

Action: *all to confirm marshals by 9th June.*

Tentative marshalling assignments have been shared. We are holding back four marshals to form an additional team if we can use Wellington Arch as a start.

Action: *Cy to update marshal briefing and info pack by 9th June*

Security

Some options were investigated. Eccentric has found a women-only firm who are keen and are experienced dealing with sexual harassment. Cost per person per hour: £25. Two people for 5 hours: £250. We approved of the concept and costs, although some members would like to seek other competitive quotes.

We discussed how they might best be used. They should work together for safety. They will need to be able to travel between locations (bearing in mind travel might be disrupted by bicycles on the road). They should probably start at the biggest start, then beat the ride to FMS. They should get the last of the riders out, therefore they could not beat the front of the ride arriving at LIF. Potentially they would skip LIF and get to the finish before the first riders.

Our security team will be Eccentric, Dave S, Pawel and Cy

Action: *Eccentric to pursue this, including resolving how they will get around the route to various points where they will be wanted during the ride.*

Action: *Dave S and Pawel offered to check out the firm and consider whether to look at alternative providers.*

Afterparty

The afterparty will be held at the Shakespeare in the Barbican as a ticketed event. Helpers will get free entry. Elle will do stand-up in their comedy venue. We could maybe make a cycle rack map available to help people find somewhere to park bikes in the vicinity. When booking tickets, the pub wants people to choose a dish from a menu to have an indication of how much of which items to prepare.

Action: *Update and publicise on web and social media*

Action: *Cy to set up ticketing on Eventbrite*

Third Party providers

- LBTC have set up a 15% discount code for hire of any bikes this year.
- Swapfiets – offer of free bike hire or other promotional activities. **Action:** *to be pursued.*
- Original Source has expressed interest in collaboration but has not made a proposal to date.

Financials

The meeting approved:

- spend on afterparty venue - £150 fee to pub.
- armbands – less than £100.
- security circa £250.

Ride day comms

Comms will be tested on test rides: WhatsApp group, 360 for location tracking, phone and text backup.

We should agree comms points – eg confirm when setting off, arriving at convergence or rest points, finish.

Nominated lead comms people include: VP Joe S-F and Eccentric, RP – Simon Mr and Harvey, TH – Natasha and Paul He, Croydon – Dave W.

Police Liaison

Dave W reported there is still no reply re Wellington Arch. [UPDATE – since the meeting, police have confirmed Wellington Arch is OK.]

He has submitted a risk assessment for Kew and Clapham. He is trying to get a Westminster contact from Richmond Met. Dave W needs marshals for Croydon. Eccentric said he could release Joe.

AOB

Cy needs to distribute armbands, handout cards and seat covers to start leads during test rides. Seat covers should be on sale at starts (price £2). We could also sell tote bags and badges if any start wants to do so. They could also be on sale at the afterparty if someone wants to handle that.

Action: *Cy + start leaders*

There was a long discussion about handling known problematic participants.