

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 08 June 2022

by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dan B, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Ian, Mike, Moss, Natasha, Paul He, Pawel, Simon Mr, Sophie

Apologies: Joe, Richard

(Action items in RED)

Quick Updates:

- Signups on Facebook never reflect actual attendance but give an indication of popularity. We are seeing TH, VP and CJ as the popular starts. People have started signing for the last-minute new start at WA.
- Social media and publicity have been highly active and reached a large audience.
- Bike hire bookings at LBTC are going well.
- Third Parties – Mike spoke to Ohne, the eco period pants company who had asked to get involved. It was too short notice for this year but might be pursued next year. Approaches from other organisations were also too late to consider for this year.

Route finalisation

- The second test ride was completed successfully on 4th June. It confirmed the viability of the Wellington Arch as an alternative to the HP start, which ride leaders agreed should be publicised immediately.
- Start leaders have agreed routes. Dave W has tabulated all routes for police liaison and the Marshals' Guide. Harvey and Eccentric have provided alternative routes from the finish to the afterparty. **Action** – *finalise which route to take to AP.*
- Agreed that the start leaders should make an announcement that the AP is ticket only and all tickets have been sold. They also need to say riders going to AP should get dressed before they are near to the venue to protect its reputation and licence. Also announce the gathering points for the AP and the return rides.

Feedback from Coventry and Croydon

- Coventry: there was an attack by people on electric bikes, who seemed to have been in waiting for the ride. The assailants were masked and targeted the marshals. Police did not attend nor investigate. There is video footage and photographs of the incidents.
- Croydon: A white car harassed Eccentric. It looked like it might have been waiting for the ride. The occupants were abusive and threatening. Police took two hours to respond. The ride was abandoned as the riders felt too vulnerable. There was, however, a positive experience – an abusive motorcyclist backed down and was pleasant once the laws on nudity were explained to him.
- **Action:** *include in marshals' briefing and guidance our protocols for handling incidents, eg call police; make it clear that there is immediate danger; if the ride is in danger put clothes back on; have a second strong back-up leader to take over ride if the leader needs to stay behind to assist or wait for police.*
- Additional points made: A start ride feeling vulnerable could keep clothes on until it feels safe. All starts must have 2 or preferably more experienced marshals - preferably a team who know each other. Could send scout ahead to warn of any suspicious cars/bikes/etc. Croydon is considering to have Derek follow in a truck. We should request police escort for starts if we have concerns. Pawel pointed out that if police ask if the assailant is present caller can say

they have removed selves so cannot see what is going on. Dave W is pursuing Croydon police contact.

- Hub can help with communications within the groups (eg let front/rear marshals know there is a problem), but should not be asked to call police as she will not know what is going on!

Police Liaison

- Dave W has produced comprehensive document re contact with police. This is being circulated. He has not heard from the final three units.

Security people

- We have engaged professional security for the first time this year. They will be targeting hot spots: TH, FM, finish.
- There is no requirement for security at the AP venue. We do have people on door checking tickets.

Finish arrangements

- It will take co-ordinated marshalling to get from Piccadilly across five lanes of traffic to WA. The fallback if there is a problem on the day is to go to the circle of trees – the previous finish point.
- Return rides meet at the statue of man on a horse. Afterparty rides meet at the statue of an artillery gun. Everyone else should meet on grassy areas.
- Harvey is leading the afterparty ride. Eccentric will ask if room for Dave S's pedicab in the pub cellar.

Marshal and stewarding arrangements

- Discussion of whether all teams have experienced marshals/stewards and what swaps need to be done:
 - TH wants to keep Paul, Roberto and Anthony. Nat's boyfriend is a security guard and is a helpful addition to team.
 - WA could do with more.
 - Accessible option: two marshals - Eccentric and Joe. The stewards will have orange armbands. If you see any lost-looking accessible start cyclists, point them to orange armbands.
 - Afterparty: Rebecca, Shelly, Cate +1 maybe. Cate's job is to help people circulate. Others will be on the doors. Entertainment is Elle and Boom Boom Racoon.

Briefing Zoom and pack

- Slide pack shows routes, covers behaviours, etc. The briefing will be recorded and available unlisted on YouTube.
- Communications with Hub during ride should track locations and progress – leaving/arriving starts and key points eg, FMS and LIF and end. **Action: *one marshal should be the named comms contact for each group.***
- At least one marshal from every group should be logged into 360 so the group can be tracked.
 - Moss for VP; Dave S for Croydon; Eccentric has second phone for urgent contact point – **Action: *ensure Hub has that number.***
 - Ian – his three marshals are on WhatsApp – no one committed to comms.

AOB

- Pawel asked by Met Police if wants to press charges. Cy had already said yes. Consensus that this was the right thing to do.