

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 8 Feb 2023
by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Barbara, Bella, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Elle, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Joe, Mike, Moss, Paul He, Pawel, Roberto, Simon Mr, Sophie

Apologies: Natasha

(Action items in RED)

Social Media

The team has been very busy. We are collecting appropriate photos for Instagram. In general we want to portray the ride as advised in the Photography Policy – eg positive pictures of riders riding with permission from the photographer. Portraits with identifiable people should only be used with their permission.

Twitter provides our biggest followership. The Facebook page and group have been fairly quiet. We have followed the possible exodus from Twitter by opening a Mastodon account which Mike had been posting to, but it has been very quiet.

We will try to build interest with messages increasing closer to ride. Collective member expressing an interest in this team are Bella, Cy, Elle, Mike, Paul He, Pawel, and Roberto.

There was a suggestion to add Telegram and Signal.

We should also post to the BN website – several people are BN members. Elle got a good response when she posted there. Mike, Elle, Harvey, Eccentric, Dave W, Dave S and Joe are BN members.

Flickr was also discussed. Our published position is that we do not recommend people use Flickr because there is so much undesirable content about WNBR. If people do use it they should use the WNBR London group as we are able to moderate that one.

Elle suggested we think about TikTok. We could gain traction quickly. Short funny videos would be popular. Our reservation is that it has a reputation for targeting young people, which is something we would not want to do.

Royal Parks Liaison

The Hyde Park management are again saying we cannot use the park as it will be closed for a major event. Again, they are refusing to give any details. They seem to be hinting that it is an annual event so we assume that means the Trooping of Colour. We have ridden in the afternoon of that event or its rehearsals almost every year so we have no reason to believe there should be any clash.

It feels like the Royal Parks are deliberately becoming less accommodating.

Action: *Cy will draft a Freedom Of Information request about their policy on supporting peaceful demonstrations. John has experience in doing FOIs and will review and polish the draft.*

Based on that information, we should assume we cannot start or finish at Hyde Park. We will plan on the assumption of using an alternative location at Wellington Arch (as was the case last year).

With this lack of clarification, it also remains to be seen whether can go down the Mall and past Buckingham Palace.

Police Liaison

Dave W will get the submissions in ASAP. It would be useful to sort out the story regarding Hyde Park but we will assume a Wellington Arch start and finish.

Ride leaders are not anticipating any major route changes from last year's plan. We will assume we can revert to a Mall and Constitution Hill finish as is our normal practice. The return route to Croydon is being improved. There will be a new afterparty location and therefore a new route for that onward ride. Eccentric offered to help with Police liaison if required.

Action: *Dave W will get the submissions done by next meeting.*

Afterparty

Dave S, Harvey, Sophie, Moss, and Eccentric will take an interest in the afterparty arrangements. Harvey will plan and lead the onward ride to the venue.

The manager at Electrowerkz is "very excited" but we have nothing yet in writing. Our understanding is that we would have exclusive access early in the evening and later we would be welcome to stay when it opens to the general partying public. Elle volunteered to do a comedy turn again if that is possible. There is a stage and mic set up.

Security

We have good news. Contrary to our understanding last month, the organiser of security team we used last year is still available and keen to provide security again this year. The security people were generally welcomed and viewed positively so we are happy to use the same firm and expect we would want a larger team this year, potentially covering more locations as well as more people. Our team for organising this is Eccentric, Moss, Cy, Paul He, and Pawel.

Start teams and route planning

The start leaders should be in charge of their arrangements and any assistants. They are primarily responsible for their own routes and collectively responsible for planning the merged part of the ride.

Website

Cy leads on updating the website. Mike and Pawel also have editing access. Elle and John also have the right skills.

Wrangling

This involves recruitment, information, training, organising starts and briefing marshals. We should review and update the marshals' info pack and briefing presentation. Although everyone should be trying to recruit marshals, we need a lead for wrangling – but nobody volunteered.

Paul He and Elle said they would help recruit marshals.

Briefing: BAZ, Cy, Sophie will work on policies and briefing materials for marshals and other helpers.

First Aid Training

We may want to run another first aid training session. There was discussion about whether to hold it at a more convenient location than Oakwood Sun Club. People think it is a long trip to the club but worth the effort if it is warm and sunny. Dave S offered his apartment.

Action: *Harvey will contact the usual trainer and report back at next meeting.*

Flagmaking

Eccentric will lead on flag making again. He would like to have help on the day.

We also discussed our perennial desire to mass-produce flags for our supporters to purchase. They would need to be eco but that tends to be expensive. Cy suggested maybe the people who made the tote bags might be able to do it.

Moss has experience and some materials from her art school days. Harvey, Cy and Sophie also are interested in seeing if we can find a way to make flags.

Accessible option

Roberto, Eccentric and Sophie offered to be involved in arrangements for this year's accessible option.

AOB

Harvey is starting up a new WNBR ride in Oxford this year, and would welcome support.

Meeting Dates 2023

- Wednesday 11th January 2023, First Collective Meeting
- Wednesday 8th February 2023, Planning Meeting
- Wednesday 8th March 2023, Planning Meeting
- Wednesday 12th April 2023, Planning Meeting
- Wednesday 10th May 2023, Planning Meeting
- Saturday 3rd June 2023, Test Ride
- Wednesday 7th June 2023, Finalisation Meeting
- Saturday 10th June 2023, Ride Day
- Wednesday 14th June 2023, Debrief Meeting