

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective
Wednesday, 8th March 2023
by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Harvey, Ian, Joe, John H, Mike, Moss, Roberto, Simon Mr, Sophie

Apologies: Natasha, Paul He

(Action items in RED)

Starts and routes

No changes or updates since last meeting, except for Hyde Park – see below.

Royal Parks

There has been continuing correspondence with The Royal Parks, who are saying we can't use any part of Hyde Park this year. They have cited undisclosed closures to the public of undisclosed areas of the park to support undisclosed activities relating to undisclosed public events.

As a result of the Royal Parks position, our working assumption is that we will need to fall back to using Wellington Arch again, as was the case last year when Hyde Park was closed for the Royal Jubilee. In the absence of detail about the extent of closures we cannot be certain whether we will be able to use this location and the routes to and from it.

Action: *Cy, Dave W and John H are drafting a freedom of information (FOI) request to discover the facts behind this.*

Marble Arch was raised as another alternative. It is a start location we used several times in the past. Now that the touristic hill has been removed, the area is restored to public use and the recent Women's Ride used it.

Accessible option

Last year's accessible option did not work well, with no marshal and no participants showing up. We need to find a new person to be the marshal. We need to be better at promoting it.

Action: *Eccentric*

There was a discussion about locations and arrangements. The prevailing view was that it is best to run it between the two rest points (as before), but possibly find a safe location for participants to muster. As there have been very low numbers it may be best to call it an option, ie, you have the option to join us at FMS and finish at LIF for a shorter, easier, accessible ride.

Police liaison

Our routes have been submitted to the Met and COLP. We have had good responses. The contact at City of London is retiring and has referred us to a general mailbox. We should check the Hyde Park alternatives with the Met.

Action: *Dave W will pursue.*

Wrangling

Nobody has picked up the lead role for wrangling volunteers, although several people are helping to find people. Everyone should be doing so. We should start plugging this on social media. Messaging needs to be punchier. We should have a volunteer form to standardise the capture of volunteers' details and make it look more professional.

Action: *Cy to create a signup form.* Social Media team to publicise.

Policies and information for marshals and stewards

In the past two years we have organised a marshals' briefing, along with a video recording for those who couldn't attend the briefing. We also share the extensive marshals' information pack. Harvey thinks it is too detailed and we need a précis. We should review our comms for 2023.

Security

The security firm we used last year will provide support on the day of the ride. We have not yet discussed the detail - how many, where, when. It is best if they work in pairs. Start leaders present considered the needs and best use of resources. Tentatively they suggested: Clapham Junction no, Croydon no, Deptford no, Kew Bridge no, Regents Park no, Victoria Park maybe, Tower Hill yes, Wellington Arch yes. So, we should engage between 4 and 6 security personnel.

Action: *Eccentric to take this forward*

First Aid Training

We had asked for a later date, at a later time, at a more convenient locations, but availability of the first aid trainer means that the best date we can get is 29th April and it would need to be at Oakwood at 10am. WNBR London will pay for the training and certificate but not any travel expenses.

Action: *comms is needed to publicise that ASAP.*

Social Media and Publicity

There has been a lot of good social media activity. We would like volunteers for the FB group and the second (fans) Twitter account. Joe volunteered for the FB group. A volunteer for Twitter would be welcome!

Who gives a crap opportunities

Dave W would like to see them at Croydon, for example with a photo board. They would also be good at the afterparty. If they were at the finish then people who want photos taken could have the attention they want.

Action: *Dave S and Dave W will liaise with WGAC. Cy will email to introduce them.*

Flags and Merchandise

Nothing has progressed since the last meeting.

Afterparty

Electrowerkz has been secured as the venue and we would like to go ahead. We could have three rooms downstairs – courtyard, cake room, live music room until 9pm after which participants can join with other customers. They can supply food and drink. Capacity is 500+. They can provide bike storage. We don't need permission to block the road.

We want to require everyone to have tickets but should be willing to sell tickets on the door for anyone else who turns up. We do not need to supply security as the venue's people are very good.

Action: *The collective agreed that Dave S could go ahead and pay the £500 plus VAT hire fee.*

Email changes

Due to an unintended consequence of WNBR UK moving the wnbr.org.uk domain, we lost the ability to use our primary email address: london@wnbr.org.uk. We are able to redirect any incoming emails.

Action: *Cy will set up new main address on wnbrlondon.uk.*

AOB

Members thanked and congratulated Sophie on an excellent meeting. Mike will chair the next meeting.

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