

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday, 10 May 2023

by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Harvey, Ian, Joe, John, Mike G, Moss, Natasha, Paul He, Roberto, Simon C, Sophie

Apologies: Dan, Pawel

(Action items in *red*)

Starts, timing and routes

Eccentric described a problem with VP, which he is using for WNBR East London as well as WNBR London. Someone has made a complaint to Tower Hamlets. The complainant appears to misunderstand the nature of the ride and its use of the park. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has asked us to reconsider VP as start and wants to talk to Eccentric, although he has not yet answered Eccentric's email. Several suggestions and observations were made that help might mitigate the problem.

Action: *Eccentric to pursue negotiations with Tower Hamlets.*

Marshal allocation and wrangling

No one volunteered to be marshal wrangler so Cy will email everyone who has helped or offered to help in the past as a marshal, steward or first aider. We will also publish more requests for volunteers. The confirmed volunteers will be collated and tentatively assigned to start teams.

Action: *Cy*

Police liaison

Liaison is going to plan. Dave W will need info about the VP situation and any revised arrangements. Cy will need the finalised route plans for the Marshals' information packs.

Freedom of Information response

The Freedom of Information response from the Royal Parks did not fully answer our questions. John is bringing that to their attention.

The response included some internal emails which contain defamatory false statements and assertions about WNBR London. They falsely claim we have ignored their instructions in the past and they assert we will also do so in the future. These falsehoods appear to have been shared with other park managers and may well be the cause of the deteriorating attitudes of The Royal Parks. Cy argued strongly that because these emails are now in the public domain, we have to refute the assertions and demand they be corrected. The correct information should be circulated to all those who had been in receipt of the content. If necessary, this should be escalated to a formal complaint to the Trustees of The Royal Parks, and, ultimately to an action for libel. John believes this should more be an aspect of future discussions with the parks. Cy said there was no point in talking to the parks at this time as we dropped plans to use the usual Hyde Park start as soon as they said we couldn't use it and have now published plans to move that start to Wellington Arch (again).

Dave W emphasized the importance of gathering our past evidence including contracts, licence payments, correspondence and meeting notes.

The meeting concluded that we should defer any further action until after this year's ride is complete as it is clearly contentious and would consume too much time and energy.

Test Ride on 3rd June

Some people will be unable to get there because of a rail strike. CJ cannot get there but KB will check both legs of their ride in. Sophie is not available on the 3rd but could do it in her own time. She will ask Gavin and otherwise do a different time.

Last collective meeting 7th June

We need a host for this meeting – MG will be away.

Zoom briefing and marshals' info packs

The Zoom briefing is on 8th June so that any final changes made in the collective meeting can be included. Slides will be updated by Cy. The content should be an update of last year's briefing. It will be recorded and made available by link for people who missed the briefing.

Likewise, the marshals' info pack will be updated and hopefully circulated on 8th June.

Sophie volunteered to help review and revise the content. Cy will circulate via WhatsApp so everyone can look. We will need to include final details of police contacts, routes.

Action: *Cy, Sophie, Dave W*

Flag Making 9th June

The Shakespeare Pub is being uncommunicative. Eccentric is concerned they may be pulling the plug on all three things he had agreed to do there.

Action: *Eccentric to establish whether there is a problem with our bookings.*

Who gives a crap?

WGAC want to donate £3k to us. We might use it for flag making, the afterparty, acts for after party. They sent the link to a company which makes recyclable material. Harvey was looking into screen printing but has had to step down. Maybe we could ask Extinction Rebellion? They had lots of flags at Marathon. Moss has a contact. Moss can contact ER

Templates to print all WNBR logos and mottos are on our website as downloadable images. It should be easy to make screen-printing templates. The actual printing and drying will take time and will need an appropriate location. If we can find a way to do this Moss, Cy, Eccentric, Natasha, Dave S and Barbara are all willing to help.

Afterparty 10th June

Enough tickets have been sold to cover the cost of the venue. Should we be looking for acts and entertainment? We might be able to pay for these with the WGAC money. Clothed acts would be okay. Elle had said she could do a comedy act again.

Who from our side will be the hosts, stewards, and ticket sellers? Dave S and Harvey have friends who might help.

Action: *Afterparty team to resolve all the who does what issues for the afterparty*

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Debrief by Zoom 14th June

As well as the planned debrief, we should arrange an in-person afterparty for later in the year!

Security

The proposed security arrangements would have 6 personnel working as 3 pairs covering VP, TH and WA then moving on to FMS, LIF and the finish. They are offering an additional person on a motorcycle who is also medically qualified and will manage team on day. The expected cost is £775.00. The meeting agreed that we should go ahead with a ceiling on costs of £1000.

Location Tracking

Google maps -seems to work. We will set up a test for hub to try it out.

Action: *Paul*

Insurance

Rob is waiting for quotes. The meeting agreed that London will again split the bill with WNBR UK as we are largest ride.

Armbands, cards and seat covers

Cy will order fresh stocks of armbands. Handout cards have been reordered with an updated graphic. All starts should have seat covers to sell, especially for hire bikes. These can be distributed on the test ride.

Social Media

- We are building up a large following on Instagram.
- Twitter is also very successful, and we now have the blue tick which gives it better penetration.
- Facebook is waning in popularity – we think it has gone out of fashion with our followership. People signing up on event pages are fewer than ever.
- Mastodon hasn't taken off – we have very few interactions.
- In the build-up to the ride, we should be posting and engaging with our followers every day.
- The main press release needs to be prepared.

AOB

Barbara is retiring at age 80 next year. We need a new secretary.

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