

## Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

by Zoom Videoconference

**Present:** Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Harvey, Ian, Joe, John, Norm, Simon Mr, Willoh

**Apologies:** Roberto, Paul He, Dan, Graeme, Natasha, Mike, Richard

(Action items in *red*)

### Treasurers Report for 2023

Cy provided an update on the budget and finances. Our position is healthy and sufficient to fund expected activities in 2024.

2023 was an excellent year with many donations, a large contribution from the afterparty and one sizeable corporate donation. Major outgoings were the insurance costs, security personnel, and afterparty costs. In addition, Dave S used a small claims action to recover the lost deposit from Brixton Jamm, which had shut down during lockdown in 2020.

Bike seat cover stocks have run out. Replenishment would be a significant cost over £1000.

**Action:** *the collective agreed we should invest in new stock.*

It was recognised that the challenge is how to facilitate sales of seat covers and other merchandise on the day.

**Action:** *Willoh volunteered to look into card reader costs and an app that turns phone into temporary card reader.*

### Appointment of Officers: Treasurers for 2024

The Collective accepted the treasurers' report. Cy, Richard and Dave S are all willing to continue to serve and were unanimously re-elected as treasurers and officers of WNBR London.

### Confirm Target Ride Date

The Collective confirmed the decision last year to plan for the next ride to be the second Saturday in June as usual, ie 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### Meeting schedule – proposal to change to Tuesday

The Collective considered a request to change meetings to a different day of the week as one of the leaders is always unable to attend on Wednesdays. Those present considered first Thursdays to be the best option, subject to confirmation with absent ride leaders.

**Action:** *Cy to confirm and update the calendar.*

*[nb subsequent consultation led to further changes – the final calendar is appended to the minutes]*

The Collective agreed that we should rotate the meeting chair.

**Action:** *Eccentric volunteered to chair the next meeting. Cy will take the minutes.*

## Potential Start Points and their Leaders

**Deptford** is uncertain due to the expected closure of the venue. They were unable to agree terms with the landlords. There is a possibility that a new group could take over the location and may be willing to host WNBR in 2024. **Action:** *Sophie to try to make arrangements and keep us informed.*

In 2023, **Victoria Park** encountered major last-minute problems with Tower Hamlets Council (who had previously been content). We understand that the current Mayor of Tower Hamlets dislikes protests. Although Tower Hamlets failed in their attempted action to stop the ride, WNBR London were informed by the Council that they anticipated violent agitators in the park, so we had to put safety first. Due to the hostile nature of Tower Hamlets, the Collective concluded that we should not use Victoria Park unless it is with the explicit consent of Tower Hamlets Council. Eccentric agreed in court he would meet with Tower Hamlets and he will push for that to happen, maybe with support from John if possible.

**Action:** *Eccentric to consider a meeting with Tower Hamlets.*

The Collective discussed alternative locations in other boroughs to the east and north-east. It was agreed that we should continue thinking and investigating good locations.

**Action:** *Eccentric will lead on the search for a new north-east start. All to contribute ideas.*

**Tower Hill** was particularly crowded in 2023 as result of the Victoria Park participants being redirected there. Tower Hamlets indicated that the ride could and should have a start at that location so we will continue to ride from Trinity Square Gardens. As described in the debrief, riders left by the east exit instead of the north exit, which led to a very slow start.

**Action:** *ensure there are detailed maps for marshalling each of the starts.*

**Kew Bridge** was trouble-free in 2023 and is OK for 2024. Ian is looking for successor and had approached Elle who expressed an interest.

**Action:** *Ian and Elle to consider how to lead the KB start.*

Simon Mr is happy to lead the start near **Regents Park** again, hopefully with the continuing assistance of his predecessor, Harvey.

Dave W is confident that we can ride from **Croydon** again, although he is considering changing the route.

**Action:** *Dave W to consider new route and confirm venue with Derek.*

**Hyde Park** – Dave S is willing to lead the central Hyde Park or Wellington Arch again. We need a conversation with Royal Parks re whether and where we could start. We also need to touch upon our response to the FOI information that John obtained last year.

**Action:** *Dave S and Cy to liaise with Royal Parks.*

The **Accessible Start** needs dedicated organisers and leaders. The plan in 2023 looked good but wasn't correctly led due to the need to substitute the ride leader.

## Volunteers for specific activities

**Police liaison:** Dave W is happy to continue to lead. He needs maps earlier to provide street route info to police. Eccentric is also happy to be involved.

## **Flags, seat covers and other merchandise:**

Cy listed the items we have already designed and produced, either for sale or as samples: flags, seat covers, mugs, badges, tote bags, baseball cap, T shirt. Some other random ideas suggested were branded pants, pre-glued nipple pasties, face paints, make up.

Eccentric would like a second person to help with flag-making party. A flag-making party could be used as a social event to publicise the ride, sell merchandise and make flags. It may be better to do this several weeks before the ride.

Cy would like us to mass-produce flags we can sell. We last had them in 2007. Harvey has been looking at silk screening. We would need space to make and dry the flags. Norm will look into how to do flags on the day – stencils could be done on the day. He will look into merchandising and report to the next meeting with suggestions for merchandise – costs, lead times etc. Cy to have side conversation with Norm.

Brighton is good at merchandising. They have a single start location with tents and booths by agreement with the council. Norm is happy to liaise if given contact name. Eccentric will advise. Simon Mr is also happy to help with merchandising.

**Afterparty:** Dave S is keen to lead this again. He has been looking at venues. Electrowerkz was not a good venue and is not available.

Phantom Peak would be happy to host us. It is 6 miles / 33 minutes cycling from Wellington Arch. Cy pointed out that it's close to Canada Water tube, overground and bus station so travelling by public transport would be easy. (Bikes are permitted on the Overground but not on the Jubilee Line.)

Dockside Vaults is at St Katherine's Docks, which feels more central although it is still 4.4 miles / 27mins cycling. It has a lift but it would be difficult to get everyone down with bikes. We would need to dress to arrive and leave. Dave will suggest some options.

We had contact with the Naked Cabaret performers last year and they were keen to work with us for the afterparty.

Willoh is happy to help with event/performance and can stage-manage the afterparty. Simon Mr is happy to help look at venues. Eccentric is also happy to help.

**Action:** *Those mentioned above to form the afterparty team to work on the possibilities. Others welcome to assist.*

**First Aid Training:** The trainer we used is unavailable. Eccentric has been looking into training. St John's is expensive, but some companies that do cheaper courses. There is also on-line training that could be bought in bulk. Steven Allen, who is one of our first aiders, also does training although he is not London based. Dave W can make contact.

**Action:** *all to consider affordable options for first aid training.*

**Marshal wrangling** – Joe volunteered to help.

**Action:** *Cy to brief Joe*

**Social Media:** We need volunteers with WordPress knowledge to help with website. Willoh has a friend he will ask. We would also like more people to help with social media – Facebook, X, Instagram, Threads, Mastodon.

**Security:** Eccentric, Cy, Dave S, and Moss were in the group, which will be reactivated. Norm volunteered to help.

For all teams, the leaders should post on WhatsApp to get more support and set up team specific groups if they don't already exist.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Chair: Eccentric, Minutes: Cy.

**WNBR London Calendar 2024**

Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Collective Meeting
Thursday, 08 February 2024	Collective Meeting
Thursday, 14 March 2024	Collective Meeting
Thursday, 11 April 2024	Collective Meeting
Thursday, 09 May 2024	Collective Meeting
Saturday, 01 June 2024	Test Ride
Wednesday, 05 June 2024	Pre-ride Meeting
Thursday, 06 June 2024	Marshals' Briefing
Friday, 07 June 2024	Briefing Video Available
Saturday, 08 June 2024	Ride Day
Thursday, 13 June 2024	Debrief