

## Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

by Zoom Videoconference

**Present:** Barbara, Cy, Dave W, Eccentric, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Julian, Mike, Norm, Roberto, Simon Mr, Sophie, Willoh

**Apologies:** Dave S, Joe, John

(Action items in *red*)

### Treasurers and officers

Cy presented the treasurers' report. Funds in 2024 grew overall and we have sufficient resources for at least the next two years. The afterparty made a healthy profit. Donations were good. Security expenses continued to rise. Detailed accounts are kept but are not published.

The meeting approved the continued appointment of Richard, David S and Cy as treasurers for 2025 and, therefore, officers of WNBR London.

Eccentric suggested that he could become an Equalities Officer for WNBR London. The meeting felt this required further consideration as we have not appointed additional officers in the past (although it is permitted in the constitution). This should be discussed at the next meeting.

### Date of 2025 ride

At the previous meeting it was agreed to aim for 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This would be the second Saturday, which is our usual target.

This year that will coincide with the King's Birthday Trooping of the Colour. We have successfully coincided some times in the past as the formal events are completed and roads re-opened before we arrive in the afternoon.

We also noted that if Brighton ride on the 15<sup>th</sup> there will be travel problems as that is also the date for the London to Brighton bike ride and trains might restrict bikes. However, this is a year when the second Sunday is before the second Saturday so maybe they will ride the week before – which we would welcome.

It was agreed to proceed with a target date of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### Starts

Willoh agreed to run the accessible start again. We will want to look for the best location as the 2024 start was crowded with spectators and photographers.

**Action:** *Willoh and others to consider options for the accessible start*

Mike will run Clapham Junction again.

Dave W confirmed that Derek is happy to host the start at Croydon again and Dave will lead the ride.

Sophie hopes to re-start the Deptford start now that the new ownership is in place. She is contacting them for an answer.

**Action:** *Sophie*

Eccentric needs to confirm whether we can use Thingy Cafe at Hackney Wick again. We thought it worked well last year.

**Action:** *Eccentric*

Ian is hoping that Elle will lead Kew Bridge again, but we have not yet heard from her this year.

Simon Mr is happy to lead Regents Park again and Harvey said he would be willing to do it again if required.

Norm is expecting to support Tower Hill and will contact Natasha. (We have not yet received a confirmation from Natasha.)

We believe Dave S is willing to lead Wellington Arch again, but he was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Safer starts and stops**

The best way to improve safety and the riders' experience would be to have starts on private property where riders are welcome and onlookers are not allowed. We would be willing to pay an affordable fee for the use of the private space. Cy had suggested the courtyard of Goldsmiths but Keon said it would not be OK. This is an example of the kind of space we are looking for – space for bikes with a toilet which is available on a Saturday afternoon.

**Action:** *Cy to have a new burst of social media to ask for ideas; everyone to think about possible venues.*

A lot of advice and information exists on our website, videos and in social media posts. We could do more to promote that information for potential riders. Sophie suggested infographics.

**Action:** *Cy to bolster social media; Sophie to develop the idea of infographics.*

We also discussed a suggestion to move the finish. Historically we have moved the finish several times in the attempt to reduce onlookers and avoid problematic photography. Previously we published misleading information about the location and were hiding in the trees elsewhere – but that was unpopular with some riders who felt they were safer in the open. There is no perfect solution unless we can find a private location to finish – maybe at an afterparty venue.

### **Communications Hub**

The Hub role has been performed excellently by Barbara for the past few years, but she would like to step down. Graeme volunteered to help.

**Action:** *Barbara and Graeme to see how this could be done.*

### **Communications and messaging**

Cy and Mike will continue to work on our social media output. Paul He has said he will continue to help with Instagram, although he does not want to participate as part of the collective this year. Sophie volunteered to help with drafting and reviewing content, eg on the website and mailings. She would also be happy to learn to use Wordpress to be able to update the website. Julian has a background in technology and can help with the technology behind our comms.

Sophie, Willoh and Eccentric volunteered to work on inclusion.

Sophie advised against using ChatGPT or OpenAI.

Mike would like us to start using Blue Sky. He will set it up.

**Action:** *Mike*

### **Police Liaison**

Dave W has been an excellent liaison person with the Police and agreed to continue in that role.

### **Security**

Eccentric reported that MK is again keen to provide professional security personnel. Eccentric volunteered to continue as our lead and liaison with the security team.

### **First Aid training**

Our previous trainer has recovered from her illness and is again able to provide affordable training for our marshals. A date in May would be best.

**Action:** *Harvey to identify and agree a date.*

### **AfterShow**

Dave S reported that Phantom Peak would be happy to have us back, although there is no certainty that their lease will be renewed so they could not commit at this time.

Collective members are encouraged to seek alternative venues and ideas.

**Action:** *all to think about potential venues and forms of entertainment.*

### **Barefoot**

Last year, Barefoot made a film following the ride from Hackney Wick. They would like to do something again this year. Our members were concerned about what the nature of their work and stance would be. We would like to know more about their intentions and also view the output from last year's liaison. They would like a representative to come to our next meeting. We confirmed that anyone is permitted to join our meetings, subject to the Collective's constitutional right to exclude people if their presence is not conducive.

**Action:** *Norm to liaise and get more information.*

### **Date of next meeting**

There is no day of the week that suits everyone, so we have agreed to vary the day of the week. Eccentric has volunteered to chair the next meeting, so a suitable date will be established and circulated as soon as possible.

**Action:** *Cy and Eccentric*