

## Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

by Zoom Videoconference

**Present:** Barbara, Cy, Dave W, Eccentric, Harvey, Ian, John, Natasha, Norm, Simon H

**Apologies:** Dave S, Mike, Sophie, Willoh

(Action items in *red*)

### Starts

HW – Thingy Café are happy to host us again and the adjoining Gym have also expressed an interest. Thingy will roll over our deposit from last year, which they never repaid. Several body painters and marshals volunteered for the start.

KB – Ian asked Elle who said it's looking good. Ian could step back into the lead role if necessary.

Croydon is all OK although they will probably find a new route this year.

We are still awaiting a response from the new people at Deptford. Sophie is pursuing them.

**Action:** *Sophie*

CJ, TH, RP and WA are all looking OK to run as usual.

There has not yet been any discussion about the accessible start. We agreed to look for the best location as the 2024 start was crowded with spectators and photographers.

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

### Safer starts and stops

No useful suggestions have been received from our social media campaign. There was one location identified below Alexandra Palace but it does not meet the spec as it is not private and the ride would be difficult. We need to keep asking for ideas and looking for them ourselves. Feedback from HW was very positive about the benefits of a private location. We should get a testimonial from Thingy Café to show to potential venues.

**Action:** *Eccentric to approach Thingy re a testimonial. All to think about how to find new venues.*

### 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:** *ongoing - Barbara and Graeme to see how this could be done.*

### Tracking

It is important for hub to be able to monitor the locations of groups. Last year several people suggested looking at different apps to do so, but it was too late to assess them before the ride. This year we should start sooner. Eccentric, Barbara, Graeme and John expressed interest. We should set up a WhatsApp group to discuss how to do this.

**Action:** *Eccentric, Barbara, Graeme, John, Cy*

## **Communications and messaging**

WNBR London and many other organisations are finding Facebook taking down perfectly good posts. They are increasingly using AI so always appeal if you think they are wrong. Facebook is no longer a good social media platform but we will continue to make important posts there.

Mike has set up a Blue Sky account for WNBRLondon.

Sophie has not yet started looking at the website and mailing list.

**Action:** *Sophie*

Sophie, Willoh and Eccentric said they would get together to work on inclusion.

**Action:** *ongoing - Sophie, Eccentric and Willoh*

## **First Aid training**

A course has been arranged for 10:00 on 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Oakwood Sun Club.

**Action:** *Cy to circulate invitation.*

## **AfterShow**

Dave S reported that Phantom Peak cannot accommodate us this year as they have events of their own on the day. Collective members are encouraged to seek alternative venues and ideas. Eccentric is also researching a potential pre-ride event.

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

## **Barefoot**

Barefoot have made their film available. Several people at the meeting had looked at it and expressed concerns. Although the film makers had included segments that reflect WNBR themes, the overall impression was that it was primarily soft porn for gay men. The body positivity theme of WNBR is aimed at the desensationalisation and acceptance of the human body. There were strong views that the film was not in line with this theme.

**Action:** *Norm to convene a Zoom meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this.*

## **WNBR Brighton**

Simon H said the Brighton ride is not likely to be on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. They are considering maybe a midsummer ride on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## **Date of next meeting**

After a Thursday and Tuesday meeting, the next meeting will be a Wednesday - 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm. Norm will be in the chair. Harvey will be the Zoom Master.