

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday, 11th February 2026

by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Harvey, Ian, Joe, John, Mike, Norm, Willoh

Apologies: Natasha, Giulio, Kevin Sophie

(Action items in *red*)

Starts

CJ, Croydon, TH and WA are all looking OK. CJ will also do a return ride as usual. We don't expect the new Chinese Embassy to present a problem at TH.

Sophie has not yet received a response re Piehouse at Deptford.

HW at Thingy Café is OK and we might also expand activities at a neighbouring facility. Eccentric is organising the start but Joe will lead the ride as Eccentric will be doing the hub role.

Harvey has been injured, raising concerns about his fitness in June. We should make sure he has a strong deputy leader. Giulio would be a good choice.

Paul Ho is the only confirmed marshal for KB and would not want to be the leader. Ian remains uncertain. Elle has not yet replied. We should have a contingency plan for alternative leader if we are going to run with KB in 2026.

We remain interested in finding new starts, preferably ones which offer privacy, toilets and ideally food and drink. Something in North London would be good.

Routes

Start groups will consider their part of the route. There was a discussion about alternative routes and arrangements, potentially merging elsewhere, for example, LIF, instead of FMS. FMS was considered to be a good place for a rendezvous. It might be that some merge there and others join at LIF.

The current TH route was not originally intended. The route was planned to be via London Bridge, but shortly after the test ride there was a major terrorist attack that closed down the area. Now might be the time to reconsider that route.

Action: *Cy to share that version of the TH route map*

There was an inconclusive discussion about the finish location. Various pros and cons were considered for the WA finish versus other locations. WA is a large space that we should be able to use without negotiations with the Royal Parks or London boroughs (all of which tend to be unhelpful). The negative aspects are the difficulty in crossing onto the roundabout, the crowds that gather there to watch the ride, and the need for adequate security patrolling.

We should set up a team to consider the routes and finish location. They should assess the issues and alternatives.

Action: *Eccentric will set up a WhatsApp group for people who wish to discuss routes and the finish location..*

Police Liaison

We need to submit the initial application to the police forces. As there is uncertainty about locations and routes, we should submit on the basis of last year's routes, except for the afterparty onward ride. The submission can be updated if and when we change the plans.

Action: *Dave W*

Marshalling

Many aspects of marshalling were discussed. We considered the topics highlighted in the June 2025 debrief meeting. Members were also reminded of the shared folder containing all the detailed feedback comments. Some key issues were corking, speed, pausing, avoiding bottlenecks (such as the bike path across Waterloo Bridge), comms to keep the ride together, avoiding creating gridlock and the respective roles of marshals vs security (who shouldn't be leading).

A related issue was how to get the marshals to be fully aware of the planned roles, routes, and approaches. All marshals receive a detailed information pack and are asked to attend the online briefing or watch the recording. It seems likely that many do not make themselves fully familiar with their role. How can we improve upon that?

Where possible, the marshals should also be briefed at the starts.

It was agreed that these several aspects should be considered by a sub-group, to include Cy, Joe, Guilio, Eccentric, Kevin, and all others who are interested.

Action: *Eccentric*

Hub and Tracking

Eccentric will act as Hub and has one other definite assistance, along with two other possibles.

An important aspect for Hub is tracking and communication with the ride leaders. Eccentric will set up a test.

Action: *Eccentric to set up a test group for tracking.*

Security

There have been discussions in the Security sub-group. We recognise that the most important roles of security personnel are when we are stationary, particularly at the finish. We suspect that their activity at the finish has been impaired by being physically tired from cycling. We also considered that the marshals should be primarily concerned with leading the ride – not the security people. Given that, we considered whether the security team might mostly travel between key points by public transport, potentially with some brought in at different times to others. A consideration is that the minimum hire period is 4 hours. A practical solution might involve security teams leapfrogging locations so that they can make good use of the 4 hours and have time to travel between their assigned locations. This thinking will be taken further in the sub-group.

We need to discuss the arrangements with the security team and ask them to advise us how best to achieve these arrangements. For the purposes of discussion, we should assume the locations and routes are the same as last year. We expect it would be a similar sized team.

Action: *Eccentric*

PreParty and AfterParty

There has been no progress re the PreParty.

Dave S will be contacting possible AfterParty venues next week and will share results within the party subgroup. Suggestions are most welcome.

Action: *Dave S*

Publicity

So far publicity has been fairly low key with the main posts and updates broadcasting the change of day and the date Sunday 14th June. 2026 posters have been updated and advertised for download.

Cy, Mike and Joe are empowered to update the website.

We would welcome more helpers with our social media: Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, BlueSky, Mastodon, YouTube, Vimeo.

We will send out the first 2026 newsletter after this meeting. Due to changed pricing rules at Reachmail, we are transferring the mailings to Sender.net, which can accommodate our needs within its free offering.

AOB

The meeting agreed that we should arrange to thank Barbara for her several years running hub.

Action: *Dave S*

Next Meeting

The majority of members would prefer an earlier start at 7pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 10th March at 7pm, chaired by Joe.