

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Tuesday, 10th March 2026

by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Cy, Dave W, Eccentric, Giulio, Harvey, Ian, Joe, Kevin, Natasha, Norm, Sophie, Willoh

Apologies: Dave S, Mike, Roberto,

(Action items in *red*)

Starts

Sophie has still not received a response re Piehouse at Deptford. It seems they lost the original enquiry. We remain hopeful. They may wish to charge a fee. We are willing to pay an appropriate modest fee.

Elle has not yet confirmed whether she will lead KB. Ian is fairly confident that he can be there if required. He asks that we advertise for a deputy leader via appropriate comms. Willoh might be able to do KB if they get an eBike and someone else takes on the accessible start.

Action: *Cy to do comms*

Sophie suggested that we could do more to engage with marshals and encourage them to move into leader roles. For example, the debrief could become a fun, in-person event.

It was agreed that FMS would remain our best choice for the accessible start.

Harvey was pleased to have been in contact with Giulio as a potential deputy/alternative leader for RP.

Routes

Harvey would like to discontinue the back-street diversion and revert to using Whitehall.

TH will be considering and checking out their route. They might consider the London Bridge route or revert to the original route along the river and via Trafalgar Sq.

Dave W has submitted routes to the police based on last year's version. The Met have acknowledged. COLP have not.

We are open to suggestions about route changes, but by default we will plan on the basis of 2025 routes unless there are agreed alterations. Discussions should be in the routes WhatsApp sub-group.

There was discussion about extending the second leg to loop around St Pauls (as had been done in the past).

There was a majority interested in considering an earlier start – maybe 30 or 60 minutes. Although this would be good for the shorter rides, the more important consideration is whether it works for the long ones. We also need to consider travelling time for people travelling into London.

Action: *ride leaders to confer and agree on timing*

Marshalling

In the absence of other inputs, Cy shared a list of 23 suggestions for handling the ride. This led to considerable discussion in the WhatsApp group. There was agreement that we could do things better, particularly in terms of corking. There was also a debate about whether to wait behind stopped buses or go past them. The model of critical mass is to aim to keep all the riders together with no traffic mixed in. We need to do marshalling the best we can, given the resource, training and practical constraints. The sub-group will continue to explore the best approaches.

Action: *marshalling sub-group*

One of the challenges is the inconsistent attention marshals pay to their instructions and briefing. All marshals are asked to attend the Zoom briefing or watch it later on YouTube. They also get an extensive info pack. Even so, it seems many remain unaware of what they are expected to do, and, most importantly, the route. We discussed possible incentives, such as a reward for attending the briefing, and/or making it more interesting and interactive. Sophie would be happy to help.

Joe will assist Cy in the marshal wrangling.

Hub and Tracking

Eccentric has not yet had time to set up a test of tracking. We need to ensure rear marshals are tracked and in communication.

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

We discussed some possible technologies for ride-day comms. It would be good to have permanently-on, push-to-talk audio link. We tried something similar in the past but the drawback was the background noise as all mics were live. Various possibilities will be considered and tested, eg phone app, WhatsApp, Discord.

Action: *Eccentric to co-ordinate.*

Security

There has been no fresh thinking since last month, ie we contemplate a revision of plans that focuses security personnel more on the static locations rather than the riding. Specific ideas need to be developed by the security sub-group and agreed with the security boss.

Action: *Eccentric & security sub-group.*

PreParty and AfterParty

There has been no progress re the PreParty.

Dave S is investigating afterparty options. He has not yet received any firm proposals or quotes.

Action: *Dave S*

Publicity

We will ramp up publicity as soon as we have concluded on start details and timing.

Next Meeting

Most attendees preferred the 7pm start. The next meeting will be Thursday, 2nd April chaired by Norm.