

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday, 5th May 2026

by Zoom Videoconference

Present: Andrew, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Eccentric, Giulio, Harvey, John, Mike, Norm, Roberto

Apologies: Joe, Natasha, Sophie, Willoh

(Action items in *red*)

Starts and routes

HW are making minor route changes to omit the toilet break and shorten the route.

TH have not investigated possible route changes and therefore will continue to cross the bridges to and from the south bank.

All routes are subject to change until the debrief from the test ride.

Test ride 7th June

- Mike has already checked CJ and Ian will be able to do that as part of his route from KB on the test ride.
- Dave W is OK for Croydon.
- We have no info on test ride from Deptford.
- DrLove will ride from HW but cannot do the actual ride. Joe and Eccentric are not available.
- Harvey will have to do RP on the Saturday. Giulio might be able to do it on the Sunday.
- Norm will cover TH and will bring supplies of seat covers to distribute.
- Cy will do WA on the test ride. Dave S might be able to check it before the test ride, but will be away on the day.

Hub, ride-day communications and tracking

The hub team will be led by Eccentric with assistants Daniela and Elena. They will start out at HW then relocate to Eccentric's home nearby.

Eccentric will prepare detailed information for the marshals' briefing and information pack. They will want to identify lead and rear marshals for each start group as well as the merged ride.

Action: *Ride leaders to identify front and rear marshals for each start group.*

Police liaison

Police have not informed us of any conflicting protests or events this year.

Hub will provide the central communication channel with police. We will give the contact details to the police. We will also try to get a direct phone number to call the police on the day in case we encounter problems or need advice. In the event of an emergency a marshal should call 999 then inform hub. This has worked well in some previous years.

Action: *Dave W to update police and set up comms channels*

Marshalling

We had discussed the idea of welcoming clothed marshals – in fact, the dress code for marshals, like any other participants, has always been clothing optional. For some roles, eg rear marshals, it might be beneficial to have clothed marshals as these people are more likely to become detached from the ride if there is a problem and might be better able to assist if they are clothed. Giulio will attempt to recruit some marshals by casting the net wider in the cycling communities. All others are encouraged to seek more marshals.

Action: *Giulio and all*

Following discussions, Giulio is revising the information about marshalling, which will be included in the briefing session, video and information pack. The themes include avoiding fragmentation, more assertive marshalling, better rear marshalling, tag team approach to junctions, addressing potentially difficult junctions. Security should not be leading or doing marshalling roles.

Action: *Giulio*

Security

Following discussions, Eccentric has been creating a detailed plan for security. We are placing more emphasis on patrolling locations – prioritising helping participants to arrive, patrolling areas to deal with any bad behaviour by riders or onlookers, and helping the riders to depart efficiently. To achieve this, some pairs of security personnel will travel by public transport to reach specified locations before the riders. Most of them will not cycle nor follow the full route. This has increased the amount of coverage from last year and we are also faced with an increase in minimum hours per person. Altogether security spend might be up 50% compared to last year.

Merchandise

Norm is handling as per last year. We also have had two supporters wanting us to sell their designs of merchandise.

Action: *Norm and Cy to engage*

Afterparty

Tickets are on sale and have been advertised via initial social media publicity. The main thrust will start after we have confirmed the entertainment and have photos to promote the acts.

We anticipate at least three entertainers and a DJ. The entertainment will be in two sets with each entertainer performing twice. Dave S summarised his short list and the meeting discussed the merits of each act. Armed with the views from the meeting, Dave S will now seek to engage the final line up.

Action: *Dave S to finalise entertainment. Cy to update event descriptions and send out publicity.*

The entertainers will not want to be photographed and we want any photography or filming at the party to be fully consensual. Messaging, signage and security should reflect this. Dave S will check whether the venue's photo booth will be operational.

Action: *Dave S*

Dave S would like to find a bike rack sponsor if possible – help or suggestions welcome.

We will probably plan for just one onward from the finish to the AfterParty, which should be at about 5:30pm (to be confirmed after the test ride).

We have not been able to find a suitable pre-ride venue this year. We should set a date and start looking earlier next year.

Next Meetings

The next meeting will be Thursday, 4th June at 7pm, chaired by Eccentric. As well as usual business, it will confirm final details for the test ride.

The test ride will be Sunday 7th June, using the same locations, routes and timing as planned for the ride.

A test ride debrief will be held on Tuesday 4th June at 7pm. It will lock down plans. Final updates to the plans and briefing information will be based on this meeting.

The marshals' briefing will be on Thursday 11th June at 7pm.

Following the ride on Sunday 14th June, there will be a debrief on Tuesday 16th June at 7pm.