

## Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Held at the Royal Festival Hall, 19:30 Wednesday 17 April 2019

(Action items in *red*)

**Present:** Cy, Dave S, Harvey, Nick, Paul H, Richard, Simon My, Simon Mr

**Apologies:** Barbara, Graeme, Ian, Luigi, Natasha, Sophie

### Start Points and Routes

FaceBook stats show healthy early take up for all starts, but the bulk of people tend to sign up in the last few weeks. Regents Park figures looked sluggish. Now is the time for everyone to sign up to their start then use – **Share > Invite Friends** to invite everyone they can. And tell all your friends to invite all their friends. The social media campaign will be accelerating over the last 7 weeks.

Kew Bridge: We have now heard from Ian who has been out of touch for two months. Paul H committed to riding as a marshal from Kew Bridge, so we are comfortable that we have enough coverage to go ahead.

We confirmed that the test ride will be on Saturday 1 June and should use the same start, timing, route and rendez-vous as the actual ride. Action: *All ride leads to make sure they are represented on the test ride.*

Action: *All ride leaders to check and confirm they are comfortable with the advertised gather and ride times plus location description.*

Start	Meeting Point	Gather	Ride	Leader
Clapham Junction	Grant Road, SW11 2NU	14:30	14:45	Mike
Deptford	Matchstick Piehouse, SE8 5HD	13:00	14:00	Sophie
Hyde Park	North Carriage Drive, nr Marble Arch	14:00	15:00	Luigi
Kew Bridge	North end of Kew Bridge nr W4 3NQ	13:30	13:45	Ian
Regents Park	Outer Circle, near NW1 4NA	14:20	14:50	Harvey
Tower Hill	Trinity Square Gardens, EC3N 4DJ	14:00	14:45	Natasha
West Norwood	242 Norwood Rd, SE27 9AW	12:00	14:30	Dave W

*(timing subject to review)*

### Marshals, stewards, first aiders and other helpers

Now is the time to seek helpers. Everyone should encourage people to help. Social media will be broadcasting the requests. Each start should have a minimum of 2 marshals and a first aider. We also want bodypainters at Tower Hill, Deptford, Hyde Park and West Norwood. (Other starts are not suitable for organised body painting.) Sound systems should be encouraged. We hope to get 5 through our linkage with ibikelondon.

Bike hire with London Bicycle Tour Company is agreed in principle, but we need to confirm with them the pricing of seat cover and the end time. Action: *Cy to confirm details with LBTC.* Note that they have moved so we expect that to have an impact on the number of people using them.

## **Bank and Funding**

Cy updated about the funds currently available to the Collective. We have now received the funds from our previous bank account. Richard reported success with setting up a new free bank account with Nat West. It is ready to use.

The meeting formally agreed the purchase of 1000 seat covers and the replenishment of armbands.

Rob J who handles WNBR UK funding is looking at renewing the insurance. We have asked him to get a quote increasing the maximum ride size from 1000 to 1500 people.

## **Liaison with Police, Royal Parks and other authorities**

Simon My and Cy have a meeting with the Royal Parks next week. We believe the position may be affected by a couple of factors. The parks no longer have their own police – they are policed by the Metropolitan Police. XR have been camping and gathering on Royal Parks land and the authorities have not intervened adversely. Simon feels we should tell them what we plan to do and not pay for road closure. Coupled with this is the thought that we might start at the double-square roundabout (although that proved problematic in previous years). Cy thinks we should be happy to pay a road closure fee as it is better to have the parks friendly and supportive. This would also mean the police could not reasonably complain about our presence.

Simon My is still wanting full route plans – map and street list. Action: *Cy will share with everyone the draft route plans on Google maps. Ride leaders should check these.*

We should update the risk assessment. Simon Mr flagged up that the ride coincides with a major event in Trafalgar to celebrate Eid (see <https://www.london.gov.uk/events/2019-06-08/eid-festival-2019>). This could cause problems if the event spills out into the roads surrounding the square.

Action: *Cy and Richard will revise/review the Risk Assessment, which would be based on last year's one.*

## **Afterparty**

Simon My and Dave S presented info and views on three possible venues, all of which are willing to accommodate us.

We felt the B'acino restaurant in Shoreditch was too small and it has no ability to take in bikes. Simon My presented an alternative proposition to set up a fundraising naked dinner at B'acino prior to the ride as they are clearly interested in working with us. Action: *Simon My and Dave S to pursue that idea.*

Simon My and Cy had visited Brixton Jamm who were keen to have us and offering inside and outside accommodation for maximum 350 people. This would present a better experience than last year's party at the Magic Garden as there would be more people, more space and private areas. The riding time would be similar, and, counter-intuitively, this is actually the closest of the three shortlisted venues.

We have also visited Vinegar Yard where Southwark Council and the management team have signalled that we would be welcome to go. It is a huge temporary venue alongside London Bridge Station, big enough for

the whole ride to end there. It has indoor and outside bars and food outlets. If we go there, we need to think about how to use it for fund raising as we cannot require tickets if we are riding everyone in through the gates. They would offer us a cut from takings – but only after their normal expectations have been met.

The Collective agreed we should go with Vinegar Yard, but also pencil in Brixton Jamm for next year. Action: *Simon My to confirm to Vinegar Yard and agree details. Also, Simon to ask Brixton Jamm to book us in for Saturday 13th June 2020!*

To gain full benefit from Vinegar Yard we would want to end the ride there this year. It will be a safe finish point and many people will hopefully stay on for a really good afterparty. We discussed route options for getting there. People love the Mall and Buckingham Palace, so we preferred to U turn at the palace rather than take a different route from LIF. This could add 30mins to the core route timing. Although it is a central location, the local streets are annoyingly unhelpful with one-way streets all going the wrong way. Action: *Cy to examine and suggest some route options.*

## **Flags**

No good progress on how to get flags for sale to participants. Some practical ideas have been thought through but it feels like we won't have people with the time to do anything this year. Harvey suggested we might do this in the off-season after June. Action: *Dave S volunteered to look for quotes.*

## **Seat covers**

The Collective agreed the design – with a large WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE LOGO and a graphic of silhouetted riders in black print on green 100% recycled fabric (made from old plastic bottles). Action: *Cy to make the purchase.*

Despite the higher cost this time, the collective agreed to hold the price at £2, which means we have to sell over 650 to cover our costs. This may take a few years. Some other UK rides have expressed an interest in taking stocks and we agreed that we could do so at around cost price at £1.50 plus postage.

## **Ride day comms**

The meeting discussed last year's approach to ride day comms and agreed that the hub-based, multi-channel approach should be used again this year. Richard asked that we switch to using WhatsApp rather than FaceBook messenger for the real-time messaging. We will try to set that up. Action: *Everyone who can should get the WhatsApp application working on their phones.*

## **XR**

Simon My contributed his understanding about XR's intentions. He has been working with their leadership. The WNBR London Collective reiterated our empathy with their mission and our willingness for co-operation where appropriate. We do not wish to adopt their tactics and would have great reservations about intentionally breaking the law. The legality of WNBR is an important aspect of our campaign.

We would welcome some co-operation in terms of publicising our ride and also ensuring a free passage through any blockages on the day.

## Meeting dates

1. Wednesday 16 January 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
2. Wednesday 20 February 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
3. Wednesday 20 March 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
4. Wednesday 17 April 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
5. Wednesday 15 May 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
6. Test Ride Saturday 1 June 2019
7. [Optional] Pre-ride finalisation and comms check (tbc)
8. The Ride Saturday 8 June 2019
9. Post-ride review (tbc)