

Wirral Cycling Group

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at the Lever Social Club, Port Sunlight

Present:

Andy Goodwin (Chair), Dave Branch (Secretary), Ian Ritchie (Treasurer), Anne Lear (Membership Secretary), Peter Williams (Committee), John Hampson (Committee), Dave Brewer (Committee), Mike Elkins (Committee), Sonia Oldershaw, Shiela Coetzee, Janet Coventry, Jill McNamee, Doug Curl, Barry Roberts, Rob Holmes, Ian Strettle, John Garner, David Williams, Nick Dinan, Noel Schorah, Mark Burrows, David Hill, Stephen Pickstock, Una Keane, John Chambers, Andy Morton, Graham Henry, David Collinson, Russell Austin

Apologies were received from:

Ed White, Alison White, Jane Kilborn, Steve Downs, Simon Etty, Barbara Etty, Julia Young, Simon Flynn, Ewan Wilkinson, Carmel Wright, Neil Ross Jones, Ken Grant, Sue Hughes, Caroline Wiggins, Dave Harrop, Gwen Trevena, John Grant, Dawn Grant, Harry Coxhead, Clare Procter, Andy Mace, Erika Lomas, Ian Bradley, Lynda Murray, Richard Giles, David Sindall, Phil Egan, Don Thompson, Charlotte MacKenzie, Angela Price, Mary Ritchie

The meeting commenced at 7pm with Opening Remarks from the Chairman

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The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed John Hampson, seconded Noel Schorah

Chairman's Report

Andy Goodwin thanked all those for their contributions to a successful year for WCG especially the committee, ride leaders, back markers, report writers and the organisers of three trips away (to Gloucester, Bala and York) as well as the successful wine tasting evening.

During the course of the year the club had put on 179 rides (well over 3 per week) involving 1,556 riders, an increase on last year and with many rides being over-subscribed. There were also 16 cancelled rides, due to bad weather, and 5 social rides alongside other charitable organisations

We had also arranged a well attended first aid awareness session, with Steve Evans MBE and a fully subscribed first aid course, which resulted in 12 members becoming certified first aiders

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Treasurer's Report

Ian Ritchie presented final accounts for 23/24. These show an income of £1,110, almost exclusively from members subscriptions plus sale of a small amount of WCG kit. The outgoings totaled £961.49. The majority of this (£730) was on the first aid courses. The balance on website hosting, annual insurance with Cycling UK and room hire for AGM. This resulted in a small surplus for 23/24 of £148.51 resulting in a bank balance of £2,198.62 at the year end.

Approved – Dave Hill, Seconded – Steve Pickstock

Amendment to Constitution

Dave Branch explained that the constitution required updating to reflect the change from paper based to online banking as well as a minor change to reflect that membership was only open to adult cyclists. A revised form of words was presented and approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Due to changes in personal circumstances Andy Goodwin and Ian Ritchie resigned as Chair and Treasurer respectively. Dave Branch and Anne Lear were prepared to stay on as Secretary and Membership Secretary and were duly re-elected unopposed.

Dave Brewer volunteered to stand as Chair, proposed by Dave Hill and seconded by Ian Ritchie and was unanimously approved

Steve Downs volunteered to stand as Treasurer, proposed by Noel Schorah, seconded by Steve Pickstock and was unanimously approved

A new role has been created of Ride Lead Coordinator. The purpose of this role is to prepare the ride leaders' rota, arrange substitute leaders when required, provide a communication conduit for ride leaders to share suggestions, learning from ride incidents etc and arrange necessary training and mentoring for existing and potential new leaders.

Peter Williams volunteered to take on this role, proposed by Dave Brewer, seconded by John Hampson and unanimously approved

Election of Committee

Due to his relocation John Hampson resigned from the committee. Mike Elkins was happy to continue and was duly re-elected. Dave Hill volunteered to fill the remaining position, proposed by Dave Brewer, seconded John Hampson

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Booking System

For the general membership there was little change over the last year in how the site operates. Riders were now being asked for their address on booking to provide additional information in case of accident / incident.

Rides were generally filling up quickly, especially when posted well in advance. This can sometimes lead to late cancellations, when the reminder is received, which can result in other riders missing out, but the ride not being full. Riders are requested to cancel at the earliest possible opportunity. John Hampson will also look to amend the website so that reminders are sent out slightly earlier to give more time for vacated slots to be filled

There was also a discussion regarding ride grading and if there is sufficient information in the description. It was generally felt that there is and any issues are usually a result of riders not fully reading the description and sometimes overestimating their own capability. However, it would be helpful if ride leaders were to highlight key facts – proposed average speed, distance, total elevation to climb, any particularly steep sections etc

First Aid

Dave Branch raised the issue of riders being asked to voluntarily declare any underlying health condition that could assist ride leader / first aider in the case of any incident e.g. epilepsy, asthma, heart condition, anaphylactic etc. This may enable more appropriate prompt intervention. John Hampson agreed to amend the booking form to include this on the basis that the information would only be available to the specific ride leader.

It was also agreed that we should have a register of trained first aiders and provide them with a basic first aid kit. As well as the 12 members who were trained by WCG during the year it is also likely that other members will be certified first aiders through other organisations they are involved in.

The first aid certification is valid for 2 years. Sonia proposed that we should look to run a course annually which would result in WCG having a strong core of approved first aiders. This would also result in most, if not all rides, having a participating trained first aider.

Club Kit

There was a discussion on the appetite for club branded kit. It was generally felt that this is a good thing, but not at any price. It is also generally felt that the current design requires updating. Peter Williams has tried to engage with Didoo, our previous suppliers, with no success. We have been referred to another local supplier, Bioracer in Warrington, used by other local cycling groups. They offer a design service and will provide sample tops for sizing etc. They would then set up a WCG online shop for a limited period of time, where members would place and pay for their own order. After the shop closes the kit would be manufactured and supplied to us. This takes away any risk to WCG of excess unwanted stock and to cash flow. However, this comes at a price, c. £60-£65 each for tops and rain jackets. There appeared to be a consensus that this was possibly too high to get enough take up. The Secretary will continue to look at alternatives

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Next Year's Weekend Away

These trips are popular, but take some effort to arrange. The view of the meeting was that self-arranged trips should be confined to a single centre (like Gloucester and York). Although not present Ewan Wilkinson has volunteered to arrange an away trip. Rob Holmes has a friend in Worcester who has local rides that are compatible with our standard and would make contact. Others had ridden with Breeze from Worcester and agreed it could be a good venue.

It was also felt that the trip would be more inclusive if we included a C and D graded ride for each day. This would encourage greater participation. Una Keane proposed that the club could contribute towards the financial cost of any pre-trip reccy required..

Any Other Business

1. Dave Brewer proposed that this year's Christmas charity donation should be to an Epilepsy charity in memory of Lara Wood. This was unanimously agreed.
2. Una asked if there was a way that leaders could add reconnoitre rides to the planned rides section on the website. This would make them official rides covered by WCG insurance and also solicit riders to join them. John Hampson agreed to investigate.
3. A discussion took place regarding any future rise in membership fees. It was agreed that with our current bank balance and forecast expenditure there is no need to increase at present. Any future increase needs to be planned well ahead to match expenditure / costs and agreed at AGM

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.