

# Wirral Cycling Group

## Committee Meeting Minutes – 7pm 10th December 2024

**Present:** David Brewer (Chair), David Branch (Secretary), Steve Downs (Treasurer), Anne Lear (Membership Secretary), Peter Williams (Ride Lead Coordinator), David Hill, Mike Elkins

### 1. Apologies

None

### 2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the meeting with a copy of the latest bank statements showing a cash balance of just under £3,000. This has been bolstered by members paying their annual subscription over the last couple of months.

The known outgoings for 2024/5 are c.£100 to Ionos for web hosting, c.£100 to Cycling UK for liability insurance, £40 to Lever Club to host the AGM, £680 for ride leader First Aid training. So the club is currently in a healthy financial position. The bank statement was checked and signed off by the Chair

There was then a discussion about looking for a new banking partner. Our current bank, Lloyds, is being less than efficient in facilitating the changes to signatories on our account. This is a repetition of their performance in 2023/24. They have also informed us that they intend to introduce monthly charges on the account. The Treasurer had been researching alternative options and currently Nat. West and Santander are offering free banking to community groups such as WCG. However this is easier to arrange if an officer of the club already has a banking facility with the bank. The Chair volunteered that, as he has active accounts with Santander, he would be willing to assist in opening an account with them. It was unanimously agreed that the Treasurer would explore this option

**ACTION : Treasurer** to engage with Santander and take the necessary actions to open an account.

Cycling UK has recently changed its provider for the group's liability insurance. The meeting felt that this was an opportune time to review our current cover and ensure that it is still fit for purpose, or to see if there were better options available.

**ACTION : Treasurer** to review and report back

### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

Following the election of the new committee and the new role of Ride Leader Coordinator, there was a review of the draft roles and responsibilities document prepared by John Hampson. Despite resigning from the committee John will continue to manage / maintain the website until we have a trained-up replacement. He does want to hand over management of ride leader rota to Peter Williams.

**ACTION : Peter Williams** to liaise with John Hampson about preparing the ride leader rota.

**ACTION : Chair** to tidy up the document to reflect the current situation.

It has been some time since we ran a ride leaders' training course, and we have a number of newer ride leaders, so it was felt that Peter should look to arrange for 2025. Format to be similar to previous courses. Chair agreed to assist Peter in delivering.

**ACTION : Peter Williams** to consider arranging a course for ride leaders in 2025.

## 5. Website

At AGM there was a discussion about the posting of recce rides as official rides on the website. After some discussion and taking guidance from John Hampson on the practical difficulties of providing this facility, it was decided that things should be left as they are. Recce rides being informal rides.

Following the recent first aid course and a couple of experiences on rides, it was felt that we need a mechanism where riders can let a ride leader know (in confidence) of any underlying health condition, so if there was an incident on a ride the leader / first aider will be quicker able to decide on appropriate action. It is recognized that requesting riders to submit on a webform could lead to issues handling and storing this personal information, so it was agreed that a more informal request be placed on the ride booking page to replace the out of date Covid warning.

**ACTION : Secretary** to ask John Hampson to add the request to the header on the ride booking page.

## 6. Incident Reports

The Chair has received two reports since the last meeting; one for a collision with a bollard on the cycle path over Burton Marsh, fortunately no physical injury, just bike damage. The other was for a medical emergency which required an ambulance to be called for a suspected heart attack. Again with the help of a passing motorist there was a successful outcome and the victim is making a full recovery. He had had a previous heart attack some years before and recognized the signs fortunately but, as noted in the previous minute, it would be helpful to first aiders and ride leaders to know of any underlying health condition to which they can react if there is an occurrence.

## 7. Facebook

Dave Hill is the administrator of the group Facebook page, which has c 800 members who have to be approved to join. Generally anyone with an interest in local cycling is welcome. However it is primarily for the promotion of WCG activities and recently we have had members of other cycling groups using it as a vehicle to promote their activities.

**ACTION : Dave Hill** to contact such parties and remind them of the purpose of WCG Facebook page

## 8. WCG Kit

The Secretary is in discussions with a couple of potential new suppliers. They both offer a free design service, but there will be minimum order requirements and we would require a commercial arrangement which does not require WCG to invest in and stock the kit.

At the AGM the consensus seemed to be that cost would be a significant factor for many. It is desirable that WCG has a club top for those who wish to have one.

**ACTION : Secretary** to continue discussions and report back. We can then poll the members on the level of interest

## 9. Epilepsy Donation

£200 raised in memory of Lara Wood at Christmas lunch to be donated to Epilepsy research.

**ACTION : Secretary** to contact Una to see if there is a specific charity that Lorna's family supports, otherwise we'll donate to Epilepsy Society.

## 10. Liaison with External Bodies

The Chair continues to pursue Peel, Wirral and Cheshire West regards making safe the rail crossing at North Road. The local MP, Justin Madders, office is now involved.

**ACTION : Chair** to continue to pursue through the above parties

## 11. First Aid Course

In 2024 we put twelve members through a certified first aid course. At the AGM it was agreed that we should repeat and get more qualified first aiders. The funding is available. Priority will be given to ride leaders not able to attend previously. If we have leaders qualified then every ride will have at least one qualified first aider in attendance.

**ACTION : Secretary** to make arrangements with Lynn Goulding (First Aid Consultants)

## 12. 2025 Trips Away

At the AGM Worcester was suggested. Belles have visited in the past and Jill has details of their rides and accommodation etc. and Rob Holmes has a cycling friend in the area who can assist with route planning, café recommendations etc. It was agreed that this was a good idea and the weekend of June 13th to 16th was selected

**ACTION: Secretary** to notify members of the proposed dates so that they can start to plan, arrange accommodation etc

Ewan is also keen to arrange a short point-to-point bike packing trip similar to last year's Bala visit, which was enjoyed by those who went.

**ACTION : Secretary** to liaise with Ewan about a point-to-point trip

## 13. Future Membership Fees

A discussion took place at AGM about whether membership fees were adequate to cover the Group outgoings. It was agreed that, if there was a need to propose an increase, the committee should put this on the AGM agenda, with a justification of the expenditure. Currently based on our existing bank balance and outgoings, the committee thinks an increase in 2025 is unlikely to be needed.

## 14. Social Events

The recent Christmas lunch at Lever Club was well received by those who attended and should be repeated in 2025.

As well as the proposed trips away, other social events suggested are a repeat of the wine tasting at Lunya, a memorial ride to commemorate Lara, rides to a summer picnic/ BBQ (similar to Christmas rides); Thurstaston visitor centre is a suggested venue.

**ACTION : Secretary** to investigate social events with Peter Kinsella, Una and take forward

## 15. Any Other Business

The 'Other Riders' section of the membership lists contains many duplicates (because people occasionally book a ride with a slightly different name or email address) and so the list needs to be cleaned up

**ACTION : Treasurer** to remove duplicates from the 'Other Riders' section of the membership lists.

Using Wirral Cycling email addresses. All committee members now have these and should use them for WCG business – **ACTION : All**

Meeting closed 8.45 pm