

Minutes of Wirral Cycling Group Committee Meeting Tuesday 26th August 2025 7pm

Present: David Brewer (chair), David Branch (secretary), Steve Downs (treasurer), David Hill

- 1) Apologies – Mike Elkins, Anne Lear, Peter Williams
- 2) Minutes of last meeting (10th June, 2025) were approved as an accurate record
- 3) Actions from last meeting – these were discussed at relevant agenda items
- 4) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented bank statements and income / expenditure statements to date.

Income year to date is £3338, Outgoings £3524 – a deficit of £186. The majority of income and outgoings was money for new tops, which was a straight in and out. The other source of income membership had seen 11 new members so far in this year.

The large proportion of the deficit was for the certified first aid and bicycle maintenance courses. These are seen by the committee as a good investment in the group. Bank balance stands at just over £2000. These were countersigned by the chair as an accurate record of the Group's current position.

5) Ride Leader Feedback

There was discussion on the feedback to the Ride Leader Co-ordinator recent survey of ride leaders. We currently have sufficient leaders to lead a variety of rides without leaders being pressured to lead excessive numbers of rides.

Although some leaders were available to lead occasional rides on other days it was felt that there is no significant demand for rides on alternative days to the current Wednesday, Sunday and faster Friday.

There is usually strong demand for the 2 Wednesday rides and the committee feeling is that there is a C and D ride every Wednesday, to ensure choice for all members. This can be supplemented by additional B rides for a small number of interested riders, this would also free space on the 2 core rides.

It is felt that ride grades should be restricted to the established B,C and D with a clear description what this means published with the ride. We wish to prevent riders committing to rides beyond their current capability and also being disappointed when a ride is too tame for them.

It was felt that a ride leaders meeting should be held before AGM - to discuss feedback from the survey and to obtain commitment to the plans for ride schedule, grades, descriptions etc going forward. This will enable presentation of a clear vision to AGM (11th November)

Action : Secretary / Ride Lead Co-ordinator

6) Website / IT management

Richard Giles has volunteered to assist John Hampson with maintenance and development of website. John has prepared handover material with which he will mentor Richard

7) Incident Reports

The only incident reported was a fall on Rob Holmes recent ride. The rider involved had minor cuts which required basic first aid and was able to continue the ride. He clipped the wheel of the bike in front which he admitted was due to his own brief loss of concentration.

There was also a discussion regards briefing / debriefing of new riders, especially regards the etiquette of group riding. It was felt that as we no longer host specific newcomer rides new riders are not always being specifically made aware of the rules of group riding or having a mentor to ride with them during their initial rides

Action: to discuss at ride leaders meeting

8) Facebook

No new issues, currently 928 followers, cover updated with new photo which better reflects current membership and new tops etc.

9) WCG Kit

New tops have been delivered and distributed. The design and look has been generally well received. A couple of riders have had issues with “flecking” of the jerseys after washing. As yet no known feedback from supplier

10) Maintenance Courses

At June meeting it was agreed to put on course with Energise. Initial course took place in August and was well received by those in attendance. It was felt that the numbers involved were probably as large as could be accommodated to allow good practical hands on access.

Members are being asked for demand for a second course

Action : Ride leader to ascertain numbers and if sufficient (max 8) arrange another date with Energise

11) Liaison with External Bodies

The chair and Dave Hill attended Wirral BC environment committee meeting regards the future of existing cycle lanes, there was a positive outcome for cyclists regards retention.

Following the previously reported online meeting with WBC Highways and Councillor Bird none of the promised work has been done on the North Road rail crossing and approaches. Chair has contacted Councillor Bird and plans to attend next council meeting in September

Action : Chair

12) AGM Agenda

Date is set for 11th November at Lever Club.

Action : Secretary to circulate draft agenda to committee and get their interest in standing for re-election (or otherwise).

13) Social Events

Recent Picnic ride was well attended with 3 rides led by Noel, Una and Mark Burrows. Thanks to them and WhistleStop for providing the venue and picnic. The event seems to have been enjoyed by those who attended and should be relatively straight forward to repeat.

Dates have been arranged for AGM and Christmas Ride and informed to members.

The last 2 years a number of members have arranged a Christmas drink in Liverpool

Action : Secretary to see if any volunteers to arrange similar for this year (Weds 17th December?)

14) AOB

Discussion regards possible honorary membership took place.

Action : Chair / Secretary to follow up

15) Date of next meeting

In December – to be arranged by new committee after AGM