

Minutes of WCG Committee Meeting 3rd March 2026

Present: Dave Brewer, Dave Branch, Steve Downs, Anne Lear, Una Keane, Richard Giles

- 1) Apologies – Dave Hill
- 2) Minutes of last meeting (2nd December, 2025) were approved as an accurate record
- 3) Actions from last meeting – we still require a method to follow up on newcomer riders to convert to membership where appropriate.

Action: Dave Brewer

To assist would it be possible to develop a report on non-members who had ridden with us over last 6 months say to identify possible new members

Anne had issues with accessing email addresses to follow up with lapsed members. Mails have gone out to all lapsed members from last year.

Action : Anne to feed responses to Richard and Steve to take the necessary follow up actions on our membership databases and payment of those who wish to renew.

4) Finance Report – Steve presented latest income / expenditure report and bank statement. These showed 7 new members ytd and a current healthy bank balance of c. £2400. However Steve noted that we would have limited further income but ongoing regular but not significant expenditure. The Chair countersigned the accounts.

5) Membership renewal progress – this was discussed and actioned under item 3

6) Ride Lead Co-ordinator / Ride Grading – feedback from Ride Leaders meeting

A ride leaders meeting was held on 24th February at Lever Club. The key points discussed were to a) clarify the number and grade of Wednesday rides, b) rides for newcomers, c) Sunday introductory rides, d) ride leaders rota

In summary

a) Although there is probably enough demand for 3 rides on Wednesday of various grades it is felt that we do not have sufficient ride leaders to have scheduled 3 rides per week without overburdening the existing leaders.

It is agreed that at least one ride should be grade D so that there are options for all members

It was agreed that rota should remain at 2 rides, with leaders having the option to voluntarily put on an additional third ride if they are available. Most ride leaders would require training to do this without pestering John or Richard. It was felt that this was a topic to cover at a future leaders meeting, along with posting ride files so riders can download onto their ride computers.

Another option when rides are well subscribed would be to split the ride into 2 groups that could ride to the same destination at different pace (We have done this successfully on the trips away) – there will usually be more than one leader on any ride so this could be safely entertained

b) It was agreed that D rides should encourage newcomers (text to this effect be included in ride header) when suitable and if the leader is willing to have Newcomers on the ride. There maybe occasions when this is not so e.g. the route has limited access to bail out stations if the newcomer is unable to cope

c) Peter Williams is working with Energise to promote initiatives to encourage people into cycling. These rides are held on Thursdays and Sundays. The Thursday rides are short introductory rides (5-6 miles or so) every week from Energise premises in Arrowe Park. Help from ride leaders and other WCG members to guide attendees around the route would be appreciated.

The Sunday rides are longer (c 20 miles or so) and can start at different points around the Wirral. They are similar to some of our D rides and again leaders to assist and plan rides would be appreciated. These are planned every 2/ 3 weeks. These rides are promoted and under Energise banner but open to WCG members to sign up via the website. This will ensure that there are more regular D pace rides available on Sundays.

d) John's efforts to draft the rota to ensure at least 2 Wednesday and 1 Sunday ride, with the right balance of leaders to offer different grades of ride is invaluable. It was felt that unless John requires specific assistance the best way to assist is to let him know as early as possible if the dates are problematic to any leader so alternative can be arranged. Ride Leaders should also keep John fully informed of which rides they prefer to lead A,B, C or D or a combination.

The notes have been circulated to all current ride leaders

The committee discussed how riders and ride leaders taking part in the Energise promoted Sunday rides would be covered by insurance

Action : Secretary to discuss with Peter / Joe Grant (Energise) whether Energise insurance covers?

7) Newcomers rides and follow up – this item covered under items 3 and 6

8) Website / IT management – Richard reported no major issues with the website although he is investigating why it is running slightly slower than usual.

9) Incident Reports – there had only been 2 incident reports, both on same ride and involving 2 falls by the same rider. This led to the Chair reporting the condition (cleaning of wet slippery leaves and mud) of the old Lever rail line to Wirral council.

It was felt that we should probably having a few more and a discussion took place on how to make incident reporting more accessible and what should be reported as an incident.

Incidents should be reported if a rider is injured or taken ill, there is a potential learning outcome for the group, dangerous road conditions to report to authorities, amending routes to avoid potential danger spots etc.

Action: can we auto generate an email to ride leader post ride? This would thank them and contain a click on link to incident report to log any incidents. It could also ask them about any new riders and for feedback on how they coped / enjoyed the ride – Richard to investigate

10) Facebook – nothing to report

11) Liaison with External Bodies – Chair receives updates from various bodies on cycling initiatives / campaigns and will review and circulate to others as appropriate.

12) Trips Away – John Hampson has designed 4 B and 4 D routes for the June Morecombe trip. It is planned to do a reccy trip 20 -22nd March. We need to ensure that we have enough leaders, especially for the D rides.

Action : Chair to discuss with John and arrange meeting. This has been done and meeting will take place 18th March

13) Social Events – Summer picnic ride

Action: Una to arrange with Whistlestop, Thurstaston for Wed 15th July

Christmas ride

Action: Una to select date in December and book Lever club

Charity event at Lunyalita

Action : Secretary to approach Peter Kinsella

14) AOB – pre and post ride recommendations

Remind riders to carry out “M” Checks on their bikes pre-ride. Perhaps we can ask Energise to demonstrate before rides starting at Red Rooms

Action : Secretary to discuss with Energise

It is acknowledged that most of our members are not in the first flush of youth and can feel niggles and soreness pre and post ride. It was thought a sports physio led workshop may be helpful

Action : Secretary to identify possible partner and costs