Minutes of WCG Committee Meeting 1st September 2026

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

1) Apologies – Anne Lear

2) The minutes of last meeting (2nd June, 2026) were approved as an accurate record

3) Actions from last meeting – the only outstanding action from the last meeting was arranging bike M checks. It was felt this was easier to arrange utilising knowledge within the Group.

Action – Dave Brewer to come up with a plan

4) Finance Report – Steve presented the latest accounts. During the course of the year we have had 16 new members join the group. No further income is expected in the current financial year but we have a healthy £2400 in the bank to cover regular outgoings. The only exceptional costs expected is for the upcoming sports physio session (c£100). It was also agreed that there is no need to change membership charges for next year.

The chair signed the accounts as an accurate record.

5) Membership renewal progress – there was a discussion around whether the system / website can identify between paid up members and "guests" on rides so that guests needing to transition to membership (ie had or approaching their 3 ride limit)

Action : Richard Giles to investigate what if anything is possible and practical

6) Website / IT management – currently no significant issues with the website. The Wordpress software used for our booking system essentially consists of lots of modules, each developed by different software developers, which can occasionally lead to unintended hiccups. It appears the developer of the key module we use is potentially in conflict with Wordpress. The module that our website depends on is no longer being supported, but the underlying WordPress environment is under active development. This could lead to breakages in the future. If the software "breaks" we'll need to be prepared to consider alternatives which could potentially require resources (effort and possibly cash)

7) Preparations for AGM – Action: Secretary to issue draft agenda prior to informing members. Lever Club booked for Tuesday 10th November. Dave Branch will be stepping down as Secretary. Dave Brewer is to check with Anne if she wishes to continue as Membership Secretary. All other committee members are prepared to put themselves forward for re-election.

When informing members of AGM agenda Secretary will encourage members to volunteer for vacant positions and to stand for any position, if they wish to do so

8) Incident Reports – one major incident where one of our riders was hit by a car entering a roundabout, requiring hospital treatment for fracture and badly damaged bike. It is understood that there is ongoing claim against the driver for the damage caused.

Although there appears to be no fault apportioned to the rider it led to a discussion on investigating available rider training with regards to upgrading rider skills and assessing dynamic road conditions etc. Una had previous experience of this and would look into availability / content / costs etc to see if it something WCG would wish to take forward

Action: Una Keane

9) Facebook – currently 979 followers, no current issues with inappropriate postings or input

10) Liaison with External Bodies

Frank Lewis Cycleway – The condition of this cycle path, and cycle paths / roads for cyclists in general, has been raised with WBC both in writing and directly at Council committee, also with Active Travel England. In summary Active Travel appear to oversee policy implementation but the specific actions / budgets etc are responsibility of WBC and that's who we must "work" with.

Action : Dave Brewer continues to campaign and follow up with local councillor

Merseyrail ebike ban – a number of members have raised their concerns and complained to Merseyrail, Liverpool City Region and local MPs. The lack of consultation and publication of the risk assessments carried out by Merseyrail has caused concern within the politicians and national cycling campaign groups like Cycling UK. High level meeting are taking place

Action: Secretary to remind members that they can continue to petition Merseyrail and their MP using Cycling UK template complaint

Although North Road rail crossing has been repaired there is still an ongoing issue with anybody taking responsibility for ownership and liability for Una's accident.

Action : Dave Brewer to pursue with Councillor Bird

11) 2027 Trip – before discussion at AGM it was felt it would helpful to have some proposed dates / venues to consider. At the meeting it was felt the June dates work well – hopefully good weather, longer days but outside school holidays so hotel availability / costs are better.

Possible venues – localish – Ormskirk, Llandudno, further afield – York, Carlisle, Edinburgh

Action – Secretary to solicit opinion when circulating members about the AGM

12) Social Events – Christmas do – all under control, charity donation will be to St John's hospice in memory of Andy Mace.

Feedback from picnic ride – the event itself went well, but supplier of the picnic was challenging to work with so next year do we try with them again, use same venue (Thurstaston) and different supplier or different venue (eg Lever). For further discussion

13) AOB – Club tops. There are 2 unclaimed club tops to the current design, it was also felt that we should see if there is enough interest to generate another order, costs do depend on sufficient numbers of each design. With the number of new members, as well as longer standing members who missed out last time or may wish to expand their collection the numbers could be there.

Action: Secretary to advertise existing tops to the members and solicit interest for possible new order

Date of next meeting: Early December – to be fixed by new committee after AGM