

# **WBCCC Steering Group**

## **Minutes of General Meeting 11 September 2017**

Attendees: Jim Taylor, Margaret Green, Phil Brown, Mark Holland, Keith Gore, Denis Marsden, Len Winnard, Ray Southern, Joyce Southern, Eric Dailey, Carole Johnson, Tracy Mercer, Phil Bradley, Sue Bradley, Tony Gerrard, Rita Keeling, Pete Hudson

Apologies: Gary Peters, Doreen Pukitis, Clive Chatterton, Paul Boffey, Liz Halliwell, Enid Pomfret, Thelma Willmer, Steve Brittle, Alan Clarke

### **1. Finance Update**

Phil gave an itemised report on the club finances. He indicated that the finances were healthy with no significant outlay anticipated in the near future.

### **2. Joining Jack Annual Bike Ride 2018**

Jim suggested that as a community cycling club we should be supporting this annual venture either as a rider or as a marshal on the course. Unfortunately for the 2017 ride we were unable to offer much formal support although one or two members supported a number of the training rides organised by IHL. It was agreed we should offer our support for next year and invite the organisers to a Steering Group meeting to discuss how we can help the ride scheduled for 22 July 2018. It was agreed that the presence of some of our members could also help promote membership of the club.

### **3. Trails4Us website**

Jim stated that Paul Boffey had expressed his concerns at the lack of interest by members in the club website. This he felt, was partly due to the club's decision not to include photos and ride reports from the Tuesday and Thursday rides and also the absence of ride details for the agreed ride programme.

A discussion took place regarding the use of social media particularly Facebook where we now have a closed group page where upcoming events can be posted and 36 members have now joined this page.

It was agreed that Facebook would seem a sensible replacement for the website, in the meantime the website would be maintained until December 2017 when the domain licence fee is due for renewal.

### **4. WBCCC Ride Protocols and Etiquette**

A lengthy debate had taken place at the recent Steering Group meeting about our practices and behaviours when out riding and in particular when riding on the road. These included, single file or double breast riding and responsiveness to traffic build-up behind the group. It was generally agreed that improved communications between the back marker and the ride leader would help to minimise the problem of traffic build-up and this improved communication could be achieved by greater use of the walkie talkies in these circumstances.

There was also some debate at the Steering Group regarding the speed of differing groups and the fragmentation of the group particularly on the longer Sunday/Monday rides – it was generally agreed this didn't happen much on the Tuesday/Thursday rides. It was felt that the rise in the use of road bikes as opposed to MTB's or hybrids was probably one of the major causes of this splitting of the group on the Sunday/Monday rides. It was generally agreed that for some rides there would be a 2 stage ride with each stage reflecting a differing speed level. It was suggested these issues were discussed with the wider membership.

After another lengthy discussion at today's meeting it was strongly felt that the club as a community cycling club should organise rides for all members to ride together and the ride programme should include a mix of both on and off road rides. It was also emphasised the ride leader should always be at the front of the ride and participants should respect that and maintain an appropriate speed.

## **5. Ride Attendance Records**

Jim explained that the completion of ride attendance sheets was somewhat inconsistent if either he or Phil B were not in attendance on a ride. It was explained that this was an important task for a variety of reasons including ensuring group members were always accounted for during club rides, compliance with our public liability insurance responsibilities and providing member attendance records in order to complete our membership review process. After some debate it was agreed that this task would be shared amongst the Steering Group members as necessary.

## **6. WBCCC Membership Review**

Jim confirmed that the club membership review letter had been sent to all members with a review deadline date of 1 November 2017. After that date the results will be assessed and presented to the Steering Group.

## **7. WBCCC Support for the 2017 Big Bike Revival (BBR)**

Jim informed the meeting that Paul Boffey had expressed his disappointment at the club's response to the BBR programme with very little by way of support given to Gearing Up. Members accepted these criticisms and it was agreed that next year's date should be obtained beforehand and the club promote the BBR events as much as possible perhaps by means of an organised bike ride.

## **8. Robin Park Saturday morning rota**

Mark informed the meeting that the rota was not working as well as it should at present. He also explained that in the past week there had been a change in IHL rides at the weekend, the rides were now only one hour long instead of the previous two hours. Only two riders had turned up to the first of these one hour rides. Some volunteers present at the meeting felt it was a lot to expect that people travelled quite some distances for a one hour ride. ILH had not as yet given any feedback how this change had affected participation, so it was agreed to continue to support at the present time.

## **9. Xmas Celebration Event**

Phil informed the meeting that the Ravine Club at Pemberton had now been booked for the Christmas celebration event scheduled for Friday 8 December which was open to members, partners and friends. The event will include a buffet and entertainment provided by John Martin, who used to perform at the Riverside in Wigan some years ago, and the ticket price is £10 per person. Phil asked if members could buy their tickets as soon as possible in order to gauge attendance.

## **10. Proposed Brick Cycling Cafe**

Phil gave a brief explanation of the proposal to change the current catering arrangements at the Community Warehouse to create a new cycling café. Details are yet to be agreed but with its close proximity to the canal towpath and Gearing Up being in the building it was generally felt it could be an exciting development.

## **11. Any Other Business**

**Steering Group** – Jim stated that questions had been asked about what the Steering Group does and he had confirmed the group deals with issues which can't wait until the next General Meeting, but he also added that he had concerns about the length of time between the two meetings. Jim felt it would be more appropriate to hold a General Meeting following each Steering Group meeting.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

5 December 2017 at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be confirmed.