

Wigan Borough Community Cycling Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 6th January 2020

Members present

Jim Taylor, Phil Brown, Sue Bradley, Phil Bradley, Pete Hudson, Frank Malley, Tony Gerrard, Clive Chatterton, Paul Boffey, Denis Marsden, Geoff Smith, Cary Blackburn, Pauline Taylor, Stephen Topping, Allan Ricketts, Mark Holland, Allan Finch, Paul Broad, Graham Cooper, Doreen Pukitis, Jim Heyes, Paul Parkinson, John Sills, Dave Holden, Annes Lambert and Jim Millar.

Apologies

Jules Triggs, Paula James, Roy Unsworth , Dave Parry, Gill Parry, Stuart Conway, John Peters, Phil Bithell, David Pulford and Margaret Green.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jim Taylor welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance. Apologies for absence were noted.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 17th December 2018 were agreed to be an accurate and correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Phil Brown pointed out that the two open positions on the steering group had been filled after the AGM.

4. WBCCC Membership Fee

It was agreed that the membership fee should stay at a one off payment of £10.

5. Chairman's Review of 2019

Jim informed the meeting that this was the 7th year WBCCC had been in operation and in that time the Club had come a long way.

Sadly we lost Alan Gough, brother of Joyce Southern, who will be missed by all. Due to his loss it was decided that we would cancel the Ray Southern memorial ride planned for 2019.

Jim praised the regular members who enjoy our Tuesday and Thursday rides. He thanked Pete Hudson who had compiled ride statistics for 2019 which will be explained later in the minutes. He also thanked The Brick for charging our walkie talkies, Simon and his team for keeping our bikes on the road and the Cafe for supplying refreshments after our rides. Without them all, the Club would not run as

smoothly. Finally, he thanked Phil for organising the 3rd Christmas social event which was well attended and also another trip to the Velodrome in Manchester.

The Club organised a Tour of Britain celebration ride to coincide with the Tour of Britain ride which passed through Haigh Hall. This seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended and it was an experience seeing the Tour pass by. Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles also organised a ride and Simon and his team from Gearing Up set up a cycle maintenance stall.

In July a small group of members carried out marshalling duties for the cycling leg of the 2019 Bolton Ironman event. All the members involved considered it an enjoyable experience and for their efforts the club received over £300 into club funds. Phil explained that we may be invited to undertake a similar role for the 2020 event.

6. Finance Annual Report

Phil Brown explained the main income and expenditure items on the Club balance sheet. It has a healthy balance of £881.13 mainly due to 13 new members' fees and income from the voluntary marshalling for the Bolton Ironman. The only future expenditure upcoming will be approximately £86 for Public Liability Insurance renewal. Bolton Ironman was very successful for the club financially and a positive experience for most of the club volunteers. The balance sheet was accepted.

7. Membership Review

To keep a check on membership numbers we have just undertaken our third annual review. Pete identified 25 members who had not ridden at all during the year. These people were sent an email to ask if they wished to remain in the Club and to reply by the end of January. Only 9 people have replied up to date. (71 remaining members)

8. Ride Statistics

Pete reported that there were 113 organised rides in 2019 with 5 being cancelled due to bad weather. A total of 22,390 miles were covered in the 108 rides by 54 different attendees. Congratulations to Phil Brown, Denis Marsden and Allan Finch who covered the most mileage.

9. Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund

Simon Dale kindly attended our meeting and briefly outlined the exciting news that Wigan could be receiving £40 million funding (a quarter of the total allotted for Greater Manchester) to develop specifically marked cycling and walking routes in the Wigan and Leigh area providing that the Council presents justifiable business plans for the projects within the allotted funding. The proposed projects include links between Standish, Wigan and Ashton, and Atherton, Leigh and Pennington Flash. The aim of the Challenge is to establish within the Greater Manchester area over 1000 miles of cycling/walking routes with 1400 crossing points to encourage locals to

walk or cycle shorter journeys instead of using the car. The main purpose is to encourage a healthier lifestyle, help reduce pollution and traffic congestion.

This exciting opportunity has been promoted by Chris Boardman in collaboration with Andy Burnham, the Greater Manchester Mayor. There was considerable discussion amongst members and it was suggested by Allan Ricketts that there was a need for another meeting to decide how we could input our ideas to the Council. Christine Bainbridge is the lead officer for the Challenge projects within Wigan Council. Members may visit Wigan Council Website for more detailed information.

10. Tuesday Morning Ride – Start Time Review

Following a discussion and consideration of comments from members who travel from outside the area, it was decided that the benefit to these members outweighed the later finish and, therefore, the Tuesday start time will stay at 10 o'clock.

11. Ride Protocols

Both undertaking on the left and overlapping wheels is still causing concern. It was agreed that at the beginning of every ride, the leader should remind members of these two important club protocols along with general bike maintenance checks before starting the ride. It was also agreed that we should stay in groups of 5-7 with at least 50 metres in between each group when cycling on busy roads. Communication between back, middle marker and leader should be encouraged to avoid traffic congestion at the rear. Jim also praised leaders, back markers and members who regularly man corners, which helps to make our rides safer.

12. WhatsApp Protocol

Jim stated that we should try to keep our WhatsApp comments brief and only about Club cycling issues.

13. Ride Programme 2020

Phil Brown presented a list showing a good mixture of rides up to Sunday 26th July. This includes a Mersey Gateway Charity ride on 17th May which will be led by Clive Chatterton. We will visit the cycling museum at Walton Hall and the curator has agreed to allow us to try out and experience various old bicycles. The suggested voluntary contribution to attend the ride (or simply donate) will be £10, but any contribution would be welcome. It was decided that we would give the proceeds to The Brick as they do so much for WBCCC.

A Wigan Night ride will take place on Monday 9th March and be led by Jim Taylor. It was mentioned that it is a really good experience but you need a powerful front light!!

The Kidderminster Weekend Ride of approximately 80 miles will take place in mid-late September (date TBA).

Extra Sunday rides in the absence of an official club ride were kindly offered by Allan Ricketts Stephen Topping and Frank Malley. Details for these rides would be placed on Facebook and WhatsApp and rides will start at 9.30/10am from Trencherfield Mill.

14. Bolton Ironman 2020

This year it will be held on Sunday 12th July and the club will be looking for volunteers again if we are asked to assist.

15. Christmas Celebration Feedback

Phil mentioned that the event went well but it would have made a financial loss if it were not for Doreen Pukitis' friends buying tickets. With this in mind, Phil suggested that maybe we need to look at a different arrangement for Christmas 2020.

16. Future Social Event

Phil Brown suggested that due to the influx of money, raised mostly from the Ironman event, we could consider having a subsidised Club social event in the summer. It was well received by members present and thought to be a great idea.

There were two suggestions.

- a. Manchester Ship Canal trip, which is a full day outing and very informative, costing about £45pp
- b. A coach trip and walk, with a meal/drinks afterwards, in the Lake District with costs yet to be determined

It was agreed that the matter should be discussed further at the next Steering Group meeting. Phil also suggested that possibly partners/friends could join us if the numbers were short.

17. Any Other Business

AppWhat3words

Jim Taylor reported that Jules Triggs had suggested that it might be a good idea for members to use the free app 'what3words' in case of getting lost on a ride. This app gives you a 3m x 3m location described in three words anywhere in the world. If a member is lost on a ride it is possible to locate him/her using the 3 words at their location. It is up to each member to decide whether or not to download it.

The Dutch Reach

John Sills suggested that, since many of us are car drivers as well as cyclists, we should adopt the 'Dutch Reach' when opening a driver's seat door (ie with your left arm). This means that you have a better view of cyclists coming up from behind you. We should also promote this method with others.

Ride Leader Training

To anticipate possible demand for extra ride leaders arising from the GMCWC scheme and assist our regular leaders Allan Finch asked if we could train more ride leaders. A discussion followed as to whether the Club could afford expensive training and whether ride leaders needed to be trained to comply with the Club's Liability Insurance requirements. It was agreed that the Club needs more ride leaders and that the Steering Group needed to look at this issue further.

18. Date of Next AGM

To be confirmed.