

## Welland Valley Cycling Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 11 May 2020

Held as a virtual meeting via Zoom, due to national restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic

Members present:

Jon Durnin (chairman), Stuart Dawkins, John Welsford, Rob Moore, Kevin Nicholls, Dave Birch, Chris Dainty, Phil Rayner, Lorna Marlow, Tim Smith, Adrian Killworth and Claire Moore.

Also present: Lucy Smith

- 1) Apologies had been received from George Barnett.  
Jon welcomed everyone to what was almost certainly the first WVCC Committee meeting to be held by video-conference. All attendees gave a brief up-date on how they and their families had been faring under the COVID-19 lockdown. Jon thanked everyone for their help and support for the Club during this unusual time.
- 2) Minutes of the Committee meeting on 24 February 2020 were approved.
- 3) Matters arising
  - 3.1 The format, and hence venue, for the AGM is as yet undecided due to the current pandemic. It was noted that the Constitution states that the quorum for an AGM is 15 members. Stuart will advise on venue, etc, in due course. **(Action: Stuart)**
  - 3.2 The proposed meeting with the Club's official coaches to discuss priorities, etc, has not occurred due to the pandemic. This can be picked up once current restrictions are removed. **(Action: Jon)**
  - 3.3 Lorna and Kevin will liaise re the potential for electronic membership forms. **(Action: Lorna & Kevin)**
  - 3.4 The proposed Young Members' Panel has not met, due to the pandemic. Sophie Alexander is happy to convene this, with Chris sitting in subject to double-checking that his DBS status is up to date. **(Action: Chris)**
  - 3.5 Phil has not had the opportunity to buy the new Club radios. This can occur once shops re-open. **(Action: Phil)**
- 4) 2020 Season
  - 4.1 A combination of government-imposed restrictions on activity and guidance from the relevant cycling governing bodies has meant that no events have been possible since the Fleche Waltonne race on 15 March and there was no clarity about how long it would be before any events could be held in the future.
  - 4.2 The Committee has kept Club members informed of the suspension of all Club activities via the internet and email. This has been well-understood by members.
  - 4.3 It was agreed that an awards dinner for 2020 would not take place. It was noted that the savings to the Club from cancelling this event, which is usually subsidised, would be of a similar magnitude to the loss of revenue should the Club agree to extend 2020 membership to include 2021

4.4 After discussion, the Committee agreed the following, which would also be communicated to all members:

- All scheduled events in the current calendar year are cancelled. Therefore, no club competitions / championships will be contested in 2020 (cyclo-cross and TT trophies already won will be awarded).
- In the event of an easing of restrictions on sporting events and activities (and acting strictly within guidance from cycling's governing bodies: British Cycling, CTT etc), the club will stage as many 'pop up' events as possible to give members the chance to return to racing in all its different forms. Where possible, these events will be held on dates already in the club calendar. The well-being of all involved will be paramount in their planning and delivery.
- The club will reinstate Whizz Kids sessions club runs, chain gangs, etc as soon as it is permitted to do so.
- All current membership will be rolled through until the end of 2021.
- Anyone joining or re-joining the club this year will also benefit from membership through to the end of 2021.

In addition:

- Whilst the annual awards dinner on November 28 will not take place, if possible it will be replaced with a social evening at the same venue on the same date. This may also be set as the date for a rearranged AGM.

4.4 Claire noted that the booking for the awards dinner could be rolled forward to 2021. This was agreed. Claire will confirm the roll-forward and that the 2020 date should be kept as a booking for the venue, but not for a dinner. **(Action: Claire)**

4.5 There was a discussion about the significant increase in the number of people cycling for exercise/leisure during the current pandemic restrictions. It was agreed that this provided a good basis for the Club to attract new members once lockdown restrictions are lifted.

5) Treasurer's report

5.1 John had circulated the accounts as at 30 April 2020. Whizz Kids balances were £1,298.31. Youth Development balances were £4,280.99 and the Club's general balance was £8,850.43.

5.2 John had also circulated a summary of membership numbers as at 11 May 2020. This showed the Club with 201 members at that date. This is significantly below the number of members at the end of 2019 (262 members). This primarily reflects the suspension of Club activities and the consequent lack of chasing-up of members who had not re-joined. It was hoped that the offering of 2021 membership as a bundle with 2020 membership would help to improve this, although it was acknowledged that attracting and retaining members in the current pandemic circumstances would be challenging.

- 6) Communications
- 6.1 It was noted that the Club has continued to engage with members during the pandemic restrictions in a number of ways including the website, social media, WhatsApp Groups and all-member emails. There had been activities which had attracted good interest including ‘pictures of the day’, extracts from Peter Riley’s history of the Club, favourite cycling memories, etc.
- 6.2 Other potential ideas were discussed. It was agreed that Jon would write a message of thanks to Peter Riley for the work on the Club’s history. **(Action: Jon)**
- 7) East Lutterworth update
- 7.1 Stuart updated the Committee on progress made on the potential for a closed-road cycle-racing and training circuit being incorporated into the proposed significant new housing development at East Lutterworth.
- 7.2 Jon and Stuart had attended meetings with Leicestershire & Rutland Sport, British Cycling and Market Harborough District Council about the idea. These had been positive, although many hurdles remain to be cleared before the idea becomes a reality. The representative from Leicestershire & Rutland Sport has drafted a formal proposal to go into the planning process, with John and Stuart providing some copy and ideas.
- 7.3 Other local cycling clubs have been made aware of this idea by WVCC.
- 8) Correspondence
- 8.1 Various Committee members had attended recent British Cycling webinars concerning the current pandemic situation and its impact on different cycling disciplines.
- 8.2 The safety-precautions created by WVCC to run the Fleche Waltonne race in March, prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, had received praise.
- 8.3 John will attend the virtual meeting of the East Midlands British Cycling Board on 21 May 2020.
- 9) Any other business
- 9.1 It was agreed that the Club website could make people aware that face-covering masks are available from Vanelli.
- 9.2 John and Jon will liaise re the possibility of calling a sample of Club members regarding how they are faring during the pandemic lockdown restrictions.
- 9.3 Jon mentioned that the history project led by Peter Riley has generated much interest during lockdown, and suggested that the Club could look to offer a ‘retro jersey’ as supplementary kit. This was agreed, potentially giving members a choice as to which kit could be reproduced. **(Action: Jon to liaise with Hans and Mike Smith)**
- 9.4 It was agreed to put a message on Facebook in due course to see whether other people wished to be trained as timekeepers. Andrew Weatherby had indicated he was happy to run an online training course to support this. **(Action: Tim)**
- 9.5 It was agreed that the concept of the Club supporting members to do ‘virtual’ time trials using Strava was still not appropriate at the current time. This can be reviewed at the next meeting. **(Action: Stuart for Matters Arising)**

9.6 Chris noted that the Club's e-Bike policy was now ready to post on the website.

9.7 Adrian noted that the Leicestershire Cyclo-cross League has agreed that there will be no events before Christmas 2020, but are hoping to organise four events in the New Year.

9.8 Phil noted that, under current restrictions, the AA Brown Road Race will not go ahead. Stuart noted that the Duncan Murray Wines Road Races, scheduled for 9 August 2020, were looking unlikely to proceed, although had not formally been opened for entrants as yet, so there was nothing to 'close' at this time.

9.9 It was agreed to bring forward the date of the next Committee meeting in case it became clearer when events might be able to re-start. The new date will be 7:30pm, Tuesday 16 June 2020.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 16 June 2020

Stuart Dawkins 28/5/20

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan J. Dawkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

16<sup>th</sup> June 2020