

## Welland Valley Cycling Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 5 September 2022, 7:30pm

Held at Kibworth Grammar School

Members present:

Jon Durnin (Chair), Stuart Dawkins, John Welsford, Adrian Killworth, Kevin Nicholls, Judith Rout, Stuart Haycox, Phil Rayner, Tim Smith, George Barnett.

- 1) Apologies and introduction
  - 1.1 Apologies were received from Sarah Mee, Roger Kockelbergh and Ellie Humphries.
- 2) Minutes of the Committee meeting on 13 June 2022 were approved.
- 3) Matters arising
  - 3.1 Mark Chapman has agreed to be Lead Organiser for the Sportive in 2023, which will be on Saturday 20 May 2023.
  - 3.2 Sarah was an apology for the meeting. The consideration of women-only bike maintenance classes with Neil Holman was carried forwards (**Action: Sarah**)
  - 3.3 The Safeguarding Policy is live on the website.
  - 3.4 Jon has emailed new Club members to get them to volunteer for the rota for events later in the year, e.g. cyclo-cross events.
  - 3.5 John and Ray Taylor still intend to meet re Club equipment and there is a recognition that a trip to Misterton is needed to see what there is stored there. (**Action: John**)
- 4) Club Dinner and trophies
  - 4.1 Ellie has paid a deposit for Kibworth Cricket Club, the venue for the Club Dinner on Saturday 26 November 2022.
  - 4.2 Phil has an idea for a guest speaker, which he will pursue. (**Action: Phil**)
- 5) AGM and Constitution
  - 5.1 John reported that Club member Paul Simpson, a qualified accountant, has volunteered to be the auditor for the Club accounts. The Committee thanked Paul for that.
  - 5.2 Stuart noted that the venue, Harborough Town Football Club has been booked for Monday 31 October 2022.
  - 5.3 Stuart had circulated a marked-up set of proposed changes to the Club's Constitution which could be considered at the AGM. Most of the changes were cosmetic, with the most substantive being the setting up of a Men's Captain and a Women's Captain, both as formal Committee roles. In practice, this change would merely formalize what already occurs.
- 6) Spending the Club's money
  - 6.1 It was noted that the Club has been spending on new equipment, etc, and continues to subsidise members through the early-bird fee reduction and in other

ways. Nonetheless, strong growth in membership and other efficiencies mean that the Club still has significant funds available to spend if required.

6.2 Racing Secretaries were encouraged to let the Committee know if other equipment/expense is needed.

6.3 A couple of specific ideas were discussed briefly, and it was agreed that John would ensure a fuller discussion on this at the next Committee meeting. (**Action: John**)

7) Supporting members

7.1 Jon had circulated a paper noting that the Club already provides support for members in a variety of ways.

7.2 It was agreed that a key principle is that the Club should not support members through cash payments, but that intelligently applied support in other ways may on occasion be appropriate for members who, through economic circumstances, may find participation in cycling increasingly difficult.

7.3 It was noted that the Club is increasingly receiving donated bikes, the latest being a young person's bike kindly donated by Nik Kershaw. There is a process for allocating these as loan bikes.

7.4 Stuart H agreed to look at efficient ways in which items of kit might be sold/donated. (**Action: Stuart H**)

8) TT arrangements 2023

8.1 Tim will be stepping down as TT Secretary at the AGM. The Committee thanked him for the huge amount of work he has done, including improving process for many items, such as risk assessments, and guiding the Club's TT activities through the challenges of the pandemic.

8.2 It was agreed that the role of TT Secretary was becoming too big for one person, and that reverting to there being a TT Sub-Committee would be appropriate. An initial meeting to this effect is being arranged which would include Simon Ward, Matt Plews, Roger Kockelbergh, Adam Robinson and Andy Poulton. George Barnett and Judith Rout would also attend. An item for the first meeting would be to nominate a member of that group to be TT Secretary on the full Committee.

8.3 Jon and Judith will arrange the meeting described above. (**Done**)

8.4 Communication had been received from Rockingham Forest Cycling Club re inter-Club events, and it was noted that this year the Hill Climb had included three clubs: Rockingham Forest, Welland Valley and Kettering.

8.5 It is proposed that Judith meets with the Chairs of the other two clubs. Issues to consider include the role of second-claim members and how better to encourage female and younger member participation. This will be on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. (**Action: Judith**)

9) Treasurer's update

9.1 John had circulated the accounts as at the end of September 2022. Whizz Kids balances were £3,279.41. Youth Development balances were £3,343.40 and the Club's general balance was £10,675.99.

- 10) Membership Secretary's report
- 10.1 John reported that recruitment of Members continues to be strong. As at 1 September, the Club had 315 Members: 234 Male, 81 Female. The total now surpasses the membership at the end of 2021 (totals then: 302, M: 233; F: 69), despite the fact that lapses since then will have included, in effect, two years' turnover as membership was rolled forwards for a year due to the pandemic.
- 10.1 This strong performance reflects a number of initiatives including the Breeze Rides, families joining as a result of Whizz Kids, the broad range of Club runs and the strength of the Club's racing programme for members. It is also pleasing that many new members are also engaging to take on responsibility organising and supporting events.
- 11) Website update
- 11.1 Stuart H reported that the website is working well. Some more work is needed to keep the Instagram account lively.
- 12) Youth Development update
- 12.1 Kevin reported that Whizz Kids events are going well, including seven events held on the Go-Kart track at Bruntingthorpe.
- 12.2 There was a good turnout of Whizz Kids members at the Ride/Race 4 Rosemary event.
- 12.3 The Committee offered thanks and best wishes to Ben Brand, who has been a coach for Whizz Kids and who is now off to University.
- 12.4 Updates on progress have been received from Youth Development Programme participants Dom Switzer and Jamie Kershaw, each of whom have made great progress during the year. Alex Smith's involvement with the Brian Steele Academy has been paused whilst Alex focusses on his education having just started at Sixth Form College.
- 13) Racing secretaries' update
- 13.1 Adrian reported that Ride/Race 4 Rosemary had gone well, although the numbers participating in the off-road session were not that high considering the amount of organisation required to stage it.
- 13.2 The first round of the Leicestershire Cyclo-Cross League (LCXL), at Marston Hall, is due on Sunday 11 September 2022. More volunteers are being sought to support that. Dom Switzer has joined the Committee of the LCXL.
- 13.3 Mudlarks training sessions had commenced, and new tripod-based floodlights have been purchased to support those sessions.
- 13.4 Phil noted that the Club's road races had gone well during the year. There has been a particularly strong showing by female members Ellie Humphries and Harriet Evans, each of whom has reached Category 2 level in British Cycling road races.
- 13.5 It was agreed that a sub-Committee would be set up to oversee the Club's events at Bruntingthorpe in 2023 (road race and time trialling). **(Action: Judith & Chris)**
- 13.6 Stuart D has agreed to be Lead Organiser for the Duncan Murray Wines Road Races in 2023, to include a round of the British Women's Team Cup as usual. The proposed date is Sunday 30 July 2023.

13.7 Tim thanked the people who had stepped in to organise TT events during his absence for health reasons. Eighteen Club TTs have been completed with three to go. Numbers have been good - which has not been the experience of many other clubs nationally – albeit a bit lower than the peak in 2021 which followed the removal of Covid lockdown rules. Tuesday evenings continue to be far more popular than Sunday mornings.

13.8 Jon is Lead Organiser for an N&DCA TT on Saturday 17 September 2022. It was noted that an EGM of N&DCA was held on 1 August 2022, attended by Dave Birch and Jon. This has resulted in a new Committee and various other changes at N&DCA. WVCC has agreed to promote one event for N&DCA in 2023.

14) Format of Future Meetings

14.1 It was agreed that Committee meetings would be held face to face in future, generally at Kibworth Grammar School.

15) Communications update

15.1 Chris noted that two of the new Club members are graphic designers and he would be discussing with them possible ideas for 2023 marketing activity.

15.2 Judith would cease to be New Members Liaison Officer after the AGM to allow more time for her other Club activities.

16) Correspondence

16.1 Judith had received correspondence from Harborough District Council's Activity Development Officer.

16.2 The Committee thanked the Scott Bader Trust for a recent donation to Whizz Kids.

17) Any other business

17.1 Jon has prepared the history project work, done by Peter Riley, for use on the Club website. It was noted that the Club's Centenary would be in 2027 and something might be done to update the history by then and perhaps to publish it in physical form.

17.2 The Committee agreed to offer lifetime membership to Peter Riley in recognition of the many ways he has supported the Club over many years.

17.3 It was noted that the owners of Mallory Park had given notice to Race Rapid re the TT events held there. Jon will check whether this impacts any other cycling activities held at Mallory Park. **(Action: Jon)**

17.4 Tim thanked the Committee and wider Club membership for the support for the Lands' End John O'Groats tandem ride in aid of The Thomas Fund. This had raised £25,550.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Stuart Dawkins 06/10/22      Next meeting: Monday 10 October 2022

