



Draft minutes of Brighton & Hove Cycling UK AGM 2025
Saturday 29th March 2025
at the Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2FL

Present:

Becky R, Moritz S, Adam P, Keith B, Dave S, Guy R, Andy H, Tony G, Bob S, Alison W, Philip W, Pete M, Paul S, Angela D, Chris S, Liz L, Gordon N, John H, Rob K, Paul L

Apologies:

Peter H, Geraldine T, Harry P, Hena R, Kristina B, Pat M, Paul B, Robin CB, Sukey M,

Opening of the meeting

The Chair (Becky R) opened the meeting at 14:00 and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Moritz S was appointed minute taker.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

Matters arising

- The use of Meetup to advertise rides

Moritz reported that there has been no interest to advertise the Sunday rides on Meetup.

He had also contacted Sukey to see if she is interested in advertising the shorter midweek rides she had led last summer. They had not been well attended. But because of health concerns Sukey M is not able to continue with her rides this summer. Should someone volunteer to continue the rides over summer, Moritz will enquire again.

Becky said that the late start of the midweek rides might have been a reason for the poor attendance.

- Return of Geraldine

Becky reported that for personal reasons Geraldine had stepped back from her roles as Ride Secretary and Diversity and Inclusion Champion. However she is now able to return to her roles and will stand for election.

Summary reports presented by officers

Chair (Becky R).

“It’s 20 years since we formed Brighton and Hove Cycling UK. Some of us were riding with CTC even before that. 2024-5 has gone smoothly.

I would like to thank the Ride Co-ordinators Guy, Dave and all the Ride Leaders who have generously led the Sunday rides throughout the year. We had great new input from Sukey who led regular evening rides.

Several of us completed Cycling UK’s on-line Ride Leader training and have certificates!

Many thanks to Keith for fulfilling such a valuable role as Safeguarding Officer, and to the new committee members, Moritz who as Secretary has organised this meeting, and to Adam for performing the essential Treasurer role.

Once again, Hena successfully organised the popular Christmas meal, this time at the Railway Inn, Portslade. Many thanks, Hena.

I’ve been Chair since 2021, and it would be good for us to have a change. All officer roles are up for election or re-election today, and I am very pleased to say that there is interest from new rider Andy in playing a greater part in our team.

Over the year, I've posted rides, news and events to our web page, Facebook and Instagram. Interest is growing:

Account	Approval	2024	2025	Increase
Instagram	Followers:	145	195	+50
Facebook	Likes:	172	225	+53
	Followers:	260	364	+104

Through WhatsApp we are able to keep in touch over the year about rides, events and other things.

The Cycling UK web site is adequate for posting rides and it's free, but there are some wider IT issues which Moritz and I have highlighted to HQ and these need to be resolved.

I'm happy to continue posting rides and doing media, acting as Communications Officer and taking forward the Cycle Advocacy work as I step down as Chair.

We have very good relations with neighbouring cycling and campaign groups and with the authorities. Brighton and Hove City Council lead on Transport, Cllr. Trevor Muten is among our Facebook followers!"

Secretary (Moritz S)

Moritz thanked the group for accepting him as secretary and supporting him to take on the role after his emergence out of nowhere at last year's annual meeting.

At the national office a new team of staff acts as point of contact for members and local groups since last summer. It was introduced to members along with the presentation of Cycling UK's new five year strategy 2024-29. Apart from the introduction of the new team, the weekly email on Friday and the presentation of the new strategy there has been no communication from the national office.

A concern is Cycling UK's IT system. Group members which have moved out of the group's area, but are still affiliated with the group, are not visible for group administrators. This makes it difficult to check whether out of area ride leaders like Geraldine and Bob are still members and registered as ride leaders. His general impression is that staff at the national office are also struggling with the system – the update of last year's committee member changes as well as the addition of new ride leaders demanded sometimes several emails to the national office.

Treasurer (Adam P)

"£250 received from CUK (increased from £200 in 2024)

Expenditure: 2024 AGM Room hire £84 (Reimbursed to Becky)
2025 AGM Room hire £45 (Reimbursed to me)

Transferred Lloyds banking login (card & reader) from Julian Clemas to myself.

I am also Treasurer of The Fellowship of Cycling (AKA The Fellowship of Cycling Old-Timers) who have also a Lloyds account and bizarrely the same card and reader work for both accounts - not very secure!

From 14th January 2025 Lloyds changed our account from a Business Account (free) to a Community Account - costing £4.25 / month, £51 / year, which wipes out the increase in the CUK grant. This change is the same for all community organisations, not just us.

Few banks offer free banking to community organisations. One which does is the NatWest. You have to be a NatWest account holder (I am), so might investigate that.

Current funds are £1,730.22 (2024: £1613)."

Discussion was open to the floor. There was discussion about the pros and cons of moving to different banks. The decision was to investigate the Co-Operative Bank.

Action – Adam to investigate what kind of deals the Co-Op offer.

Bob suggested that instead of growing the fund and having it sit unused in the bank account some of the money should be spent. He proposed a donation of £200 to the Cyclist Defence Fund. Becky pointed out that before donating money to a charity and effectively losing the money the group might want to think if there is anything the group would benefit from, for example a group jersey. Should the group opt to donate to another organisation, then the Transport Action Network might also be one option.

Action: Group to discuss and decide on use of funds

Rides Secretaries/Co-ordinators (Guy R and Dave S)

Guy: "We had rides on most Sundays of the year, covering from about 45 to 65 miles in distance. An average turn out would be about between 5 and 10 people. And we also had some short rides on Wednesday evenings in Summer.

Thank you to the ride leaders who lead these rides, it is much appreciated. We could always do with more."

Moritz said that Sukey would not be able to continue leading the midweek rides over summer and was hoping that someone might continue these in her absence. Maybe someone within the group could be found to lead them.

Discussion was then opened to the floor.

There was a question about where a list of planned group rides could be found. Becky explained that there is not a list because rides are not planned a long time ahead. Instead decisions on rides are only made a few days in advance and then published on the group's website and Facebook page. She always puts a link to these sites when sending emails, for example in the invite to the AGM. Gordon said that rides not always seem to start in Brighton.

Cycle Advocacy Network (Becky R)

"As part of Cycling UK's nationwide Cycle Advocacy Network and as Chair of this group, I continue to raise issues with the council and other authorities. I attend Brighton and Hove City Council's Transport & Travel Partnership and the regional Transport Forum run by Transport for the South East. This year I also attended a workshop run by the Department for Transport about the new National Integrated Transport Strategy. I respond to many consultations and alert the authorities to the problems and dangers we encounter as cyclists.

After some initial delay, Brighton and Hove City council has taken forward the essential and final phase of Valley Gardens, (Phase 3) from the Steine to the sea front. It is good news that the A23 Active Travel scheme north of Preston Circus along Preston Road has been partially completed. It's very visible due to its bright green colour. There should soon be a public consultation about the A259 Active Travel scheme along the seafront from 4th Avenue in Hove to the western edge of the city boundary. We are fortunate to have a new path to replace the A27 Sussex Pad crossing at Lancing which was closed. Tony and I attended several meetings with the Project Manager to try to ensure as good a result as possible.

Potholes remain a problem everywhere, notably on the A23 and in front of Lewes Rd bus Garage, and I've raised the issue several times. Funding is too limited and it's now a situation where resurfacing for extensive areas is needed rather than patch repairs. Not enough funding generally is going to local and active travel. This is also the situation nationally.

Devolution and local government reorganisation will bring a lot of change to the channels and processes for transport funding. We await any detail. A national consultation is in progress about the local area:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution/sussex-and-brighton-devolution-consultation>

My intention today is to be elected as a Cycle Advocacy Officer for this group. This would give a little more weight when I make the case to authorities about cycling infrastructure and better conditions for cycling generally. (My role as a CAN rep would continue in any case.)

Tony G on this group and Harry P are also CAN reps. Tony deals mainly with plans and Harry is very active on the Prestonville and Porthall Traffic Calming Campaign as well as being a Bikeability trainer.

Coming up is Kidical Mass in Brighton on Sunday 27th April 2025 <https://brightonbikehub.org/kidical-mass/> and in Hassocks, organised by Andy, on 12/7/25."

At this point, discussion was open to the floor.

There followed a general discussion about a number of points:

- The cycle lane along Preston Road/London Road, which is not protected by bollards
- The scheme along the A 259, where drivers park their cars in the cycle lane
- An apparent change in policy, in which cycle lanes are being moved from being on the pavement to being on the road
- Whether the number of cyclists in Brighton has increased or decreased
- The responsiveness or otherwise of the Council to comments on cycle and road schemes
- How to influence the decision making process in the Council
- Whether cyclists and motorists are being pitted against each other
- The Sussex Pad crossing and the bridleway next to the river

As part of this discussion, Becky said she posts details to Facebook for comment which is an open, public site, and BHCC has a consultation website called YourVoice [<https://yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk/en-GB/>] where people can respond. She pointed out that information can be found on the websites of the council and relevant authorities. Sending out emails would be an additional burden given her current level commitment. She also said that influence on decision making is often limited. As an advocacy representative of Cycling UK she closely follows the organisation's policies which can be found on Cycling UK's website.

Angela said that Bricycles send out alerts about Traffic Regulation Orders and give a steer about how to respond.

Liz stated that she is both a member of Cycling UK and an elected Labour councillor. She said That there have been recent staff movement in the local planning team which will lead to changes.

Liz asked people to participate in the LTP5 (Local Transport Plan 5) consultation.

Election of Committee officers and roles for 2025/26

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Andy	Becky	Bob
Secretary	Moritz	Tony	Andy
Treasurer	Adam	Moritz	Becky
Advocacy Officer	Becky	Angela	Adam
Rides Secretaries (Co-ordinators)	Geraldine, Guy, Dave	Moritz	Andy
Safeguarding Officer	Keith	Becky	Tony
Group Auditor	Pete		

Diversity and Inclusion Champion: Geraldine

Before his nomination as candidate for the position of Chair Andy introduced himself to the meeting. He has been a member of Cycling UK since 1988, but an active cyclist for much longer. He lives in Hassocks after moving from London a couple of years ago. As part of the Greener Hassocks & Ditchling initiative he is currently organising a series of bike events in Hassocks, for example a womens' ride and a Kidical Mass. He has been involved with this group for 18 months and is looking forward to his role.

During the nomination of Keith as Safeguarding Officer, Moritz mentioned that Keith had received the Going the Extra Mile award by Cycling UK. Becky congratulated and said the award is well deserved.

John asked whether it is possible to obtain information on the demographics of the overall Cycling UK membership in our area. Becky answered that we have access to the member directory of our area, but that it does not provide details on members' backgrounds. But the National Office should be able to provide us with a breakdown. Gordon pointed out that this is due to GDPR. An attendant commented that a look at the audience gathered here might give a good idea of the membership profile in our area. Becky said that while 25% of Cycling UK's members are women, in our group the proportion of women among the group members and active riders is notably higher.

Any other business

Kidical Mass

Becky informed the meeting that Kidical Mass is taking place in Brighton on 27 April and also in Hassocks on 12 July during the bike festival organised by Andy. Keith offered Andy to help with stewarding the Hassocks event. There was a question about what a Kidical Mass is. Becky explained that it is an organised community bike ride for children and families with the intention of encouraging children to take up cycling. The name is a play on the more known Critical Mass events.

Social Media

Angela asked whether it is possible to use Bluesky for communication about the group. She is not on Facebook and wonders whether we should consider alternatives to Facebook. Pete recommended the use of Bluesky because it is a non-profit, public benefit company using open source software. Becky said she is on Bluesky and is open to setting up an account for this group.

Action: Looking into the possibility of using Bluesky as an additional communication channel

Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at about 15:40.

Secretary, Moritz Schick

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/brighton-hove>
<https://www.facebook.com/cyclingukbrighton>