CYCLING UK BEDFORDSHIRE

95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 19:00 at the Pavilion in the Park,

Bedford MK41 7SS.

1) Apologies for absence: C. Lewis, M. Spurgeon, R & L Marshall.

2) Present: P. Berger, A. Binney, P. Blakeman, P. Blowers, S. Clark, A. D’Elia, K. Dhillon, J. Frankel, T. Goff, N. Hobday, P. Owen, S. Owen, M. Powell, M. Sierra-alta, M. Warren, C. Waters, A. Young. (17). (Also D. Berry, R. Foster of Gtechniq).

3) Minutes of last meeting held on May 26th 2021 were deemed to be correct.

4) Annual Reports: The chair, Treasurer and Secretary presented their reports for 2021-2022, (copies are available to attendees).

5) Matters arising: Membership now stands at 452 of which only ~ 32 actually join a ride! The Club has organised ~85 rides out of the ~100 attended. Club officials have contributed by feedback to local authority consultations and, to this end, our Chair has joined a Bedford Cycle Representatives group which includes the Chair of the influential Cycling Campaign for North Beds. Recently completed local authority/Government cycleway projects have, despite concerted feedback, resulted in potentially dangerous situations when in use.

A number of factors have affected our enjoyment of club cycling this year. These are; the disappointment of low ride numbers encountered during the Covid-19 pandemic; criticisms of the newly revised Highway Code which has led to potentially dangerous uncertainties between the actions of motorised transport, cyclists and pedestrians; and the impending authoritarian regime of the CUK which, for us as a small club, entails a significantly burdensome amount of work to operate.

6) Election of officials:

Chair: Steve Clark.

Secretary: Terry Goff.

Treasurer: Martin Powell (Elected in place of Chris Waters who retired at the meeting with several gifts given in appreciation of his 10 years in the role.).

Membership: Alan Binney.

Website/IT: Mark Spurgeon.

Auditor: Barrie Frost.

The Chair proposed each official in turn who was then seconded by the meeting for the following year.

The Chair also highlighted (for the second year running) the vacant new, and important committee role of Safeguarding Officer (previously Welfare). No-one was forthcoming at present probably due to the uncertainty of the CUK ‘toolkit approach’ that the role now requires, and which is designed to ensure the safety of those members on rides.

2)

7) AOB:

a) Two of our members (K. Dhillon & S Clark) have enlisted on a London – Edinbough – London ‘Volunteer List’ and awaits selection.

b) The floor entered into discussions on safety responses during rides:-

i) Information to be given during rides. Riders have requested guidance if situations occur where a vehicle, approaching from behind a group, needs to be identified in terms of type, size and speed. Various agreed ‘calls’ such as ‘car behind’ should be given in enough time to allow riders to take any agreed action that enables the vehicle to pass the group safely. ‘Cliquey’ calls such as ‘oil up’ or ‘oil down’ should only be used if the group is familiar with their meaning! Often a call requires no change to group position, the decision to do so depends upon the road conditions and composition of the group but should nevertheless be given.

ii) Group composition during rides.

When a group number exceeds, say six, it has been noticeable that, to allow vehicles to pass with a safety margin, the formation of the group may need to change. i.e., larger numbers my need to be split up to provide a central gap large enough for the vehicle to be sure that an attempt to pass does not end in a dangerous situation!

iii) Ride grouping for different speed riders. A suggestion was made at the AGM such that when a group containing ‘faster’ and ‘normal speed’ riders is split up for the above reasons, could it be advantageous to do so with the aim of linking the composition of each ‘sub- group’ to cycling speed to allow greater enjoyment across the group? A ‘faster ‘group would then wait at some point in the ride for the ‘normal speed’ riders to re-join.

8) Guest speakers from GTECHNIQ Surface Science

Dom Berry, Head of marketing and Rob Foster, Business development manager – Bike, based in Upper Heyford, gave an interesting talk on the development of a number of sophisticated, nano-science-based, hydrophobic cleaning and protection products and their suitability for use on bicycles. They ended their talk by handing out samples to a delighted audience!

9) The meeting closed at 08:45 with the Chair thanking the audience for their attendance and suggestions. The planned Rides List meeting had to be deferred due to the lateness of the hour.

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