**CYCLING UK EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

**ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2024**

Present: Ian Prince (Notts CTC) – Chairman

Tim Newbery (Cycling UK Lincs) – Secretary

Ray Clay (Leics and Rutland CTC)

John Catt (Leics & Rutland CTC)

Terry Scott (Notts CTC)

Ian Hill (Derby & Burton CTC)

Jean Deacon (Minutes Secretary)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting of Monday 19 February 2024; proposed: Ian Hill; seconded: John Catt.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising which were not covered in the agenda.

**4 CORRESPONDENCE**

Tim had received *Cycle* Clips and the usual correspondence from National Office. He had also received emails from them about the new five-year strategy and the way ahead. He had spoken to Sarah Mitchell and Alex Cuppleditch who had wanted feedback. He had also received emails from Ian Prince.

**5 TREASURER’S REPORT**

The current balance was £1,796; the only expenditure since 31 March had been regarding the AGM: £27 for travel expenses and £42 to the Swan in the Rushes for food in lieu of room hire. The accounts had been audited by Neil Platts and sent to National Office. Ian was thanked for his work.

**6 REPORTS ON EVENTS HELD**

There was now only one event held by the Region: the Mince Pie Run. Tim said other events within the region could be covered, such as the Lincoln Imp event which had 75 riders and raised nearly £200 for their member group. The Notts CTC Audax in April had 200 entrants and raised over £1,600 for the Notts Air Ambulance. Details of Leics events were in *Cycle Chat* which was available online.

**7 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Mince Pie Run, 2024** – this would be on 22 December. The hall had been booked but there was nothing else to report at this time.

**Other events across the Region**

There was nothing in Lincolnshire apart from the usual events. Notts had a 150k Audax coming up on 28 September in aid of the Air Ambulance. details of which were on the Notts Facebook page.

**8 TOUR OF EAST MIDLANDS ROUTE**

Ian Hill said he had not got any further with this at the moment and it would now have to be done for 2025. He said he would send out a draft route but may need help from other members in some areas. There would be a GPS route but would a route sheet be needed? It would all need checking on the ground for any changes etc. The situation was discussed. Ian Hill said he had always done a printed route sheet for any events he had organised and it was agreed that sometimes Google sent you where you did not want to go and that it was good to have a printed sheet as well. Anyone who could help was asked to liaise with Ian.

What did people think of the East Midlands Route – was it too grandiose? Ian Prince described it as an oval with various cross sections which riders could do all in one go or at different times. John said it would be easy to add in routes and sub-routes at a later date but it was important to get the first part done which was a Leicester-Derby-Nottingham triangle. There would be places of interest on the way; it would be more of a touring route and notes could be put in for people to divert to these if they wanted to. Cycling UK was promoting longer-distance routes; the East Midlands route could be submitted to National Office in whatever way we wanted when it was ready.

**9 REPORTS OF MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Tim had had a meeting with North Lincs Tourism recently as part of a national project. North Lincs was keen to be involved, with places to stay overnight, lists of bike shops etc.

The Humber Bridge was normally closed to cyclists at night in case they jumped off but Ian Prince reported they had now agreed they could put high wire fences on it which would prevent this and the bridge would then be open 24/7.

**10 PUBLICITY**

Tim said the Cycling UK East Midlands web page remained functional. There was a new team at National Office looking at membership, groups and anything else anyone wanted to discuss, and Tim was working with them to try to get some problems sorted out. There was an article on the web site about Steps Community Cycle Group which was affiliated to Cycling UK and mostly dealing with mental health issues. National Office was trying to engage with groups across the east midlands.

Ian Prince had been trying to spread the word whilst riding with other groups etc.

Terry said Newark CTC at their AGM had decided to remain affiliated to Notts CTC rather than become a separate group

**11 LOCAL GROUP INITIATIVES**

The aim was to promote best practice. Tim said that he was asked to take part in the Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival to try to promote Cycling UK. National Office did not provide as much for this sort of thing in the way of hand-outs etc as they used to – John mentioned mudguard stickers. He had found the best thing was to publish reports of rides with photographs. The local papers did not usually help very much so promotion had to be on social media, with pictures. The situation was discussed. Everyone reported on ideas they had tried, including business cards; Lincs used their £200 grant from National Office to have these printed for all their member groups. Tim said he would get more information about this.

**12 CAMPAIGNS AND POLICIES WITHIN THE REGION**

Response to South Derbyshire Cycle Plan – this was mostly with regard to the 2016 plan but was running a somewhat behind schedule. Ian Hill had sent some comments to them about this.

The existence of a list of cafes within the area was discussed. This depended on each individual web site, but it was pointed out that each group had the ability to have a web page on the National Office site. Louth had its own list of cafes etc. Cycling UK had been encouraging cafes to register with them but this meant only those which paid to be registered with National Office were listed. Many member groups had their own café lists.

**13 CYCLE ADVOCACY NETWORK**

The representative for this did not get involved with rides at the moment and Tim did not hear from him. The Loughborough group invited their Labour candidate to join them on a ride – he was now the MP. The new Lincolnshire MP had been seen boarding a train with his bike.

**14 NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS**

Tim had been speaking to Alex Cuppleditch and the CEO, Sarah Mitchell, about the 5-year strategy plan which was wanting input from member groups. The strategy had been published and members knew about it. They were trying to attract a more diverse range of candidates for the trustee elections and were especially trying to involve younger people. There was a need to update diversity, inclusion etc, and this was reflected in the language used. People did not know what trustees did and what was involved.

**15 ANY OTHER BUSNESS**

Tim told the meeting that as part of the Annual Returns process there were opportunities to recognise people for their contribution to the club and to cycling, and he had nominated Ray for this. Ray had been awarded a silver lifetime achievement award with a badge, but they needed his permission to be added to the roll of honour. Ray was congratulated.

**16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 28 October 2024 via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9.26pm.