

# **Yorkshire Rose Cycling Club AGM 2023**

*29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Banner Cross pub, Sheffield*

## **Members Present:**

Gill Wilson (Chair), Marian French, Tracey Bradburn, Kym Martindate, Delia Watts, Ellen Dhawan, Nila Yasmin, Judith Richards, Ros Harker, Julia Disney, Caroline Burke, Val Gillet, Becca Potton, Lyn Morgan, Angela Sanders, Fran McLean, Lynn Male, Ros Seyd, Anna Muncaster, Lisa Lambert, Ruth Jacobs, Yvonne Twelvtree, Matilda Ashford, Helen Crimlisk, Heather Jones, Emma Shepherd, Margaret Duncan, Maria Ralph, Jo Battersby, Bronwen Doyle

## **1. Apologies:**

Jane Harriman, Chrissie Garnock-Jones, Sarah Hodges

## **2. Matters arising from previous minutes: None**

## **3. Committee Reports**

Chair: GW thanked committee for work during the year and members for coming to the meeting and their involvement in rides during the year.

Treasurer: TB reported that the club has a healthy bank balance of around £6k. During the year, a change had eventually been made to move from NatWest to Metro Bank, which took a lot of effort from those involved. Income during the year had been £6k from memberships and trip payments, expenditure was around £3k which was largely costs of the Girona & Cleethorpes trips. TB resigned as Treasurer and was thanked by all for many years of work in this role.

Rides: KM commented that we have had a good regular schedule of rides, but need more ride organisers to provide more variety especially with Green & steady Amber rides. The club needs to consider how to encourage people to do this and help gain confidence to do so. It was agreed that more Green ride routes need to go into the ride library and all members are encouraged to share their routes to help with this.

## **4. Discussion on survey feedback, steady rides & more ride organisers**

ED shared feedback from the recent survey, which aimed to find out the reasons for members who do not ride regularly with the club.

68 people responded to survey (approx 68%). The greatest number of people were unable to ride regularly due to family or work commitments at weekends, plus other non-club related reasons – 50 votes.

Next most significant category was 'Pace of rides too fast and/or routes too challenging' - 21 votes. This suggests a need for more Green (and perhaps steady Amber) rides to be offered. Club wants to offer more steady rides but constraint is getting people to organise rides in general, steady ones in particular. Need to encourage & enable more members to lead rides.

ED also shared analysis of ride attendance over the previous 12 months:

The club ran 63 rides in total. 13 red, 37 amber, 13 green. Looking at numbers on each ride, this is 371 "woman rides". 66 Red, 248 Amber, 58 Green. We should be proud of this level of engagement and facilitating women getting out on rides.

There were 13 other events. Trips, socials, bike maintenance, route planning workshop, zwift sessions.

45 members did not ride all year, so we have 55 active members (a few more recently, now 106 members total)

20 members organised one or more rides in the year. 7 organised 1 ride. 7 people also organised 4 or more rides. 88% of the rides were organised by 13 members (this includes everyone who organised more than 1 ride)

***Over half of the rides were organised by just 5 people – not a sustainable position for the club***

In order to offer wider variety of rides we need more ride organisers. Further discussion followed around how to achieve this and rides in general. Members who did not currently organise rides were asked what barriers they felt stopped them.

HC felt it was a lack of confidence and suggested 'buddying up' with another organiser to co-lead rides, this idea was well received.

Several members thought that the ride organiser would be expected to fix punctures/mechanicals on the ride and did not feel confident to do this. There was general discussion and agreement that this is **not** the case. As a supportive club, all members on a ride will do their best to assist in the event of a problem, but there is no expectation of the ride leader to have particular mechanical skills. In the event no one can fix the issue, the member would need to call for pick-up, this could be a friend, partner or taxi. FM has recently shared [eta.co.uk](http://eta.co.uk) which charges £24 a year for "AA" type rescue for cyclists. A previous attempt to set up a member's "rescue" group had been unsuccessful because Facebook Messenger would not allow enough people in a group. WhatsApp was suggested and ED agreed to look into that.

RS commented that after covid lockdowns eased, there were sometimes stronger riders attending amber rides. This made some steadier riders feel the pace would be too fast for them, so they were then riding separately in small groups rather than on club rides. This situation seemed to have improved recently with regular Red rides over the summer. Noted that stronger riders ideally would prefer not to organise a Green ride as the weekend is their leisure time too and a Green ride would not be their preference, therefore steadier riders do need to step up and organise rides too.

FM encouraged all to do puncture repair practice at home and it was agreed that more club sessions would be welcome. These do not need to be led by a mechanic, and could simply be an opportunity to practice in a suitable venue with support from other members. Agree that buddying up would be helpful

for encouraging ride organisers, and pointed out that routes do not have to be original – re-use of tried & tested rides is fine.

VG commented that often rides were only going into the schedule a couple of days before, which made it harder for members to plan attending rides. There was agreement that ideally rides would be in the schedule at least a couple of weeks before, but that this depended on organisers volunteering and filling up the slots in advance. The method of having a 3-month schedule, as used to be the case, was discussed. That had been abandoned as not many people were prepared to commit to organising rides so far ahead. Given the current situation of too few ride organisers, we needed to make the system as flexible as possible so that more organisers could contribute.

FM pointed out that ride organisers have the final call as to a ride going ahead, in poor weather for example, so organisers should not feel obliged to go ahead with a ride in these circumstances. Likewise, the Ride Organisers chat group is a good forum to swap dates if someone can't do a date they had previously committed to.

AS said that if organising a ride, she did feel responsible for the group as the 'leader' and suggested the CTC online training resources. ED will share with members, whilst noting that the CTC ethos of 'ride leader' does not match the YRCC approach of 'Ride Organiser' with the whole group sharing responsibility for other riders.

LM agreed that the CTC online training was useful, and pointed out that it offered many topics other than 'ride leading' such as how to cycle in traffic, cycling in groups, etc. ED will share these on email and via club Facebook. It was suggested they could also be included in the club's welcome letter which GW sends when people join.

AM felt that a barrier to people organising rides could be that things were not all in one place. For example, creating an event on Facebook, ride schedule in Google Calendar, routes in RideWithGPS, other information on website. Some of these are unavoidable as there isn't any tool which would do all these functions, but it would be an idea to pull them together as much as possible onto a 'Ride Organiser Info' page on our website.

AS asked how riders would contact the 'leader' if they got lost on a ride. ED said that anyone who is on Facebook can message attendees of the ride without needing to be Facebook 'friends'. Ride organisers should put their own phone number in the ride description so that anyone who is lost can contact them, and may need reminding to do this. AS said that CTC groups asked riders to sign a piece of paper and provide contact details at the start of each ride, but there was no support for this approach. Ride organisers are however welcome to do this, if they wish.

It was felt that it would be helpful to have quarterly meetings where members could discuss rides, buddy up with others to organise rides, ask questions such as how to use ride library and create Facebook events. There was general agreement to this approach.

## **5. Contributions from other committee members**

Social: DW reported that there had been several social events organised during the year which had been cancelled due to low numbers, and asked for input on what type of events members would like. There was support for a Christmas meal and DW agreed to organise.

## **6. Election of Committee**

Chair – Gill Wilson. Proposed MF seconded DW

Secretary – Kym Martindale. Proposed DW seconded GW

Treasurer – Marian French. Proposed GW seconded ED

Membership Officer – Gill Wilson. Proposed ED seconded DW

Ride Co-ordinators – Sue North & Fran McLean (focusing on steadier rides) Proposed KM seconded TB

Welfare – Jane Harriman. Proposed ED seconded DW

Website & Communications – Ellen Dhawan & Sarah Hodges. Proposed DW seconded GW

Kit – Chrissie Garnock Jones. Proposed MF seconded ED

Events & Social – Delia Watts. Proposed DW seconded MF

Committee Support – Becca Potton. Proposed GW seconded KM

Outgoing committee members were thanked for their work, notably Tracey who has been Treasurer for many years, and thanks to all committee for running the club.

## **7. AOB**

A raffle was held in aid of GIST with prizes including £100 voucher donated by Giant Store Sheffield.

A selection of kit was made available for anyone to have a look or try on.