

Gower Cycling Festival

Notes of a meeting held on 24 October 2018

Ian Davies and I met with Dickie (Richard Smith of Sarn Helen events) and Andrew Jones to discuss future possibilities re GCF.

(Apologies from Sarah and Chris Walsh). It was an informal meeting and we didn't take any decisions, but here are my notes of our meeting:

Introductions: Nick outlined history and main aspects of our 9 previous Festivals, which had average numbers of 130 -160 participants over last few years.

Dickie has lots of experience organising big cycle events, and was recently awarded Welsh Cyclist of the year! (see his website [RidetotheSomme](#)),

Andrew Jones (White Rock events) has lots of experience organising Gower Bike Ride (over 10 years, attracting 6,000 participants). He also knows Ben George, his boss, and Head of Tourism (so key contacts).

They both have successful websites which attract 150 hits per day, and extensive experience with social media. They organised the Gower Bike Ride (without BHF) and Swansea Sportif in 2018, and have big plans for future.

IF they were to take over GCF they would:

- Only need our website domain (they would pay us);
- Respect our experience and commitment

I asked about Family rides, Dickie said he prefers term "community rides" and would incorporate these,

Ian asked about evening rides, and offered Cycling UK continued help.

Agreed PLAN:

Dickie and Andrew will go away and discuss further, and let us know their proposal in 2 weeks

We told them that if they did take it over we would accept them taking all decisions, but offer help; We recognised that they could charge a lot more, and cope with much larger numbers than Wheelrights.

My recommendation (having met them and heard more about their experience/ideas) is that IF they were interested in taking over the Festival, we should let them. They could take Festival to another level??

This would enable us to spend more time on campaigning, which with serious Welsh Govt money coming down the tracks in the next couple of years, should help CCS develop a truly city wide network of cycle routes.

But we can decide after hearing from them, either by another GCF group meeting or at our AGM on 28th November.

Any queries let me know.

Nick Guy (Wheelrights secretary)