

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 26 Feb. 2007 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina

Present: Don Ashman (DA), David Croxall (DC), Rhian Evans (RE), Eifion Francis (EF), Jill Francis (JF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), Laura Lockwood (LL), David Naylor (DN), Lynda Shuker (LS), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geof. Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

Matters arising from the previous (29 Jan.) meeting are covered under the agenda items, as follows.

Programme

Meeting on 26 March (David Judd's talk) DN had prepared a flyer which was circulated. It was decided that entry should be free; also that refreshments be provided at 50p for tea/coffee + biscuit(s). Comments were made on the flyer to which DN will respond. He will e-mail it to those present, also to Elizabeth May of SIHE. (Done 27 Feb. and accompanies these notes.) The others will make copies and distribute to local shops, libraries & schools. In particular RW agreed to distribute it within the Council, to the Environment Centre and central libraries. NG & EF undertook to cover the Swansea cycle shops. VW will also include a flyer with the letter to be sent out to existing *Wheelrights* members. (See below.). (Note this will require >100 copies; will she liaise with RW if necessary to get these?)

Action: all

It was suggested that following DJ's talk and a tea break there should be a brief exposition of what *Wheelrights* are up to. This would include the shared use theme referred to under "City Centre" below. **Action:** DN & NG.

Autumn meeting. This would be to formalize the re-launch of *Wheelrights* and it was agreed that it should not be referred to as an 'agm' as this might discourage attendance but as a (re)launch. Andrew Davies was mooted as a possible speaker.

Cycle training and follow up ride: Dates confirmed: training on 28 April and ride on 12 May.

Publicity

Website. There was a brief discussion of www.wheelrights.org.uk, now up and running. It was suggested that the links be reciprocated. Accordingly the following are asked to arrange for links to our site to be provided: DA (CTC Easy Riders), Des R. (CTC Audax & Touring) and RW (Swansea Council). DN wondered whether it would be a good idea to add a page for messages, opinions, etc.. Advice was this could be a lot of work – may be hold off for a while. **Action:** DA, DR & RW.

Media: NG & DN had drafted a Press Release. This was circulated and approved. DC knew a Terry Crockord of the *Evening Post* and a Robin Turner was mentioned as a *Western Mail* contact. NG (in collaboration with DC) would use these two to get our Press Release into their respective newspapers. [**Action:** NG & DC]. It was noted that press releases get drastically shortened, and should be prepared with this in mind.

Membership and Finance

It was confirmed that the annual membership subscription should be £5 with a £3 concessionary fee for the retired and unwaged. This would apply to the calendar year and for those joining in the second half of the year would cover the following year. There is to be no Life Membership (and existing life members will pay the annual sub..)

DN had extracted (with difficulty because the data was in Lotus 123 format) the names, addresses and phone numbers of existing members from one of two 3½" floppies originating from Bob Burn which David J. had passed to him. He has this on an Excel file which he will use to set up a database, from which he should be able to produce address labels. He will draft a letter to be sent to the members to obtain confirmation of membership (and get their e-mail address, if they have one) and will pass this together with address labels to VW for distribution. As noted above she will include the flyer about the 26 March meeting. **Action:** DN & VW.

LS indicated she had access to software which could read Lotus 123, as did also RW. This could be useful because DN had only downloaded one of several files on these two floppies.

GW was confirmed as Treasurer. DN passed him Bob Burn's financial records which he (DN) had received from David J. GW would arrange for authorized signatories: at least himself and NG. **Action:** GW

AOB

City Centre. Concern was expressed about a negative attitude amongst some in the Council about integrating pedestrians and cyclists. It was agreed that *Wheelrights* should take this up. DN drew attention to a precedent set in Cambridge where cyclists are now allowed to use a pedestrian area because an 18 month trial showed that they did not cause problems.¹

Cycling Exhibition. LL, DN, RW and Derek James (ex-Councillor) had attended a meeting called by David Judd on 22 Feb. to consider a proposed Cycle Exhibition to be held in Swansea's (old) museum in the summer. *Wheelrights* would have a role to play and ideas are sought. (**Action:** all.) DN suggested that excerpts from two old books containing the 1913 and 1914 issues of *Cycling* would make appropriate exhibits. These had been passed to him by David J. for safe keeping. They make fascinating reading and are beautifully illustrated. DN circulated the 1913 volume. (Since this meeting I have received an e-mail from David J. advising that likely dates for the exhibition are 9 June – 8 July and inviting ideas for a title, himself suggesting: "A Celebration of the Bicycle".)

Cycle Forum. It was agreed that DC would replace DN as *Wheelrights* rep. on the CF. DN would continue on the Forum as CTC's Right to Ride rep.

Evening Post letter. It was felt that we should reply to a letter in the 23 Feb. EP to refute the suggestion in it that hills are an insurmountable obstacle to cycling in Swansea. NG agreed to do this.

Next meetings

26 March open meeting in the Environment Centre, and after that: here (Yacht Club) at 7.30pm on Mon. 23 April.

Notes prepared by David Naylor
27 Feb. 2007

¹ See Cambridge Cycling Campaign's 8 Feb. 07 Press Release, accessible from www.camcycle.org.uk.