

Wheelrights Meeting

Notes of meeting on 31st May 2022

In the Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY (and on Zoom).

Present: Physically: David Judd (DJ), Nick Guy (NG), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS).

Via Zoom: Mark Drivers (MD), Allyson Evans (AE), Bruce Hamlin (BH),
Ben Williams (BW).

Apologies: David Naylor, Mary Sherwood.

NG introduced the speaker Rob Penn whose presentation was based on his book: "Its all about the bike".

Rob Penn gave an entertaining talk via Zoom. This included tales about his cycling round the world, plus snippets about the history of bike design, and the crucial part played by British inventors and craftsmen. For example he extolled the virtues of the Brooks saddle and the importance of small manufacturers, some of which (like Brooks) are still going.

As in his excellent book he summarised some key steps in the history of bike design including the diamond shaped frame.

He touched on the key role of the CTC and cycle touring in the development and design of bikes (esp in the years 1920 – 1950).

He talked about the joys of cycling and how he supports Active Travel. He also described his firm which specializes in challenging group rides in some mountains of Europe including Mont Ventoux.

There followed a question and answer session. DR asked Rob`s views about e-bikes? He answered that he was positive about e-bikes especially in helping to increase the number of people cycling, and reducing the number of car journeys.

Nick Guy