

## **Unapproved Draft Minutes**

**Will need to be approved by the Annual Conference in 2024**

**National Clarion Cycling Club (NCCC)**

**Annual Conference**

**Hybrid meeting by Zoom and in person 7/4/2023**

**Sections represented:** Blackpool, Brighton & Hove, Broadland, Calder, Clitheroe, Dronfield, Fenland, London, North Cheshire, Tuxford, West Lothian, one private member.

**Apologies for absence:** Saddleworth who asked if London could vote on their behalf as a proxy.

**In the Chair:** Edward Ireland (Clitheroe)

**Adoption of Standing Orders:** Ian Clarke noted that the proposed Standing Orders could not be used as they were not the latest ones passed at the 2018 conference. It was agreed to use the 2018 version.

**Minutes of previous conference – Zoom meeting September 2022:** Agreed. Proposed Fenland, seconded Broadland.

**Secretary's Report** (Edward Gilder): The report had been previously circulated and have been on the Clarion website. The main items covered were the 2022 Easter Meet, the September Annual Conference on Zoom and Boots & Spurs. He expressed his concern at the poor attendances at events since the pandemic and hoped to be able to concentrate on editing Boots & Spurs when a new Secretary was found. (For full details see the Clarion website)

**Treasurer's Report** (Jonathan Leigh): The full report had already been posted on the website. He noted that the last few year's accounts were not audited. He had obtained a quote for an examination from an accountant of £400 + VAT. He'd been advised that a full audit (£700+VAT) was not necessary. The total income was £26,269-69, mainly from membership fees, including some which were payments owing from previous years. Total expenditure was £14,942-94. No use had been made of the Reserve Fund (£2,584-32) for some years. He suggested that it could be used for youth development. There was a surplus of

£11,326-75, up on the previous year's surplus of £4,990-02. Total reserves were £51,644-20. We had closed our legacy HSBC account after it had started levying bank charges. (For full details see the Clarion website). We needed to approve next year's subscriptions. He suggested retaining our current subscriptions of £12 adult / £8 junior.

Ian Clarke asked for the Conference's thanks to Edward and Jonathan to be recorded. He explained that the Reserve Fund came from past donations to the club and it was decided in past conferences to use it for specific purposes such as youth development or support on new sections, rather than for general expenditure. He felt that any proposals on subscriptions should be made as formal proposal by the NC and seconded by a section.

Anthony Sedgwick asked about any plans for the reserves and suggested a reduction in subscriptions. Niall Mulholland asked Edward about the deadlines for article in Boots & Spurs, which seemed very early to him and discouraged would be contributors. Edward explained that he needed about three months to put the magazine together and get it printed and distributed. He rarely got enough articles in time and there was some flexibility. Clive O'Connell asked that the level of subscriptions and insurance should be taken together later on as the two issues were connected.

### **Motions to Conference:**

#### **From the National Committee**

**Motion 1:** That for clarity additional wording be added to paragraph 6.4 of the constitution to clarify the meaning of the words "full members" as used in that paragraph. The following wording is proposed:

"Full members are those members meeting the membership criteria in sections i, iii, iv, and v of the constitution".

Proposed National Committee (NC), seconded Calder.

This had the effect of full membership being interpreted as adult members. The NC had received a document from W Lothian objecting to this and pointing out that this disfranchises junior members. Ian Clarke (Tuxford) pointed out that he held positions of responsibility in Clarion as a Junior and felt that this was a backward step. Steve Darling (W Lothian) also opposed the motion on the grounds that it went against the modern practice of the "child's voice" or the

“student’s voice” being valued and it did not encourage participation by young people. Niall Mulholland (London) did not regard youth representation was a problem. Steve Williams pointed that often even adult members were often not consulted.

Motion defeated: For 210, Against 908.

**Motion 2:** That the posts of Compliance Officer and Safeguarding Officer be added to the list of officers at Section 5.1 of the constitution.

Edward Gilder introduced this on behalf of the NC. He explained that we needed to keep within the law on data use/protection and on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The current NC did not have such expertise and wished to add members who did. Steve Clarke said that Ian Hoyle (Fenland) had received safeguarding training from British Cycling (BC) and had been covering this role on a temporary basis.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 3:** That the words “two auditors” be deleted from section 6.3 of the constitution and replaced with the words “an examiner”.

On behalf of Tuxford, Ian Clarke proposed an amendment, seconded by Blackpool: That the examiner does not have to be a member of the National Clarion but the NC should approve them. A possible reasonable payment could be paid if necessary.

Lengthy discussion followed with other suggestions for the wording. In the end, the following wording was agreed:

The accounts of the club should be audited/examined by an Auditor/Examiner appointed each year by Conference.

All other amendments were withdrawn and the revised motion was passed unanimously.

**From Dronfield Clarion:**

**Motion 1:** We would like there to be a review of whether Easter is the right time to hold the National Clarion Annual Meet. Our members haven’t signed up because Easter is a busy time. Our members did not realise how significant the Easter Meet was when they joined. We understand that this may be controversial but think that review and listening to feedback would not hurt.

Proposed: Dronfield. Seconded: Clitheroe.

In the discussion that followed there were contributions from Dronfield, Clitheroe, Tuxford, W Lothian, Brighton & Hove, Fenland, London and the NC, all broadly sympathetic to the motion. One suggestion was to concentrate the activities on the Saturday afternoon and evening and the Sunday so it didn't take up the whole Easter weekend. Another suggestion was to move it to the May Day weekend, appropriate for a club with its origins in the Labour Movement. Several endorsed the need for the NC to consult the membership and that 2025 should be the first year a different format was tried out.

The motion was agreed unanimously.

#### **From Saddleworth Clarion:**

**Motion 1:** That the wording in the constitution deleted by the Tuxford motion to Conference in June 2021 and referring to "the promotion of socialism" be reinstated.

Proposed: Saddleworth. Seconded: London.

Clive O'Connell (London) moved the motion as the Saddleworth delegate was unable to be present. He stressed the origins, history and traditions set the Clarion apart from any other cycle clubs. Edward Gilder said that he'd received no emails as Secretary welcoming the change to the wording and many from members regretting it. There were further contributions in support from Brighton & Hove and London. Others, such as Tuxford, Clitheroe, Calder and W Lothian, believed that most people joined the Clarion primarily as a national cycling club run by its members for its members, while respecting its origins. .

Motion defeated: For 338, Against 771.

**Motion 2:** In addition, Saddleworth Clarion propose that the National Clarion should donate 10% of its annual income to charity. The recipient charity should be agreed annually at conference by a vote of members.

London moved an amendment to add "or a good cause" to the first sentence. Seconded: Clitheroe.

Tuxford had notified an amendment to replace the words "annual income" with "annual surplus". It also proposed that the charity or good cause was relevant to cycling (e.g. Sustrans or an Air Ambulance service). Seconded:

Clitheroe. Edward Gilder said that the NC should have some discretion over timing in case of an urgent cause that couldn't wait for up to a year for the next conference. There should also a limit on the amount of any one donation. Ian Clarke pointed out that clause 5.6 of the constitution covered this. Dronfield felt that they would want to know what the specific charity/good cause was before they could support donations. Calder felt that club run by its members for its members should be using its funds to benefit the members, not giving it to third parties. Individual Clarion members could donate to charities and good causes in a personal capacity. London felt that any donations should go to local cycling issues. W. Lothian felt that there needed to be a transparent procedure for how the charities / good causes were chosen. They would be supporting the Tuxford amendment. Both the London and Tuxford amendments were accepted so the vote was on the amended version.

Motion defeated. For: 210, Against: 875

#### **From Tuxford:**

**Motion 1:** To amend National Constitution 5.1 as follows: The Officers of the Clarion will be: (insert after Treasurer) "Standing Orders Secretary".

Niall Mulholland queried whether just one person should have this role as usually in conferences there was a Standing Orders Committee. Edward Gilder asked why was there a proposal to reinstate a post that had been done without for several years. Ian Clarke explained that there was a need for someone totally familiar with the constitution and the standing orders who could advise the Chair of Annual Conference as to constitutional practice and to revise any standing orders that contradicted anything in the constitution.

For: 395 Against: 814

**Motion 2:** To amend the National Constitution to read:

Conference and Annual Meet (see standing orders – NCCC Standing Orders Vers 2)

Agreed unanimously.

#### **From North Cheshire:**

**Motion 1:**

We propose that National Clarion makes a regular contribution to The Last Clarion House, to help with the ongoing maintenance costs of this historic building, which is linked with the history of the Clarion cycling clubs and used by many Northwest sections.

Martin Hickman proposed the motion. Ian Clarke said that Tuxford could not support the motion. It was badly drafted as it was unclear how often regular meant. The NC already had discretion to make grants up to £1,000. Clitheroe had donated to the house in the past but their concern was it was opaque how some of the money was spent and suggested that any future donations should be on the basis of invoices. Dronfield was sympathetic to the motion but could not vote for it in its present form until it was clear what regular meant. Edward Gilder moved an amendment “to a maximum of £500 per annum for the maintenance of the building”. The amended version was passed: For 794.

Against: 295

### **Motions from the floor:**

#### **From London:**

London raised the issue of the £250 excess on the insurance. British Cycling, Cycling UK and the London Cycling Campaign did not charge an excess. Steve Clarke said that the excess had been on the website. Edward Gilder said that he and our broker had tried to get a quote for a policy without an excess but so far have had no response from the insurance company, despite repeated requests. The Chair proposed that, in view of the late hour, it was referred to NC to report back on.

#### **Election of Officers:** Nominations were:

President: Neil Shand (N Cheshire)

Chair: Edward Ireland (Clitheroe)

National Secretary: No nomination

Membership Secretary: Paul Whitehead (Blackpool)

Minutes Secretary: Charlie Harvey (Broadland)

Competition and Events Secretary: Steve Clarke (Fenland)

Treasurer: Jonathan Leigh (Dronfield)

Webmaster / IT Manager: Michael Stainer (Dronfield)

Boots & Spurs Editor: Edward Gilder (Broadland)

Section Liaison Officer: No nomination

There being no other nominations, those nominated were elected en bloc.

Martin Perfect (London) offered to be the examiner of the accounts.

Clive O'Connell and Ian Clarke were both nominated and seconded for the post of Standing Orders Secretary. On a delegate vote, Clive O'Connell was elected.

The Chair confirmed that the NC would seek to fill the unfilled positions and could co-opt any volunteers that came forward later to fill any vacant posts.

Jonathan Leigh suggested that any members thinking of volunteering could sit in on NC meetings, which are on Zoom, to get a feel on what was involved.

**AOB:**

**2024 Subscriptions:** Edward Gilder suggested reducing the rate to £8 for adult members and this was supported by Calder. Ian Clarke felt that if we wanted to have insurance without any excess or to produce membership cards, we would need to retain substantial reserves. Jonathan Leigh proposed and Edward Gilder seconded a motion the membership fee was reduced to £8 (adults) and £4 (juniors). Ian Clarke proposed £10 (adults) and £6 (juniors) and a £4 reduction for families for 2024 only pending a costed proposal for next year in case some insurance claims caused our insurance costs to rocket. This was seconded by Clitheroe. The £8/£4 proposal was withdrawn and the £10/£6 proposal was adopted unanimously without a vote.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:23 pm.