

## **National Clarion Cycling Club**

### **National Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 19:30 (7.30pm)**

#### **On Zoom**

**Present:** Steve Clarke, Edward Gilder, Charlie Harvey, Edward Ireland, Jonathan Leigh, Chris Nicol, Clive O'Connell, Neil Shand, Michael Stainer, Paul Whitehead.

**1] Apologies for absence:** Ian Hoyle

**2] Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed

**3] Any confidential items in minutes:** None

**4] Matters arising, not covered elsewhere in the agenda:** Clive had tried to set up a policy but didn't have the necessary knowledge of the Clarion to set up an insurance policy or a way of paying for it. He'd let us know what information he needed and the premium could be paid by Jonathan by bank transfer.

#### **5] Correspondence:**

Charlie had received an email from Wortley Hall of a performance there of "Behold Ye Ramblers" on 18/4/24. I turned out that it was part of a lengthy national tour including London (20-22/3/24) and Diss. Charlie and Edward G both asked for info on the tour which Clive would pass on. **Action: Clive**

Charlie had been contacted by a member of Coatbridge Clarion who had crashed into another Coatbridge member. He had requested details of our insurance policy. Charlie had referred him to the details on the website and the £250 excess. The member he'd hit was currently investigating the cost of repair of his frame. There were no other details at present.

Charlie had been in correspondence with Barry Raynor (Dronfield Clarion) re: section liaison which would be dealt with under item 21.

**6] Easter Meet 2024 at Newark:** Michael has sent out the latest numbers of those sign up for an event – 48 Clarion members and 2 non-members. The

closing date for dinner bookings was 9/3/24 but Ian Clarke had asked for an extra week. Michael would email him re: what date to put on a final reminder to members. **Action: Michael.** Steve reported that our guest of honour at the dinner had an accident and may not be able to attend.

### **7] Decisions on the winners of trophies to be presented at the Easter Meet:**

Steve had circulated a list of nominations shortly before the meeting.

Nominations for the Tom Groom Trophy had been made for Tuxford, West Lothian, Fenland and London. Other nominations were:

Clubwoman of the Year, Diane Clayton Chisholm.

Clubman of the Year: Dan Tozer, Mike Singleton.

Most Meritorious Junior: Rhuairdh Fulton, Albie Jones.

Clarion Novis Champion: Laura Tring, Finlay Smith.

It was agreed that NC members would look carefully at the nominations and send their votes to Steve. **Action: All**

### **8] Consideration of conference motions:**

8.1] From Calder Clarion re: Clarion finances:

Jonathan approved of the payment of grants to sections but we needed a National Secretary to administer them. In the absence of one, a “payment holiday” with no subscription expected from sections for 2024-2025 was his preferred option. He estimated that he has spent over 100 hours on the Treasurers role and suggested that it would be worth employing an accountant to do some of the work, just as we employed a designer to work on B&S. Edward G supported this suggestion. He pointed out that we already paid out grants and this was publicised though B&S. Edward I noted that though the NC had sometimes requested further information, it had not ever turned down a grant request in the last few years. We would need to have a finite amount set aside for grants each year. We should only give grants for training or events open to all Clarion members. Steve noted that the reason our funds were buoyant was that we’d chased up subscriptions that section were overdue in paying. Chris asked whether we wanted to amend or oppose the motion.

Charlie was inclined to oppose it as the motion was factually inaccurate. We already could pay grants up to £1,000 and the proposed revision of the rules would increase this to £5,000. Also it would be difficult to administer the Calder proposal without a National Secretary. It was agreed that Clive would write to Calder asking them to reconsider or amend their motion.

8.2] From London Clarion re: Rides commemorating Clarion members killed fighting with the International Brigades: Edward G questioned the concentration on the five Clarion members killed in the International Brigade when many more had been killed in the World Wars. Charlie was opposed to the NC organising a ride to or within Spain. It was too expensive and complicated, particularly as we had no National Secretary. However there could be rides within the UK. There were memorials commemorating Clarion members killed in Spain at Leicester and Southampton and the Clarion House and sizeable monuments to the Brigade in Glasgow and London. There was also the memorial at Meriden commemorating the cyclists killed in the World Wars. A ride could be devised taking in such destinations. Edward G said he could support a ride commemorating all Clarion riders who had fallen in conflicts. Clive hoped this would be an event unifying the various Clarion sections. Edward G agreed to draft an amendment. **Action: Edward G.**

**9] Constitution and standing orders** (including discussion on being specific when sections pay their subscriptions). It was agreed that there should be a special NC meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March to discuss Clive's proposals for revising the constitution and standing orders. He had decided to separate the racing rules from the constitution as they were only relevant to the sections that raced and needed greater flexibility than a constitution. He proposed that a simple majority at the Annual Conference could change them rather than the two thirds majority required for a constitutional change. Charlie reminded the NC that we'd agreed to delete the post of Section Liaison Officer as we hadn't been able to fill it for three years.

**10] Discussion of Equality and Diversity Officer(s) - Women?, BAME? LGBT?:** Chris's proposed revision of the constitution included the creation of these posts and the consensus of the committee was to support this.

**11] Recruitment of a new National Secretary:** It was agreed that, until one was found, motions might have to wait until a later date to be implemented, especially if the effort required is more than negligible. Charlie proposed that, in the absence of a National Secretary, no Secretary's report be produced this year and this was agreed.

**12] Discounts on website:** Charlie reported that this issue had been raised when a member had emailed him re: how to claim his Cotswold discount. We hadn't had one for some time but it was still on our website. Michael had now taken off all the discounts from the website until we had an accurate list of them. The only one known to be current was with Lusso (discount code CLARION15). Michael explained that the problem was that the out of date discount information was still on section's Member Mojo and was sent out to those who joined or renewed their membership. Edward G understood that the Shutt VR discount was still current and would check his B&S records to find the discount code. **Action: Edward G**

**13] Summer Meet at York Rally:** Michael had sent out a report with the names already booked to come. Currently, we had 16 booked in at the campsite. There was discussion on whether to produce a meet ribbon for the event. Steve would look into it. **Action: Steve** It was agreed that those attending should register on the website even if they were coming but not camping. It was agreed that to push the event once the Easter Meet was over. Michael asked if grants to sections were available for the purchase of "feather flags" or other publicity materials. The consensus was that this would be a reasonable request if the section had insufficient funds in their account to pay for them. Work was continuing on a gazebo and display boards for use at the event.

**14] Membership report:** Paul reported that we currently had 1,885 paid up members. He was setting a spreadsheet to speed up counting at the Annual Conference. Edward I confirmed that votes would be based on paid up membership on 11<sup>th</sup> April, two weeks before the conference.

**15] Treasurer's report:** Jonathan reported that all the sections except Nottingham had paid their 2023 subscriptions. Most of them had paid in the

first quarter of this year so their payments won't be included in the last year's accounts.

**16] IT update:** Michael proposed to continue to pay the domain registrations fee (£30+VAT) but cancel the monthly hosting fee (£15+VAT) with Ionos as we not using it for hosting. He had deleted the cafes page as there was nothing on it. Steve had received an appreciable number of café recommendations, some from sections that rarely contacted us. Michael said there were already websites and apps with list of cafes There was a consensus in favour of a café of the year competition where sections could nominate their favourites. It was suggested that we only include on the website cafes recommended by a Clarion section and displaying a Clarion window sticker.

**17] Insurance policy for NC members:** Covered under item 4.

**18] Safeguarding:** Ian had given apologies. He had messaged Steve to let him know he was still working on suitable documentation for the website.

**19] Boots & Spurs / Boots & Spurs Extra:** Little to report. Edward G had received a few more articles.

**20] Competitions and Events:** Steve had nearly finalised a list of 2024 event. Saddleworth was running the only hill climb under the auspices of Cycling UK. Steve would send a full list to Charlie for the minutes and to Edward G for B&S.  
**Action: Steve.**

**21] Section Liaison:** Charlie had been in touch with both Tim Wadsworth (Cotswold) and Tim Knight (Gosport). Items discussed included a reminder of the 25/2/24 deadline for conference motions, the Easter Meet, the York Rally and the availability of grants to sections. He had been in correspondence with Barry Raynor (Dronfield) about maintaining liaison with sections who currently had members on the NC. Clive said that under his planned revision of the rules sections would be asked to have both a Secretary and a National Clarion Liaison Officer with the NC so any information went to at least two people.

**19] Data Protection:** Chris introduced himself. He had already advised us on the use of section contact emails. He outlined some of the data protection

issues we needed to be aware of. As he lived in Scotland, he was happy to be of assistance with liaison with Coatbridge and West Lothian sections.

**20] AOB:** None

**21] Time and date of next meetings:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March (special meeting re: constitution and Annual Conference) and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, both at 19:30 (7.30pm) on Zoom.