

## **National Clarion Cycling Club**

### **Annual Conference 2024**

### **Unapproved Draft Minutes**

**25<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm via Zoom**

*Abbreviations used: BC: British Cycling, B&S: Boots & Spurs, CTT: Cycling Time Trials, NC: National Committee, NCCC: National Clarion Cycling Club, SOs: Standing Orders*

**Present:** Brighton & Hove, Broadland, Blackpool, Bury, Calder, Clitheroe, Dronfield, Fenland, London, North Cheshire, Saddleworth, Tuxford, West Lothian plus 2 private members.

**1] Election of Chair for the meeting:** Edward Ireland

**2] Adoption of Standing Orders and general meeting procedures:** Ian Clarke proposed that we used version 2 as the proposed SOs had anomalies e.g. it referred to voting rights for adult members only even though this had been rejected by last year's conference. However, version 2 did not have provision for Zoom meetings. So we could start the meeting, it was agreed to use the last set of SOs.

**3] Minutes of 2023 Annual Conference:** Agreed. Proposed: Broadland Clarion, Seconded: Blackpool Clarion.

**4] Matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda:** Ian Clarke asked if the changes to the constitution passed at the 2023 conference and been incorporated into the version of the constitution on the Clarion website. It appeared that, due to the absence of a National Secretary, this had not been done. So an updated version of the constitution, incorporating the 2023 changes, and any changes passed at this meeting would need to go on the website.

**5] Treasurer's Report:** Jonathan Leigh (Treasurer) had already circulated the financial statement. There were no questions. Section income was now in good shape. All 2023 subscriptions had been paid except for one small section. We were now getting interest on our main Barclay's account and had closed the

dormant HSBC account, which had been charging fees. The 2023 figures were actuals and the 2024 figures were estimates based on a 10% rise in costs.

Saddleworth asked about the large increase in producing Boots & Spurs. Edward Gilder (B&S Editor) explained that there had been a massive increase in postal costs and editions now had more pages. We had also employed a graphic designer who had produced a more attractive publication. There had also been an increase in paper and printing costs. Saddleworth asked if an online only edition might be better value. Edward Ireland and Edward Gilder replied that, when members had been surveyed, they preferred a printed copy. We might want to consider an online edition in future.

**6] Subscriptions for 2025:** The NC proposal was to freeze the current section fees (£10 adults, £6 under 18) and to give a £5 rebate on all section fees so in effect it would, for the 2025 membership only, be £5 adults and £1 under 18. This would be administratively easy for both the NC and the sections. Steven Williams, a private member, said that private members were paying £20 and what was the rationale for such a big difference between section and private member fees. Paul Whitehead (Membership Secretary) pointed out that most section members also paid section fees so that most section members tended to pay about the same as private members. Edward Gilder pointed out that one did not have to live in a section's area to belong to it so section membership was often a cheaper option. This was a reasonable matter to raise and the 2024-2025 NC would consider it. Calder Clarion seconded the proposal. A vote was taken and the proposal was approved unanimously.

## **7] Motions to conference:**

**7a From Calder**, seconded by Saddleworth, re: the use of Clarion surpluses. Edward Gilder asked if the Treasurer's proposals met his intent. Ian Clarke pointed out that, if it was to be mandatory on the NC, it needed to be a rule change not a motion. Several speakers agreed with the sentiments of the motion but felt that rigid rules would bind the hands of the NC in case there was a major increase in costs, for example a big rise in our insurance premium. Agreed that the proposals in the motion should be looked at by the NC who

would consider a rule change putting the intent of the motion into the constitution.

**7b From London**, seconded by Brighton & Hove, proposing rides in memory of the five Clarion members who died fighting against Franco's fascist forces during the Spanish Civil War. London Clarion was happy to take an active role in organising such rides. Some speakers supported this as an appropriate acknowledgement of Clarion's distinctive history. Others suggested that the ride should commemorate the Clarion members who fought against fascism during the Second World War as well. One speaker noted that Clarion members who'd died fighting in the International Brigades were commemorated by name in Leicester and Southampton and another was mentioned the cyclists' memorial at Meriden. This motion was passed 706 for and 667 against. When it came to the vote, several sections who voted against the motion said they would be happy to support commemorative rides with a broader remit. The NC would bear this in mind in their discussions.

**7c From the National Committee**: Seconded by London. The Chair introduced these planned changes to SOs, the constitution and the racing rules. This was partly "housekeeping" to remove some anomalies, the creation of some new officer posts and to increase the amount of the grants that the NC could award. The racing rules would be separated as sometimes they would have to be changed due to changes made by cycling governing bodies, principally BC and CTT. Ian Clarke (Tuxford) opposed the motion as it had not been sent out a month in advance as laid down in the constitution. He also pointed out that the changes agreed at the 2023 Annual Conference had not incorporated in the constitution. Sections had not been given adequate time to discuss them. There were 76 proposed changes. Some were uncontroversial but others might not be. These should have been put to sections in manageable chunks. Edward Gilder (Broadland) recorded his thanks to Clive O'Connell and others who had worked hard to draft these amendments. He felt it was impractical to go through the details line by line in a conference setting and had, of necessity, to be done by the NC. Ian Clarke noted that in the past the NC had made time at every meeting to revise the constitution and take their proposals to conference. Charlie Harvey (Broadland) admitted that the NC had not

circulated the planned amendments in time but felt we ought to revise the SOs as conferences now took place on Zoom. As there were some proposals that could not wait for another year, Steve Clarke (Fenland) proposed, seconded by Edward Gilder (Broadland) that the conference was adjourned and to recall the conference so that proper notice and consideration could be given to the proposals. This was agreed unanimously. Thanks were recorded to Clive O'Connell for his work to date on the constitution.

**The adjourned meeting was resumed on Zoom at 7pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**Present:** Broadland, Clitheroe, Calder, Cotswold, Dronfield, Fenland, London, North Cheshire, Tuxford, West Lothian.

**Apologies:** Bolton, Brighton & Hove, Saddleworth, Chris Nicol, Steven Williams (private members). Bolton, Brighton & Hove, Saddleworth had appointed London Clarion as their proxies.

**Motions to conference:**

**7c (cont.) From the National Committee:**

**A/B** Tuxford was concerned that the proposed changes to rule 3.1 and 3.2 would have the effect of discouraging private membership. NC members responded that this had never been their intention and it was a way of having a procedure when a section had become too small to be viable, as had recently been the case with Ironbridge and Italy. It was agreed unanimously to amend the wording to “invited to become Private Members or transfer to a geographically proximate section.”

**C** Rule 3.4. There was some discussion re: the role of Clarion Liaison Officer. It was explained by NC members that this was to take into account the small number of sections where the Secretary is a member of the section only and not a member of the NCCC. As there was some confusion on the exact version of the constitution was being amended it was decided initially to remit this amendment to the NC. In the end it went to a vote and was defeated by 594 to 582.

**D** Rule 3.6 This proposed rule fell as it depended on the passing of the amendment to 3.4.

**E** Rule 4.2 The vote was 754 in favour and the vote against 556, insufficient to for the two thirds majority required for a rule change.

**F** Rule 5.1 Was amended to read Ethnically Diverse and Inclusion Officer instead of BAME Officer and LGBTQ+ Officer instead of LGBT+ Officer as these were becoming the more commonly used terms. The amendment and then the rule change were passed unanimously.

**G** Rule 5.2 The rule change was passed unanimously.

**H** Rule 5.3. The rule would now read “The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be 4. Agreed unanimously.

**I** Rule 5.4 New rule agreed unanimously.

**J** Rule 5.6 New rule agreed unanimously with one amendment to add “or hybrid” as well as video conference or in person.

**K** now Rule 5.7 It was felt that £5,000 was excessive. After discussion, £2,000 was agreed as an appropriate figure with the agreement of a majority of the full committee at the time. With this amendment, the motion was approved unanimously.

**L1** Rule 6.1 Agreed unanimously.

**L2** Rule 6.4 Removing the refence to membership cards. Agreed unanimously.

**M** Rule 6.5 Agreed unanimously.

**N** Rule 6.6 Amendment that the conference motions should take affect once that they had been put on the website and emailed to sections. The amended motion was passed by 956 to 354. The amended motion as passed reads “The minutes of the conference shall be circulated (by email and posted on the website) as soon as possible after the conference and within 2 months at the latest. Resolutions passed by conference shall take effect as soon as this has been done unless stating to the contrary in the specific motion.”

**O** Rule 6.7 Changing addresses to email addresses. Agreed unanimously.

P Rule 8.3 Agreed unanimously.

Q Rule 8.5 Agreed unanimously.

It was agreed the Racing Rules and Standing Orders be deferred to the 2025 Annual Conference.

The current National Committee was re-elected en bloc until the 2025 Annual Conference.

They were:

President: Neil Shand

Chair: Edward Ireland

National Secretary: Andrew Livesley

Membership Secretary: Paul Whitehead

Admin/Minutes Secretary: Charlie Harvey

Competition and Events Secretary: Steve Clarke

Treasurer: Jonathan Leigh

Webmaster / IT Manager Michael Stainer

Boots & Spurs Editor: Edward Gilder

Standing Orders Secretary: Clive O'Connell

Safeguarding Officer: Ian Hoyle

Data Protection Officer: Chris Nicol

The 2024/2025 Annual Conference was then closed. The Racing Rules and SOs would be dealt with at the 2025 Annual Conference.