**WELWYN WHEELERS CYCLING CLUB**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Welwyn Wheelers CC was held on Monday 20 February 2023 in the Function Room of Doctor’s Tonic Public House in Welwyn Garden City at 7.30pm.

Nine club members were present at the meeting.

# AGENDA

1. Apologies were received from Jane Cavell, Faye Bennett, Tom Pruett, and Lesley Bodell.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Monday 28 February 2022, which had been made available to members via the club website in advance of the meeting, were received by the meeting proposed by Jeremy Peet and seconded by Rachael Coleman.
3. There were no matters arising
4. Reports were presented by the following Officers and transcripts where available are appended to these Minutes:

Chair

Treasurer

Coaching Co-ordinator

Membership Secretary

Accounts were presented by the Treasurer and accepted by the meeting, proposed by Andrew Brown and seconded by Jeremy Peet. The Treasurer indicated that some money held in the Accounts originates from sponsorship provided towards the WPT, and since this event is unlikely to be promoted in the foreseeable future we will check with the donors whether they would be happy to use the funds for other projects

1. Club affiliations for 2023 were confirmed as:

British Cycling (BC)

Cycling Time Trials (CTT)

CyclingUK

In previous years we have affiliated to Eastern Counties Cycling Association (ECCA). The numbers of members actively competing in time trials is nowadays too low to justify continued affiliation to ECCA, which obliges us to provide marshals for specified events. This affiliation will therefore cease.

1. The Club’s Open and Club promotions for 2023 were confirmed as:

Date Event Course/Location

7 April Hilly 50Km TT Codicote-Hitchin

28 Apr - 08 Sept Track League\* Gosling Velodrome

11 June Welwyn Dernyfest¶ Gosling Velodrome

2 May – 15Aug Tuesday Evening Club 10 Series Cole Green/A414 circuit

Sunday 1st October Cyclocross Eastern League event Stanborough Park

TBC (2 rounds) Muddy Monsters youth CX series Gosling Velodrome

TBC (2 rounds) “Dusty Devils” youth CX series Gosling Velodrome

\*Track League continues to be organised in partnership with Verulam CC. Open meetings are planned, which will hopefully include a Peter Waghorn Memorial Open, dates to be confirmed. Entry for Open meetings will be via BC website and Track League meetings via Welwyn Wheelers webpage.

¶Welwyn Dernyfest will be promoted by British Pacing Association and Graham Bristow is event organiser; various club volunteers will be assisting with delivery of this event

1. The outgoing Committee have set Club membership subscriptions for 2023, which are unchanged from the previous year, as follows:

£20 Senior, £10 Junior/Under 16, £50 Family

1. There were no proposed change(s) to Club Rules.
2. Committee Officers were elected as follows:

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| **Role** | **Incumbent**  **(2022 Committee)** | **Nominee(s)**  **(2023 Committee)** |
| 1 – Chairman | Andrew Brown | Andrew Brown  (elected unopposed) |
| 2 – Secretary | *Vacant* | *Vacant* |
| 3 – Treasurer | Rachael Coleman | Finn Clawson  Proposed by Rachael Coleman and seconded by Andrew Brown  (elected unopposed) |
| 4 - Membership Secretary | Jo Nuttall (co-opted since previous AGM) | Jo Nuttall  (elected unopposed) |
| 5 - Welfare Officer | Juliette Barker | Juliette Barker  (elected unopposed) |
| 6 - Youth/Junior Representative | Tom Pruett | *Vacant* |
| 7 - Coaching Co-ordinator | Francis Gallacher | Francis Gallacher (elected unopposed) |
| 8 - Volunteer Officer | Jane Cavill | *Vacant* |
| 9 - Social secretary | Faye Bennett | *Vacant* |
| 10 – IT Officer | Jeremy Peet | Jeremy Peet  (elected unopposed) |
| 11 – Women’s Officer | Lesley Bodell | Ellie Cadzow  Proposed by Andrew Brown and seconded by Juliette Barker  (elected unopposed) |
| 12 - Outreach Officer | Lena Whittaker | Lena Whittaker  (elected unopposed) |
| Ordinary Members | Peter Waghorn | *Vacant* |

Going forward 8 persons will sit on the Committee whereas we have a maximum of 12. We will seek to co-opt further willing volunteers from the membership to the Committee.

Thanks were offered to outgoing members of the Committee: Rachael Coleman, Faye Bennett, Tom Pruett, Jane Cavill and Lesley Bodell. Finn Clawson was present at the meeting and was welcomed to the Committee. Ellie Cadzow was not present but had indicated willingness to stand for the role of Women’s officer in advance of the meeting.

1. Howard Ashmore was appointed to inspect and verify the annual accounts.
2. Any other business

The meeting confirmed the Committee’s decision grant of Life Membership to Peter Bonfield OBE on the occasion of his 60th Birthday.

There was a discussion of the newly-introduced (and increased) Parking Charges at GSP. Welwyn Wheelers continue to provide GLL with some volunteer’s registration numbers exempting them from Parking charges but that scheme cannot be expanded to cover all club members. Alternative possible solutions have been discussed with GLL, though these discussions have not yet reached an agreed solution. One possibility proposed is for GLL to offer Welwyn Wh.s club members a membership package for GSP at discounted (corporate) rates, with parking included in that package (a reg# would be provided to GLL which would then be exempted in the ANPR system). This has the potential challenges that GLL seek a guaranteed minimum number of members to take up this offer (12) which we may not be able to guarantee – though this solution could be cost-effective for a family with children or individuals who participate in 3-4 or more training sessions per week. Secondly, the club would be expected to prove membership of each applicat to the (GLL) corporate member scheme, which would be cumbersome and timeconsuming for the Mem Sec on an ongonig basis. To avoid extra administrative burden for the Membership Secretary, this could perhaps be run as a once-a-year opportunity to join GSP via the discounted rates.

The alternative would be to not involve the club in Parking charge discussions and regard as a fait accompli. The new charges have only been in effect for a few weeks and their net impact on footfall and income for GLL from the Park is not yet confirmed.

Chair’s Report 2023

**Introduction** - Welcome to the 2023 AGM of Welwyn Wheelers CC. For the first time in several years we are in-person (here at Doctor’s Tonic Pub function room). Thanks for showing your support with your attendance, and my usual reminder that for those sections of the AGM which involve voting, only members are eligible to vote – in other words, you need to have already paid your membership dues.

In the last year, 2022, we were fully back to “normal” cycling activity having been somewhat disrupted still in 2021 post-pandemic. In racing, our Youth members continue to succeed, and I will as usual hand over to FG to cover the competitive achievements our club riders in his update, alongside the Coaching. Suffice to say, I’m very proud as always to bask in the reflected glory of our WW riders.

**Committee** – As a Committee we returned to in-person meetings in 2022, generally using the Gosling CafeBar (not ideal but free). We still had some meetings remotely, via Teams, and we also tried mixed in-person/remote meetings (when some people were for whatever reason available but not able to be present in person) – the latter proved challenging! I count 7 meetings since the last AGM – each 90 mins, in case anyone wants to consider volunteering.

At the time of the last AGM we had no nominees for the role of Membership Secretary, which is an important job. I am glad to report that during the year we found a volunteer in Jo Nuttall, who was co-opted and took this work on with support from Annalise in the hand-over. At this AGM we have several Committee members standing down: Rachael Coleman, Treasurer, Faye Bennett, Social Secretary, Jane Cavill, Volunteer Coordinator, and Lesley Bodell as Women’s Officer. They have all been fantastic in supporting the club and I would like to offer them all a sincere vote of thanks. Rachael took over the Treasurer role in 2019, and Jane was already on the Committee when I became chair (not entirely sure how many years Faye & Jane has been working for the club). Tom Pruett is moving on from the role of Youth Coordinator – we’d love to see anyone from the Youth ranks coming forward to play a part in the club organisation. I am glad to report that we have volunteers prepared to stand in the roles of Treasurer and Women’s Officer – which we’ll come on to later in the Agenda. However we do not have a volunteer to take over from Jane. One of the benefits of having a Volunteer Coord is that it makes it very much easier for anyone else offering to organise a race (CX, Track or TT) – still seeking someone for this, please volunteer.

For the other members of the Committee that I’m not going to otherwise mention today – Juliette, Jeremy, Lena, Lesley – as usual a massive thank you for all the hours put in this year.

As everyone knows that Peter W who had been on the Committee for untold years and most of that time as Chair, passed away in January. Peter’s failing health had prevented him from attending all meetings this year and he let us know that he was stepping down from the Committee during the summer. We held a Celebration of Life for Peter on 5 Feb at the View which was well-attended by current and past members of the club and many others from the wider Cycling Community. We’re planning other events in his memory – likely a Club ride to Grafham Water (Peter’s sailing club) on 8 May Bank Holiday and we’re planning to install bench overlooking the track at Gosling. The JustGiving Appeal for that has just topped £500 (I think we should aim for about £2000 for a quality bench), and we’ll have an Open Meeting on the Track as a PW Memorial Event.

The Committee conducted a Strategy Meeting in December 2021 identifying priorities of 1) Training more novices on the track, 2) Encourage Women’s participation in cycling within the club and 3) To increase the number of adults in the club. Looking back I think we’ve done a good job in working towards the first 2 – I’ll let others elaborate. For increasing the number of Adults, this is always a challenging objective and I don’t think we’ve had very much impact, so this will remain something to consider for 2023.

**Racing** – In 2022 WW organised the Hilly 50 TT (many thanks to our regular organiser Andy Porter), our CX at Stanborough for Central League in October (Jenny Bone), Track League organised as previously in partnership with Verulam with Doug Driscoll of Verulam as named organiser, and a full Club 10 series (Dave Scott). Muddy Monsters series took place and two rounds at Welwyn were led by Andrew Pollard – and had record numbers.

We were not able to hold a round of the Youth Track Omnium Series at Welwyn as we have in the past (and we do feel this is a great shame given we are a Track club) – since we didn’t have an organiser and still don’t for 2023. We looked at holding WPT (which I would have been lead organiser) – but as discussed at the last AGM we decided this was untenable (partly out of lack of a dedicated organiser and partly due to obstacles from local authorities to enable a usable course for such a race).

**Finances** –Rachael will go through the details of our Accounts. We continue to hold a strong financial position, (in no small part due to Rachael’s good offices). My usual thanks to Hatfield Cycle Hub to Paul, Dave and all the staff there for continuing their support to WW and holding kit for sale. I warned last year of the need to modernise and improve the lighting round the velodrome bowl, and it’s great to be able to report that we’ve achieved that in 2022. At £85k this was the major “spend” of the year. Like all capital investment – costs more than you expect, and no one agent can afford whole cost – so we enter the world of match-funding. We were lucky to be able to apply for a Sport England grant, which combined with a significant contribution from GLL, meant that our part from the club a manageable £12k (which we successfully raised via an Appeal). We are grateful to all who contributed to this – we exceeded the total. Contributions came from the whole cycling community not just WW – and I should mention that Herts Phoenix Athletics club, who of course will also benefit from the works, put in several thousand. Thanks again are due to Jenny Bone (as Funding Volunteer) who has not only prepared sometimes complex grant applications, but also handled the follow-up paperwork when we’re successful. The next projects on the horizon are further Lighting installation which will be dedicated illumination to the banking (CX training) and also replacement of the track-side fencing – neither will be cheap especially the fencing. We already have quotes for the extra lighting, for the fencing it is not finalised what the required timeframe is for this – but certainly in the next couple of years.

**Social**: 2022 was our 75th Anniversary year and we held several events marking this, including Club rides (thanks to David Whittaker for his help there) and a 75th Anniversary BBQ in May at SpokeCC, where we also presented trophies and prizes from 2021. That was a lovely event and great turnout from about a dozen WWers from many years past, coordinated by Paul Savage, and thanks to Faye for organising the BBQ. We also had an Xmas Party in early December at The View which was great fun and thanks to Jenny for organising that.

**Conclusion**: As a club we are limited by the number of volunteers that come forward to contribute. That is probably true for every voluntary organisation in the country, and it’s not necessarily a bad position to be in. But it is a point worth making – We don’t have a Youth Academy, or a Youth Omnium, Presentation Evening, etc, all things we’ve had in the past, and not because we have no money, or need for the races or events, but because we have nobody to organise them. Going forward as a club, we will continue to try to find people to take on some of these things, Youth Academy in particular was highly effective in the past and we’d love to see that continue in a refreshed format. We will continue to monitor developments around the district Sports Strategy and the Gosling SP redevelopment without becoming stagnated with worry about what might happen in future. We will continue in the objective of increasing Adult membership, and we may revisit the perennial issue of design of the Club Kit.

**Treasurers Report Year Ending 2022**

Before going through the accounts, I would like to thank Howard Ashmore for reviewing the 2022 accounts and his help in the final preparation of these.

I would also like to note the passing of Peter Waghorn who in the 4 years I have been treasurer, always cast an exacting eye over all matters financial and who’s absence is felt in reviewing this years accounts.

*Grants*

Once again, the club has had a successful year in terms of grant awards not only from Welwyn Hatfield Council totalling £5100, a lottery fund grant of £930 and also £20,400 from Gosling Spots Park Trust.

The grants from Welwyn Hatfield Council have supported the continual development of the CX course and along with the Gosling Sports Park Trust fund, investment into such items as new radios and gazebos for the club.

The club also, once again, supported the “This Girl Can”, campaign, which encourages women and girls to have a go at a new sport, Track Cycling in our case. This event was very successful this year, in part due to a grant from Welwyn & Hatfield council of £1100 which covered the costs of running the session and allowed the club to run the session at minimal costs to the participants.

Our continued thanks to Jenny Bone for all the work and energy not only in to securing the grants but also the ongoing overseeing and tracking of spending and reporting back to the relevant grant awarding bodies.

*Lighting fund*

2022 saw an urgent campaign to secure £12000 of funding through donations from the cycling community for the replacement of the lighting at the track. The total cost of the lighting upgrade was £85,000 with British Cycling provided a grant of £25,000 (dependent upon the club contributing £12,000), with the balance of £48,000 being paid by GLL. The lighting was becoming obsolete and was no longer conforming to new BC lighting regulations for outdoor Velodromes. Without the Floodlight upgrade, evening training and track league would have been impossible to run, which in turn would have affected the future viability of the velodrome. Our thanks to everyone who donated to the lighting fund both through direct donations and donations of prize money and number deposits from track league. Donations totalled £14,661 and the excess raised has been ringfenced in the accounts for spending on maintaining and upgrading this valuable facility for it’s long term future

At end of 2022, the club was still awaiting the invoice from GLL for our £12000 share of payment towards the lighting.

*Social Events*

2022 has seen the continuation of the club return to more ‘normal’ life post Covid with the return of social events and indoor turbo sessions restarting in the winter.

The club marked the 75th anniversary of Welwyn Wheelers, with a BBQ and awards evening in the summer and a Christmas party in December. Both events saw a loss of about £800 each to the club but were seen as important in terms of the social fabric of the club with money allocated from the accounts to cover this eventuality.

**Accounts:**

Turning directly to the accounts.

The accounts show the club continues to make a surplus, which this year stands at £25,779.40

Training Sessions

The main source of income to the club remains the training sessions which has given an income in the year of £23,943.30. The accounts show expenditure of £16,462.77

which relates to coaching expenses and facility hire, which leaves a profit of £7,480.53

for the club.

Training session fees were raised towards the end of the year reflecting an increase in the clubs’ own costs for ongoing facilities hire and an increase in coaches expenses given the rising costs of fuel etc.

(Non-members Snr £10, U18 £8 Members Snr £8, U18 £6.40)

*Membership*

Income from membership has remained practically level as 2021 - £2620 in 2022 vs £2551 in 2021

*Academy*

Once again, this year as per 2021, the Academy scheme for youth racing riders did not take place. The club did however have a few riders who were picked to race for Eastern Region in the Youth Tour of Scotland whose entry fees the club covered at a total cost of £375

*Non-Event Catering*

Catering from the PA hut continues to be a very popular and welcome addition to Saturday mornings at the track. Our continued thanks to Michaela Norfolk for all the work she puts into this and her amazing cakes. The catering has made a profit this year of £1789.

*Clothing:*

Clothing stock values have remained similar to 2021 (£8486.82) and stands at £8271.42Sales have remined similar to previous years at £4,679 (£4993 in 2021), expenditure lower at £3,280. We continue to sell clothing through Hatfield Cycles and the clubs website.

*Club Admin*

The largest single area of expenditure for the club in 2022 was club admin at £5,224.94, a similar level of expenditure to 2021 (£5015). £1995 of this spend relates to insurance. The remaining expenditure is as per previous years on expenses relating to day to day running of the club and affiliation expenses.

*Events*

2022 saw several events organised by the club, though not back to previous levels.

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The year started with the Hilly 50 followed by the weekly club 10 TTs and Muddy Monsters in December. All these events made a small profit.

The youth omnium did not run again this year at Welwyn, and we were also unable to run the Petit Tour.

The club held a Central Cyclocross League race this year in October which made a profit of £1125. This reflects the fact prizes were only awarded to youth riders, for which sponsorship of £580 was secured from the group ‘Private Finance’. Part of this money was also to cover costs of catering for volunteers (catering was not provided for riders). Our thanks once again to Jenny Bone for organizing the event and securing the donation, and to Private Finance for their contribution.

**Cash in the bank:**

The total cash in the bank for the club this year stands at £91,105.88

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£5865 of this is ringfenced for track repair, being the balance of the money raised in 2019 for the track resurfacing.

£10,000 of this is ringfenced for future match funding.

£12,000 is ringfenced for the lighting upgrade with the remaining £2661 being the balance of money raised, also ringfenced for future lighting or track related work.

£4,569 of this relates to the Welwyn Petit Tour and as such, is not available for ‘general’ club use.

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**Creditors and Debtors**

A final note on creditors and debtors.

At year end, as previously mentioned, the club owed GLL £12000 for the lighting upgrade for which we are yet to be billed.

The club was owed £303 by PayPal – payments taken in December for clothing and catering. This was paid to the club in January 2023.

If anyone would like any further information on the details behind the any of the figures in the accounts, this can be provided