

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 27 October 2014 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Dawn Aplin (DA), Martin Brain (MB), Philip Brophy (PB), Chris Connick (ChC), Cllr Nick Davies (ND), Alun Evans (AuE), Colin Fielder (CF), Hilary Fielder (HF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (BG), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Chris Walsh (CW)

Apologies: John Cardy (JC), Claudine Conway (CIC), Allyson Evans (AIE), Rhian Evans (RE), Dale Hall (DH), Hamish Osborne (HO), Fran Rolfe (FR), John Sayce (JS), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy. The sequence was different from that of these notes in that Cllr Nick Davies's talk and the tea break followed the Officers' reports.

Minutes of last agm (on 30 October 2013)

Acceptance of these was proposed by CW and seconded by DJ. Matters arising were covered in the reports.

Secretary's Report

DN summarised his report which is included as Appendix A. He added some points as follows:

- That he wished to record on behalf of the Group our thanks to DJ for his efforts in responding to the invitations to consult on the Active Travel Act and Local Transport Plan. (Appx A: 5b)
- Newsletter: The invitation for a guest editor for the Spring issue remains unfilled. Also he has room for material in the forthcoming Winter issue – by mid November please.
- Website: See "Comments" below.
- Rebranding: In view of this coming up under the Chairman's Report DN commented that a much respected boss of many years ago had told him that organisations typically go through 12 year cycles. *Wheelrights* first cycle was from 1995 to 2007 when it was rebranded. It is now in the middle of its second so the next rebranding is due in 2019.

Chairman's Report

NG added to his report (Appendix B), making the following points:

- *Wheelrights* are consulted by CCS. Referring to ongoing work he advised that £300k is being allocated for pedestrian and cycle links within the City Centre. Our comments have been considered in for example the Boulevard and the forthcoming Morfa Distributor Road.
- He agreed with DN that we are in a consolidation phase and noted that our challenge was to try to improve quality.
- Looking to the future he saw rebranding as a way to reach out to younger people and new cyclists. He thought we should look at the logo and involve professionals. He envisaged an expenditure of perhaps £400. He suggested members look at the websites of Gower Riders' and Swansea Rowing Club as examples of good web design. He also suggested a Web Forum for interactive discussions and rides ideas.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report

CF summarised the information in his report (Appendix C) drawing attention to the healthy state of our finances. He suggested we needed a buffer of about £500 and noted that we have about three times that amount in the account. This would allow us to spend more; he suggested on supporting the adult beginners classes, on advertising or on the website.

Acceptance of the three officers' reports was proposed by MB and seconded by ChC. Comments on them are covered under "Comments" below.

Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, the existing officers were confirmed as follows:

	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Chairman	Nick Guy	MB	HF
Secretary	David Naylor	AS	HF
Treasurer & Member. Sec.	Colin Fielder	DJ	KR

DN advised that he wished to stand down as Secretary as soon as a replacement could be found. By doing so the work of *Wheelrights* would be better distributed. He would be happy to continue as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor if members were agreeable.

Comments

In the past two weeks DN had either met with or received emails from a total of 9 members. (He can say who if asked.) He reported the essence of the feedback from them, the gist of which is as follows.

- Apart from CIC, who expressed general support for the proposals in NG's report, no one else called for a rebranding of *Wheelrights*. Nor did any one else call for a new logo. However one email comment by email was that it could be "simpler and more punchy".
- The general feeling about the website was that it served as a useful source of information and an archive for our records, in particular for the newsletters and notes of meetings. However a problem is that, with an average of 5 or 6 hits/day, it is not sufficiently used. Suggestions for rectifying this include providing a new website as an interface (such as *gowercyclingfestival.org* has done for the GCF.) and using Facebook or Twitter.
- Other comments on the website were that it should include a forum or members section (DN had considered this but but felt that he could not do this on his own.), that DN should continue as webmaster but with someone to back him up. DN has also requested this.

Cllr Nick Davies' address

He introduced himself as Chair of the Council's *Cycle Action Progress* (CAP) committee and also as their Transport Convener under cllr Mark Thomas (Cabinet member for Environment and Transport). He made it clear that for him "transport" was not just about cars. Later in his talk he referred to the need to put pedestrians and cyclists first, ie apply the *hierarchy of provision*.

He referred to the image people have of cyclists as lycra-clad so-and-sos who harass pedestrians on the Foreshore. We need to change that image to one of cyclists as normal people, such as in Belgium and the Netherlands. There, people cycle in normal clothes without helmets. Cyclists are respected by drivers who mostly also cycle.

Facilities are needed to make it easier for people to cycle. In addition to safe cycling routes this requires provision for cycle storage, changing/showering facilities at places of work, etc.

He noted the need for quality routes and that the 'tube' map indicates where they are required.

Priorities for the City Centre cycle network include links to the Railway Station, the development of a route along Princess Way and a revamping of the Kingsway. In getting these implemented he would try to ensure that the *hierarchy* is applied, ie that cyclists are not just 'bolted on'.

Ending his talk he invited comments or questions.

DJ opened the discussion by asking who in CCS was promoting cycling. ND's reply indicated that to a large extent this was his responsibility but noted that he wanted to widen support for cycling to include other cycle groups and groups which promote health and fitness. GG mentioned the need to support new cycle users by providing safe routes to schools and cycle storage. He also suggested a bike hire scheme for Swansea. KR was concerned lest we alienate those who wear lycra. We agreed that there should be no prejudice against those thus clad!

AOB

Membership questionnaire.

CF proposed that to increase the involvement of the membership we send them a questionnaire and Christmas card by surface mail. This was agreed. **[Action CF, NG, DN]**

Christmas Social.

We decided to arrange an evening meal at the Mumbai (Mill Lane, Blackpill) on, if possible, Wednesday 3 December. DA agreed to make the booking. **[Action DA]**

Notes prepared by David Naylor (Secretary)

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2014 AGM

This report covers key events of the past year. I leave it to the Chairman to look to the future.

It has been a relatively quiet year compared to recent ones there being no *Cycle Challenge* (which took place in 2012 and 2013), nor were there any special events in Bike Week. The latter was largely because this year we lacked the usual initiative from Rob Wachowski, the City and County of Swansea (CCS) Council's Walking and Cycling Officer, due to his post being abolished. He finished at the end of May, shortly before Bike Week. Some compensation for this has been the combined initiative of CCS and Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Councils in identifying commuter routes and producing the 'Tube' map. More about this below.

Despite being a quiet year it has been one of consolidation: links with CCS, with councillors and other bodies have been strengthened; the *Routes* and *Campaigns* subgroups have been formed (Chris Walsh chairs the former and Kerry Rogers the latter.); our Manifesto is being implemented. We need to continue on this course and build on what we are doing.

A detailed breakdown of events follows.

1. Adult Beginners Classes

Five took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays (Attendees in []): 12th April [8], 14th June [8], 19th July [5], 30th August [6] and 20th September [4]. A class scheduled for 10th May was cancelled due to rain. The May, July and August classes were listed in *What's On*. (The June class had also been requested but didn't appear.)

2. Gower Cycling Festival (GCF)

This took place from 9-16 August. Although the numbers were down – the lowest total we have had so far – the average per ride was on a par with previous Festivals and we had good feedback. All seem to have enjoyed the rides. The lower numbers may have been due to problems with on-line registration earlier in the year. We had an even larger contingent from *Stourbug*, the Midlands cycle group, than last year. Most of them stayed for the week and they contributed a lot to its success. The 'Cycle Festival' page on our website provides a pictorial record and also a report which gives facts and figures.

Meetings to organise it were held on 13th November, 15th January, 12th February, 26th March, 25th June, 30th July and after the Festival on 6th October. All were in the Railway Inn except that the 26th March one was in Volcano's High Street office.

3. Meetings

- (a) General. Our normal meetings took place in the Environment Centre on the following evenings (Attendees in []): 21st January [13], 18th February [13], 18th March [16], 11th June [12] and 22nd September [9].*
- (b) Routes subgroup. This newly formed group met in the Railway Inn on 14th July, 18th August and 15th September.*
- (c) Campaigns subgroup. There was a meeting to kick start this group in Volcano's High Street office on 21st July.*
- (d) Cycling Action Progress (CAP) meetings. These took place on 8th January, 9th April, 14th July and 21st October. All four were attended by your three Officers.*

4. Infrastructure

- (a) Boulevard. The shared use path east from the Civic Centre to the crossing to Wind Street was completed around the turn of the year. The phase 2 work, which continues this on both sides of Quay Parade between Wind Street and the Tawe Bridges, is largely complete.
- (b) NCR 43 link. A ramp connecting NCR 43 to New Cut Road across the North Tawe Bridge has now been completed.

* Notes of these meetings are on the 'Newsletters & Notes' page of our website.

- (c) NCR 43: new section. The revamped shared use path south from the M4 to the Liberty Stadium was opened around Easter. This comprises a new section along the new embankment immediately south of the M4 and on to the Beaufort Bridge, The path from here alongside Beaufort Road and from the Mannesman Bridge to the Liberty Stadium has been resurfaced. The result is a very acceptable cycle route.

5. Other activities

- (a) Tube' map. A combined initiative from CCS and NPT Councils has resulted in the identification of potential commuter routes (actually more than just for commuting) in both Swansea and NPT Counties. These are represented on a tube style map using colour coding. Distances are represented by cycling times. Associated with this are signs which incorporate the colour coding on a new circular logo. Several of these have now been put up. A large number of leaflets have been produced which show the tube map on one side and a description of the routes (with distances now in miles) on the back. Our Routes subgroup have been asked by CCS to prioritise these (and any other routes). Top priority (next to routes already in the pipeline) has been given to: City Centre – Liberty Stadium, Liberty Stadium – Bonymaen and Gowerton – Pontarddulais.
- (b) Active Travel Act and Local Transport Plan consultations. David Judd on behalf of *Wheelrights* responded to invitations to consult on both of these. His submissions are on the Campaigns page of our website.
- (c) Arriva Trains Wales (ATW). Last year Alan Kreppell had a go at lobbying on our behalf for proper cycle provision on the electric trains scheduled to run between Paddington and Swansea in 2017/18. (See my 2013 Secretary's report.) I was briefed at that time to lobby ATW. I got round to doing this in August. I first consulted Sustran's Martyn Brunt who has been lobbying at National level for better provision for cyclists on trains. He was helpful and advised me to write to ATW's Managing Director, Ian Bullock. This I did. As had happened when we last approached ATW in 2008 I got a polite reply to the effect that they would not respond to our request for more space for cyclists. Martyn has however indicated that he hopes to take this up at National level.
- (d) Wheelrights Summer Solstice ride. This took place on the longest day, 21 June. As in previous years this was led by David Judd. We did the classic North Gower circuit, stopping for a pint in the Dolphin in Llanrhidian. Despite it being a lovely evening there were only three of us!

6. Newsletter.

These have continued to appear quarterly. David Judd took up my guest editor offer and produced the Spring issue (No. 27). The invitation for the next guest editor remains open.

7. Website.

A problem with PayPal early in the year meant that for some months it could not be used for membership payments or GCF registrations. (There had been a difficulty in getting them to recognise my email address which had changed in 2013.) This was eventually sorted in May.

Should I for some reason not be able to continue as webmaster I need an understudy, ie someone with appropriate computer skills who could keep the website going.

Let me state what I see as its purpose: namely as a source of information to which both prospective and existing cyclists can turn; also as a record of our activities, in particular by storing notes of meetings and past Newsletters. I have tried to keep it simple and easy to navigate; also I have kept it free of ad.s. While I think it needs to evolve and I welcome feedback (Recently I have only had this from our Chairman.) I do not think it needs 'revamping'. In due course this may be appropriate but for the next few years the present format and logo should be retained.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)
October 2014

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2014 agm

Wheelrights was founded in 1995, the same year that Sustrans started the National Cycle Network. Both have their 20th birthdays in 2015 so it's a good time to take stock and review our campaigning.

Opportunities and Challenges.

Wheelrights has developed a solid reputation and credibility with our partners. We face several opportunities and challenges:

1. An increase in cycling and new cycle groups springing up: Clyne Riders, We Cycle, etc.
2. New cycle routes connecting to Swansea City Centre, and the potential for a Swansea wide network of cycle routes.
3. The *Active Travel Act* increases potential for improvement, but in a climate of huge cutbacks in public spending.

Proposals for 2015

I make the following suggestions to enable *Wheelrights* to meet the above challenges more effectively, and invite other ideas for further discussion and action in 2015.

- Increase our campaigning work with new campaigns on a participation model involving local residents and councillors; eg: a Clyne Line campaign for the new Gowerton – Pontarddulais route.
- De-centralise *Wheelrights* and involve members more: for example the new Routes group (Chaired by Chris Walsh), the new Campaigns group (chaired by Kerry Rogers) and short rides facilitated by Rhian Evans.
- Consider rebranding *Wheelrights* in order to reach out to newer and younger cyclists more effectively. This could include a competition for a new logo; revamping our website – possibly commissioning a professional web designer; consider jointly organising a local Cycling Conference (together with CTC and Sustrans)?

I propose that these and other ideas be considered during our next two *Wheelrights* meetings in the New Year.

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chairman)

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2014 agm

2014 has again been a very successful year for Wheelrights.

The account summary below shows that we started the year with £1128.50 in the account and have ended the year (20/10/14) with a healthy bank balance of £1689.31.

Two expenses cheques have not yet been cashed (£20 and £6).

There is a 16p (£0.16) error between the income column and the balance + expenditure column.

Wheelrights and GCF account summaries:

Our sources of income are membership subscriptions (£309.09), the adult bike class fees (£110) and the Gower Cycling Festival (£900.56).

Our main expenditures are the Gower Cycling Festival (£395), secretary's expenses (£167.40) and the hire of meeting rooms (£100).

The Gower Cycling Festival summary shows an income of £900.56 and expenditure £395. This includes repairs to the banners which are used to promote Wheelrights and the Festival.

A copy of the full Wheelrights account spreadsheet will be available for inspection at the AGM. Please contact me or David Naylor if you would like a copy.

Paypal was again a popular choice for GCF registration. For each £5 paid we receive approximately £4.63.

Membership

We have 82 members (20/10/14) of whom 63 have paid the 2014 subscription. The other 19 members last paid in 2013.

The Future

It would be useful to maintain a balance of £500 in the account to allow us to pay Cycle Festival expenses before pass receipts begin to come in. We therefore have £1000 in the account to spend on future projects. These should include support, advertising and repairs to bikes for the adult bike lessons. What other projects do members feel we could support?

Income	£
Bank balance brought forward 31 Oct 2013	1128.50
GCF income	900.56
Membership subscriptions	309.09
Donations	0.00
Bike classes	<u>110.00</u>
Total	<u>2448.15</u>

Expenditure	£
GCF expenses	395.00
Environment centre (room hire and annual membership)	120.00
Secretary's expenses (non-GCF)	167.40
CTC affiliation	60.00
Print partnership (bike class advert)	15.00
Cyclenation subscription	20.00
Harrisons(bike class cards)	6.00
Postage(NG)	<u>1.44</u>
Total	<u>784.84</u>
Bank balance on 27 Oct 2014 (AGM)	1689.15
Sum of expenditure plus bank balance	<u>2473.99</u>

Colin Fielder (Treasurer)