# Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Welwyn Wheelers CC was held at 7.30pm on Monday 26 February 2024 in the new Party Room of the Gosling Sports Centre. Refreshments (Teas & Coffee, cakes) were be provided, thanks to Michaela Norfolk. Sixteen club members attended.

Meet from 7pm; business to start at 7.30pm.

## Minutes

1. No apologies were received in advance of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held at Doctors Tonic Public House in WGC on 20 Feb 2023, which had been made available to members via email in advance of the meeting, were received by the meeting proposed by Michaela F and seconded by Francis Gallacher.

3. Matters arising

Track League, which was confirmed as a club promotion at the 2023 AGM, was curtailed from July onwards for the remainder of the season due to the poor surface condition after application of Securechip coating by Colas. As a result of this the planned Peter Waghorn Memorial Track Meeting was postponed.

Efforts during 2023 to identify additional persons to come onto the Committee have not been successful. However we have a volunteer to take over as Kit Secretary (Shawn M).

A scheme to offer members Parking at GSP on a quarterly charge, administered through our website and Membership Secretary, has been successfully instituted.

4. Reports were received from Officers. The 2023 Annual Report was circulated in advance of the meeting to member by email. Chair’s, Treasurer’s and Coaching Reports are appended to these Minutes. Membership Secretary confirmed numbers of members at the end of 2023 as 193.

5. Club affiliations for 2024 are as follows:

British Cycling (BC)

Cycling Time Trials (CTT)

6. Club’s Open and Club Race promotions for 2024 are as follows:

Date Event Course/Location

Confirmed:

29 March Good Friday Hilly 50Km TT Codicote-Hitchin

7 May – 13Aug Tuesday Evening Club 10 Series F4X/10: Cole Green/A414

Dave Scott, who organises the Club 10 series, has indicated that this will be the last year he is able to fulfil this role.

Conditional on availability of track:

9 June BC Youth Omnium Gosling Velodrome

26 Apr - 13 Sept Track League\* – see note Gosling Velodrome

To Be Confirmed:

Sunday 6th October Cyclocross Eastern League event Stanborough Park

(2 rounds) Muddy Monsters youth CX series Gosling Velodrome

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

Presently we have no volunteer organiser for the Cyclocross Eastern League event on 6 Oct, which will be required if this event is to go ahead.

\*Track League continues to be organised in partnership with Verulam CC. Three open meetings are planned, on Friday 7th June, Friday 19thJuly, and Friday 13thSeptember 2024 (followed by the TL prize presentation). These will be Regional C+ races, and be offering BC licence points. Entry for Open meetings via BC website and Track League meetings via Welwyn Wheelers webpage.

7. The outgoing Committee have set Club membership subscriptions for 2024, which are

unchanged from the previous year, as follows:

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

8. There were no proposed change(s) to Club Rules.

9. Committee Officers were elected as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Incumbent**  **(2023 Committee)** | **Nominee(s)**  **(2024 Committee)** |
| 1 – Chairman | Andrew Brown | Andrew Brown  (elected unopposed) |
| 2 – Secretary | *Vacant* | *Vacant* |
| 3 – Treasurer | Finn Clawson | Finn Clawson  (elected unopposed) |
| 4 - Membership Secretary | Jo Nuttall | Jo Nuttall  (elected unopposed) |
| 5 - Welfare Officer | Juliette Barker | Juliette Barker  (elected unopposed) |
| 6 - Youth/Junior Representrative | *Vacant* | Henry Barker (who was not present at the meeting) was proposed by Francis Gallacher and seconded by Finn Clawson, and elected unopposed. |
| 7 - Coaching Co-ordinator | Francis Gallacher | Francis Gallacher  (elected unopposed) |
| 8 - Volunteer Officer | *Vacant* |  |
| 9 - Social secretary | *Vacant* |  |
| 10 – IT Officer | Jeremy Peet | Jeremy Peet  (elected unopposed) |
| 11 – Women’s Officer | Ellie Cadzow | Ellie Cadzow  (elected unopposed) |
| 12 - Outreach Officer | Lena Whittaker | Lena Whittaker  (elected unopposed) |
| Ordinary Members | *Vacant* |  |

10. Howard Ashmore was appointed to inspect and verify the annual accounts.

11. Any other business.

# Appendix: Welwyn Wheelers Annual Report 2023

**Introduction**

The year for our club opened on a sad note, with the death of Peter Waghorn in January, at the Oakview Lodge Care Home in Welwyn Garden City. Peter had made an immeasurable contribution to the club, to Gosling Sports Park and to the wider cycling and sailing communities over much of his life, for which he was awarded an MBE. In early February, the club held a Celebration of Life event for Peter at the Panshanger Golf Club (The View). This event was attended by more than 100 current and past members of the club, and many others who knew Peter through family, cycling or sailing. In May, the club organised a ride in Peter’s memory which saw 20 members and friends cycle up to Peter’s sailing club at Grafham Water, who kindly hosted us on the occasion of their Bank Holiday Regatta. We raised money through a JustGiving Appeal to install a bench overlooking the Gosling track. The foundations for this were laid in summer 2023, and the bench itself will be installed in February ready for the 2024 track season. We still plan to hold a Memorial Open Track Meeting in Peter’s name. During the year we also said goodbye to another old Wheeler, Mike Daniel.

In June 2023, an attempt was made to resurface the velodrome surface at Gosling. Sadly, this did not go according to plan and rendered the track un-rideable, and we lost the remainder of the 2023 Track League season. At the time of writing, the track is still not in a usable state, and the many training activities on road bikes that would normally be run by WW or other clubs during the winter have also not been possible. The problems encountered by the contractor Colas are detailed below. We regard the availability of the velodrome at Gosling as critical to the future viability of our club and the committee are seeking redress as our top priority. The leaseholder for the track is Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL), and our strong working relationship with GLL, built up over the last few years, has been key in seeking to influence the resurfacing of the track.

## Committee

At the 2023 AGM we welcomed three new members: Finn Clawson as Treasurer, Ellie Cadzow as Women’s Officer and Jo Nuttall, who had been coopted Membership Secretary during 2022. The committee have been using the refurbished PA Hut office for meetings, with anyone unable to attend in person able to so remotely using the Teams app. The committee met seven times since the 2023 AGM – with each meeting being typically 90 mins. We have eight active members of the committee, out of a possible total Committee positions of twelve, and we actively seek more volunteers to join the committee. In particular the Volunteer Coordinator role has been vacant, making for a significantly greater challenge to organise any events.

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**Colas and the Track Resurfacing**

In June 2023 an attempt was made to resurface the velodrome surface at Gosling. The previous resurfacing happened four years ago, which was the application of a slurry-coat, carried out by contractors. Since that application, the surface had corroded far faster than expected. Working with the leaseholder, GLL, we highlighted the situation to the manufacturer of the slurry-coating product, who are a company called Colas. Colas had supervised the original application and agreed that the rate of corrosion was not acceptable. They agreed to provide redress at their cost. After successfully treating test strips of the track in 2022, it was agreed that Colas would use a sealant product known as Securechip. This was applied to the full track surface in June 2023. Securechip material is intended to set hard within hours. After repainting of lines, this would have given us a rideable track after just one or two weeks down-time in the racing/training schedule. However the product, which is a tar-like substance, did not set hard as had been intended, and also accumulated in rivulets on the track banking. This made the surface dangerously slippery in damp conditions, and in even in dry conditions left a tar-like deposit on cycle tyres. The surface was deemed to be unsafe, causing all racing and training activities on the velodrome to cease.

Since June 2023, Francis has spent many hours with Colas and GLL looking for a solution to restore the surface. Colas and their contractors tested firstly a heat-treatment process used in resurfacing of roads, but this proved impossible to adapt to the banked surface. The current plan at time of writing is to retreat the surface with another layer of the slurry-coat. Colas have booked contractors to complete this in time for the start of the track season (i.e. April), and we are as confident as we can be that track racing will be possible at Gosling in 2024.

## Racing

WW organised our usual Spring event of the Good Friday Hilly 50 time trial, thanks to our regular organiser, Andy Porter. Numbers of entrants were down on previous years, though this seems to be common to other time trial events both locally and nationally. Our cyclocross event in October at Stanborough was sponsored by Private Finance and was part of the Eastern Cyclocross League. Graeme Anderson was organiser and we relied on a huge amount of work done in the background by Jenny Bone – thanks to both. Track League was organised as in previous years in partnership with Verulam CC with Doug Driscoll of Verulam CC as organiser and many volunteers from our club, The season was cut short by the track surfacing issues in June. There was a full Club 10 series again organised by Dave Scott. Two rounds of the Muddy Monsters series, which is an introduction to racing event for youngsters, took place as usual at Welwyn. A new addition for 2023 was Dusty Devils, a summer cousin of Muddy Monsters. All four events were a great success and thanks to Andrew Pollard, Juliette Barker and the many additional volunteers (many from our junior ranks) who helped deliver these.

Some of the racing achievements by riders in Welwyn colours over the 2023 season will covered by Francis at the AGM meeting, which is on 26 February at 7:30pm at Gosling Sports Stadium. We’ll also reflect on the Coaching year with the many regular activities as well as one-off’s such as the This Girl Can novice taster sessions, delivered by our fabulous team of coach volunteers.

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## Finances

Finn will present the full 2023 Accounts at the AGM. Welwyn Wheelers CC continue to hold a strong fiscal position as in recent years. Income for 2023 was £80k, which included more than £36k from various grants that we applied for. Many of these grants were match-funding. Expenditure was just over £90k, which included several one-off items. In particular we have spent £25k to upgrade our whole fleet of track hire bikes, in both adult and junior sizes, from Dolan. We also purchased a ride-on mower to help maintain the cyclocross courses, and an e-bike. More than £60k remain in reserves. A huge thank-you to our treasurer Finn who took over from Rachel Coleman at the 2023 AGM, and to auditor Howard Ashmore, in looking after our financial affairs. As every year, thanks to Paul and the staff at Hatfield Cycle Hub for holding club kit for sale.

## New Initiatives in 2023

As part of our strong working relationship with GLL, we negotiated a concession for club members to purchase parking directly, for £15 quarterly (per car). This has been jointly administrated by Jo and GLL, with some minor issues, though these have been easily resolved. For anyone regularly parking at GSP, this represents a substantial discount on the cost of paying for by the visit, and is available only for our club, in recognition of the amount of hours of labour we contribute to maintaining the fabric of the Park. The club have also purchased an e-bike: this is available for anyone in the club to borrow, with the intent to boost attendance on group rides.

## Looking Forward

The club have had an objective for several years to grow membership numbers. This remains a goal but has been more challenging than usual with the absence of track-based activities for much of 2023. If anything attendance at our sessions has been decreasing. We hope to be in position to promote the re-start of track racing (& training) in April/May, and hope that will reinvigorate membership both new & old. It will be great to see a Youth Omnium as well as all the other track racing happening again at Gosling.

We always have capital projects at different stages of discussion, planning and financing and now is no exception. Under consideration at present are the installation of a composting toilet to provide a facility inside the track bowl, new LED lighting to illuminate the CX banking area, improvements to the shed and other storage facilities, a hard-standing area to be used for jet-washing, purchase of a Gator “Mule” ATV, and several more. We must say an especially big thank-you to Francis Gallacher for all the facilities work he does, in addition to Coach coordination, both of which are so intrinsic to life of our club. A recent initiative has been to offer organised trips to members, and thanks to Tim Young, who is one of our coaches. Our first offering of a sportive on the Isle of Wight did not get much interest, but watch out for the next trip being planned, which will be a weekend in Belgium to watch the Ghent 6 following by a CX event on the Sunday, which should be an excellent combination.

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## Final Word

I appeal every year for volunteers and we could still do with many more. That said, it has been gratifying that some people have come forward in recent months, including into the roles of Press Officer and to look after club kit. We still urgently need a Volunteer Coordinator and the Stanborough CX is at risk if we cannot find volunteers to assist with that – hopefully a team of organisers, which will make the whole event much easier and less work for one individual.

## **Andrew Brown**

Chair

Appendix: Chair’s Report

The bench in memorial to Peter Waghorn, which was mentioned in the Annual Report, was delivered recently and has been installed beside the track and next to the bench remembering Karl Gough. Following last year’s successful Memorial Ride to Grafham Water Sailing Club on the occasion of their PW Memorial Regatta, we have again contacted Grafham to enquire whether they will repeat the event, and we may organise another memorial ride. I again offer thanks to Paul and colleagues at the Hatfield Cycle Hub who continue to hold stocks of club kit available for members to try on and purchase.

Appendix:

Welwyn Wheelers Coach Coordinators Report 2023

Francis Gallacher

AGM 26th February 2024

The Welwyn Coaching Team delivered a comprehensive range of training sessions during 2023, apart from the aborted Track Training sessions, due to the Velodrome being out of action from the beginning of July.

This included our regular weekly Open Training sessions.

These discipline specific sessions included:

**Road Bikes on the Track**, at the earlier part of the year.

**Track Training**, up until the end of June which included:

**Novice Track**

**Track Taster**

**Women’s only Track** sessions.

**Off Road Skills**

**Go-Ride Freewheel**

**Cyclo-Cross**

And Thursday **Turbo / Roller** sessions

These sessions were delivered by our enthusiastic team of 18 active coaches:

Myself,

Ade Adedugbe

Adrian Hughes

Andy Pollard

Ben Smith

Ellie Cadzow

Chris Bodell

David Halden

Ella Coleman

Andy Evans

Graeme Anderson

Howell Schroeder

Chris Murphy

Richard Maynard

Scott Storti

Steve Hayward

Tim Young

Elise Whittaker

Elise Whittaker, our youngest ever coach at 15, joined the Team after completing her L1 Coaching qualification. She has been a great asset to the club supporting Howell with the Saturday Freewheel sessions.

We have qualified coaches from Level 1 to Level 3 in our club, with discipline specific qualifications covering:

Road, Track, Maddison, Cyclo-Cross and Time Trial.

We also have six qualified Derny Pacers including newly qualified Pacers, Chris and Lesley Bodell

I would like to thank all of them for their support during the year.

I would also like to thank Chris Murphy and Andy Brown who have regularly led the Saturday Off Road Rides since last October.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Peet and Lena Whittaker who help to promote our sessions and together look after our website and booking system, which has become an integral part of the smooth running of our training sessions.

We could also not run these training sessions without our small band of regular volunteers who help maintain our Off Road and Track facilities on a weekly basis.

Volunteers form the life blood of our club; without them, we will not have a club or facilities to use! A big *THANK YOU* too all and every one of them. Please come forward if you think you can help in any way!

We have an excellent working relationship with the Gosling management team and GLL. This in turn, ensures we continue to maintain and develop cycling activities within the Sports Park.

We have a good working relationship with the British Cycling Talent Team, working with BC Talent Team Coaches, covering Road, Track and Off-Road Talent Development.

Successfully putting some of our riders forward onto the BC Regional School of Racing training programmes, covering Track, Road, Cyclo-Cross and MTB. With several of our riders moving on to the BC National School of Racing Training sessions.

Again, we have had riders attain National Championship titles in 2023, with Henry Hobbs taking the National Youth Omnium and Circuit Road Race Championship titles. Leon Atkins taking both youth Cross Country MTB National titles.

Ellie Mitchinson also represented GB at the Junior World Cyclo-Cross Championships.

Henry Hobbs has now been accepted onto the British Cycling Junior Academy. We wish Henry and all our forma riders’ success in their ongoing cycling careers.

We continue to work closely with Eastern Region and BC Coach Education, to help support the delivery of a wide range of Coaching Courses held at Gosling Sports Park. This year included Cyclo-Cross Level 2 Cycle Coaching qualification.

Howell Schroeder, on behalf of the club, has continued to deliver blocks of 6 week, “after school” Freewheel Off Road sessions on a Tuesday afternoon, for young riders at Aldwickbury School. This in turn has successfully introduced some of these young riders to our Saturday Freewheel sessions.

In June we again supported the “This Girl Can” campaign, along with delivering a Women only Track Taster session. In all supported by over 30 women riders.

We received great feedback from these sessions and some of the riders went on to attend our regular Saturday Track sessions, until the Track was closed in July.

Our regular Open Track Sessions were dramatically affected by the closure of the velodrome due to the surface condition. Hopefully we will again be able to offer all our regular Track Training sessions from this April onwards!

As a club, we are keen to continue to support and develop our enthusiastic coaches! We are one of the few clubs in the country to have so many active coaches! Covering Track, Road and Cyclo-Cross disciplines at Levels 1,2 and 3.

Some of our coaches will be taking courses in the coming year to improve their current qualifications.

The Coaching Team will continue to help develop and support all our riders to reach their full potential.

Lastly, I would like to once again say a big “thank you” to Jenny Bone who has continued help us to obtain several grants to help with maintaining and enhancing our cycling activities.

Following a recent grant via the Welwyn & Hatfield Charitable Trust we have recently taken delivery of 40 Dolan Pre Cursa Track Bikes. This completely replaces our fleet of adult track bikes. This will make a big impact in 2024 and support the delivery of our Novice Track sessions.

A further grant via the Gosling Sports Park Charitable Trust, we have been able to purchase a 4-wheel drive ride on mower, capable of maintaining our grass bank training area.

We, as a coaching group, would welcome genuine feedback from our riders and parents, so that we can adjust and improve the training sessions we deliver.

If any of you think you have what it takes to become a Cycle Coach, please ask me or anyone of the Coaching Team for advice.

Lastly, if anyone has any further questions please ask, or speak to any of the Welwyn Coaching Team. We will try our best to answer any questions you may have.

Wishing everyone a successful Olympic year ahead!

Francis Gallacher Welwyn Wheelers Coach Coordinator