

## **Dronfield Clarion Cycling Club AGM**

**Held at Green Dragon, Dronfield; 7.00pm 26th October 2022**

Present: Michael Stainer (MS), Barry Raynor (BR), Jonathan Leigh (JL), Nigel Ingram (NI), Vicki Ingram (non member), Rachael Eyre (RE), Andy Stacey (AS), John Halford (JH), Donna Halford (DH), Richard Latham (RL), Helen Maguire (HM), Chris Thompson (CT), Nanette Weaver (NW), Liz Boot (LB).

Apologies: Heather Adams, Paul Wilson, Gordon Senior

1. **Election of Chairperson**

Helen Maguire elected as our new Chairperson Proposed: JL Seconded: CT.

2. **Minutes of 2021 AGM (in our case the inaugural meeting)**

Minutes of previous AGM held on 13th October 2021 were accepted with no matters arising.

Proposed: JL, Seconded: MS.

3. **Chairmans report (Michael)**

When we established Dronfield Clarion at the start of this year, we were hoping to attract around 12 to 15 members by the end of the year. As I write this report we now have 32 paid-up members which is, without question, a resounding success. Whilst this is a figure much higher than we ever anticipated, we should also recognise that many of our members, particular those who are also members of the Chesterfield Spire Cycling Club, joined us to take advantage of the competitively priced "Clarion Cover" third party insurance. At £20, this is substantially less than the equivalent cover offered by Cycling UK and British Cycling.

During the year we have offered club rides on most weekends and on Wednesday evenings. Whilst we have a larger than anticipated membership, we have often struggled to find members willing to lead rides and many of our rides have seen low attendances, with most rides being led or attended by a fairly small core of active members. Our challenge for the coming year, therefore, is not only to continue to attract new members but also to increase the number of our members willing to ride leaders and to take part in our rides. Part of this will, I believe, require improved communications from the Committee with all of our membership to establish what they would like to see offered from our club in terms of duration, length and pace of rides and the day(s) of the week that rides are offered.

Whilst much of the club's activities over the last year have been focussed on club rides, we have also organised a camping weekend in Edale, a weekend away in Harrogate and several club members also attended the York Rally. As we look ahead to the coming year we should also be asking our members what cycling-related events they would like to see the club organise and be prepared to welcome all new ideas.

As we approach the Winter season, we should be considering whether to offer social events that would allow both active and non-active members to meet up and share ideas about the future of our club.

I believe it is important in the coming year to improve our communications with all of our members to make them aware of what we are doing, to invite their input into the running and future direction of the club and to make everyone feel welcome, whether or not they are an active member.

Looking ahead, I see a very promising future for the club and I have no doubt that we will attract further members from the Chesterfield, Dronfield and Sheffield areas.

#### 4. **Secretary & ride lists coordinator report (Barry)**

The Dronfield Clarion was officially founded on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and is the latest of thirty local groups attached to the National Clarion Cycling Club. The intention of the founders was to provide a membership driven cycling club focused on leisure and touring rides based on Dronfield, Chesterfield and Sheffield.

The membership numbers at the time of writing this report stands at 34, however we are aware that many of the cyclists have joined for cheaper, more competitive insurance rates which are currently less than half the price offered by British Cycling and Cycling UK. Although we appreciate that 34 is an excellent number for a club that is less than one year old, we hope that the number will increase further in 2023 and that many of the new members take an active role in our activities.

The Dronfield Clarion has managed through 2022 with four committee members, we have realised that to function more effectively, we need to increase this to six, to allow more consistent and regular meetings to take place through the year.

The rides and activities have been consistent throughout the year, with the Wednesday night pub rides being held through the winter. At one time this wouldn't have seemed feasible, but the milder winters have allowed us to ride in temperatures well above freezing and also in dry conditions. We are looking to continue rides on Wednesday nights through this coming winter also. The Sunday rides have also been held regular through the year. Attendances have fluctuated between only two people attending to double figures. Unsurprisingly, the lowest attendances have tended to be during the summer holiday period when many people are away. A few Saturday rides have been arranged also mainly by John, these seem to have been popular also. The majority of rides have started at Dronfield Civic Centre, but we have also started rides at JE James in Chesterfield and outside the Norton Inn in Sheffield.

The Dronfield Clarion are a touring club for cyclists and we have held events that have involved touring for longer than a day, the first being a camping weekend arranged by Michael in April to Edale. Five members camped for two nights at the site and Jonathan joined us for the ride from Edale on the Saturday around the Buxton and Goyt Valley area. The second event was a weekend to Harrogate Travelodge in May, this was opened up to non Clarion members in the hope that it would encourage new members. The weekend attracted 27 cyclists, the vast majority riding from the three starting points to Harrogate and back. On Saturday, three rides of varying distances were on offer for the participants. The final event attended by Dronfield Clarion members was the York Cycle Rally, another camping event, this time held in June. The Rally was a great success with exceptional weather for the weekend, ideal for camping.

Jonathan and I attended the National Clarion AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> September by zoom, Dronfield was one of just thirteen groups out of thirty, represented at the meeting. There were three motions to conference, previously circulated to all sections.

The first by Tuxford sought to promote interaction with refugees who might welcome cycling opportunities. No vote was ultimately taken on this, but in a discussion on the topic, the feeling of conference was that this was indeed a worthy aim to promote, best done in many cases at section level, perhaps in partnership with existing organisations that work to support refugees. National committee will consider whether there is a role for the national club in this work, and we would encourage sections to look at whether they can take action in this area."

The second by London sought to change the way subscriptions are collected. Moving from an annual subscription payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> January to a rolling subscription running for twelve months from the date of joining. This proposal was rejected by 825 votes to 307.

The third motion by Brighton sought to replace the block vote system used at conference and based on section numbers, with a one member one vote system. This was rejected by 766 votes to 294, with 4 sections abstaining. Next year conference is likely to return to the Easter Meet, which is being held at Lytham St Annes.

During the meeting, two Dronfield members were elected onto the National Committee, Michael Stainer as website manager and Jonathan Leigh as National Treasurer, we wish them well in their new positions.

So what have we got in mind for next year? It is possible that Dronfield Clarion could be hosting it's first ever audax event. The York Rally is due to take place in June next year, Dronfield Clarion members will definitely be attending. The Spring Travelodge weekend has been booked for Spalding in South Lincolnshire, information regarding this will be distributed separately. There may be room for additional weekends, camping, hostelling or otherwise. The Wednesday night rides will continue throughout the full year, as will the Sunday rides. It is hoped there will be more shorter Saturday rides which could attract new members. Joint rides with other groups will probably take place, especially neighbouring Clarion groups such as Tuxford. Michael has some ideas around social evenings during the winter, which he will discuss at this meeting. John has said that he will be looking at taking orders for more Dronfield Clarion tops and maybe other DC branded cycle accessories and clothing.

#### 5. Treasurers report (presented by Helen)

Good evening all.

First of all, big apologies from me for not being here in person. An error on my part meant that I have double booked this evening.

Onto business. The first year of the Dronfield Clarion has been really successful. We have 27 paying members on our books as at 31 August 2022. We also have two administrative members from Tuxford and National Clarion who helped us set up the club. Of the paying members, approximately half are active members and the others have simply joined to take advantage of the third-party insurance.

The accounts were summarised on 24 October 2022. Anyone who wants further information, please contact the club secretary who will contact the treasurer.

The committee approves all new payments. This may be reviewed at a future date if this proves to cause an admin overhead. In addition, all physical payments out of the bank need two bank account administrators to approve – we have three bank administrators (Michael, Barry, Gordon).

It is the intention of the club to try to keep the balance of the finances between approximately £300 and £600. We have no overdraft facility.

Membership wise, we are hopeful that many of the members from the 2021/2022 year will renew and we will also have a membership push to try to get new members. We have already had five early bird, new members. Regarding membership, in 2021/2022 the membership fee was **£20. I am proposing to keep the fee at this level for the year 2022/2023.**

Part of our membership fee is used to cover the insurance – this is set by The National Clarion. In addition, we also get charged by PayPal – either 54 pence or 88 pence per member. We are going to trial BACS payments straight into the bank account. If this is successful, we will roll this out live at

renewal time. We expect this to be early November.

**ACTION:** Andy Stacey volunteered to examine the accounts.

6. **Publicity officers report (Jonathan)**

We have very little money in the club funds and advertising is expensive.

I spoke to Heron Publications who produce the monthly Dronfield Eye magazine back in the summer. It goes to around 15,000 homes a month. They offer 3 sizes of advert:

Quarter page: £190 + vat

Eighth of a page: £90 + vat

Business card size at the back: £60+ vat

However NE Derbyshire have Community Action Grants which enables groups operating in North East Derbyshire to access up to £500 grant funding to support residents to tackle local issues in the NE District that support our [Council Plan \(.pdf | 4mb\)](#). I'm thinking that we can apply using the reason to "help address lack of exercise". The funding is open to formally constituted groups and non-constituted groups. I've spoken to the council and believe as we have a constitution and a bank account then we should be eligible. The question is what would we spend it on.

We could do 2 quarters at £190+v. So £456. Could use some for printing leaflets and flyers etc..

What else could we spend the money on? Note we can't use it for on going costs.

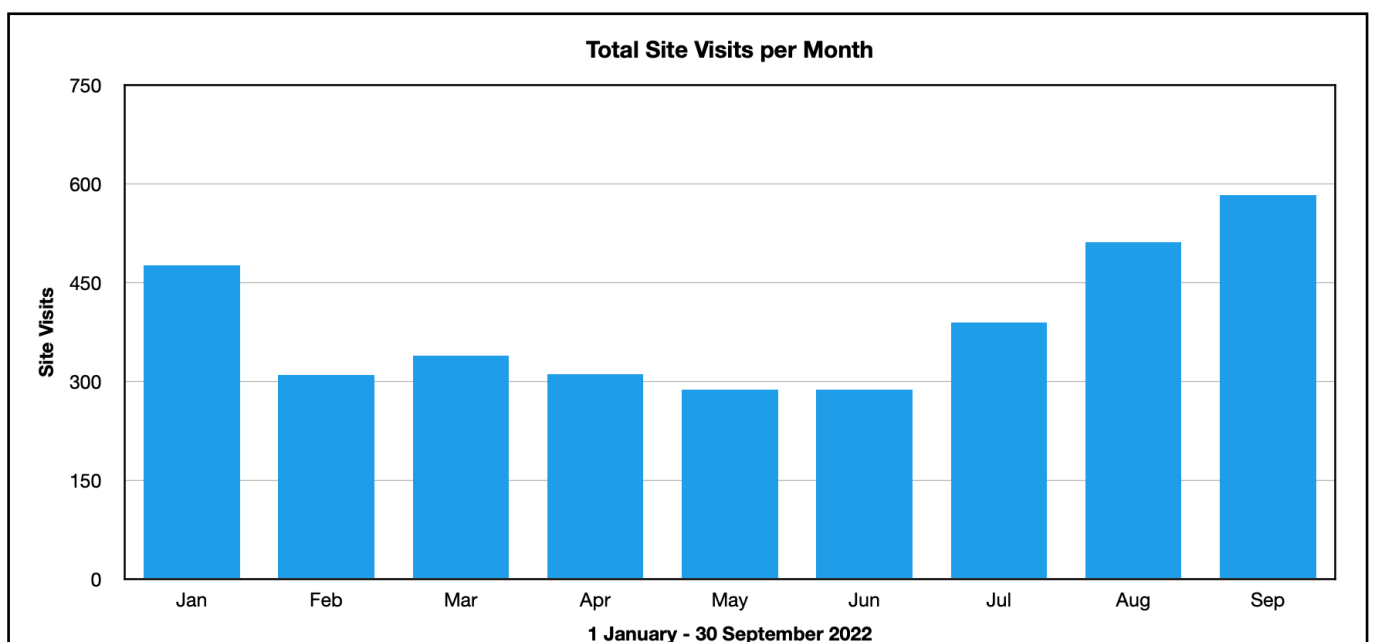
Other than that I'm off the bike for a bit now until I've had my operation.

It was suggested that once we have some leaflets then we could be publicised at the civic centre and events like park run.

7. **Website manager report (Michael)**

**Website**

The Dronfield Clarion website went live on 13 December 2021. The graph below shows the total number of site visits per month. There was a technical problem with the website in the first few months of the year that prevented it from being shown in Google search results. This was resolved in July and, since then, we have seen a gradual increase in the monthly visitors to the site.



During the year a Route Library was added to the site, based on rides previously led by club members. This includes an overview of each ride and a downloadable gpx file. This was created primarily to encourage new ride leaders as it would provide them with a “ready made route”. It also provides prospective members with information on the types of ride we have offered in the past.

Also added during the year was a Cafe Map showing cafes within the area that we can reach on a club ride. Members are invited to contact me to advise of amendments to cafe opening times, cafes that have closed or new cafes that have opened in our area.

The website should be seen as a gateway to the club, particularly for potential new members who might be doing an online search for cycle clubs in their area. It also contains information on upcoming rides and events organised by the club. All members are encouraged to contact me with ideas for any changes or additions to the website content. Photographs of members on club rides are particularly welcomed.

### **Mailchimp and Facebook Subscribers**

All upcoming rides are promoted within the club’s private Facebook group by the ride leader. When this has been done I also send a MailChimp newsletter to all subscribers. The following is a summary of subscribers to the MailChimp newsletter and members of our Facebook group as at 22 October 2022:

Mailchimp subscribers Total: 18. Of these, 16 are current Dronfield Clarion members and 2 are not. Of the 32 current Dronfield Clarion members, 16 have subscribed to the newsletter, 16 have not.

Facebook group members Total: 40. Of these, 21 are current Dronfield Clarion members and 19 are not. Of the 32 current Dronfield Clarion members, 21 are members of our Facebook group, 11 are not.

There are currently 9 Dronfield Clarion members who are not subscribed to our MailChimp newsletter nor are they members of our Facebook group, although 3 of these are partners of members who are. This means that 6 members do not receive any notification of our activities through MailChimp or Facebook.

### **8. Elections of officers**

Chair : Helen Maguire, proposed JL, seconded CT.

Secretary: Barry Raynor, proposed MS, seconded JH.

Treasurer: Gordon Senior, proposed HM, seconded NI.

Publicity officer: Jonathan Leigh, proposed HM, seconded LB.

Rides coordinator: Barry Raynor (temp), proposed JL, seconded NW.

Website manager: Michael Stainer, proposed HM, seconded AS.

Committee member: John Holford, proposed BR, seconded JL.

### **9. Social events for the autumn and winter**

MS said he would arrange a slideshow for next February of his recent camping tour around Wales with fellow Dronfield Clarion member Paul Wilson

### **10. Changes to Dronfield Clarion constitution**

Jonathan presented the following change which was accepted. Proposed BR, seconded HM.

Current:

4.14 The accounts of the Club shall be audited by two Auditors appointed each year by AGM and a report will be submitted to the AGM.

Proposed:

4.14 The accounts of the Club shall be examined by an independent examiner each year. This examiner to be appointed each year by the AGM and a report will be submitted to the AGM.

### **11. Christmas dinner 2022**

Liz and Nanette kindly agreed to look at options for Christmas dinner.

12. **AOB**

Chris invited cyclists to join a Way of the Roses trip next Spring.