

ECC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Thu 6 Nov 25

Agenda:

1. Club accounts: (GEOFF)
 - Income and expenditure for 2024-25
 - Budget for 2025-26
 - Fundraising
 - o Les Bailey Memorial Rides ?
 - o Other funding schemes / grants / opportunities
2. Christmas Social 11 Dec 25
 - Arrangements ... food ... music
 - Planning meeting on Thu 4 Dec 25?
3. Rides for December 2025 and January 2026
4. Future of ECC Website / Email enquiries to ECC
5. Information leaflets / posters (MAZ)
6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Attendance: Geoff, Bridget, Cathy C, Jeff, Maz, Paul L, Peter M, Tim

MINUTES

- Geoff reported on the club's income and expenditure for November 2024 to October 2025. Our Les Bailey Memorial rides in June raised a net total of £1026.32 of which £776.32 was donated to North London Hospice and the remaining £250 kept by ECC. This was our sole income for the year and with a net expenditure of £228.37 it left us with a surplus of £21.63.
- Budgeting for the coming year Paul said his costs will remain the same at £63 for 3 editions of the newsletter and certificates. We have already been invoiced for our website fees and these have remained the same as last year at £37.37. Our Cycling UK membership (providing club officials and ride leaders with insurance cover) renews next month but we don't yet know what the subscription will be. It has been £88 for the last two years and we budgeted for £95 to allow for any increase. We allowed for two bookings of WHSC for our Presentation Evening and Xmas Social. This is a total of budget of £235.37 and we again decided to keep back the first £250 of the money raised from the Les Bailey Memorial Rides to cover this. ECC will be 30 years old next year and we discussed linking celebrations for this to one of the two planned meetings. However, should we decide to hold a separate celebration then hiring WHSC is also covered by the £250. We also said we should keep our eyes open for other funding opportunities. However most of the grants and schemes currently available seem to be for much bigger projects and aimed at specific areas of society. The amounts available are usually much greater than ECC needs and involve very detailed applications.

- Our Christmas Social is set for Thursday 11th December and the arrangements will be the same as in previous years. Members will be invited to bring along buffet food on the night and Geoff will provide a small speaker for playing background music. If anyone would like to perform live music on the night they will be very welcome.
- The planning meeting on Thursday 4th December 2025 will be cancelled and rides for December through to early January were arranged at this meeting (see website for details). The meetings in January 2026 were also rearranged to give people a chance to recover from Christmas and New Year. The planning meeting will now be on Thursday 8th January and the social meeting on Thursday 22nd January.
- The email address currently used to contact ECC is no longer available. It was agreed that future enquires will be directed to the webmaster on our website and forwarded to Geoff to be actioned.
- We discussed the future of the ECC website at some length. The current website was set up by Peter M and he has been running and developing it for the past 12 years. Peter, very understandably and deservedly, would now like to hand over the mantle to someone else.
- Peter has been saying for a long time that he will give all the assistance he can to anyone willing to take over. However, a stumbling block to date seems to have been that maintaining the website in its current form does require some knowledge of HTML.
- Everyone present at the meeting agreed that it would be a real loss to lose the present website which as well as providing a huge wealth of information is the main pathway used for enquires to ECC about joining the club.
- If we replace the current website with something simple to set up and easier to maintain it is unlikely to provide anything like the detail we currently have and probably at a substantial cost.
- We will keep this matter under close review. In the meantime Peter said he will speak to Andrew D, who although new to the club has been heard to say that he has some knowledge of HTML. Peter will also do some investigation into the costs of setting up and running a new replacement website. Paul L said he will speak to his brother who has computer experience and has been helping him with the ECC newsletters.
- Maz presented a leaflet / poster designed by Pete Dust last year with the intention of using these in place of the handwritten ones currently displayed locally. The meeting agreed that something more professional looking like this was desirable and we discussed one or two ways of improving the Pete Dust version. Peter M said he would print out something taking these improvements into account that we could discuss at the next planning meeting.
- Tim brought up the topic of a "Coast to Coast" ride that was proposed by Watto earlier in the year. Not many at the meeting felt able to commit themselves at this point, particularly as there is already a trip away arranged for next June. Maz also said that Watto was planning to move back up North shortly.
- Paul L brought up the topic of encouraging new ride leaders. Everyone agreed that this was important and that it involved supporting potential candidates with all aspects of leading a ride including planning routes, carrying out recces and leading the ride itself.