

**Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 7 June 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom**

**Present:** Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)  
Simon Chilcott  
Vicky Chilcott  
Dave Church  
Jill Church  
Robin Lofthouse  
Bill Pike  
Martin Street (Specialist Cycles, Durham)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Marie Brown, Michael Chilcott, Simon Goodwin, Oliver Graham, Dean Grindle, Peter Oughton, Ivan Pratt and Mike Richardson.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

With the inclusion under Calendar of Events of the Forest Ride starting at 2pm on 20 June followed by a BBQ at Low Burn Lea, Hamsterley, the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2004 were approved as a correct record.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

**2.1 Insurance** It was noted confirmation on insurance had now been received from IMBA.

**2.5 Risk Assessments and Health & Safety Policy** Andy Samanjoul circulated hard copies of Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policy documents and offered to **email these to members for comment.**

**2.6 Charitable Status** Bill Pike was progressing this matter.

**2.7 Membership Forms** It was noted Specialist Cycles had agreed to give a 10% discount to Trailblazer members and Dave Church said he would amend the membership card accordingly. It was further noted the Member Registration form would be appearing on the website within the next few days.

**2.8 Great Milk Stout Ride** Vicky reported that the Ride had been very successful with 200 cyclists taking part, double the number from last year. Many riders had commented that they had greatly enjoyed the day. All riders had been invited to a Presentation Evening at the Cross Keys, Hamsterley on Thursday 1 July at 7.30pm at which David Bellamy would award prizes to those raising the most sponsorship. A follow up meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 July at Low Burn Lea, to go over matters arising from this ride and to discuss initial arrangements for next year's ride. Robin agreed to next year's ride being held on Sunday 15 May 2005.

**2.9 Forest Enterprise Agreement** It was noted advice still needed to be sought from the Local Authority solicitor on this matter.

**3. Statement of Accounts**

Dave Church presented a Statement of Accounts for May 2004. Membership funds were now being received and payment was made to Forest Enterprise for car parking permits due. It was noted £136.01 was left outstanding from the Forest Enterprise donation of £500 and it was agreed Robin purchase pruning tools to this amount.

**4. Phase I Funding**

Vicky Chilcott gave a verbal report on the meeting between Trailblazers, One North East, Forest Enterprise and Teesdale Council officers on 25 May 2004. It was noted that in order to meet a 04/05 completion timescale, Forest Enterprise had agreed to include Design Work costs for Phase I in their own One North East funding bid for the Forest Feasibility Study. (Due for completion in August 2004.) It was also noted that the European Funding part of

Phase I was now unlikely because of cut backs in funding allocation. One North East had indicated it might be possible to increase the current funding bid and Ollie Graham and Bill Pike were looking at alternative match funding sources. Vicky said a meeting between Trailblazers and Kevin Kaley, the consultant carrying out the Forest Feasibility study, would be organised as soon as possible.

#### **5. Other Funding**

Bill Pike outlined proposals for increasing funding sources and for raising match funding. A number of funding bids had already been submitted and their outcome was awaited. In addition records needed to be maintained of all voluntary time spent on Trailblazers work as these hours could be counted for match funding purposes. Records were also needed of donations received such as postage, photocopying, website maintenance etc. Bill asked for further details on the Family route for inclusion in funding bids and it was agreed Robin, Andy and Vicky email this to him.

#### **6. Publicity**

Jill Church offered to act as Publicity Officer for Trailblazers. Bill Pike said he would email Jill with a Press List and it was agreed to produce a Press Release on Trailblazer work as soon as possible. Members were asked to send suggestions for press releases to Jill. It was also agreed to send details of Trailblazer rides and events to the Darlington & Stockton Times for inclusion in their 'What's On' section. Similar columns were also found in the Teesdale Mercury and the Weardale Gazette and it was noted local radio stations also ran a 'What's On' feature.

#### **7. Website**

The Website Gallery had recently been updated with pictures from Aviemore, Bearpark and the Great Milk Stout Ride, but Dean was still waiting for members to send in promised articles on cycling. A request was made for suggestions on picture captions.

#### **8. Calendar of Events**

<b>Sunday 13 June 2004</b>	10am – 12 noon – Bike workshop with Iron Horse, Hamsterley Forest. 1pm – 4pm Ride With a Guide (Advanced) Hamsterley Forest
<b>Tuesday 15 June 2004</b>	Meeting 6pm, Jersey Farm on new C2C route through Hamsterley
<b>Sunday 20 June 2004</b>	2pm Forest Ride starting at Visitor Centre followed by evening BBQ and Skills Session at Low Burn Lea, Hamsterley
<b>26 and 27 June 2004</b>	C2C challenge – Dave Church and Ian Robson invite people to join them cycling 140 miles in 2 days
<b>Sunday 27 June 2004</b>	Cross country ride (hard) – 40 km from Romaldkirk Details from Simon Goodwin email <a href="mailto:simon@gritmtb.co.uk">simon@gritmtb.co.uk</a> .
<b>Thursday 1 July 2004</b>	Great Milk Stout Ride Presentation Evening with David Bellamy, Cross Keys, Hamsterley starting 7.30pm.
<b>Monday 5 July 2004</b>	6.30pm – monthly Trailblazer meeting, Forest Classroom
<b>Tuesday 6 July 2004</b>	Great Milk Stout Ride Follow Up Meeting, 7.30pm, Low Burn Lea, Hamsterley
<b>Sunday 11 July 2004</b>	Trailbuilding, Hamsterley Forest – meet 9.30am Visitor Centre

- 16, 17, 18 July 2004** Trailblazer weekend away to Glentress, Scotland. Contact Andy Samanjoul for further details.
- Sunday 25 July 2004** 10am - 23 mile ride from Hamsterley Forest across to Bollihope and return through Doctor's Gate. Picnic at Bollihope. Good opportunity to practise mtb skills at Bollihope Quarry.
- Monday 2 August 2004** 6.30pm monthly Trailblazer meeting, Forest Classroom
- Sun 12 September 2004** Ripon Motor Club – rally through Forest. Members asked to help with marshalling in return for donation to Trailblazers.

**8. Summer Holiday Cycling**

A request had been received from Teesdale Council to assist with a children's mountain biking session in Hamsterley Forest and it was agreed Andy Samanjoul contact the Council for further details.

**9. T Shirts**

It was agreed Andy Samanjoul action purchase of Trailblazer T shirts as soon as possible.

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting** It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 5 July 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.