

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 3 April 2006 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.

Present: A Samanjoul (in the chair)
M Brown
S Carson
V Chilcott
M Clark
P Cook
C Goldsworthy
K Graham
O Graham
A Gray
P Laing
V Lloyd
R Lofthouse
A Maclennon
C Murley
J Barron
A Scott
M Stout
S
B Pike
P Watson
J Wearmouth

Apologies for absence were received from: Jamie Butcher, Neil and Kath Gander, Dean Grindle, Gerry Hehir, Mick Richardson, Ian and Yvonne Robson, and Chris Wright.

1. Welcome Andy Samanjoul welcomed everyone to Trailblazers second Annual General Meeting.

2. Annual Report Andy, Ollie and Vicky gave a Powerpoint Presentation outlining achievements over the last 12 months:

- Building and opening new Skills Loop and Grove Link Family Trail after successfully fundraising nearly £300,000. The Launch event on 31 October 2005 received excellent TV, press and radio coverage and the trails are proving extremely popular with increased numbers of cyclists using them.
- Numerous volunteer trailbuilding sessions regularly held to help complete new trails and repair existing ones.
- Successfully apprehending and stopping cycle trail vandal.
- Organising 3rd Co Durham Great Milk Stout Ride on 15 May 2005. This annual charity cycle ride has now raised some £12,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.
- Summer mountain bike Skills Session for children in August 2005.
- Attendance at the Teesdale Family Fun Day on 21 May 2005

- Parish Paths funding to repair boggy section of the Red Route on the Eggleston Moor/Forest link section
- Charitable status achieved in May 2005.
- Child Protection Policy developed and adopted.
- Trailblazer input to Neil Gander's cycle guide, 'Beyond Hamsterley' including fundraising and trail testing.
- Marshalling at Ripon Motor Club rally on 13 November 2005 which raised £600 for club funds.
- Test riding of new Co Durham cycle route, 'Bike Bowes.'
- Regular rides, outings and events such as weekend trips to Glentress, away-day cycle rides and local rides around Hamsterley, including night rides etc
- Regular social evenings at Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley.
- Website development, particularly Discussion Forum and links with other organisations, including those offering discounts to members.

Particular thanks went to all the funding and other organisations who had helped to raise the profile of Hamsterley and who had made building the Skills Loop and Grove Link Family Trail possible. These were: Teesdale District Council, Teesdale Marketing Ltd, Forestry Commission, Groundwork West Durham, CDENT, ONE, Leader Plus, Living Spaces, Barclays Bank, Wear Valley District Council and the Co-Op.

3. Future Plans

- The focus for the next 12 months was to continue raising the profile of Trailblazers through regular rides, trailbuilding sessions, training sessions, various events and socials.
- Trailblazers were helping organise the 4th Co Durham Great Milk Stout Ride on Sunday 17 September 2006.
- Trailblazers was actively involved in fundraising and planning (with Teesdale District Council, Teesdale Marketing and Forestry Commission) Phase 2 of the cycle trail development – in particular new Red and Black Routes. An Economic Impact Study into Phase 2 had recently been completed that estimated such a development could bring £1 million into the local economy.
- Trailblazers also welcomed liaison with the new MTB Hire Centre at Hamsterley, WoodNWheels, and wished them every success.

4. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of 2004/05 Accounts Bill Pike presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 2004/05. It was noted membership was due for renewal from April 2006 and forms were available for download from the website. Vicky Chilcott proposed the accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Ollie Graham and AGREED by members.

4. Election of Officers

The following appointments were made:

- **Chair** – Andy Samanjoul (Proposed by Bill Pike, seconded by Ollie Graham and AGREED by members)
- **Vice Chair** – Oliver Graham (Proposed by Vicky Chilcott, seconded by Andy Samanjoul and AGREED by members)
- **Secretary** – Vicky Chilcott (Proposed by Andy Samanjoul, seconded by Marie Brown and AGREED by members)
- **Treasurer** – Bill Pike (Proposed by Andy Samanjoul seconded by Ollie Graham and AGREED by members)
- **Assistant Treasurer** – to leave vacant for present

7. Election of Committee Members The following members were elected to the Committee: Marie Brown, Jamie Butcher, Mat Clark, Craig Cummins, Neil Gander, Kath Gander, Chris Goldsworth, Ashley Scott, Peter Watson.

8. Discussion The meeting was open to discussion during which attention was drawn in particular to trail signposting and provision for young cyclists.

9. Close of meeting Andy Samanjoul thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.