

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5 November 2007 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Trustees Present: Andy Samanjoul (Chairman)
Ollie Graham (Vice Chairman)
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)

Members Present:

Robert Bell
Jamie Butcher
Mat Clark
Gary Ewing
Andrew Frankcom
Kath Gander

In attendance: Alex Maclennan (FC)
Neil Taylor (FC)

Apologies for Absence were received from Marie Brown, Ash Scott, Martin Stout

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2007 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Buzz** The next edition would be in December and Vicky said she would send a GMSR article to Neil for inclusion.
- **ONE Cycle Website** Vicky said she was still waiting a response on information submitted about Hamsterley. Alex offered to contact Caroline Adams.
- **Parking – Hamsterley 2008** Alex said FC would give free parking permits to Trailblazer members taking part in 4 trailbuilding sessions per year (16 hours) or the equivalent in other volunteer support work eg marshalling, helping at events, trail checking, committee or website work etc.
- **GMSR** Some 150 cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders had taken part in the 5th GMSR on 30 September 2007 and it was hoped that some £5000 had been raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. (All sponsorship money was requested to be sent to Ollie Graham by 30 November 2007.) Alex congratulated Trailblazers on a very successful event. Plans were now being made for the 6th GMSR on 7 September 2008.

3. Statement of Accounts Deferred

4. Cycle Trail Development Alex said the funding situation had tightened and it was now more than ever necessary to prioritise cycle trail development. It was AGREED priority should still be given to a new Red Trail, splitting it into sections as previously detailed. It was still hoped funding would be available to start work in 2007/08 but that the majority of work would probably now take place in 2008/09. It was noted that the funding bid to Northern Rock had

been deferred along with the majority of other funding bids following current difficulties faced by Northern Rock.

5. Volunteer Trailbuilding Mat reported that some 400 metres of new cycle trail had been created by volunteers in 2006/07 at a cost of £4,000 and that he hoped arrangements could be put in place to continue work as soon as possible. After discussion with Alex It was AGREED to put plans together for a new programme of work starting January 2008. It was also AGREED to hold regular monthly trailbuilding sessions, on the 3rd Saturday of each month, meeting at 10am outside WoodNWheels.

7. Publicity It was noted Hamsterley (and Ollie) had again been featured in December's 'What Mountainbike' magazine.

8. Coaching Sessions Two beginner and two intermediated female coaching sessions led by Ollie Graham had been held in September and October 2007. All sessions had been extremely well attended and feedback was very good. Requests were now being received for male coaching sessions and it was AGREED to organise these for 2008 plus further female coaching sessions. Members thanked Ollie for all his work in taking the sessions.

9. Other Training Gary Ewing said he hoped to obtain his trail cycle leadership qualification in December. Discussion took place on the possibility of asking Nigel Page to come to Hamsterley in 2008 for a tuition session and it was AGREED to investigate this further. The possibility of producing cartoon or other written/visual mtb training sheets was also discussed.

10. Halloween Event Trailblazer members had helped guide and marshal the very popular FC Halloween event in the Forest on 28 October 2007.

11. Glentress Weekend Approximately 20 members had spent a most enjoyable weekend away at Glentress between 26 and 28 October 2007.

12. Trailquest An email had been received from NEMBOS concerning the possibility of Trailblazers helping at a 2008 Trailquest event in Hamsterley. It was AGREED to ask for more information on the proposals.

8. Calendar of Events 2007/08 events were discussed and agreed (attached.)

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was AGREED the next meeting be an informal one at the Cross Keys, Hamsterley on Monday 3 December from 7pm. The next formal meeting would be held on Monday 7 January 2008 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.

