

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 7 January 2008 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

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

Members Present: Marie Brown
Mat Clark
Gary Ewing
Neil Gander
Chris Goldsworthy
Peter Watson

In attendance: Neil Taylor (FC)
Martin Stout (WoodNWheels)

Apologies for Absence were received from Kath Gander and Alex Maclennan

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2007 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Trail Cycle Leader** – Members congratulated Gary Ewing on obtaining his Trail Cycle Leadership qualification in December 2007.

3. Statement of Accounts The Statement of Accounts to December 2007 was received. Bill reported Trailblazers had 140 main members as at the end of December 2007 (plus family members.)

4. Parking Permits Neil said that FC had now agreed to allow Trailblazer members a £5 discount on the Annual Forest Parking charge of £35 on production of a 08/09 membership card. Neil said he would send Ollie free parking permits for distribution to members who had earned them.

5. Email Vicky reported increasing problems getting emails through to members with BT and Yahoo email addresses as these servers put non BT or Yahoo originating emails into a queue. Sometimes email delivery was delayed up to 72 hours or the emails were returned as undeliverable. Craig had set up a Trailblazer's email account from the website and Vicky was going to see if using this was any more effective. This facility should also allow for address sharing amongst committee members eg for trailbuilding information.

6. Trailbuilding Matt had put together a new trailbuilding programme starting Saturday 19 January 2008. The first 400m of 'Brain Freeze' on the Red Route had been pegged out (the section preceding that done in 2007.) Trailbuilding sessions would be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month (Ollie and Mat) plus occasional Sundays if Neil could support these. Ollie said he had a meeting with Sands Aggregates shortly to discuss a stone contribution.

6. Seesaw It was noted the seesaw needed a new bearing and Andy offered to sort this out.

7. Black Route Discussion took place on the poor quality of parts of the Black Route, especially as it was evident funding would not be available for a new route for sometime. Areas of particular concern were the wall descent and wall climb and it was agreed to see if something could be done this year on these sections.

8. Specialized Demo Day – 29 March 2008 Trailblazers had been offered £500 for helping mark out the course and marshal for this event. It was felt a shift system might work best, allowing people chance to also try out the demo bikes. Andy, Marie, Ollie, Matt, Neil, Kathryn, Gary and Chris said they might be available and it was agreed to email other members over this.

9. Blackton Grange, Balderdale Reservoir Blackton Grange (who had taken over the old youth hostel at Balderdale Reservoir to run as an activity centre) had asked if they could hire the cycle trailer and this was agreed. They had also suggested linking with Trailblazers and offering accommodation at weekends to cycle groups. It was agreed to explore this further.

10. Trailquest Andy was liaising with NEMBOS over this event which was likely to be held in early September.

11. AGM It was agreed to book the Village Hall for the AGM on 7 April. Ollie offered to show the film of the 2007 children's C2C ride at the AGM.

12. Lands End to John O'Groats Bill said he was supporting 7 youngsters cycling the Lands End to John O'Groats ride in August 2008 and was looking for information on the ride. Vicky offered to put him in touch with Tom Pailor from Hartlepool who had cycled it last year.

13. Mountain Bike Coaching It was agreed to email members for expressions of interest in asking Nigel Page to come to Hamsterley for a coaching day. Andy agreed to ask Nigel if he would be interested in coming at the end of the season.

14. Calendar of Events Mat said he had booked an 8 bed log cabin at Dalbeatie for 23 – 25 February to use as a base for a cycling trip and asked if anyone else was interested.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was AGREED the next meeting be an informal one at the Cross Keys, Hamsterley on Monday 4 February from 7pm. The next formal meeting would be held on Monday 3 March 2008 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.

