

## **Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 3 March 2008 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom**

**Trustees Present:** Andy Samanjoul (Chairman)  
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)

**Members Present:** Marie Brown  
Mat Clark  
Gary Ewing  
Kath Gander  
Neil Gander  
Mark Knighton

**In attendance:** Neil Taylor (FC)

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Ollie Graham and Alex Maclennan

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- **Trailbuilding** – Change 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence to read ‘ The first 400m preceding ‘Brain Freeze...’
- **Fundraising** – add as new item, ‘Discussion took place on alternative methods of fundraising, including Trailblazers raising money for new trails through loan(s) and it was AGREED to discuss further with Alex.’

### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- **Parking Permits** – Neil said it had now been agreed by FC to charge Trailblazer members £27 instead of the £30 previously advised. (Normal cost £35.)
- **See-saw** – still not fixed and in need of new housing. Andy would look at it but was uncertain if he could remove it himself.
- **Blackton Grange** - had hired bike trailer. Unfortunately it had been slightly damaged but they had met repair costs.
- **Trailquest** – Ollie and Andy were liaising with NEMBOS over two possible dates.
- **Lands End to John O’Groats** – Vicky had put Bill Pike in touch with Tom Pailor.
- **Mountain Bike Coaching – Nigel Page** - Outstanding
- **Dalbeattie** – Mat said this had been excellent weekend and they had ridden some really good trails.

### **3. Statement of Accounts** Deferred.

**4. Coaching Sessions** A very well attended first Male Beginner Coaching Session had been held on 24 February, with a second session due to be held on 16 March. Intermediate male coaching sessions were scheduled for the end March and early April, with female beginner and intermediate sessions later on in the year. Ollie Graham was leading the sessions helped by Andy, Jamie and Marie.

**5. AGM** Vicky had spoken with Bill to agree the Agenda. It was AGREED to write to members in advance asking for committee nominations and also to request name suggestions for the new trail section. To ensure all members received AGM papers it was AGREED to post as well as email them and put a notice on the website.

**6. Trailbuilding** Mat reported on latest trailbuilding activity in which some 100 metres of trail had been cut out by machine, ready for the base layer. A power wheel barrow had been hired to move material.

**7. Black Route** Maintenance work on parts of the Black Route had been identified and a meeting with FC was being arranged to discuss the format for carrying out the work.

**8. Trail Inspections** It was noted a squad of people was needed to carry out formal trail inspections during the year and it was AGREED to examine this further.

**9. Specialized Demo Day – 29 March 2008** A number of members had volunteered to help at this event and Andy was meeting Pat Adams on 16 March to finalise details. It was noted a Fell Run was being held on the same day but as it was at the Grove, Neil did not envisage any conflict.

**10. Dog Fouling** Attention was drawn to dog fouling within the Forest and Neil said this was difficult to control as from experience, litter bins attracted too many animals and the policy at the moment was not to provide bins.

**14. Calendar of Events** Discussion took place on organising a Bike Jumble after a ride or trailbuilding. It was AGREED to ask WoodNWheels if they would like to be involved. Possible dates were:

Saturday 21 June (1<sup>st</sup> choice)

Sunday 11 May (2<sup>nd</sup> choice)

Sunday 8 June (3<sup>rd</sup> choice)

A long weekend at Glentress was planned for the Spring Bank Holiday (23 – 26 May.)

**15. Date and Time of Next Meeting** The next meeting would be the AGM on Monday 7 April at 6.30pm in Hamsterley Village Hall.