

## **Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 7 December 2009 at 6.30pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley**

**Trustees Present:** Andy Samanjoul (in the Chair)  
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)  
Bill Pike (Treasurer)

**Members Present:** Marie Brown  
Mat Clark  
Gary Ewing  
Neil Gander  
Chris Goldsworthy  
Lisa Jobling  
David Nicholson

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

**Apologies for absence** were received from Olly Graham, Kath Gander, Alison Park, Simon Rhodes and Alex MacLennan.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2009 were approved as a correct record.

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

- **See Saw** - Still outstanding
- **Cycle Clothing** – Still outstanding
- **Trailblazer Mugs** - Remainder of order and invoice received. AGREED – advertise on Website and ask Martin if he would sell from shop. (Action: Vicky)
- **GMSR** – Noted approximately £1500 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support
- **Pie & Peas Supper** – Kath and Neil Gander gave a most enjoyable film show on their tandem ride. The evening raised a profit for Trailblazer funds.
- **Member Survey** – AGREED to re-circulate to members (Action: Vicky.)
- **Use of FC machinery** – Neil advised it was not possible for non-FC staff to use this because of health and safety working procedures, but efforts would be made to make available FC staff to work along volunteers whenever possible.
- **Complaints** – Bill Pike reported he had concluded his investigation into this matter and had written to the person concerned accordingly with his findings.

**3. Statement of Accounts and Membership** The Statement of Accounts to the end of September 2009 was received and discussed together with club membership details for the same period. Noted: needed to raise funds before committing to any new expenditure.

**4. Trailbuilding and Signage** Mat reported on trailbuilding progress and it was noted that Section 7 should be finished by the end of March, although it was likely volunteers would be needed to complete it. Volunteers were currently finishing off Potato Hill and other areas. Mat had suggested re-signing the Red Route to ride the opposite way round, to take best advantage of the new sections and this was being considered. It was noted complaints had been received regarding the lack of adequate signage, especially on new sections and Neil said some signage would be up by the end of January latest. Lisa asked that consideration also be given to signing Escape routes back to the Information Centre, as was done at Glentress.

**5. 2010 Calendar of Events** Detailed discussion took place on events for 2010 and it was AGREED the following events be further explored:

- **New Year's Club Ride** – January 10. Action: Mat (to include pub lunch)
- **British Cycling Assistant Commissionaire's Course** – 1 day course, February, Redworth Hall – AGREED invite any member interested to put forward name (approx 10 places available.) Action: Vicky and Dave Nicholson
- **Club BBQ and Duck Race** – April? Action: Mat, Olly and Lisa
- **AGM** – April – date to avoid Easter. Action: Vicky
- **Dalby World Cup** – 24 – 25 April. Action: Marie
- **Kielder** – mountain biking/watersports weekend (Action: Lisa)
- **Coast and Castles Ride** – Action: Lisa and Simon Rhodes
- **Bowes Show Ride** – Saturday 11 September – Action: Neil Gander to contact Graham Gill to ride route
- **XC/Downhill Camping Weekend** – Sept 24 – 26. Action: Dave Nicholson
- **Dales Mountain Bike Weekend, Reeth** – 6-7 November. Action: Marie

**6. IROC** Discussion took place on the request for club publicity to be given to the IROC Adventure Race at Eastgate over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. (MTB races, night time trial and 6 hour Enduro.) It was noted that normally Trailblazers would only promote for free charity events but it was AGREED that if IROC would either give an entry discount to Trailblazer members or publicise Dave Nicholson's XC/Downhill Camping Weekend, we would support and promote IROC. Action: Vicky

**7. On-line Member Survey** The link to this survey had been circulated to members with the agenda papers for the December meeting. It was thought, however, that many members had not seen the link and it was AGREED to re-circulate it. ACTION: Vicky

**8. Club Functions** A paper was received from Bill proposing that committee work be delegated to Club Sections (eg Trailbuilding, Forum, Training, Club Ride, Events) each Section having a co-ordinator and working group that could operate with some autonomy and that would report back to the full Committee. This would have the advantage of spreading the workload amongst more members and allow work to be carried out in a more informal manner, but still under the authority of the committee (who could then meet less often formally eg 3 or 4 times a year.) Discussion took place on the proposal and it was AGREED initially for 2010:

- An Events Section be formed under the responsibility of Dave Nicholson and Lisa Jobling
- A Trailbuilding Section be formed under the responsibility of Olly Graham and Mat Clark.
- Further Sections be considered in due course.
- It was further AGREED Sections send budgetry and timing information to Bill together with any information on 'fit for purpose'/equipment/training needs etc.

**9. Web Forum – Terms and Conditions of Use** New Terms and Conditions of Use (previously circulated) for the Web Forum were considered and it was AGREED these be adopted with immediate effect. Action: Vicky to circulate to all members; Craig to publish on website; Forum Moderators to implement.

**10. Coaching and Leader Training** It was noted British Cycling were definite that the new mtb training course would be out at the end of March 2010. It was also noted British Cycling were receiving £1.4 million to spend nationally on cycling and that Hamsterley stood a good chance of successfully bidding for some of this funding. In these circumstances it was AGREED to postpone discussion on coaching and leader training until March 2010 when the British Cycling course could be examined and more details on funding were known.

**11. Bike Trailer** Mat queried whether it was possible to look at changing the present large bike trailer for a smaller, more versatile one that could be towed by anyone and that could also carry trailbuilding equipment. Concern was expressed that the second hand value of the existing trailer would be very little compared to the cost of a suitable replacement. It was also noted that whilst not as much use had been made of the existing trailer as had been hoped, club trips such as the 2009 Coast and Castles would not have been possible without it. It was AGREED **Mat investigate** the matter further and establish 'cost to convert' and other options.

**12. Fundraising** It was hoped the XC/Downhill Weekend and the Duck Race would help in fundraising. Members were invited to make other suggestions.

**13. Cycling Opportunity Group** Neil Gander reported that Durham County Council had agreed Hamsterley should be a cycling priority area. This could mean access to funding for training/open skill days etc. More information was awaited.

**Action: Neil Gander.**

**14. Forest Passes** Neil Taylor said the 2009 passes were valid until the end of March 2010. Trailblazer members could buy a new 'Discovery' pass for £35 instead of £38. Members entitled to receive a free pass would need to fill in a Discovery Pass Form and take it to the Information Centre for issue of pass.

**15. December Club Ride Leader** It was noted a ride leader was needed for the December meeting. **Action: Dave Nicholson**

**15. Date and Time of Next Meeting** The next informal meeting would be held on Monday 4 January 2010 at 6.30pm, Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley.