

**Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 1 February 2010 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.**

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

**Members Present:** Marie Brown  
Mat Clark  
J Dods  
Gary Ewing  
Chris Goldsworthy  
Neil Gander  
Lisa Jobling  
Dave Nicholson  
Martin Stout

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

**Apologies for absence** were received from Andy Samanjoul and Alex MacLennan.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009 were approved as a correct record.

**2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- **Commissionaire's Course:** Noted Gary Ewing, Dave Nicholson, and Martin Stout would attend

**3. Statement of Accounts and Membership** The Statement of Accounts to the end of January 2010 was received together with club membership details for the same period.

**4. Bill Pike, Treasurer** Bill said that for personal reasons he was not able to stand as Treasurer after the 2010 AGM. Neil Gander, seconded by Vicky Chilcott and echoed by all present, proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of all members to Bill for all his work as Treasurer since Trailblazers was established in 2003.

**5. 2010 AGM** It was AGREED to email members seeking Trustee and Member nominations. It was also AGREED to seek suggestions for entertainment following the formal part of the meeting.

**6. Trailbuilding** Mat reported that owing to the severe winter weather, no progress had been possible on Section 7 since December. Neil Taylor said temporary laminated signs had been put up on Section 13. Olly asked for more FC warning signs and Neil said he would ask Alex for these. It was noted organisers of the Nutcracker XC Series being held at Aske, Richmond had expressed an interest in trail construction and Dave Nicholson offered to obtain more information. Neil Gander said he would check on Gpx files for the new trails.

## 7. Calendar of Events

- **Durham Outdoor and Active Week 2-11 April:** Martin said he was offering free bike hire for one day and bike sessions each day of this week. Vicky said Trailblazers were holding first of the Female Evening Bike rides and the monthly club ride.
- **Club Ride Leaders:** Mat offered to lead the June ride, Dave Nicholson the August ride and Olly the December ride.
- **Dalby World Cup:** Whilst it was felt a Trailblazer stand at this event would be very beneficial, the cost was expensive and beyond current available funding.
- **Car Rally – 9 May:** Neil Taylor said there was a possibility a car rally would be held in the Forest on 9 May. As this coincided with a club monthly ride, it was AGREED this might need to be a ride-away event. Neil said he would forward information as soon as he had further details.
- **Duck Race & BBQ :** AGREED this club funding event be held on Saturday 15 May after Trailbuilding at 1pm with the ducks being thrown in off Pooh Stick Bridge. Gary Ewing offered to produce posters. It was AGREED prizes should be – 1st £200; 2<sup>nd</sup> £100; 3<sup>rd</sup> £50. 1500 ducks were available for sale and it was AGREED they be sold at £1 each. A license (£40) was needed and the ducks cost £50 making total costs of £440 with a potential maximum income of £1500 if all ducks were sold. It was AGREED a BBQ be held afterwards at 1.30pm outside WoodNWheels and Martin offered the use of his BBQ. Members offering to help organise the event were Olly, Mat, Gary, Lisa and Vicky and it was AGREED to email all members asking them to help sell tickets.
- **Coast and Castles – 29, 30 & 31 May** Lisa was organising this bike ride from Newcastle to Edinburgh. Olly agreed to provide back up vehicle support.
- **First 1-2-1 Series, Hamsterley** Dave Nicholson outlined details for this event on 24 & 25 September 2010. It was noted 100 riders would need to register to ensure the event broke even. Dave and Mat were preparing a press release on the event that could be sent to MBR and FC's press officer, Richard Darn.

## 8. Online Member Survey

Mat presented the results of the Online Member Survey to date. 80% of respondents were male and the average age was about 40 years. Half had families. The majority of respondents favoured single track trails of red grade standard – response to fire roads was neutral. 81% felt the mix of club activities was about right and were happy with the volunteer trailbuilding arrangements. 12.5% felt a charge should be made for training whilst 62% felt free training was great. 37% wanted to see additional training, particularly for maintaining skills and for children. Response to ideas for other events was low although people did want to see more trips away and campouts.

**9. Bike Trailer** Mat said he had looked at the possibility of converting the existing bike trailer for trailbuilding but did not feel this was possible. Olly said he had a trailer that might be suitable for conversion and Dave said he would look at this. Marie reported the possibility of obtaining another suitable bike trailer for £100 and it was AGREED this be pursued with money being collected on the night to help fund it.

**10. Harvesting** Neil Taylor said harvesting work would take place near the entrance to the Skills Loop at Easter and during the summer.

**11. Coaching** Martin said Purple Mountain Bike at Kielder charged £30 per session for children's coaching and £69 per day for adults. Olly said that if Martin did the organisation and marketing, he would offer his services as coach for free providing Trailblazer members could attend for a substantial discount. Martin said two of his contacts had experience of coaching and would like to work with Olly initially. Martin said he would put together some suggested dates for future coaching sessions.

**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting** Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 19 April at 6.30pm in Hamsterley Village Hall.