

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 19 April 2010 at 6.30pm in Hamsterley Village Hall.

PRESENT

Trustees

Ollie Graham (Vice Chair)
Bill Pike (Treasurer)

Others

Alex MacLennan (forestry Commission)
Neil Taylor (forestry Commission)

Committee Members

Chris Goldsworthy
Gary Ewing
Jamie Butcher
Lisa Jobling
Marie Brown
Mat Clark
Kathryn Gander
Andrew Firth
Dave Nicholson

Members

Ash Scott
James Dodds
Fiona Ewing
Andy Jobling
Kaye Graham

1. Welcome

Oliver Graham welcomed everyone to Trailblazers Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Sarah Bridge, Vicky, Michael, James and Simon Chilcott, Duncan Colclough, Neil Gander, Shane Harris, Alan Hazlett, Shaun Hodgson, Alan Jackson, Simon James, Julie Morrison, Alison Park, Cathy Rice, Martin and Sharon Rowland, Peter Watson.

3. Annual Report

Olly, Bill and Mat gave a Powerpoint Presentation outlining Trailblazer achievements over the last 12 months:

- **Fantastic News!** Two new sections of trail are now nearly ready:- Section 13 is complete and the new descent from the radio mast will be complete by the end of the month .
- **Volunteer trailbuilding** – Trailbuilding sessions continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month, with all members being encouraged to attend. This year has seen the creation of a new technical climb at Potato Hill – Route 66 has a mixture of North Shore and stone features to keep riders on their toes.

- **Coaching and Training** – Beginner Female Coaching Sessions were held during 2009 led by Olly Graham and assisted by Dave Church and Jamie Butcher.
- **7th GMSR** – September 09 saw us holding another successful Great Milk Stout Ride for Macmillan Cancer Support – over 60 riders and walkers took part to raise nearly £1500 for Macmillan.
- **Female Evening Club Rides** – were held once a fortnight from Easter to September 09 and were starting again on Tuesday 7th April (6.30pm – 8pm.) The rides would run through fortnightly until September 10.
- **Wednesday Night Club Rides** – continued to be held, courtesy of Mat and Gary.
- **Club BBQ, Group Ride and Camp Out Weekend** – took place in June 09.
- **Monthly Sunday Club Rides** – continued to be held and were planned for 2010.
- **Social Meetings** – were held bi-monthly in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley
- **Formal Meetings** – were held bi-monthly in the Cross Keys Pub.
- **Trailblazer members** – had again been doing their bit for biking with Mike McTimoney completing the Kielder 100 on a Single Speed. Neil and Kath Gander complete their 7000 kilometre tandem ride from North Cape Norway to Malta.
- **Trailblazer visits** – had been organised to France, Spain, Wales and Scotland (particularly Glentress.)
- **Trailblazers have been promoted** – at various events including a full page article in the Sunday Telegraph.

3.Member Benefits

- Help design and build England's best mtb trails
- Reduced annual parking permit at hamsterley (£35 instead of £38) or free annual permit for 4 trailbuilding sessions per annum or other voluntary help.
- Membership of an on-line discussion forum.
- Fully maintained website containing a wealth of biking information
- Discount on holidays, skills courses, weekend breaks, instructor courses, cycle shops and food at Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley
- Opportunity to be part of a social group of like-minded riders on organised rides and social activities.

4.Future Plans

- Build the Red Route! Trailbuilding every 3rd Saturday 10am
- Club Rides every 2nd Sunday 10.30am start
- Coast and Castle Club Ride – 29 to 31 May 2010
- Female Evening Bike Rides from Tuesday 6th April at 6.30pm and fortnightly until September 10.
- The Great Hamsterely Duck Race and BBQ 15th May 2010
- Club BBQ, Group Ride and Camp Out – Saturday 20 June to Sunday 21 June 10.
- 1 2 1 Race Weekend, Camp Out and BBQ 24 – 26 September entries @ <http://www.activeglobal.com/uk/cycling/bishop-auckland-uk-england/1-2-1-race-series-2010>
- Dales Bike Weekend 6th and 7th November 2010
- Secure Funding to pay for more trails with possible bids to Leader +, Community Spaces and Awards for All
- Develop Go ride cycling club and train volunteers in cycle coaching
- We will continue to promote responsible cycling by working with other organisations to enable everyone to enjoy the forest.
- We will continue to develop our volunteer coaches and group leaders.
- We will look to secure more funding to develop more trails.
- We will look to secure funding to develop coaching and training as part of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Particular thanks went to all the funding and other organisations with whom we had worked during the past year and who had continued to help raise the profile of Hamsterley including Groundwork, CDENT, County Durham Council, Durham Primary Care Trust, Forestry Commission, Co Durham Tourism Partnership, ONE, WoodNWheels, Cross Keys Pub, Cummins, Pete Laing Cycle Trail Designer, Craig Cummings (Rifty) Web Meister, Radius Pipe Line Systems and A D Engineering.

5. Annual Accounts 2009/10 and Independent Examiners Report

Bill Pike presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 2009/10. It was noted membership numbers had continued to grow. Mat Clark proposed the accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Chris Goldsworthy and AGREED by members.

6. Bill Pike, Treasurer – Vote of Thanks

It was noted with regret that for personal reason, Bill Pike was standing down as Treasurer. A vote of thanks was made to Bill for all his work with Trailblazers since its formation in 2003. Bill has agreed to stay on in an honorary advisory capacity to Trailblazers, particularly in relation to legal and charity matters.

6. Election of Officers

The following appointments were made:

- **Chair** – Andy Samanjoul (proposed by Mat Clark and seconded by Chris Goldsworthy)
- **Vice Chair** – Olly Graham (proposed by Mat Clark and seconded by Bill Pike.)
- **Secretary** – Vicky Chilcott (proposed by Bill Pike and seconded by Olly Graham)
- **Treasurer** – Mat Clark (proposed by Oliver Graham and seconded by David Nicholson)
- **Assistant Treasurer** – Gary Ewing (proposed by Oliver Graham and seconded by Mat Clark.)
- **Honorary Advisor** – Bill Pike (proposed by Oliver Graham and seconded by Mat Clark.)

7. Election of Committee Members

The following members were elected to the Committee: Marie Brown, Jamie Butcher, Chris Goldsworth, Neil Gander, Kath Gander, Lisa Jobling, David Nicholson, James Dodds. Craig Cummings was nominated Web Master, assisted by Chris Briers and Mike MacTimney.

8. Bill Pike – Epic adventure

Bill gave an amusing talk and film on his epic trip to the Himalayas that saw him cycling up 5,000 meter plus mountains and meeting the Dalai Lama!!

9. Close of Meeting

Oliver Graham thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.