

## **Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 6th June 2011 at 6.30pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley**

**Trustees Present:** Neil Gander (Chairman)  
Olly Graham (Vice Chairman)  
Emma Johnston (Treasurer)  
Mat Clark (Vice Treasurer)

**Members Present:** Kathryn Gander  
Rob Myers  
Jamily Halcyon  
Martin Stout  
Andrew Walker  
Davinia Walker

**In attendance:** Neil Taylor (Forestry Commission)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Vicky Chilcott, James Dodds and Lisa Jobling.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2011 and the AGM held on the 4 April 2011 were approved as a correct record.

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

- Duck race has raised in the region of £600
- Need to market the event next time and need banners to help promote event. Discussions about time of year to hold the event and ticket selling to be issued at AGM.

### **2.a Matters arising from the AGM**

- Discussion took place about end of financial year change - Charities Commission need to be contact and if possible we will go with end of December. **Action** MC and EJ

### **3. Statement of Accounts and Membership**

The Statement of Accounts to the end of May 2011 was received together with club membership details for the same period. We currently have £14,300 of which £12,000 is restricted for specific grant funded activity.

### **4. Trailblazers response to Independent Panel**

NG has sent private response to the Panel and will draft a response from the club. A member of the Panel is visiting Kielder on 26<sup>th</sup> July and discussion took place on a possible meeting during the visit. It was also noted that a number of organisations have formed an umbrella organisation to respond to the Panel but disappointingly as yet no representation from British Cycling has been made.

NG has had discussions with Colin Palmer from the CTC and it was agreed to invite him to a meeting.

Discussions also covered the Staffing structure and realignment of regions currently being undertaken by the Forestry Commission. Hamsterley will lose the Visitor Centre shop and education elements and Chopwell ranger post will be lost. The new region will include Kielder, Grizdale, Whinlatter, Chopwell and Hamsterley. The new structure will include an overall tourism and rec boss based in Whinlatter and there will also be an area volunteer role.

**Action** NG and OG will email British Cycling and encourage action. VC to email link to all members so they can comment on proposal. NG to draft club response. OG to organise meeting with new FC staff. NG to invite CP to future meeting.

**5. Trailbuilding** Works are progressing well on the new section and lots of the section of trail previously worked on are holding up well. The current dry weather make identifying problem areas of trail difficult but feedback is required to help identify areas that we can target after the next section of trail is complete. The start of the Black route was highlighted as an issue to FC and it is hoped they will prioritise that section.

**Action** all to identify problem areas of trail.

## **6. Route Maps**

FC is developing a new trail map Neil Taylor discussed issues with GIS and talked about development. We asked for "You are here" maps to be installed at key locations ie Five Lane Ends and to get trail names added

**Action** Neil Taylor to email a copy of new map.

## **7. 1 2 1 Race**

Entries are live and to help promote the event NG will draft press release. Discussion taking place with the Fell Rescue about first aid cover for the event that will have a maximum of 150 people Discussions took place about budget and roles for the race and the need to monitor entry levels as potential for high financial cost to club.

### **Action**

OG to organise meeting with MC, Diggler, NG and EJ to sort roles, timescales BC involvement and budget. Neil Taylor to send permit. VC to email member to see if any Volunteer Marshalls etc.

## **8. Calendar of Events 2011**

Club ride second Sunday of the month 10:30

Trailbuilding 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 10:00 bring pack lunch and stout footwear

Wood n Wheels has dates for trail leader and outdoor first aid courses £38 pp at Darlington collage 1 day course. Also running a guided trip through Scottish glens.

## **9. A.O.B**

### **9.1 Junior Membership**

Discussions on how to develop this section took place. It was decided that more volunteers were needed to help develop this. Funding is available to help pay for training so we can increase the number of coaches available. Wood n Wheels also have some funding that could help pay for training.

#### **Action**

**VC** to email members to see if anyone is interested in becoming a coach or helping out

### **9.2 Membership**

Discussions took place on how to retain members and what to do about people who still benefit from the club without renewing membership. This led to discussions about insurance cover particularly for club rides. It was decided that this area needs to be formalised and advice should be sought from British Cycling as to what their insurance covers.

#### **Action**

**OG** to contact BC and seek guidance.

### **9.3 Rob York Clubz**

This web service offers free listing and we can be registered all agreed that this would be a good way to promote club

## **10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Next meeting August 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm