

Hamsterley Trailblazers

Minutes of the meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers on Monday 17th September 2012 at 7 pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley

Trustees Present: Olly Graham (Vice Chair)
Emma Johnston (Treasurer)
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)

Members Present: Bill Pike, Kathryn Gander, Rob Myers, Jamily Halcyon, James Dods, Andrew Walker, David Holmes, Geoff Morson

In attendance: Neil Taylor (FC)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Neil Gander, Matt Clark, Shaun Rogers, Kaye Graham, Graeme Stanton, Alex MacLennan (FC)
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2012:** approved as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** Felling work in vicinity of Grove Link to be done shortly and ideally completed before Easter. FC has assured Trailblazers Grove Link trail would be put back into first class condition.
4. **Statement of Accounts & Club Membership** £10316 in account, with restricted funding of £3278.34 for youth work. Noted that trailbuilding team needed to buy a 'wacker' plate (estimated £500 - £800.) Andrew Walker proposed, Vicky Chilcott seconded and it was **AGREED** to approve funding for this purchase. **(Action: Olly.)**

HTB Advertising & Promotion: Matt Clark suggested HTB advertising at top of trails would be worthwhile. Alex MacLennan offered FC funding of trailbuilding trailhead board similar to one at Kielder and this was accepted.

Leaflets - Vicky suggested allocating some HTB funding for leaflets. James offered to help in updating original version. **(Action: James.)** Production of HTB banners also suggested. Emma Johnston proposed and Bill Pike seconded that £500 be assigned for publicity and this was **AGREED**.

HTB Facebook page: - Noted a Hamsterley Trailblazer page was now available. Volunteer needed to manage page and James offered to start it. **(Action: James.)**

Funding - Olly reported HTB had just received a £10,000 grant from SITA for youth work and trailbuilding. HTB could also bid for a £500 environmental improvement grant through the Teasdale Area Action Partnership. A tourism grant of between £200 and £1000 was also potentially available that could be based round the 1-2-1 race. **AGREED** – Olly bid for above two grants. Thanks recorded to Olly for work in obtaining SITA grant.

5. **Report and accounts for the 2012 1-2-1 Race:** Olly reported on another successful race with good feedback from participants. Noted entries were lower than 2011, but this appeared to be common for many events in 2012. Income was £2806 and expenditure £2932 so slight loss but it was felt prime purpose of event was raising HTB and Hamsterley Forest profile. FC had waived camping charge and had offered to cover loss. It was **AGREED** to hold event on 7th & 8th Sept 2013, depending on date of Gravity Enduro. Also **AGREED** to look at running event in a slightly different format, as per discussion group on 12 September including eg having a new team category where one person could do cross country race and second person the downhill race so opening up participation to more people. Noted that many entries did not come in until last minute, after costs had already been incurred so Emma Johnston proposed, Rob Myers seconded and it was **AGREED** that a maximum deficit of £500 be allocated from HTB funds against next year's event. **(Action: Olly.)**
6. **Report on youth coaching:** Noted - Tuesday evening summer youth Go Ride coaching sessions had gone very well using HTB coaches. An average of 10 children per session attended. **AGREED** to look at running weekend day sessions over the winter. **(Action: Olly)** More coaches needed and some female coaches would be desirable. Further training for existing coaches also necessary. Noted: funding was available for coach training and **AGREED** VC email HTB members for expressions of interest. Formal thanks were recorded to Olly, Shaun, James, Mark and Stephen for their time and commitment and also to Kaye Graham for transporting participants.
7. **Report on fundraising and to receive a proposal to set up a localgiving.com website, to enable members of the public to donate to the club:** Emma presented a report on this proposal that would automatically give the club access to 25% Gift Aid on any donations. In addition, after Sept. 25th donations of up to £10 would be match funded by County Durham Community Foundation. There was a £72 annual fee but it was free for the first 3 months. Emma had set up a HTB trial website and once up and running the link could be

distributed and promoted on any marketing material or social network site including Twitter and Facebook. Olly Graham proposed, Andrew Walker seconded and it was **AGREED** that HTB should take part in this scheme for the first year. **(Action: Emma.)**

8. **FC Issues:** Alex MacLennan had drawn attention to several issues:
 - Opportunities for better promotion on FC website of HTB, including trailbuilding days, promotion of free parking for completing 3 and 5 day trailbuild sessions etc **(Action: Alex.)**
 - HTB asked to Inform FC's Darren Best in advance where trailbuilding sessions were taking place to ensure better co-ordination and publicity to other interested riders. **(Action: Olly)**
 - Problem of illegal trails at Hamsterley. Noted FC could not condone these because of wildlife conservation, not following agreed trail corridor, possible damage to timber etc. Also strongly noted that HTB were not responsible for such trails and did its best to encourage riders to join recognised trailbuilding sessions rather than illegal ones. **(Action: HTB members & FC)**

9. **HTB Race Clothing:** Now available thanks to Dan – **AGREED** VC email members with order form.

10. **Possible new event venue:** Vicky reported that she had received an email regarding the possibility of holding a cycling event on land near Wolsingham and it was **AGREED** HTB advise it would be extremely interested in such an event. **(Action: Vicky.)**

11. **Date and time of next meeting – AGREED 3 December 2012 at 7pm, Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley : Note: this differs from that shown in the Calendar of Events.**