

Hamsterley Trailblazers

Minutes of the meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers on Monday 3rd December 2012 at 7 pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley.

Trustees Present: Neil Gander (Chair)
Olly Graham (Vice Chair)
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)

Members Present: Andrew Walker, Geoff Moreson, James Dods, Michelle Dods, Kathryn Gander, Gary Ewing, Dave Holmes, Shaun Rogers, Mat Clark

In attendance: Alex MacLennan (FC), Neil Taylor (FC)

Apologies for absence: Lisa Jobling, Fiona Ewing, Martin Stout, Emma Graham, Kaye Graham, Rob Myers.

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2012 Accepted. NG proposed, GE seconded.

2) Matters arising from the minutes:

- Publicity material including HTB leaflet, board and banner at forest – Shaun, James, Kathryn & Gary to continue trying to move this forward.
- Olly said club tops were still available.
- Neil G would make an open HTB Facebook page.
- Event at Wolsingham, Weardale Outdoor Centre; Vicky still waiting further information.

3) Forestry Update - Alex MacLennan updated the committee on progress with the overhaul of the visitor centre. He also outlined situation re illegal trail building.

4) Trail Building - Olly reported on the meeting on Friday 7th December with Alex. Work on Red Route continuing well.

5) Statement of Accounts & Club Membership - Financial summary circulated to the meeting. £5,000 in bank, minus outstanding liabilities. Donations via Local Giving account had help bolster club funds. AGREED that Emma be allowed to make one off BACS payments up to £50, without authorisation, up to total of £200 per month. Above these limits she would need permission from a second signatory. NG proposed, AW seconded.

6) Funding – Half of SITA's recent £10K grant could be used towards trail building and Barclays had shown an interest in following up their former input to the Skills Loop so another £10K may be awarded for coaching and trail building giving a possible £7K to £12K for trail building in 2013.

7) Training/Coaching Courses – Suggested need to find means of pledging volunteer commitment when funding is provided for courses. AGREED: Ollly to put together form for new coaches to sign committing to 20 hours voluntary work. Neil to organise publicity for coaching achievements etc.

8) Durham Dirty Big Ride - AM informed meeting that organisers had decided there was insufficient funding for this event to go ahead in 2013.

9) Future Trailbuilding - Mat circulated maps & outlined suggestions which were discussed by members. After detailed discussion it was agreed that the Trailblazers should continue to focus funding and effort on Red-grade trails. Longer term plan may be influenced by what FC had in mind for Blue route. If FC's proposals for a Blue route differed then TB would not contribute funding, but would not oppose. Hoped that FC would commit, as a priority, to build new Blue climb from Visitor Centre to link with Pike's Teeth.

AGREED: Immediate HTB building priorities should be completion of trail from Pikes Teeth as flowy Red, followed by Blue trail with Red features to Metcalf's house. (OG proposed, NG seconded.)

Red long term plan (see map) would be next priority – funding allowing. NG proposed, seconded by GE and AGREED.

10) Calendar of Events 2013:

- **1-2-1** NG had discussed this event with Dave Nicholson, who was not a Trailblazer member and who wished to run it as a non HTB event. Agreed Trailblazers members would still support the event and help marshall etc, but as a non-HTB event no HTB funding could be committed to it.
- **2013 HTB priorities** were to focus on coaching and trail building but AGREED Trailblazers support Dan Small with **2013 British Cycling MTB events at Hamsterley.**
- **New Year Club Ride and Lunch - 13th January 2013** – Shaun to organise and lead.
- **AGM – Monday 8 April 6.30pm**
- **Duck Race & BBQ** - with brief club ride beforehand, **12th May 2013** (Gary offered to lead ride.)
- **HTB 10th Anniversary Club BBQ – 14th July**
- **HTB Club Weekend away – Glentress 27, 28 & 29 Sept** – Mat to organise.
- Neil G to organize a fund raising **bike jumble.**
- **Monthly Club Ride – 2nd Sunday each month 10.30am** – noted volunteers needed to lead rides.
- **Female Evening Rides** – from Easter – Vicky to organise dates.
- **Wednesday Night Rides** – meet 7pm in Car Park as usual

- **Trailbuilding** – 10am 3rd Saturday each month as usual.

Any other urgent business None

Date and time of next meeting – 7pm 4th February 2013, Cross Keys