

Hamsterley TrailBlazers

Constitution for Hamsterley Trailblazers

1. Name

The club will be called Hamsterley Trailblazers hereinafter called The Club

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the club is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for mountain biking in the Teesdale & Weardale areas and surrounding neighbourhoods including:-

- The maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities.
- The provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances have need of such facilities.
- The protection or conservation of the environment.
- Furthering such other charitable purposes as the Committee of the Club may decide

3. Powers

For the furtherance of these objectives the Club may, within the relevant requirements of the law: -

- Purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of the said Aim and construct, maintain and alter any building or erections necessary for the work of The Club
- Accept gifts and borrow or raise money for the Aims of The Club on such terms and security as shall be thought fit
- Invest the money of The Club not immediately required for it's purpose in or upon such investment securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to such conditions required or imposed by law.
- Employ such persons as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objectives and make all reasonable provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependants
- Procure contributions to The Club by personal or written appeals, public meeting or otherwise
- Make such payments as shall be necessary.
- Fix and collect any fees or subscriptions, as the committee shall determine.
- Co-operate with other charitable/voluntary bodies and statutory authorities to meet the Aims of The Club and to exchange information and advice.
- Take other such lawful actions that will further the Aims of The Club

Hamsterley TrailBlazers

- Promote & carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the results thereof
- Procure to be written and print, publish, issue and circulate gratuitously or otherwise such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents, films or videos as shall further the above purpose
- Insure and arrange insurance cover and to indemnify its employees and voluntary workers from and against all such risks incurred in the performance of their duties as may be thought fit

4. Membership

Full membership shall be open to: -

- (i) Individuals (over 18 years of age) who are interested in furthering the work of The Club and who have paid any annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Committee
 - (ii) Landowners or their agents in The Club's area of activity
 - (iii) Any body corporate or unincorporated which is interested in furthering The Club's work and has paid any annual subscription
- All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining The Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of conduct that the club has adopted, including those set out by landowners and insurers.
 - Every member shall have one vote
 - Each member organisation shall appoint an individual to represent it and to vote on its behalf at meetings of The Club and may appoint an alternate to replace the appointed representative at any meeting.
 - There shall be a further category of membership for those under 18 years of age.
 - The committee may by unanimous vote and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the committee accompanied by a representative before the final decision is made.
 - Members under 18 years of age shall be known as Junior Members. Junior Members shall be consulted on club business but will not have a vote at AGMs or SGM nor be eligible for election to the Committee or Officer post

5. Officers of the club

At the Annual General Meeting of The Club members shall elect from amongst themselves the following Officers : -

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer

Hamsterley TrailBlazers

- Assistant Treasurer
- Secretary

And such other Officers as is from time to time deem necessary.

6. Committee

The committee shall meet at least three times a year and is responsible for ensuring that The Club complies with its Aims and is properly managed. The committee shall consist of: -

1. The Officers of The Club as specified in Clause 5
 2. Not less than 3 nor more than 8 other elected members
- The trustees and committee members shall be elected for one year at the AGM. Retiring trustees and members are eligible for re-election.
 - Members shall have one vote. In the event of a tie the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. A quorum shall be 25% of the committee or 5 whichever is the greater.
 - Nobody shall be appointed to the Committee who is aged under 18 or who would if appointed be disqualified under the provision of the following bullet point
 - No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Committee whether on first or subsequent entry into office until after signing a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to be a trustee
 - The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
 - The Committee will have powers to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
 - The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution.
 - The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

7. General Meetings

- A special General Meeting may be called at any time at the request of the Committee or one quarter of the members.
- The Secretary or Chairperson shall send a note of the date time and place of the Special Meeting with a list of items to be discussed to all members at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.

8. Annual General Meetings

- An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of April or as soon as practical at which the annual report and accounts for the proceeding year shall be presented and agreed.

Hamsterley TrailBlazers

- The Club Secretary will give notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and any Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs). Not less than 21 clear days notice to be given to all members.
- The Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

9. Finance

- The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of The Club. A statement of accounts shall be presented to the committee at each meeting.
- The income of The Club including fees, fundraising and donations shall be paid into an account in the name of the club.
- A bank account shall be opened in the name of The Club with HSBC or such other bank as the Committee shall from time to time decide. The committee shall authorise in writing the Treasurer, The Secretary of The Club and two other members of the committee to sign cheques on behalf of The Club. All cheques must be signed by not less than 2 of the 4 authorised signatories.
- At the end of the financial year the treasurer shall present accounts to the AGM

10. Discipline and appeals

- All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted in writing to the Chairperson.
- The Committee will meet to hear complaints within 30 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.
- The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.
- There will be the right of appeal to the Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 30 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

11. Dissolution

- i) If the members resolve to dissolve the Charity the Trustees will remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Charity in accordance with this clause
- ii) The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the charity and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the charity
- iii) The Trustees must apply any remaining property or money:
 - (a) directly for the Objects
 - (b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes the same or similar to the Charity

Hamsterley TrailBlazers

(c) in such other manner as the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales (the Commission) may approve in writing in advance

iv) The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Charity specifying the manner in which the trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the Charity and the Trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraphs (a) – (c) above

v) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the Charity (except to a member that is itself a charity)

vi) The Trustees must notify the Commission that a charity has been dissolved. If the Trustees are obliged to send the charity's accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send to the Commission the charity's final accounts.

12. Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution may be amended only if: -

- Changes to the constitution will be included on the agenda of the general meeting at which they will be discussed. A copy of the agenda will be sent to all group members with not less than 21 days clear written notice given
- Two third of the members present at a General Meeting Vote in favour of the alteration.
- No amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law
- A copy of any resolution amending this constitution must be sent to the Commission within 21 days of it being passed

This constitution was originally adopted on 5th January 2004

Amended on 4th April 2005

Signed

Chairperson

Secretary