

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5 July 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Simon Goodwin (in the chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Chris Dauber
Ollie Graham
Robin Lofthouse
Ivan Pratt (Iron Horse)
Martin Street (Specialist Cycles, Durham)

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Brown, Jill Church, Andy Samanjoul and Mike Richardson.

Co-op Dividend Award £500

A cheque for £500 was received from Bob De Ath on behalf of the Co-op Community Dividend Fund for the development of cycle trails in Hamsterley Forest. Members thanked the Co-op for the Award. Mr De Ath asked to be kept informed about future developments at the Forest and suggested Trailblazers could also approach the fund in the future for further possible sponsorship. It was AGREED a letter of thanks be sent to the Co-Op.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2004 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

2.5 Risk Assessments and Health & Safety Policy Vicky said she would email draft Risk Assessments to members for comment. The Health and Safety Policy was still awaited. It was noted that prior to each Trail Building session volunteers would be briefed and a recording made of such briefing.

2.6 Charitable Status This item was postponed owing to Bill Pike's illness.

2.7 Membership Forms Dave Church reported membership cards had now been updated and Registration Forms were being returned. Dave agreed to send a list of members to Forest Enterprise, Iron Horse, Specialist Cycles and Vicky. It was also agreed the Iron Horse catalogue could be sent out with membership cards. Discussion took place on inviting David Bellamy to be an honorary member of Trailblazers and it was agreed Vicky action this.

2.8 Great Milk Stout Ride Vicky reported that to date the ride had raised over £5000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief (£2000 in 2002.) The Presentation Evening had proved a great success with around 40 people attending. It was agreed to put together a Trailblazer's Team for the Nidderdale GMSR on Sunday 5 September 2004.

2.9 Website Articles were still awaited for inclusion on the website. It was noted that photographs should be sent on disk through the post to Dean Grindle.

2.10 T-Shirts Discussion took place on T shirts for Trailblazers and it was agreed to look at a grey marl coloured T-shirt with the Trailblazer logo front and back. It was agreed to obtain quotes from Armstrong Workwear and Workwear Express.

2.11 Children's Cycling Event Further information was still awaited on this. Discussion took place on organising a Children's Cycling Club similar to the one at Glentress. It was agreed to look at this for Easter 2005.

3. Statement of Accounts

Dave Church presented a Statement of Accounts for June 2004.

4. Phase I Funding

It was noted that an approximate balance of £20,000 was needed to fill the gap left by the shortfall of European funding for Phase I. Chris Dauber updated members on the situation regarding European Union funding and said there was still a possibility that funding might become available in the future. Chris said 'Leader' also had some money and that after speaking to one of their officers, she would be interested in talking to us. Applications would be needed in early August for the next decision round in September. Ollie said he was meeting Emma Wilmott from BCTV next week under the 'Peoples and Places Scheme' and that an application had also been sent to 'Living Spaces.' Whilst it was unlikely Living Space funding would be available this year, it was possible that money could be available in 2005. Other funding bids included Sport England and Teesdale Targeted Wards (£500 set up costs.) Chris said the Shell 'Better Britain' scheme was worth examining and he would forward details to Ollie. In all, funding bids of approximately £174,000 were being processed. The estimated cost of Phase I was £107,000. Robin said Forest Enterprise had been successful in obtaining £5000 from One North East for cycle trail design work and a meeting was being arranged as soon as possible between Forest Enterprise and Trailblazers to finalise tenders for this work.

5. New C2C cycle route through Hamsterley

Vicky reported on the recent public meeting held by Sustrans to outline proposals for a new C2C cycle route from Walney to Sunderland opening in 2005 that would go through Hamsterley Forest. Vicky, Andy Samanjoul and Ollie Graham had attended on behalf of Trailblazers. The route was seen as an exciting development that would be of benefit to all. Sustrans were keen to work with Trailblazers on route development and Trailblazers hoped, ultimately, to explore the possibility of linking the current C2C Whitehaven to Sunderland with the new route via a Hamsterley/Stanhope moorland link. It was also hoped to publicise Hamsterley Forest on the website and guidebook for the new route so that cyclists could be encouraged to stay in the Forest to explore the cycle routes. The benefit to cyclists of the new steam rail link from Bishop Auckland to Eastgate was also discussed (initially Wolsingham to Stanhope.) It was noted that the proposed family trail under Phase I would fit in well with the new C2C route, keeping cyclists off the main Forest road.

6. Publicity

Discussion took place on publicity and it was agreed that as soon as significant funding was secured, a press release be prepared for cycling magazines and the local press. Robin said Trailblazers could use half the existing noticeboard in the Forest for publicity purposes. It was also agreed a list of events should be sent to the local press.

6. Calendar of Events

Sunday 11 July 2004	Trailbuilding, Hamsterley Forest – meet 9.30am Visitor Centre
16, 17, 18 July 2004	Trailblazer weekend away to Glentress, Scotland. Contact Andy Samanjoul for further details.
Sunday 25 July 2004	10am - 23 mile ride from Hamsterley Forest across to Bollihope and return through Doctor's Gate. Picnic at Bollihope. Good opportunity to practise mtb skills at Bollihope Quarry.
Monday 2 August 2004	6.30pm monthly Trailblazer meeting, Forest Classroom
6, 7, 8 August 2004	Weekend with IMBA at Innerleithen – new MTB route. Contact Simon Goodwin for further details (email Gritmtb@aol.com)
15 August 2004	Hard technical ride at Helvellyn or High Street, Cumbria. Contact Simon Goodwin at Gritmtb@aol.com .

Sun 5 September 2004 Nidderdale GMSR from Pateley Bridge (see www.gmsr.co.uk for details)

Sun 12 September 2004 Ripon Motor Club – rally through Forest. Members asked to help with marshalling in return for donation to Trailblazers.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 2 August 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.