

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 4 April 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.**

**Present:** A Samanjoul (in the chair)  
S Berresford (Teesdale Council)  
M Brown  
B Burlton (Forest Enterprise)  
J Butcher  
S Carson  
V Chilcott  
D Church  
J Church  
M Clark  
P Cook  
C Dauber (Teesdale Marketing)  
K Gander  
N Gander  
C Goldsworthy  
O Graham  
P Laing (Cycle Trail Designer)  
R Lofthouse  
D McKnight (Teesdale Council)  
P Oughton  
B Pike  
R M Wigtan

**Apologies for absence were received from:** Richard Atkins, Dean Grindle, Gerry Hehir, Mark Noddings, Mick Richardson, Ian and Yvonne Robson, Bill Walton and Chris Wright.

**1. Welcome** Andy Samanjoul welcomed everyone to Trailblazers first Annual General Meeting.

**2. Annual Report** Andy outlined achievements of the last 18 months:

- The establishment of a credible group to represent the interests of cyclists in the area with recognition by the District and County Councils, Forest Enterprise and important funding bodies such as ONE, CDENT, Leader, Countryside Agency etc.
- Funding of £200K in place to build cycle trails and skills area within the Forest with plans for further development.
- Good publicity with local press and national cycling magazines
- Active website and Discussion Forum
- Charitable status about to be achieved

- Good links with other organisations such as the Fellrunners, Horse Riding Association and Parish Paths Partnership
- Cycling Route Guide publication underway
- Organised cycle rides and events eg GMSR in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief, weekend rides away, day and half day rides.
- Development of a teaching role underway

Above all, Trailblazers had got people interested in and talking about cycling as a major recreational activity in the area.

**3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of 2003/04 Accounts** Dave Church presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 2003/04. It was noted membership was due for renewal from April 2005 and forms were available for download from the website. Dave reported a number of new members had signed up. Dave also reported that T shirt sales were going well. Bill Pike proposed the accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Vicky Chilcott and AGREED by members.

**4. Appointment of Independent Examiner** Ollie Graham proposed that Jeannine Barron be appointed Independent Examiner for Trailblazers. This was seconded by Andy Samanjoul and AGREED by members.

**5. Amendment to Constitution** A Written Resolution (attached) for the amendment of the Constitution to enable charitable status to be achieved had previously been circulated to all members. Bill Pike proposed the amendment be approved. This was seconded by Dave Church and AGREED by members.

**6. Election of Officers** The following appointments were made:

- **Chair** – Andy Samanjoul (Proposed by Bill Pike, seconded by Dave Church and AGREED by members)
- **Vice Chair** – Oliver Graham (Proposed by Vicky Chilcott, seconded by Marie Brown and AGREED by members)
- **Secretary** – Vicky Chilcott (Proposed by Andy Samanjoul, seconded by Dave Church and AGREED by members)
- **Treasurer** – Dave Church (Proposed by Vicky Chilcott, seconded by Bill Pike and AGREED by members)
- **Assistant Treasurer** – Bill Pike (Proposed by Andy Samanjoul, seconded by Marie Brown and AGREED by members)

**7. Election of Committee Members** The following members were elected to the Committee: Jill Church, Marie Brown, Pete Oughton, Mat Clark, Neil Gander, Kath Gander, Jamie Butcher, Chris Goldsworth. In addition Mick Richardson was elected Press Officer and Dean Grindle elected Website Administrator.

**8. Phase I Development Report** Pete Laing gave a detailed report on progress of Phase I cycle trail work and skills area. It was noted that the bridge manufacturer could not deliver bridges until late May 2005 which would unfortunately delay opening the trails and efforts were being made to improve on this position. A number of volunteer trail building days had been set with the first one being Saturday 9 April 2005.

**9. Vote of Thanks** Andy proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who had been involved in helping make Trailblazers first 18 months the success it had been.