

**Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 1 December 2008 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.**

**Trustees Present:** Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)  
Ollie Graham (Vice Chairman)  
Bill Pike (Treasurer)

**Members Present:** Gary Ewing  
Chris Goldsworthy  
Martin Stout

**In attendance:** Neil Taylor (FC)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Chris Briers, Mat Clark, Andrew Frith, Kath Gander, Neil Gander, Alison Park and Peter Watson.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2008 were approved as a correct record.

**2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- **See Saw** - Ollie said he would ask Alan Patterson to fix it.
- **Go Ride** – Trailblazers was now registered as a Go Ride Club and after discussion it was AGREED to look to start kids clubs from February 2009, for around an hour on the same day as monthly trailbuilding (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.) Volunteers would be needed to help with the club. Whilst Trailblazers was registered as a club, it still needed to work towards full accreditation with appropriate training and child protection checks for anyone working with children. Discussions were also taking place with Durham County Council and the Young People's Services regarding organising a C2C cycle trip for children.
- **Website Links** – papers were received from Chris Briers and Andrew Frith on recommended website links that would generate income for Trailblazers and it was AGREED to pursue these. It was AGREED other website links should be on the basis of member satisfaction recommendation only.
- **HTB Promotions Stand and Banner** – Quotes still awaited
- **Cycle Clothing** – Information from Marie awaited. Chris Goldsworthy offered to investigate cost of buying Trailblazer mugs.
- **Trailblazer C2C Ride** – Two dates had been suggested – 23 to 25 May or 29 to 31 May. A maximum of 18 bikes could be transported. Two groups might be needed with appropriate leaders and qualified minibus drivers. Ollie, Andy and Chris were qualified as drivers; Ollie, Andy, Gary and Neil suggested as leaders.

**3. Statement of Accounts and Membership** The Statement of Accounts to the end of November 2008 was received together with club membership details for the same period.

**4. Rota of Leaders for Club Rides** Mat had suggested compiling a rota of members who could act as leaders for each of the monthly club rides. It was noted a disclaimer was needed that people took part in club rides at their

own risk and Chris offered to obtain the wording used by SOC. Ollie also said he would check with British Cycling on any special leader requirements, insurance etc. Vicky could then email members to ask for volunteer ride leaders.

**5. Trail Development and trailbuilding** Ollie reported that work on Special K was progressing well. A contractor and his machine were being used one day a month, plus volunteer trailbuilding. It was hoped to go out to tender in early 2009 for work to be carried out with Teesdale Council money. There was now no prospect of funding being available from ONE until the Business Case for the overall Hamsterley Forest Development was approved – this was not now likely before late 2010 or 2011. It had, however, been agreed with FC that Trailblazers make an application to CDENT for some funding so that the impetus of community and volunteer work on the cycle trails was not lost. This application would go to the January meeting of CDENT. It was noted more loppers were needed for trail work. It was suggested that stone be used to fill in the boggiest section of the Black route – turning this area into a large rock garden and it was agreed to look at this possibility. The need for trail signs was noted and Gary suggested making these by heating up metal and using the hot metal to burn words onto wood.

**6. Parking Permits** Neil handed out 2009 parking permits to pass on to volunteer trailbuilders and others who qualified for free parking. Vicky said she would arrange distribution.

**7. Club Trailer** It was noted a grant had been received for the club trailer and that whilst it was mechanically sound, it should be retained. It was AGREED more use should be made of the trailer eg C2C and club rides.

**8. Moorcock Inn, Egglestone** Neil said the Moorcock was keen to develop links with the Forest and had suggested the owners contact us to discuss stop overs, rides etc.

**9. Tidy Up after Events** Neil asked everyone to ensure all arrows, tape and other signs were removed after events. It was AGREED that in the case of Trailblazer events, a second clear up day be held after the main clearing up session, to double check all signage had been removed.

## **10. Calendar of Events**

- Noted – there would be no December trailbuilding session
- It was AGREED the New Year's Ride (Sunday 11 January) should be across to Frosterley with the option of the club trailer and minibus picking up riders after a pub lunch. (Ollie, Mat and Vikcy) to organise.
- Other events for 2009 would be discussed at the February meeting.

**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting** Informal pub social at Cross Keys, Hamsterley on Monday 5 January from 7pm. Next formal meeting, 6.30pm on Monday 2 February 2009 in the Forest Classroom

