

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 6 February 2012 at 7pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley

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

Members Present: James Dods
Gary Ewing
Kathryn Gander
David Holmes
Rob Myers
Bill Pike
Julia Quinonez
Shaun Rogers
Andrew Walker

In attendance: Neil Taylor (FC)

Apologies for absence were received from Mat Clarke, Lisa Jobling, Emma Johnston and Alex MacLennan.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **CTC Affiliation** It was noted take up so far amongst members had been small and it was AGREED to re-email members. **(Action: Vicky)**
- **Website** Steven Gash, a contact of Rob Myers, had offered to take over running the website from Craig and this offer was gratefully received. Thanks were extended to Craig for all the work he had done on the website over the years. It was noted two Facebook pages for Trailblazers were in use and it was felt one official Facebook site, with a link from the Traiblazer website, should be developed in due course.
- **Route Maps and Signage** Neil Taylor said he was still working on short cut trail signage. **(Action: Neil Taylor)**
- **British Cycling Funding** Olly still to send costings to Neil for funding submission. **(Action: Olly & Neil Gander)**

3. Statement of Accounts and Membership A written report from Emma Johnston on the statement of accounts at 6 February was received. A new bank account had now been opened for payment of membership fees and it was AGREED details be forwarded to members. **(Action: Vicky)**

4. Trailbuilding It was noted Nitrus was nearly finished and work on armouring the shortcut to Transmission was hoped to take place shortly. Discussion took place on next trail sections and those mentioned included

finishing off Nitrus to the Grove; the first Black descent, the Red route from Descend to the ford and the short cut up to Transmission. It was AGREED members be asked which sections they wished to see next for trailbuilding.

5. Hamsterley Forest Discussion took place on the problem of securing funding for Hamsterley and it was noted Kielder had benefited from Northumbrian Water providing substantial match funding and the fact that Northumberland County Council was far more proactive than Durham in respect of developing tourism. Discussion also took place on the future of the shop and café at Hamsterley and Neil Taylor said that whilst FC was pulling out of retail, it was hoped someone would take over in their place. It was noted that whilst there was probably a viable business for one combined shop/café/bike hire – this became less viable when split into 3 separate businesses.

8. Youth Section Olly reported that Kyle, one of the young volunteers who had been involved in the Hamsterley trailbuilding scheme through the 'Turning the Corner' Awards for All funding had received the British Cycling Regional Youth Volunteer Award and had attended the British Cycling Annual Dinner in Birmingham to receive it. It was AGREED to invite Kyle to the Trailblazer AGM to receive a Trailblazer Kids Trophy **(Action: Olly)**

Olly also reported Ride Leadership courses for HTB volunteer coaches would be held on 23 and 24 March and again on 17 and 18 April. Volunteer coaches would then complete Level 2 BC courses and MTB specific courses so that the Kids Club could be launched.

It was noted HTB would need to adopt British Cycling policies on Codes of Conduct, Child Protection etc at the AGM. It was also reported Kath Gander had recently attended a Child Protection course to enable her to be designated Club Welfare Officer. **(Action: Oily)**

A vote of thanks was given to Olly for progressing the youth section.

9. Ride Leaders It was AGREED to email members to see who was willing to act as club ride leaders for 2012. **(Action: Vicky)**

10. Duck Race It was AGREED tickets for the Duck Race be made available at the AGM **(Action: Vicky)**

11. 1-2-1 Race Noted this event had been changed back to 1 & 2 September to avoid the National Enduro race event on 8 & 9 September. Entries were now live on the British Cycling website with Olly Graham as the main contact point (since Dave Nicholson was now working out of the area.) **(Action: Olly)**

12 Charitable Incorporated Organisation Bill gave an update on changing to CIO status and it was noted two motions would be put the AGM:

- That the AGM agrees to convert to CIO status
- That the new constitution be submitted to the Charity Commissioners.

Bill said he would prepare the motions and a summary of the main changes for submission to the AGM. **(Action: Bill and Vicky)**

13 Calendar of Events

- **Mountain Biking in the North East of England – 7 March 6.45pm** – event organised by Ted Liddle, IMBA – Neil and Andrew offered to put on an HTB stand
- **AGM** – Monday 2 April 2012. Kids Trophy presentation plus Kids Film and Club Quiz.
- **Female Evening Rides** – Monday 16 April 6.30pm and fortnightly until September
- **Duck Race & BBQ** – Sunday 13 May after a brief monthly club ride
- **Gravity Enduro at Hamsterley – 26 & 27 May**
- **Sporting Life Exhibition – Bowes Museum** June – August 2012 – HTB is being featured
- **1-2-1 Race** – 1 & 2 September

14 Commissaire's Course Noted Mat Clarke would attend a British Cycling Commissaire's course on downhilling at Kielder.

15. Paths for Communities Neil drew attention to the possibility of funding through this scheme and Olly said he would look into it.

16. Trail sabotage Attention was drawn to a recent incident on the Downhill course and Neil Taylor also drew attention to incidents of vandalism at Chopwell. Members were asked to be vigilant and report anything untoward to the police or FC officers.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting AGM Monday 2 April 2012, 6.30pm at Hamsterley Village Hall.