

**Minutes of the meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers on Monday
11 June 2012 at 7 pm in the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley**

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

Members Present: Bill Pike, Shaun Rogers, Gary Ewing, Kathryn Gander, Rob Myers, Mat Clarke, James Dodds, Andrew Walker, Kaye Graham, David Holmes

In attendance: Alex MacLennan, FC

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Lisa Jobling, Neil Taylor, Emma Johnston.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 February 2012** - approved and adopted.
3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 2 April 2012** - approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of February meeting. British Cycling Funding Bid.** AGREED put in trailbuilding bid for £100,000. ACTION: NG to contact BC.
5. **Statement of Accounts & Club Membership:** report from Emma Johnson. £9,739.45 with outstanding cheques to be added/ deducted leaving £3,443.45 free.
6. **Trailbuilding including funding:** Alex MacLennan updated the group on latest FC national position re cycle trails where they were keen to see progression and to develop blue trails as a priority, although funding remained problematic. Car park and power line at Hamsterley had recently been funded, as part of FC investment plan. Noted - temporary closure of part of Grove Link for felling later in the year, so issue of ensuring trail was properly restored afterwards. (ACTION: AM agreed to raise with FC operations department, and

request extra fund if necessary.) AM said FC might be able to commit to £5,000 in trail funding. Noted HTB current priority, as per AGM decision, was Red route down to Blackling Hole. MC outlined possibility of converting some Black trail to Red and looking at how Blue trail could be developed quickly and with minimal cost – AGREED to support this proposal.

6. **FC Events Procedure:** AM drew attention to Nutcracker event to be held in 2 weeks time using part of Transmission trail. BP said allowances should be made when FC is charging for these events for any necessary trail rectification work.
7. **Youth section and coach training:** Olly outlined latest situation. Shaun, James, Mark and Stephen are doing BC Level 2 coaching course plus Olly, Shaun and James – MTB Leader courses. A first aid course is taking place, 6 people have signed up for this, some places left, club to pay, (all coaches must have 1st Aid). Youth section are still involved in trail-building and a kids' (age 8-12) coaching on a Tuesday night is being planned for July/Aug. Bid has been submitted with Ceta Trust for further coaching activities. Clubmark paperwork to be completed, including youth membership. (ACTION: Olly). Olly suggested representation of youth section on the committee should be considered.
8. **Sporting Life Exhibition – Bowes Museum June to August:** The club would welcome support at this event. Sunday 22 July 10-4; help required for Sporting Event. Publicity leaflets (ACTION: Gary to investigate costs and arrange updated leaflets). The event leaders, Friends of Bowes Museum, are also looking for volunteers to help with stewarding any time during June-August period.
9. **1-2-1 Race:** 1/2 September, Olly reported that although there are only 5 entries so far, this is usual for this far ahead of the event (min 40 needed) Orange will sponsor the event, a raffle for the prize will be organised. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Entry includes cost of meal on

Saturday evening. Timing, portaloos and first aid are main costs. Red Ape are also sponsoring and holding a stall. Discussion followed about a trophy. (ACTION: Vicky to investigate off-the-shelf option)

10. Calendar of Events 2012 :

- 12 Aug - Ted Liddle away ride – details to follow.
- BC XC MTB League Race Series– Dan Small organising 6 race series, including final one at Hamsterley on 7 Sept.
- Bowes Race - to check dates for publicity

11. Future development of HTB – committee questionnaire

(Gary Ewing – report circulated to membership) Club members passionate about similar aims re mountain biking, reassuring despite differences. Members commented differences of opinion are typical of challenges faced by most groups. Merits and disadvantages of subgroups was discussed. Another suggestion was for 'champions' as an alternative to subgroups. Need to tighten some procedures for conversion to CIO status. ACTION: BP, NG, OG & VC.

Club publicity needed to be improved.

GE suggested a framework document for club priorities so items not on current minutes/agenda do not get forgotten. Suggestion on restructuring meetings; ACTION: GE, BP, NG, VC, MC to meet to discuss format of meetings to summarise ready for circulation prior to the next meeting.

This led to issues for future discussion:

- Need for better publicity
- Notice board – responsibility – Shaun and Kath to look at.
- Investigate Facebook Trailblazers site status.
- Hamsterley Trailbuilding is *the* legitimate Facebook site.

Any other URGENT business: Olly: Club kit design, ready to go, but need a new high quality logo. Action: James and Shaun to work up existing design to a good quality.

HTB Racing Section: Lots of support had been expressed by email re race section. NG formally proposed, and VC seconded that the club form a racing section (with Dan Small as champion) to promote racing (including possible formation of mtb racing team) to extend club's activities and attract new members to the club. The meeting unanimously AGREED to this proposal.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 17th September 2012, 7pm, Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley.