

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5 March 2007 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

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

Members Present: Marie Brown
Bobby Bell
Mat Clark
Gary Ewing
Chris Goldsworthy
Ash Scott

In attendance: Alex Maclennan (FC)
Martin Stout
Neil Taylor (FC)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2007 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Cycle Jerseys** It was noted most of the money had been received for cycle jerseys and that they now featured on the website.
- **Night Rides** These were still taking place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm – everyone welcome.
- **Trailblazer Leaflet** Gary had received pictures from Dave Church and would progress the leaflet as soon as possible.
- **Cycle for Health** Trailblazer's request for a representative on the Board of Community cycling Group had been approved and it was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that Bill Pike be nominated.
- **Cycle Theft** This matter was still with the Loss Adjusters. It was **AGREED** to formulate a policy on bike trailer usage as soon as possible.
- **Reserves Policy** Bill was still working on this policy.
- **First Aid Course** Andy, Marie, Mat and Maria had all attended this course.
- **Signposting** Neil said new signposting should be in position shortly.
- **Buzz** Alex said the next edition of Buzz would contain the Trailblazer's article that had been too large for the last edition.
- **Female Coaching Sessions** Considerable interest had already been expressed in these sessions on 22 and 29 April 2007.

3. Statement of Accounts The Statement of Accounts for the end of February 2007 was presented together with latest membership details. Bill had forwarded Paypal information to Craig and it was hoped this would be active on the website shortly. Vicky said she would block email all members to renew membership for 07/08.

4. AGM Derek Purdy had agreed to talk to the AGM and it was agreed to book the Village Hall for the meeting. Ash offered to sponsor the cost of the hall.

5. Cycle Trail Development February trailbuilding had seen berm construction and other work. The Parish Paths fund had given £2.5K to complete further bridleway sections of the 'Hamsterley Bog.'

Pete and Ollie had produced a development plan for the new red route together with a detailed section by section breakdown. The total cost of the 17 km singletrack trail was estimated at some £400K taking about 12 months to build using 3 teams averaging 30 metres per day per team. Information from ATMAP was still awaited on their views of the scheme.

6. Volunteer Work Days It was noted the 31 March build date coincided with a downhill race. Alex said FC would donate 2 MacCloud tools (which would need handles.) Bobby offered to get a quote for handling the tools.

7. Publicity The 'Independent' had recently produced a two page article on mountain biking and downhilling at Hamsteley. 'What Mountainbike' had also recently visited the forest.

8. Calendar of Events

- 11 March 10.30 am – Monthly ride
- 31 March – Trailbuilding
- 21 April – Trailbuilding
- 22 April – Female Coaching Session
- 29 April – Female Coaching Session

9. Fell Races Gerry Hehir asked if Trailblazers would be able to help marshal trail races on 20 May, 24 June, 29 July and 26 August and it was **AREED** to ask for volunteers – although it was noted some of these dates coincided with other events.

9. Trailblazer BBQ The possibility of holding a summer BBQ would be explored.

10. Car Parking Permits Alex said central FC management had advised that car parking charges at all forests in England would increase from April 2007 with possible further increases in April 2008. The daily cost at Hamsterley would increase to £3 from £2 with effect from April 2007. Annual permits would also increase. Alex also said that in 2008 free parking for Trailblazer members would only be available to those assisting with trailbuilding or other voluntary work. He did say, however, that such members would be issued with a parking permit that enabled free parking at Keilder and Chopwell also. Alex **AGREED** that any member re-joining by the end of March 2007 would enjoy free parking at Hamsterley until the end of March 2008. People joining from 1 April 2007 would only be able to park free until the end of December 2007. Ash proposed a sub group be formed to look at the implications of these changes, including the type of volunteering that would qualify for free parking permits.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was **AGREED** the next meeting be the Annual General Meeting on Monday 2 April 2007 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, Hamsterley.