

Annual General Meeting (2010)

Sunday, 07 March 2010

Minutes

ATTENDEES

Members: T Sellors, J Ashworth, E Smith, G Montague, C Smith, I Sikora, S Booth, P Stevens, M Britchford, N Burgin, T deBruin, C Knight, B Knight, E Woods, S Boyd, T Parkinson, D Brayshaw, P Stokes, J Light, P Hopwood, S Green, E Steele.

Non-Members: G Tatum, A Owenson, J Sainter, M Bancroft, T Rymer.

1. INTRODUCTION (Chair, Tim Sellors)

Round table introduction from all attendees. TS explained that an update of works since last AGM would be prepared and circulated in next couple of months (similar to what went out with last year's renewals as seemed popular with recipients, this meeting to focus (though not exclusively) on future actions. This meeting is for the period up to 31 March 2010.

2. APOLOGIES (Chair, T Sellors)

- Lee Owen Stanford (Treasurer) – racing.
- Si Mander – family commitments.
- Guisborough HoTD – Tom Levell, has stepped down
- Silton HoTD – Ed , Chair did not contact.

3. ACTIONS FROM LAST AGM (Chair, T Sellors)

Last AGM's (held 18 April 2008) minutes and actions therein were reviewed, in the first instance whether they were still current or not and then either in detail or deferred to appropriate later stage of the meeting. The outcome of the review was as follows:

3.1 Dalby

- | | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 3.1.1 | Produce Memory Map for Dalby (and Stainburn) and include on website | CK |
| 3.1.2 | Produce better quality map for trails and include on website. | GM |

3.2 Stainburn

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 3.2.1 | Application for low northshore near PT – after discussions agreed that this not a priority. | n/a |
|-------|---|-----|

3.3 Website

- | | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 3.3.1 | Instructions for gallery users – some provided at time but Gallery in process of being upgraded / changed. Webmaster to provide “How To” when changes complete and access provided for users. | SB |
|-------|---|----|

3.4 Membership etc

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 3.4.1 | Direct Debit payments to be explored for membership subscriptions. | n/a |
|-------|--|-----|

3.4.2 Online payment via Paypal (membership / merchandise) **Ongoing (Chair / Treasurer / Web)**

4. TRUSTEES

4.1 Tim Sellors has been Chairman for preceding year.

Proposal: **T Sellors to continue as Chairman** - carried (unanimously).

4.2 After discussions with the Chair, Lee Owen Stanford is stepping down as Treasurer, effective from end of financial year (31 March 2010).

Proposal: **Elizabeth (Lib) Smith for Treasurer** - carried (unanimously).

4.3 Secretary position has been vacant for several years, tasks have been shared amongst willing volunteers, Chair, etc

Proposal: **Jason Ashworth for Secretary** - carried (unanimously).

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 SingletrAction bank account is currently HSBC, Harrogate branch. Has no online access set up (considered important for ease of management, especially with Paypal) and only signatory is LOS.

Proposal: **Open new bank account with online access and 3 Trustees as signatories. Stop using HSBC account on 31 March 2010 and use new account from 01 April 2010 –** carried (unanimously).

ES

6. REPORTS

6.1 Dalby

GM reported significant change in tack from FE over last year. Appear to be insisting on trail building qualifications and are increasingly concerned regarding the ramifications of Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM). Consequently builders at Dalby are getting few opportunities to build new trails although maintenance is being encouraged. This maintenance, depending on individual situations is felt likely to lead to construction of new trail sections or features. Was noted that "maintenance" per se does not particularly encourage or inspire members.

An area at Dixon's Hollow / Pace Bike Park has been set aside for construction of a Pump Track. Several of the Stainburn guys keen to assist in design and construction. Aim to meet and build over next six months.

GM/IS

6.2 Stainburn

Slow and limited progress due to low numbers and the Thackley project during summer 2009 taking up most available time.

Current and future works include finishing Descent Line Extension.

FE have agreed to an extension to Pump Track. This might involve significant rebuild of the existing track. NB and CS to prepare designs. There is a possibility of support from Stif who recently relocated to Summer Bridge (from Headingley).

CS/NB

Add features to existing Descent Line trail (previously agreed with FE). May allow us to address some of the sections where improvement would be worthwhile e.g. rocky section out of trees.

CS

FE also granted permission for an “unofficial”, “unconstructed” trail on the Norwood side. Line for this can be cleared of brash and firmed up then promoted via our website. TS recounted meeting with FE late last year re: future of Norwood and FE’s approach to the trail and construction activities. Similar situation to that reported by GM. It was noted that all the northshore structures had been decommissioned on the Norwood side. TS confirmed FE insisted on this approach and could not be convinced to keep them. Standard of decommissioning and debris left on site was considered to be poor and require attention from FE.

TS

6.3 Guisborough

Tom Levell has stepped down after many years as HoTD for Guisborough. TS has been in contact and discussion with Rory (from MTB Guisborough, www.mtbguisborough.ning.com). Rory has liaised with FE and there seems to be support there for trail construction (firstly reclaiming and reconstructing an existing section then subsequently to develop more extensive trails). Works have been waiting on FE finishing felling and then weather conditions. This seems to be one of the few locations where volunteer construction is actively supported by FE. They have advised the guys at Guisborough to join SingletrAction for insurance purposes and general support. TS continues to discuss matters with Rory as they arise.

TS

6.4 Silton

Situation at site not really know. Appears following felling etc track has been rebuilt and opened. Ed, previously behind trails is not on site so much. Ell to research and report back / get information for SingletrAction site.

EW

6.5 Wharnccliffe

Sadly the efforts of SingletrAction and local volunteers have not come to much, despite the support of many people and endorsement from current World Champ’ Steve Peat (who lives on the edge of the woods). The problems were all perceived to revolve around FE and their beat forester’s unwillingness to engage with the volunteers. This was noted as a great disappointment given also the site’s potential for high quality trails, proximity to a major urban location, proximity to good transport infrastructure and Peak Parks desire to see it developed as somewhere that could help relieve pressure on the nearby National Park. Local volunteers continue to monitor the situation and are in loose contact with FE. If opportunity arises and locals can be mobilised then something may come of it.

6.6 Other Projects

Thackley / Buck Woods Skills Spot – we were approached through Crosstrax and subsequently worked with Bradford MBC, Friends of Buck Woods, Landscape Architects and CTC to design and build a skills spot at this site. SingletrAction put c.£1,000 into the project from club funds when other money ran out (mainly for plant hire). All in all location is considered a success. Some smaller sections still to be finished when weather and opportunity allows.

TS/CS

7. WEBSITE (Webmaster, Stephen Boyd)

7.1 The website hosting was provided free by Andisa (old agreement which no-one knows full details of). Site recently suffered downtime and SB struggled to reinstate. Consequently, following discussions with TS, it was agreed to move the site to a commercial server (one.com). This will provide many advantages and opportunities over the dated hosting service, albeit free. Fees so far this year are £9. Estimated annual costs £30. We now have both .org.uk and .co.uk domains. Given established site is .org.uk (and that's on all the T's) it was agreed we would stick with that address. SB noted that anyone using either domain would reach same site.

7.2 SB invited feedback on website, features and design. Also pleaded for members to generate content. Add action for all to emphasis collective requirement.

7.3 Comments provided from members and non-members that layout of key information and events should be improved. Also that more regular news should be posted regarding ongoing activities and that site should be more current. All agreed but it was noted that doing this takes time and effort and all members are welcome (if not essential) to pitch in. See point above

8. MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Many members and potential members have requested a form of online payment for membership etc. It was agreed last AGM to adopt this but has not been achieved so far. Any fee incurred (considered minimal) to be absorbed by STA funds. Thought that increase in potential, additional members (and therefore funds) will offset the operational costs.

Proposal: **To activate Paypal on the website for online payments** – carried (unanimously).

ES/SB

8.2 Administration of membership applications (under the original Charter) was the Secretary's responsibility. For the last 2 (approximately) years this has been carried out by a co-opted / unofficial "Membership Secretary (Lib). It is felt that the membership, given on line payment and proposed 12 month renewal, would be best administered by the Treasurer.

Proposal: **Treasurer to administer membership**– carried (unanimously).

ES

8.3 Membership currently runs from 01 April to 31 March the following year. It is felt that a 12 month membership may attract more people to join and avoid a single, significant renewal period.

Proposal: **Membership to run from date of joining for 12 months. Membership will expire at the end of the calendar month in which the individual joined (one year on) – carried (unanimously).**

ES

8.4 There was considerable debate on the cost for membership. One suggestion was that the current price (£15) might be at a level where it was off putting to potential members and that £10 might be something more people would be prepared to pay without considering the actual cost. This in turn might increase funds overall (if more people joined as a result of a lower fee) and increased members. However, others considered the current fee represented good value, had not gone up since start of club and that a lower fee might lose funds overall. It was also suggested the Paypal option (agreed this meeting) was likely to attract more members. To see the effect this has on membership it was agreed we should only change one variable this year (online payment) and review its effect and whether to change fees next year.

9. MERCHANDISE

9.1 Various merchandise opportunities were discussed. It was noted that the club needed to be careful if and when investing significant funds in merchandise. Whilst speculating to achieve great funds in the end and/or club profile was worthwhile, the reasons behind club fees is clearly stated as being for trail development.

9.2 GM indicated that he could produce a wide variety of merchandise (hats, beanies, hoodies, T shirts etc). Some elements would need to be provided e.g. stitch files. CS and GM to liaise on this.

GM/CS

9.3 IS explained the opportunity to have a stand at the forthcoming UCK World Cup Event at Dalby. He was keen to procure an EZ-Up and other materials to use at this event and which would then comprise a “stand in a box” that he would manage and maintain for all members to use at events and when on digs. It was hoped this would raise awareness and increase member numbers / funds.

Proposal: **Allocate budget of up to £700 to purchase tent, printing (through GM), tables and other display material – carried (unanimously).**

IS

10. FORESTRY ENTERPRISE

10.1 The relationship with Forestry Commission / FE was discussed at various points throughout the meeting. In general it seems the relationship and their willingness to embark on new trail building projects is less than previously. There was much speculation as to why but no real conclusion. It was felt it would be worth pursuing this issue with FE or through various channels.

TS/IS

11. SPONSORS

- 11.1 The sponsor list, how it is presented on the website how members can access the information all need to be improved. TS/JS

- 11.2 It is possible that after many years of support from Hope Technology with their discount to active volunteers that this may no longer continue. LOS is discussing this with Hope and TS is liaising with him. LOS/TS

- 11.3 TS spoke to Adrian Carter (Pace Cycles) at Stif's recent opening event. Happy to continue his support. To write and confirm details of deal and update site. TS

- 11.4 Pursue other shops and discount opportunities. TS/JS/Others

- 11.5 PS talking to On One re: prize draw items for membership drive. PS

- 11.6 Membership drive / renewals prize draw to be for those joining / currently renewing and up to 01 June 2010 (as no longer a once yearly event). ES

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 Discussion about allocation of funding. Acknowledgement that until plans had been drawn up funding could not be allocated.

- 12.2 Discussion about 5 year management plan? Not taken any further at this point.

- 12.3 Discussion about having person responsible for collating/generating news material for website. M Britchford volunteered. To be briefed by TS and SB on systems and then commence ASAP. TS/SB/MB

- 12.4 Proposed that we hold a meeting to review progress against the actions and discussions in six months time. Agreed. To be arranged, probably at Dalby. GM/JA