Annual General Meeting (2011)

Sunday, 17 April 2011
Minutes

ATTENDEES

Members: T Sellors, J Ashworth, E Smith, G Montague, C Smith, I Sikora, P Hopwood, D Brayshaw, N Burgin, A Lumley, M Bland, John Marshall, Jake Marshall, S Weston, C Wood, C Ashworth, M Beaumont.

1. INTRODUCTION (Chair, Tim Sellors)

Round table introduction from all attendees.

2. APOLOGIES (Chair, T Sellors)

- Stephen Boyd
- Helen Sikora
- Rory Spence

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

Last AGM's (held 7th March 2010) 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 **Hope discount**

TS outlined that Hope have agreed to continue supporting SingletrAction by giving us a trade account that gives us access to Hope products at approximately a 3rd off the retail price. This discount is offered to all club members who attend 5 days volunteer trail building events (or specific club activities e.g. AGM, EGM etc). People who are interested in making use of the offer contact TS (chairman@singletraction.org.uk) for details.

3.2 **Dalby**

3.2.1 Memory Map for Dalby (and Stainburn) are still wanted and should be included on website **SB**

3.2.2 Produce better quality map for trails and include on website. **GM**

3.3 **Website**

3.3.1 Instructions for website still would be of use. Webmaster to provide instructions "How To". **SB**

3.4 **Membership etc**

3.4.1 Direct Debit payments to be explored for membership subscriptions. **ES**

3.4.2 Online payment via Paypal for membership & merchandise is now complete. **ES**

3.4.3 New bank account open and all club funds have now been transferred from the old HSBC account. The HSBC account will now be closed. **ES**

4. TRUSTEES

4.1 Jason Ashworth has been Secretary for preceding year, after discussions with the Chair, Jason is stepping down as Secretary. The Chairman would like to thank Jason for his hard work as secretary throughout the last year.

As part of the process for becoming a charity organisations require three trustees, since one of these positions is now vacant David Brayshaw has put his name forward. Jason has offered to help with the role as part of the transition period.

Proposal: **D Brayshaw for Secretary -** carried (unanimously).

5. **ACCOUNTS**

5.1 ES reports the new SingletrAction bank account is now in use and all funds from previous historical accounts have been transferred.

5.2 For the last financial year the opening balance at 5th May 2010 was reported as £5,973, closing balance 31st March 2011 reported as £5,408.

- Membership has brought £1,634 into the clubs accounts (after Paypal charges of ??, i.e. 71p per member).
- The largest outgoings included Easy-Up (£575), a tool stock for Guisborough (TS hopeful of support from IMBA for this) & Aggregate (predominantly used at Stainburn.
- Stainburn site has spent most over last year on materials for the Descent Line Extension and repairs / maintenance.

SW asked if the new bank account charges for depositing and cashing cheques. ES confirmed there are no charges.

5.3 For the current financial year the current balance for the account is £4,783.56.

- Planned purchase of 20 tonnes of aggregate for Guisborough site (c.£480). **TS**
- CW offered to help ES with finance if required**.** **CW**

5.4 The old HSBC account is being closed as no longer needed. This should be completed within the month. **ES**

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 Dalby, nr Pickering North Yorkshire

6.1.1 Pump Track – Dixon's Hollow

GM reported the pump track at Dixon's Hollow is finished with help from some of the Stainburn regulars (CS, TB, DB & PS). Stuart Startup (SS, FC Ranger for Dalby) has finished off by putting down the top surface which is working well. Significant change from FC over last year, SS has been putting in a lot of work on site and has been working well and is positive of developments with GM and IS. FE have agreed to put a fence up around the pump track to stop people using it as a shortcut from the fire road and causing damage. SS to complete this shortly.

IS suggested banners being put up at Dixon's Hollow to promote the work SingletrAction has done on the pump track. Suggest request be made to FC for funding. To be investigated . **GM**

6.1.2 CTC Funded Skills Loops

The three CTC funded Skills Loops are complete but as yet not officially open. The hope is the three loops have increasing levels of skills required to ride which will facilitate rider progression.
Identify when the opening of these loops is planned for from FC/CTC. **GM**

6.1.3 Low Turnouts to Trail Building Days

Over the past year GM has found it increasingly difficult to attend digs but IS has helped out wherever possible by running them. GM and IS have reported that trail building days have regularly received a low turnout, with sometimes only IS plus one or two other people. One exception to this was just after the snow when 14 or 15 people helped clear trees.
It is believed that because SingletrAction are not allowed to build any new sections of trail people are discouraged / less inspired to attend trail building days.
It was agreed the term "maintenance" does not inspire people to attend trail building days, therefore, a more positive spin is to call the work "trail Improvement". In any case, such works will often involve the wholescale modification and improvement of a section, including construction of new features, re-routing etc (e.g. recent works on Descent Line at Stainburn).

Suggestion that for the next few trail building days the EZ-up be setup at the head of the trail, with the aim of grabbing people's attention, educating and encouraging Dalby users to support SingletrAction. In tandem discussions to be had with SS and FC to identify a suitable project, bearing in mind comments above. GM/**IS**

6.1.4 Wetmore Dykes

GM & IS have been speaking to SS about the poor state of the area and possibility of rejuvenation. The area is approximately 300 m long and would take considerable time to do using just volunteer labour.
There is a possibility that funding may be available to allow this work to be done by contractors and SingletrAction will act in a consulting role. Discussions ongoing. **GM**

GM would like to thank IS and all the guy's from Stainburn for all their help and hard work at Dalby over the last year.

6.2 Guisborough, North Yorkshire

AL thanked SingletrAction for all the help supplied to MTBGuisborough in getting trail development back up and running at Guisborough. It was acknowledged the start of relations was a bit fraught but all now realise the practicalities and challenges of volunteer trail building and particular working requirements with the land manager, FC. The local guys have been working hard to build a stron, positive relationship with FC and particularly SS.

AL reported that AL, MB & RS have all been working as a team and acting as Head of Trail Design at Guisborough rather than having a single person. This partnership is working well. TS confirmed this was always a good idea and helped share the load.

CS & TS have sourced and supplied materials and tools to the members of SingletrAction / MTBGuisborough. At the moment this has been purchased with club funds but TS is discussing the possibility of a grant from IMBA. Outcome to be communicated once reached. **TS**
The local tool stock will make it easier for work to take place at Guisborough without relying one or two people or FC.

Trail building days are going extremely well with good attendance. AL would like to take advantage of the current enthusiasm for trail building at guisborough to try and build up support and membership, which will hopefully translate into more members for SingletrAction and consequently funds for materials.

Work on trail improvement is progressing well, with better drainage and rock sections helping to provide more sustainable sections of trail. SS has been attending almost all trail building days to provide advice and is working on building the relationship between MTBGuisborough, SingletrAction and FC. A lockup for tools has been provided and SS is in the process of putting new signs up and reclassifying the black route as red. He has also been in talks with AL,MB & RS about the possibility of building a pump track at the site of the old Christmas tree lot.

TS suggested that as well as their own site the MTBGuisborough members should try to use the SingletrAction forum to organise trail building days and to promote news. AL confirmed they were keen to promote the trail building work through SingletrAction in an attempt to bridge different groups of riders / users. The works at Guisborough are intended to benefit all local riders and are not the sole preserve of any one group.

JA requested information for updating the guisborough project page on the SingletrAction website. To be supplied. **AL/MB**

MB requested SingletrAction logo to put on MTBGuisborough Jersey. DB to e-mail **DB**

6.3 Stainburn Forest, nr Otley, North Yorkshire

6.3.1 Decent Line

CS reports work on the Decent Line Extension is complete, although some small scale adjustment and maintenance are still needed. Recent work has been focused on improving the Descent Line section from its start in the trees / near the main road to just past the Boulder Drop. This section has also been modified to improve its flow, incorporate new features and increase durability.
The new Decent Line Extension and modifications have highlighted how blown out and eroded other sections of the Decent Line are. It is hoped more work can be done on these sections in due course.

Plans for upcoming trail building is to move over to Norwood's natural trails and return to work on the Decent Line in the winter months.

6.3.2 Pump Track

TS & NB report that despite a delay of a year plans to extend and significantly modify the pump track are going well. Designs have been drawn up and there are promising signs from Stif / Jungle to provide financial support (meeting scheduled for Friday, 20 May 2011.
Current plans are to double the track in size, improve flow following learning experience at Thackley and Dalby and add new features.

Costs still have to be finalised, the scale of the project means mechanised plant and operators will need to be used. This adds paperwork because working on FC managed land demands specific operator training and procedures . **TS**

Stiff are hoping to use Stainburn as a base for demo days and events, hopefully building a strong relationship with SingletrAction.

6.3.3 Norwood Edge
Work on what FC term an "informal" trail on the Norwood Edge side of the woods is now about to start [commenced in earnest, May 2011 volunteer trail building day]. It is hoped by building our relationship with FC, actively promoting the informal trail, encouraging local businesses and possibly lobbying for local political support that we can convince FC to agree an official trail in the future.

6.4 Silton, North Yorkshire
The situation with Silton is still unknown. CS suggests everything is fine and that we should simply keep an eye out for changes. Agreed.

6.5 Buck Woods (Thackley) Skills Spot, nr Bradford
Maintenance work and modifications to the pump track are planned as evening projects throughout the summer months. Plan to remove jumps in the trees, closest to the entrance use the materials elsewhere where more riding occurs. This will also relocate riders from the area dog walkers use (dog fouling).

6.6 Wharncliffe Woods, Sheffield
There seems to be no enthusiasm locally to work on improvements and maintenance from FC, the land manager, and so SingletrAction are no longer actively involved at the Wharncliffe site. Recently signs were put up by FE promoting SingletrAction's involvement at the site, we have requested that these signs be taken down given we are no longer involved and the trails were not constructed to our design. We wish Wharncliffe all the best and hope in time that it can be appropriately and successfully developed. Certainly the beneficial factors associated with the site are ones that we have believed for a long time make it ideal for development (proximity to; major urban conurbations, major transport links, opportunity to relieve user pressure on adjacent Peak Park, Steve Peat etc). We also wish RideSheffield all the best in their efforts at Grenoside Woods and are always happy to discuss how we might help in future.

6.7 Other Projects

TS reported there has been little development at the Escrick site (North Yorkshire). Given the level of input required we put the land owner in contact with Phil Saxena (Architrail). We will assist as and when would benefit the project, to be liaised by PS. Obtain update form PS. **TS**

6.8 Reports on last six months activities (where not covered above) and new / potential projects

6.8.1 Pennine Mountain Bike Association (www.PMBA.org.uk)

A fledgling organisation similar to SingletrAction, setup in Lancashire working at Gisburn, Lee Quarry and other sites in the area. Have begun working with us and benefitting from our experience of trail building and working with land owners / managers and existing as a voluntary group. They would like to remain a separate "Sister" organisation concentrating on the Lancashire side of the Pennines. TS, ES, CS & DB have represented SingletrAction at some of their meetings.

6.8.2 Gisburn Skills Spot

SingletrAction have been involved with this project for some time working principally with Ed Oxley (Great Rock Skills Coaching), Tim Gridley (Dog & Partridge Pub, Tosside) and Martin Colledge (FC). The Skills Spot was financially supported by Hope with initial design by SingletrAction, design review and measure by Rowan Sorrell (Back on Track) and implemented by contractors (Dan Hemingway). To enable works on FC managed land method statements and risk assessments were required by FC and these were prepared by TS.

Work still needed on the surfacing at the start of the trail which was built using road scalpings. Material has remained very loose and granular so could benefit from addition of limestone fines, water and compaction to consolidate riding surface.

CS and CW have both expressed concerns that the area provides less opportunities for skills progression than was initially envisaged in our outline design, the reclaimed road surface material is not very suitable in its current state and the implementation based loosely on SingletrAction's design.

SingletrAction are happy to provide advice on possible improvements to the area if desired. Contact to be made with Ed and Tim. However, the trail is a good addition to the general area and may well be a reflection of the local riders desires / preferences.

6.8.3 St Ives, Bingley, West Yorkshire

JA and TS have been involved with this project on the outskirts of Bingley, at present progress is a little slow and tied into local authority funding / spending cycles. However, recent communications indicate the council could be interested in developing a wider offering along the Aire Valley Greenway. Report back to SingletrAction after next meeting. **TS**

6.8.4 Rawcliffe, North Yorkshire

The City of York Council have funding available for building a skills area at Rawcliffe, IS reports they initially approached SingletrAction wanting to pay us to do the work (as though a contractor). However, this is not really what we do and so directed them to Phil Saxena.

The project is planned to develop in three distinct phases as and when funding is available. At present funding in only secured for Phase 1. Keep group updated of developments. **IS**

7. WEBSITE

7.1 Dropbox has been instigated by DB and ES.

7.2 Other

7.2.1 Disclaimer

ES suggested the forum should contain a disclaimer stating opinions posted are not necessarily SingletrAction's.

ES to discuss with SB and implement **ES**

7.2.2 Procedure for Making Changes

The work done by SB keeping the SingletrAction website up and running is much appreciated. In order to stop him from being overloaded by requests for changes to the site all requests should be sent to either TS, ES or DB who will then pass these onto SB. Alternatively suggestions can be posted on the open forum and Forum Administrators can access a dedicated area for discussion and maintaining a work list.

7.2.3 "About Us" Section

The "About Us" information on the website is now a little out of date and needs updating.

DB & JA to look at updating information on site. **DB/JA**

8. MEMBERSHIP, AFFILIATIONS AND MEETINGS

8.1 Membership Numbers & Paypal

Paypal has worked well for increasing membership numbers this year, at present we have 115 members, 66 of which have used Paypal. Membership numbers were higher than this earlier in the year but some of these have now expired and as yet have not renewed. All agreed Paypal has been a great success.

8.2 Payment Methods (direct debit)

Direct debit & subscription options to be looked into as a way of further increasing annual membership numbers. **ES**

8.3 Affiliation / Representation

8.3.1 CTC

Recently CTC have started to get involved / have presented themselves as supporting trail building. Although they can be quite commercially minded at times they seem to share similar views and approaches to SingletrAction. The cost of affiliation to CTC would be an initial introductory fee of £25 then approximately £50 per year thereafter. This would allow members to access certain CTC benefits (see www.CTC.org.uk). Ginny Leonard (CTC rep for Bradford, worked with on Thackley and St Ives) has indicated she can secure funding for first year costs.

8.3.2 British Cycling

Last year we had a free stand at the Dalby World cup courtesy of British Cycling. However, BC have insisted we affiliate in return for a "free" stand.

IS has been in talks with British Cycling who want recognition for all they have done for Dalby, however, they do not seem prepared to recognise the crucial work and role SingletrAction played in the instigation of trail developments at Dalby and our ongoing work. It appears British Cycling are more race orientated and not particularly involved in trail building. They seem to share fewer of SingletrAction's views and aims. The cost of affiliation to BC would be approximately £88 per year. This would also allow access to benefits although they are considered less applicable (e.g. race licences and fees) to the majority of members than CTC.

British cycling may be restructured in 2012.

8.3.3 Right to Ride

E-mail and Job description for Right to Ride rep job passed around. No members expressed an interest at that time.

8.3.4 IMBA

We have been affiliated to the UK branch of IMBA for some time. However, in its current form IMBA UK seems almost non-existent and appears to do little towards promoting mountain biking or trail building. IMBA UK is currently restructuring . The cost of affiliation to IMBA is approximately £35 per year. This would allow reduced rate individual membership of the organisation (IMBA) but few other tangible benefits have been identified.

It is the opinion of several in the group that there is no clear benefit of being affiliated to IMBA at the present time. Whilst we wish them success we must be mindful of spending and conserve funds for the essentials of our work, developing trails i.e. materials and tools. Similarly, affiliation to BC does not appear to offer significant benefits or increase representations at a higher level on issues that broadly fit with those of SingletrAction. There was also some unhappiness on BC's dealings with us regarding the Dalby WC.

Members thoughts at this time are that CTC are actively promoting mountain biking and trail building.

Proposal: **Affiliate with CTC up to a fee of £50 -** carried (unanimously).
[situation to be reviewed before renewal in c.1 year]

We will in the interim try and talk to FE about the possibility of joining their stand at the Dalby world cup. **GM**

8.4 Motion – Bi Monthly meetings

In order to conduct club business and activities more efficiently and to allow members to keep up to date with projects and arising issues / opportunities it was proposed that bi-monthly

meetings are held. These would be open and informal and held at various locations to encourage wider involvement.

DB will organise meetings and email members with information. **DB**

Proposal: **Bi-monthly meetings are organised -** carried (unanimously).

9. MERCHANDISE AND EVENTS

9.1 Headtube Badges

Small number remaining form original order. To be placed on website shop. **DB/ES**

9.2 T-Shirts

To be placed on website shop and small stock maintained. GM able and happy to supply short orders using current designs. **DB/ES**

9.3 Duff Bags

The people at Duff Bag have done us a deal on custom SingletrAction Bags. For orders of 10 or more they will do them at a price of £25 each instead of the retail price of £35. DB waiting for sample before taking final orders. **DB**

9.4 Riding Tops

Re-design of riding tops to be progressed. **CS/CW**

9.5 Gazebo Events

9.5.1 Dalby World Cup

See 8.3, above. GM to speak to FE and discuss the use of their stand. **GM**

9.5.2 Singletrackworld Weekender, Lee Quarry

We have been invited to attend the Singletrackworld Weekender Event at Lee Quarry. This event will cost nothing for SingletrAction to attend and will help promote ourselves, sister organisation PMBA and trail building. To be organised. **TS**

9.6 Training

9.6.1 First Aid – With PMBA

Earlier in the year PMBA organised a first aid course specifically aimed at mountain bikers. CS attended this two day course and found it to be one of the best courses he has ever been on. Hopefully PMBA will be organising more of the same.

9.6.2 Risk Assessment – With PMBA

Potential risk assessment courses are being looked at in partnership with PMBA. TS will forward information including dates etc. as and when these become available. **TS**

9.6.3 Trail Building – With PMBA

Potential trail building courses are being looked at in partnership with PMBA. TS will forward information including dates etc. as and when these become available. **TS**

9.7 Chainless Event

This year is SingletrAction's 10th Birthday and as part of the celebrations it has been suggested we hold a "by invitation" Chainless Event at Stainburn. Prizes for the slowest competitor down the Descent Line and other novelty awards. There is also the possibility of having a comp on the new pump track.

Proposed date is Sunday 11th September 2011.

Suggestions of event being fancy dress and famous names needed, If anybody knows how to contact anybody famous who may be interested let JA/DB/TS know.

9.8 Other Merchandise

Other possibile merchandise suggestions include; mugs, caps, quick coin holders etc. Any suggestions to ES.

10. SPONSORS

10.1 Existing

10.1.1 Hope

As already described the trade account with Hope is still available to members, Hope are happy to continuing to offer this to regular trail builders.

10.1.2 Pace

Pace are happy to continue to support SingletrAction by offering discounts.

10.1.3 Ragley

We hope to set up a trade account with Ragley, similar process to the Hope one. Paul Stevens (Chase) is looking into this. **PS**

The Blue Pig frame offered as a prize still needs to be drawn. This will be done at the Stainburn volunteer trail building day, 1st May. **CS**

10.1.4 Great Rock

Ed Oxley of Great Rock has given us a voucher for a skills day. This will hopefully be used as a prize at the chainless event planned for September.

10.2 New

10.2.1 Pro Ride Guides

Joe and Alex Rafferty have offered to give all SingletrAction members a 15% discount on any courses booked. In addition to this they have organised a day on 30th April for up to 12 members at an even more heavily discounted rate. This has been offered to members attending the AGM first and then passed out to wider membership.

10.2.2 Evans Cycles

James Milner (TAG) works for Evans. CS will speak to him regarding possible sponsorship / support. **CS**

10.2.3 Orange Bikes

IS is in the process of talking to Orange about possible prizes that can be offered this year in a similar draw to the Dig for a Pig. **IS**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Bi-Monthly Meetings

The date for the first Bi-Monthly meeting will be the Monday 6th June 7.30 at the Sun Inn near Stainburn.

DB to email members with invites and proposed agenda. **DB**

11.2 Membership Questionnaire

A questionnaire sent to members could be used to understand our existing members and what made them join SingletrAction.

ES & DB to look into putting together a questionnaire. **ES/DB**

11.3 Quarterly Newsletter

DB suggested an E-newsletter could be sent to all existing members on a quarterly basis. Information from the member questionnaire could be used to determine which members would be willing to receive an E-newsletter.

DB & JA to look into possibility of starting up an E-newsletter. **DB/JA**