



# AGM 2014

Minutes of Meeting and Annual Reports

## Contents

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Minutes for MTB Guisborough AGM 2014	3
Membership Report 2014	7
Treasurer Report 2014	8
Race Team Report 2014	9
Coaching & Guiding Report 2014	11
Youth Section Report 2014	12
Plans for clearer delineation of MTBG Club and MTBG Social Network	14
Trailbuilding Report 2014	15

# Minutes for MTB Guisborough AGM

27.11.2014

Held at Guisborough Leisure Centre, Laurence Jackson School, Church Lane, Guisborough

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## ***Present:***

Paul, Paul, Simon, Chris Johnston, Bob Stephenson, Col Jemson, Andy Bielby, Dan Lowery, Lee O'Leary, Chris Rudd, Kev Cooper, Neil Shearer, Mark Bland, Dan Pattinson, Nick Piper, Jason Hynd, Andy Tennyson, Ian Thompson, Tony Robbins, Sean Farnaby, Mike Coward.

***Please see associated Annual Reports 2014 following these minutes.***

## **1. AGM Introduction**

- Nick Piper (Chairman) introduced AGM Agenda.
- Informed members that 20% of members is needed for quorate. For clarity the 'quorum' is the percentage of members who need to vote in order for the outcome of the vote to be considered valid.
- Chair proposed to lower Quorum from 20% to a more realistic 10% - MTBG never gets 20% at meetings despite publicising as much as possible.
- As the members present fell short of 20% requirement, the Chair contacted a number of absent members by text message asking them to vote on the proposal (Alison Bland, Rory Spence, Andy Conn, John Fife, Lois Fife, Steven Brown, Derek George, Martin Coleby, Phil Dolphin, Alex Wright and Justin Bulmer).
- Of those present, 20 voted in favour and 1 abstained. 11 voted in favour via text. Quorum changed to 10%.

## **2. Membership Report**

- Mark Bland gave an overview - see '2014 Report' for details. There were no questions. Members happy with numbers.

## **3. Treasurer Report**

- Mark Bland gave an overview - see '2014 Report' for details.
- Mark and Nick explained about event shelter.
- Nick informed members that the full accounts are open to review by any member on request.
- There were no questions from members.

## **4. Racing Report**

- Nick explained 2014 activity - see '2014 Report' for details.
- Nick informed members the open ethos of racing to Club members.
- Club to continue to support racers but also to encourage participation for new members and more social racing.
- 2014 Errington race was successful. Ran at a profit. Next year more volunteers welcome and needed. Ian Thompson informed of proposed date for next year of 26th June.
- Dan Lowery keen for more media involvement to publicise event and race.
- 20 voted in favour of organising the event again in 2015, 1 abstained

# Minutes for MTB Guisborough AGM

Continued

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## 5. Coaching and Guiding

- Nick explained about adult guided rides, junior and unofficial rides – see '2014 Report' for details.
- Nick explained about funding and need to continue to fund training due to attrition of volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the more sustainable the activities become.
- Nick explained that junior activity to be kept as is, but adult rides to be expanded:
  - Weekly adult rides to be arranged to coincide with Junior rides on Thursday evenings to make most efficient use of club's Leaders – the hope is that a regular weekly activity should attract riders.
  - The aim is for there to be 1 coaching ride and 3 guided rides each month.
  - Leaders to be asked if they want to organise away-days.
  - More adult coaching sessions to be offered.
- Nick explained payments to Leaders £7 for a token towards expenses.
- Kev Cooper suggested upping expenses payment to £10 to encourage new leaders – Chair explained that some leaders had donated funds back as they enjoy volunteering. Also leaders have had 40% discount on club kit.
- Bob Stephenson suggested subsidising for guides such as Dales Centre.
- Jason Hynd - Suggested the club provide activities for 5-10 yrs. old
- Andy T - Suggested recruiting parents.
- Nick;
  - Workload issues – need more volunteers to make it sustainable
  - Suggested based at LJS skills loop
  - Not realistic for 2015
  - Suggested to make U10s a target for 2016, start planning 2015
  - Make new committee position
- Col Jemson – Suggested buying a fleet of bikes for young riders without access to a decent bike
- Nick and Andy T informed members of the issues and time involved with maintaining/storing/health and safety etc. and thus the club's reluctance to do this based on current manpower.
- Nick – Club aims to increase participation for female riders
- Possible integrate with other local clubs
- Plan to start younger age group U10 in 2016 should encourage female riders
- Vote: 20 voted in support of above plans, 1 abstained

# Minutes for MTB Guisborough AGM

Continued

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## 6. Website

- Nick explained background – See 2014 report for details
- Plan to make both websites clearer as both need to be separate entities.
- Kev Cooper asked why both websites cannot be kept as one. Nick explained that the owners preferred to keep it open but the club will be a sponsor of the site and there will be a partnership of the two.
- Mike Coward suggested it will be seen as a separate entity.
- Andy T suggested it will not be a problem as the Club will be a sponsor with a clear link on using site to signpost members to MTBG site.
- Dan Pattinson informed members about holding page with both sites on it.
- Easier for club administration
- Members agreed to support in favour of changes.

## 7. Trailbuilding

- Dan explained background – See 2014 report for details
- Paul asked what the problem was with trail building at Guisborough.
- Dan P explained that Forestry cannot generate any money as they do in Dalby/Hamsterley (as Council own car park)
- Members suggested making the trails bigger – with a new vision for the trails, to fund a project instead of trail building as there are not enough volunteers.
- Nick suggested using prisoners to help with labour. He informed members that if they complete 2 dig days then their SingletrAction membership will be paid for by the Club
- Kev Cooper suggested a new focus on Errington Woods if FC not prepared to engage at Guisborough – members agreed it could be a good idea.
- Andy T suggested a multi-agency approach with Forestry, Council, Guisborough Market Town Committee, etc.
- Dan Lowery volunteered to help coordinate trail building with Dan.
- Nick – suggested focus on a bigger vision and raising serious cash to fund a substantial project.
- Dan proposed 3 options for vote:
  - Give up
  - Big vision
  - Continue with more volunteers + Big Vision
- Nick suggested the Club asks the Forestry the question ‘if we raise serious money & and develop a 5 year plan would they allow the Club to implement the plan?’
- Majority members voted for Option 3.

## Minutes for MTB Guisborough AGM

Continued

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### 8. Survey

- Results were shown to members. No questions were asked.

### 9. Adoption of Committee positions

- Chair;  
Mark Bland proposed Nick piper, Dan Pattinson seconded. Neil Shearer proposed himself. Unanimous vote in favour of Nick Piper.
- Treasurer;  
Nick Piper proposed Mark Bland, seconded by Dan Pattinson. Unanimous vote in favour.
- Secretary;  
Jason Hynd proposed Dan Pattinson, Seconded by Mark Bland. Unanimous vote in favour.
- Membership Secretary;  
Neil Shearer proposed Martin Coleby in his absence. Seconded by Nick Piper. Unanimous vote in favour.
- Welfare Officer;  
Nick Piper proposed Andy Tennyson, seconded by Mark Bland. Unanimous vote in favour.

### 10. Conclusion

- The new Chair, Nick Piper, concluded the meeting by thanking members for attending the meeting and voicing their opinions and with an open invitation for all members join him in the pub.

# Membership Report

2013/2014

<b>Current Membership</b>	Adults	142
	Juniors	21
	Family	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>

<b>New Members since last AGM</b>	Adults	33
	Juniors	5
	Family	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

**Lapsed Members since last AGM**                      **17**  
(adults and juniors)

# Treasurer Report

2013/2014

Balance	Natwest	PayPal	Cash	Total
At last AGM (24.11.13)	£8,447.13	£0	£0	£8,447.13
Current (17.11.14)	£7,231.43	£0	£0	£7,231.43

Total income since last AGM	£7,943.71
Total expenditure since last AGM	£9,398.27
Gain or loss since last AGM	-£1454.56
Outstanding invoices to be paid	£0

	Breakdown of Income	Breakdown of Expenditure
	£7,943.71	£9,398.27
SingletrAction reinbursements	£0.00	£135.00
Memberships	£2,200.62	£19.32*
Fundraising	£0.00	£240.00**
Merchandise	£2,648.55	£2,543.90
Sport England grant	£390.00+	£2,866.25
Guided rides & coaching	£1,125.22	£892.69
Affiliations	£0.00	£68.00
Sponsorship & funding	£800.00	£0.00
Stationery, postage and printing	£0.00	£1,236.34***
Racing	£772.00	£683.09
Trailbuilding	£0.00	£304.60
Professional services	£0.00	£220.00
Websites & subscription	£7.32	£189.08

## Notes

£1250 to come in from Halloween event  
£1,253.31 to come in from kit sponsors

+ Refund from BC for 1x cancelled coaching course

\* Membership refund

\*\* Volunteer expenses: Halloween event

\*\*\* £690.50 of this total was for the purchase of the easy-up shelter



# Race Team Report

2014 season

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Another great turnout from MTBG members this season! Races attended included:

- Nutcracker series
- North East XC series
- Bontrager 24/12
- World 24hr Championships
- British Downhill Series
- Margam Madness
- European IXS Downhill Championships
- Glentress 7
- POC King & Queen of the Hill
- Torq in your Sleep
- Ardrock Enduro
- Selkirk Marathon
- World Enduro Series

## Key results

### Juniors

- Joe Brown: 2nd Overall U10 Boys NE XC Series (inc 2 wins)
- Daniel Thompson: 4th Overall U10 Boys NE XC Series (and he's only 8!)
- Melody Fife: 2nd Overall U12 Girls NE XC Series (inc 2 wins)
- Luke Middlemiss: 2nd Overall U14 Boys NE XC Series

### Jason Hynd

- Bontrager 12h solo 1st vet
- Glentress 7h solo 1st vet
- Torq in your Sleep 12h solo 2nd vet
- Margam Madness 8h solo 2nd vet
- World 24h solo Champs 3rd (40-44)

### Jack Tennyson

- 4th overall in GB Junior
- 4th overall in BDS series.
- 1st Austrian Junior Cup
- 2nd at the IXS European Cup Pila, Italy

### MTBG Mixed Team

- 1st Trio Glentress 7

Also worthy of note are the personal goals reached by individual members who may not have made the podium – good work!

Hope to see a few team entries in 2015. Also lots of MTBG faces at endure events.

# Race Team Report

2014 season

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## Events

The club hosted the Errington round of the North East XC series in April, this time taking on all the organisational responsibility (last year it was shared with BC), despite the weather the event was a great success with a turnout of approx 70 riders and very good feedback on the course. A big thanks to all involved in particular the volunteer marshals, Friends of Errington Woods, R&C Council, our sponsors and Ian Thompson. Approx 30 volunteers helped in total. The event ran at a profit (see club accounts).

## Future plans

- Club to again host Errington race in 2015 date TBC.
- The council have already been approached and provided permission in principle - we are also intending to move the event HQ and parking to Sandy Lane and shorten the course to reduce the number of marshals required.
- Ian Thompson has kindly agreed to take role of event organiser
- Other volunteers to help on the day required!!

# Coaching & Guiding Report

2014

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## Training

### Completed

- 4 Members completed 2 day British Cycling MTB Leader training
- 3 Members passed British Cycling MTB Leader assessment
- 1 Member completed 2 day British Cycling L2 coaching training
- 1 member completed 2 day British Cycling MTB coaching training and assessment

### Future plans (confirmed funding)

- 5 members to complete British Cycling MTB Leader assessment in first quarter of 2015
- 10 members to complete or renew Outdoor first aid qualification in first quarter of 2015
- 1 member to complete British Cycling L2 coaching assessment
- 1 member to complete British Cycling L2 MTB coaching training and assessment
- 1 member to complete British Cycling L3 MTB leader assessment

### Projected trained volunteers available for 2014 season

- 13 x active MTB Leaders (+ 4 more we have trained who have indicated they are currently unable to volunteer regularly )
- 3 x MTB coaches
- 1 x L2 coach

### Future plans

2 x MTB coaches

2 x MTB Leaders

## Youth Section Report

2014

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### Guided rides & Coaching delivered in 2014

#### Adult

- 5 x 'First Tuesday' guided rides
- Regular 'unofficial' adult Tues night rides and 'End Of Week' rides
- Total attendances: 41
- Max attendance: 12
- Average 8.4

#### Junior

- 4 x Beginner Coaching sessions (£300 funded by Sportivate)
- 16 x Evening guided rides
- 9 x Weekend afternoon guided rides and coaching (inc Dalby and Hamsterly x 2)
- Total attendances: 320
- Max attendance: 23
- Average: 13

### Future plans

#### Junior

- As 2014

#### Adult

- Weekly adult rides on Thursday evenings
- Monthly coaching sessions (Thursday evenings)
- 'Away days' depending on leader availability
- Coaching sessions to be planned in spring & summer (Dalby or Guisborough) there is demand for 'Woman only' and 'Intermediate' sessions in particular. Significant discount to again be given to club members

## Youth Section Report

### 2014

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Second year has again been very successful, massive thanks to all involved. See guided rides section for details of rides and coaching delivered. The club has received great feedback from both riders and parents – see survey responses

- Second intake of riders largely came from wider area than 1st intake (which was largely LJS MTB Club) (as far as County Durham) all intermediate to advanced standard.
- Replacement of summer holidays evening rides with programme of weekend 'away days' every 2 weeks was much more successful than previous evening rides
- Developed coaching pathway to allow beginner riders to develop the skills to enable them to attend guided forest rides (poss graded progression: Blue > Red).
- Produced new junior handbook which was distributed to all junior riders.

### Progress towards Sport England bid targets

- Sport England happy with progress
- We did not spend all the funding allocated for a number of reasons:
  - Unable to find suitable dates for training within 12 month timescale
  - Rider injury
- SE agreed extension to funding period to April 1st 2015 to allow us to spend balance (approx £2K)
- SE audited club's expenditure in 2014 and were happy to sign of expenditure so far

### Plans for 2014

- Continue regular evening rides and coaching from April 2014
- Develop coaching pathway to allow beginner riders to develop the skills to enable them to attend guided forest rides (poss graded progression: Blue > Red > Black)
- Encourage female participation (zero female riders so far)

## Plans for clearer delineation of MTBG Club and MTBG Social Network (ning)

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MTBG was originally created as a social network site by Rory and Andy, soon helped by Mark and Nick (and others since departed).

The team had grand plans, and it was soon apparent that a more formal footing would be needed if we were going to achieve our goals; and thus the official club was founded.

The social network has never been 'owned' by the club. It has been our view from that start the ning website is essentially owned by its members.

Lines have been blurred over time, largely because the same core team has historically been involved in administering both the club and the ning website. To simplify admin the club has managed sponsor adverts on the ning site, using the money received to pay the hosting fees etc. The ning site has also been the natural place to promote the club's activities alongside the club's own 'official' website.

What's become apparent is that this situation is a bit confusing for members - both of the ning site and the club. Also there's a concern that the social network site is at risk of becoming dependant on the club for financial support, a situation that's not in anyone's interests as we all want to see the site continue to flourish going forward. In order to give the social network a strong foundation, we've agreed to separate the administration of both entities:

### Branding

- The ning site will become: 'MTB Guisborough Social Hub' and the club: 'MTB Guisborough Club'.

### Advertising & sponsorship

- The social hub site, and any associated sponsorship and advertising will now be managed independently by Rory and Andy (and other members of the MTBG Social Hub team).
- Any club sponsorship (e.g. newsletter etc.) will be managed by the club committee as normal.
- The club will also become a sponsor of the MTBG Social Hub, we will pay a fee similar to any other sponsor to place an advert for the club on the front page reflecting the promotional benefit received.

### Promotion

- The club website will continue to be the primary source of club information; rides & events will still be posted on the Social Hub site but clearly labelled as 'Official Club Rides'.

It's important to stress that both the Social Hub and Club teams are still working together towards the same goals - primarily the promotion of riding in the local area.

# Trailbuilding Report

## 2014

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### In numbers

- 21 Volunteers
- 350 Hours
- 12 Digs
- Most Volunteers: 8
- Least Volunteers: 1
- 15 Tonnes of Aggregate Moved

### Positives

- Clixby's work on Les' 1 - partly due to continued pressure from MTBG
- Great effort from limited volunteers
- Built much better relationship with FC

### Negatives

- Clixby's work on Les' 1 - not finished
- Lack of volunteers
- Perceived lack of support on Ning site
- Vandalism of trail

### Conclusions

What has become apparent this year is that the current trailbuilding situation is unsustainable going forward. Although we have held up in the past for a number of reasons, primarily red-tape and a lack of funds, the primary problem we are now facing is simply a lack of volunteers.

The reasons for this are much debated, but a number of factors seem to have contributed:

- A focus on maintenance rather than new trails (as limited by FC permissions)
- A lack of access to the appropriate machinery e.g powered barrows, strimmers etc (Health and Safety)
- Inconvenient dig days
- Requirement for Singletration membership
- A perceived lack of vision on the part of the FC for the development of new trails

What is clear is that we need to find a better way forward, as with the best will in the world 3-4 regular volunteers aren't going to achieve a great deal.

In addition Dan has indicated he intends to step down as full time Trail-building co-ordinator at the end of the year.

## Trailbuilding Report

2014

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With that in mind we intend to put forward two options to be voted on:

1. The club desists all trailbuilding activity and focuses our limited resources on activities where we can have more of an impact. Club members wishing to continue volunteering would be able to do so under the umbrella of Singletraction. This is not our preferred option!
2. The club pauses trailbuilding activity on the ground. In the meantime we engage with the FC to try and establish a more progressive vision for the future of MTB trails in Guisborough Forest and a resolution to the issues identified above (to this end we hope to arrange a meeting that club members can attend to express their views).

This may involve focussing the club's activities more on fundraising for trails rather than being actively engaged on the ground. If we can establish a clear and positive plan then hopefully we be more successful in recruiting volunteers.

We are also very open to further options being suggested to be voted upon at the AGM.