

Annual General Meeting 2012

Sunday 11th November 2012, The Ship Inn, Guisborough

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting opened at 1:08pm

In attendance

Mark Bland, And Lumley, Nick Piper, Rich Beadnall, Rory Spence, Simon Towell, Martin Coleby, Dan Pattinson, Andy Place, Cameron Hammond, Bob Stephenson, Dave Faulkner, Ian Thompson, Jason Hynd, Gary Williams, Tony Robbins.

Apologies

None received.

Agenda Item 1 - Introduction

NP explained the rationale and ethos behind the formation of the MTB Guisborough Club and the outline of the AGM. The procedure for proposing and seconding the election of Committee members was outlined for those present and was met with no questions by Club members.

Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence

As noted above, there were no received apologies for absence.

Agenda Item 3 - Adoption of Committee Positions

- 3.1 **Club Chairman:**
MB proposed NP as new Chairman for the Club. This was seconded by RB and the subsequent vote saw NP duly elected by unanimous decision to the position of Chairman.
- 3.2 **Club Secretary:**
MB received thanks from the newly-elected Club Chairman for the work he had done over the past year as outgoing Secretary. MB then proposed MC as new Club Secretary. This was seconded by NP and the subsequent vote saw MC duly elected to the position of Secretary.
- 3.3 **Club Treasurer:**
NP proposed MB as continuing Club Treasurer. This was seconded by AL and the subsequent vote saw MB elected to continue in the position of Treasurer.

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Agenda Item 4 - Other Club Positions

NP and MB discussed how the Other Club Positions did not necessarily have to be ratified by vote and that therefore the proposed names for the four positions would be ratified by general consensus. The opportunity was given for any of the members present to put themselves forward for these positions but this option was not taken.

4.1 Trailbuilding Coordinator:

AL explained the proposal to have joint Trailbuilding Coordinators to help share the workload as this is one of the Club's primary objectives as stated in the Club Constitution. AL and RB were confirmed as Trailbuilding Coordinators.

4.2 Fundraising and Events Coordinator:

RS was confirmed as Fundraising and Events Coordinator.

4.3 Race Team Coordinator:

As outgoing Race Team Coordinator, NP outlined the details of the post and proposed Mike Coward for the new Race Team Coordinator: subsequently Mike was confirmed as Race Team Coordinator.

4.4 Youth Section Coordinator:

ST was confirmed as Youth Section Coordinator.

Agenda Item 5 - Annual Reports

5.1 Club Membership

MB outlined the current state of Club Membership according to the attached breakdown. RB asked about a awareness of member expiry for those who had not chosen to automatically renew using PayPal and this is something that the incoming Secretary will investigate.

ACTION: Secretary to be aware of when Club Membership for non-renewing Club Members will expire.

ST asked about expenditure for website fees etc and MB informed ST that this would be dealt with as part of the Treasurer's Report later in the meeting.

5.2 Trailbuilding

RB gave a brief outline of the trailbuilding activities for 2012. AL and NP discussed the future plans for trailbuilding in Guisborough. Various limiting factors were discussed as part of the future plans, particularly with reference to the ongoing issue of maintenance and new lines planned for Les' 1; plans for new singletrack sections have been put on hold due to a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the path of the proposed new line as well as funding issues for materials etc.

AL outlined the proposal for the Club to fund a 20-ton drop of 40mm-dust hardcore at the top of Les' 1 in order to begin repair on this section of trail - this was agreed by all Club members.

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- 5.2 ST queried whether the Forestry Commission were happy with the work that had been done so far in the Forest: a discussion followed regarding the trust that had been built up between the MTBG Trailbuilding section and the Forestry Commission and the importance of not jeopardising this relationship with the construction of black grade trail obstacles and legitimising non-official, natural routes within the Forest boundary. Trail sponsorship by local bike shops was briefly discussed and RS intimated that a major MTB manufacturer was in discussions about potentially being more involved in trailbuilding at Guisborough.

ST discussed the potential for his employer (Barclays Bank PLC) to help fund community initiatives, particularly those with a youth aspect.

Skills loops/pump tracks within the Forest boundary were discussed that would help forge links between the Club's Youth Section and Trailbuilding Section. Location and relative proximity to car parking are again limiting factors to take into account as well as local residents' feelings about traffic, noise, nuisance etc.

AL briefly discussed the Friends of Guisborough Forest & Walkway group that organised a very successful Hallowe'en event in the Forest; there is the potential to provide manpower in the form of Club members for such events and receive some form of split in the proceeds.

JH discussed the possibility of getting bike manufacturers to provide substantial raffle prizes that can be used to boost Club finances as well as gain exposure for both the Club and the companies involved.

A discussion was held about availability of long-term dates for dig days so people could organise themselves in order to attend more days.

ACTION: AL/RB TO SET UP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR DATES OF DIG DAYS AND MAKE THIS AVAILABLE TO ALL MTBG MEMBERS.

5.3 Race Team

NP summarised the Race Team's achievements over the past year and detailed the ethos behind the formation of the Race Team itself. It was noted that Andy Conn had won a bronze medal in the MTBO World Championships which was not down in the Achievements section of the Race Team report. NP offered thanks to all those who had represented the Race Team over the past year. Future plans for the Race Team include more frequent social gatherings as well as more frequent training rides to work on specific training needs as identified by the members of the Race Team. One of the aims of the Youth Section will be to get more young people involved in MTB racing.

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5.4 Coaching and Guiding

NP discussed how the rationale for the formal Guided Rides was very different from the informal Ning social rides that have occurred in the past and how there was a requirement for MTB Leaders to run these club guided rides.

The financial implications of the MTB Leader qualification were outlined as well as the various funding streams that were accessed in order for this training to take place. It was noted that relationships between the Club and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council had grown in strength as a result of the 'Sportivate' guided rides.

It was noted that there are plans for more MTB Leaders and Coaches to be trained during 2013 and that anyone interested should make their interest known to the Committee. Whilst funding will still be available to help subsidise the cost of achieving the qualification, this will be on the basis of payment on successful completion of the course so as to minimise risk and ensure that the Club achieves value for money from the investment made.

NP briefly mentioned affiliation to the Tony Blair Sports Foundation Partnership and an agreement was made to vote on this issue at the end of the meeting under Any Other Business.

The renewal of the Forestry Commission permit to allow the Club to run Guided Rides and Coaching sessions in Guisborough was discussed. For the previous year, this entailed a cost of £120 - it was discussed that through the manpower that MTBG has provided in terms of trailbuilding as well as the financial commitment of the Trail Leaders/Coaches and investment in trail materials, it might be possible for the fee to be waived for the coming year.

BS raised the possibility of EU funding being tapped to facilitate the Club's goals; this was discussed briefly and was agreed to be a good idea in principle but could be very time consuming for those involved.

JH discussed the availability of Teesside University's Physiology Department labs for base line endurance testing and how the Department often is on the lookout for volunteers to participate in this programme. It was noted that this could be of particular benefit to Youth Section members but is open to all who would be interested in taking part.

Agenda Item 6 - Accounts

MB summarised the state of the Club's accounts which led to a query as to whether the Club should be financially responsible for the Ning site fees as strictly the Club are a separate entity to the Ning social network. A discussion ensued as to how else the Ning fees could be raised and a vote was held in which Club members voted unanimously to NOT fund the Ning site fees through the Club.

ACTION: RS TO INVESTIGATE OTHER OPTIONS FOR FUNDING THE NING SITE FEES BEFORE THEY ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL.

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Agenda Item 7 - Any Other Business

The Tony Blair Sports Foundation Partnership was discussed and how the Club had been approached to be a partner. It was noted that the TBSFP had provided a great deal of funding to the MTB Leaders/Coaches in the past and an affiliation with the Partnership would be a positive step for the Club in terms of adding legitimacy to other funding stream applications. A vote was held in which the Club members unanimously voted to affiliate with the TBSFP.

BS raised the possibility of organising sportives/races in the local area; this was discussed at length and the various issues surrounding such activities were raised - these included permission from landowners and other stakeholders as well as the requirements in terms of manpower in order to make events run smoothly. In addition, the Club being in its infancy, it was thought that this would be a step too far currently and would be too ambitious for this stage in the Club's evolution.

ST thanked the Committee for the work they had done so far.

Meeting closed at 2:32pm.