

Black Canon Collective

Meeting Minutes and Action List

Prepared by Caroline Mackinlay

1. Meeting Info

Meeting: The Be Nice to Strangers Meeting
Date: 22 May 08
Time: 20:00
Location: The Rose and Crown, Warminster
Attendees: Neil Cousins, Andrew Denham, Will Hardy, Ben Irons, Robin Liquorice, Alastair Mackinlay, Caroline Mackinlay, Tom Rickhuss

Meeting Chaired by: Andrew Denham

2. Meeting Agenda

- a) Minutes from 15 May 08
- b) Outstanding Actions
- c) Membership Applications
- d) Club Logo
- e) Risk Assessment
- f) Any Other Business
- g) Actions

3. Minutes

a) Minutes from 15 May 08

Andrew requested that the Longleat licence fee waiver caveat was made more visible in the minutes – this has been done.

Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

b) Review of Last Meeting's Actions

AI has clarified that he has a “fix” for the problems with Google Documents and needs to document this so we know how to use it properly.

He has started to rewrite the BCC website with some useful information about who we are and what we are doing.

The Data Protection statement will go on the new website.

AI still has to circulate the mock-up of the temporary membership card.

AI confirmed that 28 people have access to the SDH Longleat board.

Andrew has had difficulty contacting Rodney, the Head Forester at Longleat, but has arranged a meeting with him on Tuesday 27th May at 07:30. BCC will be represented by Andrew, Neil and Ben.

Andrew confirmed that James now has the relevant site emergency contact information for the risk assessment.

Ian has requested quotes from the sign manufacturer for signs required by Longleat.

No update was available from James on the risk assessment.

Neil still has to organise a traffic count on the bridleway adjacent to the Longleat site (low priority item).

Rob telephoned British Cycling requesting clarification as to whether non-competitive timing days require event insurance. BC were very cagey and did not want to give a clear reply, and when asked to do so in writing, refused. Caroline suggested contacting the underwriter directly.

Rob has been trying to contact Will at CRC regarding a Freelaps system but has had no luck getting through (!). AI has CRC's office number and will pass this to Rob.

Neil, James and Rob still have to log into Google Documents and delete all documents that they can see.

c) Membership Applications

We had no new applications or money this week.

Please could everyone chase people they know who had said they'd join, but haven't yet.

d) Club logo

As last week - nothing yet from Andrew's friend Joe. If anyone has any ideas, please revive the thread on the SDH forum.

e) Risk Assessment

This is ongoing and we'll wait for the draft to be complete before reviewing.

f) Website

It's become apparent that there is an urgent need for better information on the BCC website regarding who we are.

Two kinds of information are needed – information about who we are and why we came into being, to encourage non-members to join the club, and updates on what's happening for those who are already involved.

AI suggested that we should update the website with more photos to make the site seem more appealing (it was noted that the current photo looks like just a flat wood; there's nothing to suggest it's a great riding spot), and have a calendar of upcoming events. He's also going to add a "build blog" using WordPress. People who want to, will be given the ability to update the blog.

g) Horse Riders

Andrew had a meeting with the lady in charge of the Longleat horse riders' group and she was very positive and supportive of us!

She's offered to give her phone number to the committee and to help in an emergency, as she lives closest to the site.

She has offered also to help check membership cards – we may take her up on this later.

She reviewed with Andrew the trails used by horses; only one runs along the west edge of our patch and that's used by advanced riders only. This looks as though it shouldn't be a problem.

h) Stress on SDH Forum

This week we had a thread started by someone who currently rides illegally at Longleat, asking if the BCC was for real and why he should have to pay to ride there.

The thread quickly became a slagging match and no useful purpose was served in the end – although two of the three people who initially were against BCC came to understand what we were doing, one did not and was quite hostile throughout. Our case was argued very well, particularly by Ben and Andrew, but some personal abuse didn't help! The thread has since been locked.

Some learning points from this episode...

- The BCC website really **must** contain information about us, including a cost breakdown showing why the membership cost is as it is
- We must deal with people like this, by politely directing them to the website but **not** entering into discussion
- In the event of people being abusive, just let it slide and don't get into fights!

If faced with people at the site who are riding illegally, we can only “politely inform” people about us – we cannot and must not take any direct action and cannot make people leave.

i) Site Happenings

Al and Andrew went to site on Tuesday (20th May) evening and put up some signs saying that we now have the licence to the land, and that it's not permitted to ride there without being a BCC member. They have also blocked off entrances to the site, and have removed the stepdown (it was rotten and had been built with nails) to make it obvious that the site is not to be ridden. Will wasn't happy that the stepdown had been demolished but Andrew pointed out that it was falling down anyway, and we can rebuild it bigger and better in time.

Al asked what risk assessment work must be completed before we can get back to site. Andrew said that there are two aspects – firstly the site as-is must be assessed (this is currently underway) and secondly we need to risk-assess the work we want to do to tidy and repair existing trails. Al and Ian have volunteered to help James with the risk assessment.

j) Any Other Business

Andrew had a reply from Mole Valley Farmers regarding his sponsorship request. The collective have offered us a non-voting membership (worth £15) for free, which gives us a 2% discount at all MVF stores, and two weeks credit. The stores operate like franchises so Andrew's contact has given us the number for the Frome branch, and we can contact them directly regarding sponsorship for timber and signmaking materials.

Andrew has not had an update from Nick at Charge Bikes, but notes that Nick was busy with the night enduro at Erlestoke.

Robin informed us that the Rotary Club will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday July 15th at the Cross Keys in Corsham. Dinner will be at 7.15pm and talk at 8:30. Andrew will attend and requested that anyone else who wants to attend please let him know.

XC ride – there will be a club XC ride on bank holiday Monday, leaving from Heavens Gate Car Park at 11am.

4. Actions

(in alphabetical order)

AI – Work with Andrew to update the BCC website with some useful information about who we are, what we are doing and why, to include the cost breakdown for year 1
Publish the Data Protection statement on the BCC website
Add an “advice page” on how to deal with non-member riders at site
Tidy up the “Trail Nazis” thread on the Longleat board to remove posts which are personally abusive (it doesn't help anyone!)
Circulate the jpg mock-up of the temporary membership card
Forward to Rob the office number for Chain Reaction Cycles

Andrew – work with AI on the website
Chase your mate regarding the club Logo (again)
Phone James for an update on the risk assessment as it's recognised that this is key to us getting back on site.
Contact the Frome branch of Mole Valley Farmers regarding direct sponsorship

Caroline – Give AI the price for the new TFT stickers from Vivid Signs

James – Continue with risk assessment work and circulate draft for review to committee when it's complete. Ian and AI are willing to help so contact them for assistance

Neil - Organise a traffic count up the bridleway used by horses, to determine how heavily it's used (low priority)

Robin -Find out if there is a maximum suggested number of BCC attendees at the Rotary Club Dinner, and if dinner has to be paid for

Neil, James and Rob – delete all documents that you can see, from Google Documents

Everyone – chase anyone you know who's said they'll join the club, to do so

5. Next Meeting

The meeting will provisionally be held in the Rose and Crown, Warminster, on Thursday 29 May, at 7.45pm for a prompt 8pm start.

Draft Agenda for meeting:

- Review minutes from meeting of 22 April (these minutes)
- Review Actions
- Membership Applications
- Review meeting with Head Forester
- Website
- Club Logo and Colours
- Review of Risk Assessment
- AOB
- Agree next meeting