

## GROUPS

**AXE VALE** Gwyn Thomas, Tel: 01749 675294  
2nd Mon, *The Star, Star (A38), Nr. Shipham, Somersets*

**BLACK COUNTRY** Nick Hammond, Tel: 01384 221520  
1 & 3 Tues, 9pm, *The Mitre, Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton*

**BRISTOL** Jon Black, Tel: 01179 044 748  
4th Mon, *Keynsham Rugby Club, Bristol Road, Keynsham*

**CAMBRIDGE** John Brooker, Tel: 01767 692805  
1st Thurs, *Golden Ball, Boxworth*

**CHESHIRE** John Stansfield, Tel: 07899 844872  
2 & 4 Mon, *The Robin Hood, Buxton Road, High Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport*

**CORNWALL** Tony Stuart, Tel: 01208 862960  
3rd Thurs, *The Ship, Wadebridge*

**CUMBRIA** Richard Smith, Tel: 015394 33470  
2nd Tues, *Derby Arms Hotel, Witherslack, Nr. Kendal*

**DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE**  
Kevin Marsh, Tel: 01709 367332  
2 & 4 Tuesdays, *The Angel Hotel, Sprinkhill, Eckington, Nr. Chesterfield, Derbyshire*

**DEVON** Rob Williams, Tel: 01626 364564  
2nd Tues, *The Welcome Stranger, Bickington, Nr. Newton Abbott*

**DORSET** Paul Jackson, Tel: 01305 772208  
1st Tues, *Greyhound Inn, Winterbourne, Kingston, Nr. Bere Regis*

**EAST MIDLANDS** Graham Chinnery, Tel: 01332 863433  
2nd Wed, *The Chequers Inn, Main St, Breaston, South Derbyshire, J25 on M1*

**EAST YORKSHIRE**  
Howard Wadsworth, Tel: 01405 860904  
1st Tues, *Boot & Shoe, Gowdall, Nr. Snaith*

**ESSEX**  
John Lay, Tel: 01206 263912, Mobile: 0831 886032  
2nd Wed, *The Swan Public House, Great Eastern, Nr. Dunmow*

**EXMOOR** Ron Rickarby, Tel: 01271 326653  
2nd Wed, *The Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, A396 1 mile north of Tiverton*

**GLOUCESTER** Wayne Little, Tel: 01452 611735  
1st Wed, *The Winget Social Club, Tuffley Avenue, Glos.*

**HERTFORDSHIRE** Colin Adlam, Tel: 01727 875618  
1st Wed, *The Old Guinea, Ridge, Near Potters Bar*

**HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES**  
Simon Lowe, Tel: 01298 70680  
1st Tues, *Stafford Arms, Bagnall & 3rd Tue, Cheshire Cheese, Buxton*

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Mark Gregory, Tel: 01983 867730  
1st Thurs, *The Royal British Legion, Pyle St., Newport, IOW*

**KENT** Gary Westbrook, Tel: 01843 590184  
2nd Wed, *Pied Bull, Farningham, Off A20, Nr Brands Hatch*

**LANCASHIRE** Keith Westley, Tel: 01704 893215  
1st Tues, *Hindshead Pub on A49, Charnock Richard*

**LINCOLNSHIRE** Alan Wilkinson, Tel: 01529 460793  
4th Thurs, *The Queens Head, Kirkby-la-Thorpe, Sleaford*

**LODDON VALE** Bernard Green, Tel: 01344 450289  
2nd Thurs, *Inn in the Park, Woodley Centre, E. Reading*

**NORTHUMBERLAND** Steve Bertram  
Tel 0850 863620 11am-6pm Tel & Fax 0191 261 9629  
1st Tues, 7pm, *Just Harleys, Sandyford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

**NORTH WALES** John Mills, Tel: 01477 534425  
1st Wed, *Hope & Anchor, Ewloe Place, Buckley*

**OXFORDSHIRE** Kevin Lindsey, Tel: 01993 841179  
3rd Thurs, *The Red Lion, 127 Cassington Road, Yarnton*

**PEAK DISTRICT** Neil Walker, Tel: 01788 811919  
1st Thurs, 8pm, *Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Road, Derby*

**RIBBLE VALLEY** Peter Higham, Tel: 01200 424947  
2nd Tues, *Pendle Hotel, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59)*

**SHROPSHIRE** Rob Latham, Tel: 01952 592324  
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**SOMERSET** Steve Hounsell, Tel: 01460 66452  
Last Thurs, *The Bell Hotel, Currey Rivel, Nr. Taunton*

**SOUTHERN** Russ McDermid, Tel: 01703 812371  
3rd Tues, *The Phoenix, Twyford, Nr. Winchester*

**SOUTH LONDON & SURREY**  
Steve Sharp, 0181 773 4204  
9pm every Wed, *Ewell Sports & Social Club, Banstead Road, Ewell, Surrey*

**SOUTH NORTHANTS**  
Trevor Gardiner, Tel: 01788 815927  
2nd Mon, *The Live & Let Live Pub, Harpole, nr. Northampton*

**SOUTH WALES** Stuart Dodwell, Tel: 01446 710851  
1st Thurs, *Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, 8pm*

**SOUTH WEST WALES**  
Mark Rowntree, Tel: 01792 844316  
1st Wed, *Lodge Gorseinon, 7.30pm*

**SUFFOLK** Richard May, Tel: 01787 374073  
Last Wed, *Manger Pub, A134 Sudbury Rd, Bury-St-Ed.*

**SWINDON** Keith Owen-Bines, Tel: 01793 751129  
1st Wed, *The Carrier's Arms at South Marston, Swindon*

**SUSSEX** Bevis Billingham, Tel: 01243 585128  
Last Thurs, *Ashington Social Club, Rear of Red Lion, A24, 9 miles North of Worthing*

**TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS**  
Mark Bieganski, Tel: 01904 656469  
3rd Wed, 8.30p.m., *Blacksmiths Arms, Swainby*

**THAMES VALLEY** Don Hoaglin, Tel: 01474 704530  
3rd Mon, *District Arms, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex*

**WEST ANGLIA** David Knight, Tel: 01933 313816  
1st & 3rd Thurs, *Scott Bader Clubhouse, Opp. Parish Church, Woolaston, Wellingborough*

**WEST MIDLANDS** Colin Bott, Tel: 01386 834105  
1st & 3rd Thurs, *Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon*

**WEST YORKSHIRE** Gordon Carr, Tel: 01729 830569  
1st & 3rd Thurs, *Bankfoot Cricket Club, Wickets Close, (off Cleckheaton Rd), Odsal, Bradford*

**WILTSHIRE** Alan Yandell, Tel/Fax: 01225 864187  
1st Tues, *The Bell On The Common, Broughton Gifford*

**WORCESTERSHIRE** David Gunster, Tel: 01905 616400  
3rd Tuesday, *The Fox at Bransford, Worcs.*



Patron: Lord Strathcarron

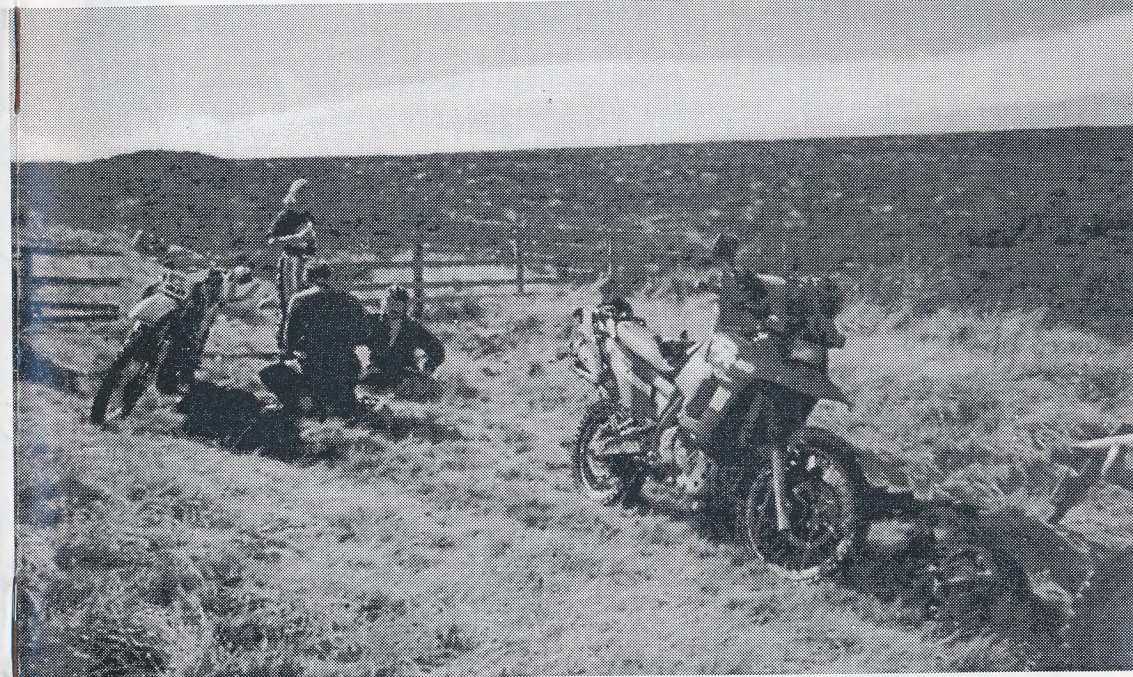
# TRAIL

NOVEMBER, 1999

No. 255

The Bulletin of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways.

EDITOR: Fred Ellison.



Some of the Cumbria Group at 'The Street' on the 1997 Trailie Run.

Photo by Norman Trehwhitt.

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**All Contributions to the Editor ..... Please keep it short and sweet!**  
**COPY DEADLINE: FIRST POST, 1ST TUESDAY OF MONTH**

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TRF Website <http://www.trf.org.uk>

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*The views expressed in 'Trail' are those of its correspondents and  
not necessarily of the editor or the T.R.F.*

## EDITORIAL

The end is near! The end of this millennium that is, and despite the doom and gloom which seems to pervade the end of this one (see letter from Kay and Dik Stapley on page 18), we are still riding the lanes and enjoying them.

The TRF can claim much of the credit for this situation. Much work has been done in the past, is being done now, and will without doubt need to be done in the future if this wonderful resource of our green lane network is not to be lost.

If you weren't at the AGM to see for yourself then I can tell you that there is a good hard working (overworked) team doing it on your behalf. If you feel that you could help - perhaps you are in a position to make some input on a particular issue - but maybe don't know where to start or cannot commit yourself to a regular work load, then you will find that any help you can give will be appreciated. Our National Officers are very approachable and would love to hear from you.

Incidentally you meet the nicest people from all over the country at the AGM. This time it was Leo Crone who suggested I join his group for a run from Stokesley on the North Yorks Moor. We had an excellent ride with a freshly caught (from Bridlington) fish and chip lunch. All in all a very enjoyable day - thank you.

Don't forget that you too can get a lot out of the TRF. Go and visit other areas. I've always found that members in different parts of the country enjoy showing you 'their lanes'.

Enjoy your riding and make the most of it.

*Fred Ellison*

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EAST MIDLANDS TRF GROUP MEMBER  
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# Sharing

Spring and Autumn are my two favourite times of the year. I have just come in from an afternoon ride on the last Sunday in October that was all the more pleasant for being a 'grabbed opportunity' and of finding myself in the company of someone with whom I had never ridden before, but who knew his stuff - what I would call a 'mature' rider. Two well prepared machines complete with spares and tools, and two well prepared riders complete with maps that enabled us to swap the lead at will to keep moving at a steady canter. Just slowing now and then to smile and greet the few people we met along 50 miles of green lanes, only halting from time to time to soak in the views and colours of the Peak. Magic! the magic of trail riding. Why bother with committees and AGMs and all that rubbish - I'll drink to that!

In the Spring this year I was again riding with just one companion, but this time it was somewhat less spontaneous as we were riding 150 miles from home and as a consequence had got up at 6am. I don't call that spontaneous. We were in Berkshire exploring the Downs with our marked-up maps, some of it known to us, some of it quite new. And it was glorious! Fresh, green, lush and many of the woods on either side of our path were an unbroken carpet of bluebells. On more than one occasion we emerged onto a surfaced lane that came from the main road only to swing through the imposing gates of a big house - the kind that very wealthy people live in, the kind that don't want oiks using their 'drive' and have come together to ban recreational vehicles from unsealed highways. One such group calls itself the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement, or GLEAM for short, and Berkshire is its homeland.

Another couple of riders saw something similar as they swung through the lanes 30 years ago, and this is where the TRF idea started as motorcycle journalist John Ebbrell and companions perceived what was happening to country byways; obstructions, lack of maintenance, encroachment, pretence that this is mine - not yours, nibbling away at our heritage. They formed a Fellowship of riders committed to keeping the ways open for us all to use and that's what the TRF continues to be about. And those of you at the AGM in October could see from the accounts that that's what we had spent £9000 on doing last year in legal and professional fees alone.

But this is not about money, this is about people. Because it's the efforts of people that keeps the lanes open (plus the money). None of the actions that saw that resource spent on keeping open the RoW for you happen by themselves, they happened because somebody put in the time and effort on everybody's behalf to make it so. That core of the active TRF is called the Executive and requires your attention and support to retain its effectiveness and to rejuvenate itself.

As you will see from the record of the recent AGM, recorded elsewhere in this issue, we need 2 officers now: a Treasurer and a Deputy Chairman and

everyone within the membership has been asked to consider how these vacancies might be filled.

The afternoon of the AGM incorporated the very latest thinking on using GIS to record our lanes, and a very useful discussion on membership participation. As you will read in the report it was felt that perhaps more recent members had an incorrect understanding of what the TRF was about, and an unrealistic expectation of what the Organisation could or should provide. But with only one new (1999) member in attendance we were a bit short on the facts.

Up until now we have been a totally voluntary body, i.e. nobody gets paid anything except their expenses and we share the workload between us. (It is important to note here that the current members of the Executive are all active riders and that they also have a living to make - so they are much like any other member). But if the Officers jobs have now become too much for individuals to contemplate then we would seem to have 2 principal options. Either we split the workload down into more manageable chunks (and limited duration) so that volunteers do come forward, or we consider employing paid help.

The meeting felt that the latter was less attractive when one took into account the almost inevitable loss of enthusiasm by other voluntary workers and that to pay anybody worth having for even 20 hours a week that membership subscription would have to exceed £50 p.a.

However, the membership should be asked of their opinion via our club bulletin TRAIL and that is what I am doing here and now via the Chairman's column. So here it is:

**"WITHIN OUR STATED  
AIMS & OBJECTIVES WHAT  
DOES THE MEMBERSHIP WANT?**  
Please don't use the telephone to reply because it is unfair on the family!  
One often gets a much broader perspective by discussing this with others, so may I commend to all Groups that they make this a discussion at their next Group meeting.

**Please reply by putting your thoughts on paper and posting them to the Secretary.**


See you on the trail.

Dave Giles

Ed See page 21




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## NOTICE BOARD

### REQUEST FROM CUMBRIA GROUP

The LARA led Trail Hierarchy within the Lake District National Park are trying to monitor the level of use by motorcycles within the National Park.

Any rider or group intending to ride in the Lake District please ring me:  
Roger Harris 01539 725198

### THE WILTSHIRE GROUP

now meet at  
The Bell On The Common,  
Broughton Gifford

### AXE VALE GROUP 1999 AGM

8.30 p.m. start  
on 13th December 1999  
at The Star, at Star (A38)

There is a Serow  
INTERACTIVE E-MAIL LIST FROM 'ONELIST'  
The address to subscribe to is  
[xt225serow-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:xt225serow-subscribe@onelist.com)

## NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited Accounts were presented at this year's AGM. If you were unable to attend but would like a copy, please send me a S.A.E. and quote your Membership number.

It was known in advance of the AGM that this would be my last year as National Treasurer, but nobody seems to want to hold this important National post. The constitution states that retiring officers leave their posts on 31st December following the AGM, so the Fellowship has until that date to find my replacement.

The job is not difficult and takes no more than a few hours a week to complete. If you are interested and would like to know more of what is involved, please phone me on 01529 460793.

*Alan Wilkinson, National Treasurer*

## A Quick Report From THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I hope that over the last year I have, through the pages of TRAIL, kept you up to date regarding what I have been doing. For example the development of new databases and issues, such as sending personal reminders to fellows that forgot to renew, and this year's renewal forms being personalised with members details already being filled in. Therefore I won't bore you with it all except to say please use, and encourage others to use, the new forms when they arrive with next month's TRAIL, as this will help me keep accurate records and reduce the time I have to spend looking into the eye of the computer, and trying to decipher hand writing. Please note that even Life and Honouree members will need to complete the renewal forms though of course I would not expect any subscriptions to be sent back, just the form. It is after all nice to be in contact even if it is only once a year, and any way the dreaded rules say so.

Membership at the moment stands at over 2,350. Quite a record. This time last year membership had not topped the 1900 mark, though we did finish the membership year (31/12/98) with over 2000 members, but as a general rule the membership over recent years has fluctuated between 1600 and 1850.

You can make up your own minds why the membership has increased, but I think this increase is mostly due to hard recruiting drives by Groups, and Fellows organising well presented displays at shows, etc., and the membership as a whole presenting the TRF as an honourable well organised and motivated self help organisation.

As explained, for my part I have done my best to keep the hard won members. When I took over this Honourable task I was surprised to find, as you would be the amount of members we lose each year, example:

Year ended	95	Lost 452
	96	Data corrupt?
	97	Lost 417
	98	Lost 508
	99	Lost 280 - A vast improvement you must agree.

I will end by saying thank you to the lick and stick team, whoever they are. I just send them the labels each month. We all know what would happen without those guys and girls, and to say if there is anything I can do regarding membership please do not hesitate calling.

*John Pritchard*

# RoW NEWS

## IMPROVING RIGHTS OF WAY

Thanks to everyone who has commented on DETR's consultation paper or contacted their local MP about the ill-conceived proposals, as outlined in September's TRAIL. They still pose a major threat to our continued legitimate access to Green Lanes. The closing date for consultation has passed, but it is not too late to lobby your MP.

One of the major threats is the proposal to reclassify all RUPPs as Bridleways by statute. This proposal was based solely on the need to save money, and nothing to do with the facts or bringing the Definitive Map up-to-date. We have collected data from a number of highway authorities on the number of RUPPs reclassified as Byway under the 1981 Act. The results from six authorities sampled clearly shows that the DETR proposal flies in the face of the facts and this point has put squarely to them by us. Please use this information when you contact your MP, noting that neither the Countryside Agency or the DETR had this data. It's a shame that the DETR did not do their homework before publishing their paper. Thanks to Dave Clegg, Bill Riley and Dave Tilbury in obtaining the information. It would be valuable if we could add data from other highway authorities, so if you have or can readily obtain it please let me know.

Highway Authority (1)

RUPPs Reclassified Under s54 1981 Act (2)

Resulting Byways

Bath & NE Somerset (was Avon)	91	72
Derbyshire	10	3
Hampshire	349	292
Isle of Wight	49	48
Nottinghamshire	23	10
Wiltshire	25	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>440 (80%)</b>

Important High Court Decision over RUPP 16/11 Wincanton, Somerset

The judge's decision over the appeal by the infamous Mrs. Masters of Lower

Clapton Farm has now been published. Their appeal was over the decision by an Inspector to reclassify this RUPP as a Byway following two Public Inquiries. The lane has frequently been obstructed and users abused by the Masters family, and even found notoriety on a recent television programme. Despite hiring George Lawrence QC one of leading highway Barristers in the country, the Judge rejected the application on all three counts. Not only has the route been confirmed as a Byway, but the ruling has important implications for us. Firstly the judge rejected the recent High Court 'Nettlecomb' decision as he did not believe it was Parliament's wish to not include Byways on the Definitive Map because they had not been used. Secondly he confirmed the importance of historical map evidence, in this case the 1886 OS Map. Finally he accepted the importance of the 1929 Local Government Act section 29 Handover Maps. This is the first judgement on the value Handover Maps and sets an important precedent, particularly for northern counties such as Derbyshire and North Yorkshire where 1929 Handover Roads predominate.

## Prosecutions in Derbyshire

A word of warning to members visiting Derbyshire, is that the police, particularly in the Chesterfield area, have been active in issuing prosecution notices for riders using Bridleways. Quite a few are also on the 'list of streets' as unclassified roads, but that does not seem to be deterring the Crown Prosecution Service from pursuing prosecutions. At the moment we have engaged Solicitors to defend our members from using Frith Hall Lane, Brampton; Lumb Lane, Belper and Grimsell Lane, Holmsfield. We have also been asked to defend the partner of a member for driving on another unclassified road. We had to decline help as she is not a TRF member. Non-members reading this please note.

The cases are due for trial over the next couple of months, and I will keep members informed of the outcome. Until then I would suggest visiting riders should check with one of Derbyshire Groups first.

*Richard Marshall, National Rights of Way Officer*

## ONLY COUNTRY FOLK RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE...

About three years ago I got Northumberland County Council to add to the list of streets a 1-1/4 mile length of 'first turnpike' - a bit bypassed by J-L Macadam hissel'.

It's called The Long Bank and is firm stone, now with a super patina of dirt and grass. Classic.

The landowner had a wobbly. Denied it is public, etc., etc. But to NCC's great credit they bit the bullet and told him to boil his head - politely.

At the Northern end is a private plantation. It is now being felled. Half a mile of this road has been utterly destroyed by the logging vehicles. You can't even walk along it. The ancient surface is churned into a soup.

The landowner cannot say he didn't know it is public. And the contractor has

erected signs saying 'public keep out' on the road...

Letters have been written.

It is enough to make you cry.

Alan Kind

Ed. Sadly this sort of vandalism is not punished. Pull down an old house or build one not quite to planning regulations and the consequences are horrific - huge fines, pull it down or else, etc.

## AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS

Tinkers' Lane is 'listed' - it's official!

The long saga of Tinkers' Lane and the Eyre case (see B&B 1999/6/47) may have reached an end at last. Hampshire County Council solicitor Simon Best contacted Byway & Bridleway in mid October 1999 to say that, 107 years on from the famous appeal case, Hampshire has finally entered Tinkers' Lane on the list of streets as a publicly repairable highway. With a tremor in his voice, Mr. Best confirmed that the county council has now, albeit reluctantly, admitted that Queen Victoria has passed away and it is time to move on. 'In the intervening 107 years since the Eyre case,' said Mr. Best, 'mankind has invented the aeroplane, the computer, penicillin, and has stepped briefly on to the surface of the moon'.

Entering into the spirit of the conversation, we at B&B were pleased to add 'don't forget Burger King, Noel Edmonds, flared trousers and the Planning Inspectorate'.

Note: The Eyre case was heard thirteen years after the battle of Rorkesdrift and eight years before the Boxer Rebellion. Lord Salisbury was in his first term as Prime Minister. Even Lord Denning had not yet been born.

Alan Kind

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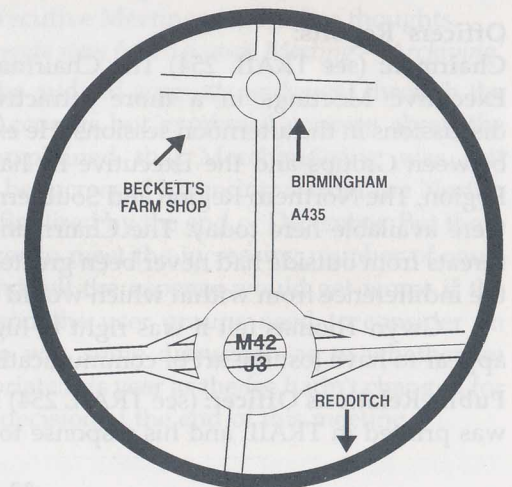
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## TRAIL RIDERS FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE MEETING 4/12/99 AT BECKETTS ISLAND, BIRMINGHAM

### AGENDA

- 10.30 Welcome & outline of the day  
Notification of any urgent business  
Approval of the record of the last meeting  
Matters arising  
Rights of Way update - including LARA  
Any other necessary reports
- 11.30 Issues & actions arising from the AGM  
Elected officers:  
Treasurer  
Deputy Chairman  
Ratification of co-opted Officers:  
LARA, BMF, BHS, Stationery, Display Equipment & Merchandising  
(please attend if you can)  
Working Parties as a way ahead.
- 12.30 LUNCH
- 13.30 Afternoon Workshop  
The TRF Handbook for 2000  
which is to be the February  
edition of TRAIL  
The AGM asked of everyone  
that careful consideration be  
given to the projected  
message of what the TRF is  
about.
- 16.00 Any other Business
- 16.30 Dates of future meetings
- CLOSE



## Minutes of the TRF Annual General Meeting held at: The Watersport Centre, Nottingham, on 24 October 1999

Present: As attendance book.

### Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He went on to explain the programme for the day and asked members for help in keeping to the timetable, and also that Standing Orders will be used. He then noted apologies from Keith Westley, Neil Hennion, Tony Stuart, Mike Hannigan, Stuart Jerram, Stuart Jones, Derrick Collins & John Gardner

Declaration of Visitors: There were no visitors present.

### Tabling of Any Other Business:

London Gazette information to GLASS. How much to charge them. Richard Hawker.

The Chairman suggested that this matter could be dealt with at an Executive Meeting. **Richard agreed.**

### Approval of Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes had been printed in TRAIL and were also available at the AGM.

**Wayne Little proposed approval, seconded by Steve Neville.**

### Matters Arising:

Gwyn Thomas explained that he had drafted a letter to Sustrans but it had not been sent, however he meets with Sustrans once or twice a year.

There were no other matters arising.

### Officers' Reports:

**Chairman:** (see TRAIL 254) The Chairman reported that he had organised the Executive Meetings in a more attractive way, which included meaningful discussions in the afternoon sessions. He explained that because of a perceived rift between Groups and the Executive he had been to meetings in the South West Region, The Northern Region and Southern Group. The minutes of these meetings were available here today. The Chairman went on to express his concerns that threats from outside had never been greater, but if we were not careful it would be the indifference from within which would defeat us.

Gwyn Thomas felt it was right to highlight the threats to trail riding as we appear to have lost the art of communicating with Councils, areas, groups etc.

**Public Relations Officer:** (see TRAIL 254) Mark Holland explained that his report was printed in TRAIL and his response to 'Improving RoW' was available, other

information was on the table in the room. He then asked for any questions. Tim Stevens asked for a show of hands from those who had written to their MP about the DETR proposals. There was a good number of hands raised which was extremely encouraging. Steve Neville felt we need to be more proactive as we tend to be reactive. The Chairman explained that he had written to the All Party Motorcycle Group at the House of Commons and also the other users, BHS, Ramblers etc. Some discussion took place on the problems facing the TRF and the need to become more active politically.

**Membership Secretary:** John Pritchard felt that the membership figures were encouraging and he was now sending the revised Handbook with new memberships, and getting good feedback from this. Concern was expressed by Richard Hawker that a membership of £20 paid in October appeared to be only to the year end. John explained that this was not correct, as membership paid in October went through to the following year end; he would look into this. Colin Patient who answers initial enquiries for membership reported that he had around 350 enquiries from one National Magazine Article, so articles do generate interest.

**Editor:** Fred Ellison noted that the object of TRAIL is to communicate with our members, but he needs articles to do this. Perhaps some Group reports would be of interest to readers, especially new members. Discussion took place on how best to improve communications through the magazine and also how to improve the flow of articles into the magazine. The Chairman thanked Fred for his hard work.

**All agreed.**

**Secretary:** Karen Wilson who took over from Jonathan St. John introduced herself and reported that she had now received information and computer equipment from the previous secretary. She has archived the information and it is stored locally to her for ease of access. The computer was passed on John Pritchard as she has her own. Discussion centred on the TRF information held in members' lofts etc and how best to archive or catalogue it for future generations. The Chairman felt this discussion could be taken to the Executive Meetings for further thoughts.

*Action: Agenda item for Executive Meeting - 'Archiving'*

**Treasurer:** Alan Wilkinson circulated the audited accounts and went through the pages. The Auditors had signed the Accounts but expressed concern about the Merchandising account. Jeff Ward explained that Merchandising was self supporting. The Fighting Fund would be increased by an input from the Norton Malreward account which is due to be finalised by the end of December. But there was still a need for the fund to be larger to meet the increasing number of court cases that we are supporting. Alan Kind felt the expense would get worse if the current DETR proposals are upheld and the user groups need to consider an appeal to the European Courts. There was some discussion as to whether an increase in membership fee was appropriate this year as the fee hadn't changed for four years, it was decided to make the decision at the end of this meeting.

Tim Stevens asked if these accounts include group funds. The Treasurer confirmed that these were the accounts of the National TRF only. The National TRF does not know how much money is with the groups as they won't tell them. Jeff Ward explained that this years questionnaire to groups included a question about their funds, but some groups were not prepared to disclose this information to the Finance Committee because they wrongly suspected that the National TRF wanted their funds. The Chairman noted that with the Tim Ley affair the TRF created rigorous systems to see that TRF money was properly controlled. This has been done by setting up the Finance Committee, better control of the cheque book etc and the proper Audited Accounts (at a cost of £850. this year). The reporting of group funds is a logical extension of this process, and he found it strange that the very people who had wanted the search for TRF funds to be exhaustive, were not now prepared to disclose TRF monies to the National Body. Alan Wilkinson reported that the Auditors were aware that TRF Group funds exist.

Alan Wilkinson reported that he was stepping down and the end of December 1999.

Richard Hawker proposed the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Charlie Morriss. All in favour.

*Action: Membership subscription increase to be discussed at Executive Meetings.  
Members to find new Treasurer by 31 December 1999*

**RoW Co-ordinator:** Richard Marshall presented his report using OHP with specific points. He produced a table of statistics on how many RUPP Reclassifications had produced BYWAYS, which was around 80% this was based on 8 Highway Authorities, but was reassuring. There were some court cases taking up quite a lot of time, and these cases also indicate that research is very necessary. Richard is trying to get a Hierarchy of Trail Routes system going in the Peak District. Training is also a priority for 2000 with possible courses on RoW Basics, RoW Research, Local Access Forums and Making a Byway Claim.

Discussions took place on all aspects of rights of way, in particular the amount of claims which might come out of the DETR proposal to make RUPPs into Bridleways. There was also great concern that the mapping of routes in the HoTR system in the Lake District was not being done as promised. The TRF is aware of this problem and will make representation. The Chairman said he was prepared to investigate this and if appropriate will write to LARA or the Lake District about it. He thanked Richard for his report.

*Action: Investigate Lake District reluctance to supply maps.  
Organise Training sessions in year 2000*

**Co-opted Officers:**

**BMF Liaison Officer:** The Chairman thanked Derrick Collins in his absence and explained that Derrick is prepared to continue in this role.

**Display Equipment Co-ordinator:** Jeff Ward gave a short report on shows done at

minimal cost this year. He was now ready to hand over this post.

**Merchandising:** This post vacant.

**Stationery:** The Chairman reported in the absence of Aelwood Finch that he wishes to continue in this post. All stationery and printing requests are to go through Aelwood..

**LARA Liaison Officer:** Richard Hawker is now the TRF LARA representative.

**Equestrian Event Co-ordinator:** Colin Patient

**Election of Officers:**

**Chairman:** David Giles agreed to continue.

**Tim Stevens proposed David Giles as chairman, Roger Harris seconded. All agreed.**

**Public Relations Officer:** Mark Holland agreed to continue.

**Membership Secretary:** John Pritchard agreed to continue.

**Secretary:** Karen Wilson agreed to continue.

**Editor:** Fred Ellison agreed to continue.

**Rights of Way Officer:** Richard Marshall agreed to continue.

**Charlie Morris proposed above officers be voted en bloc, Tim Stevens seconded. All agreed.**

**Vacancies for Vice Chairman and Treasurer exist.**

After a lot of discussion on why all these new members were not coming forward to help the TRF, the meeting was unable to elect anyone to these two posts. The Chairman suggested that everyone here today should go back and seek out possible candidates, a sort of head hunting exercise, to get these vacancies filled by end of December 1999.

*Action: All Groups, Members & Officers try to find suitable candidates to fill the vacancies*

**Presentation by Steve Neville:** Steve Neville assisted by Ian Roscoe gave a presentation on the big screen of how Lane information can be stored through a GIS system on computer. This was very effective when laying a modern map on to an old map to show how some routes evolved, or stayed the same! Although this technology is very expensive at present, he feels it will be the way forward in future. The GIS system can also be used for membership information. Members agreed that this was an extremely useful presentation and thanked Steve for his time.

**Group participation:** The members split into groups to discuss two questions about the TRF:

1. What do members want from the organisation?



## 2. What does the organisation want of the membership?

Lively discussions took place on how to move the TRF forward and answer these questions. General consensus was that the TRF should explain more carefully what it is about to new and prospective members. There was a feeling that people seeking out the TRF had got the wrong impression of what they are going to be given when they join. Also members felt that changes in social perceptions had taken place in that people expected more from organisations than perhaps the organisation can give (The Ann Robinson factor). Perhaps the TRF will need to change itself to accommodate this change.

The general feeling was that the TRF should stay with its Aims and Objectives.

**Results:** Write to members asking them what do they want from the TRF, this can be done through TRAIL or the local groups. Proceed from the replies.

The Chairman also felt that we need to concentrate on long term maintenance and rights work through training which needs to be ongoing.

### Any other business:

Colin Patient expressed concern about the TRF Stationery. He said the new leaflet was good but brief and asked if the A5 leaflets were going to be reprinted. The Chairman explained that the Executive Meetings had decided to go with the new 'joining' leaflet, the 'Caring' leaflet and update the Handbook.

Colin Patient was also concerned that the TRF advertisement in Trail Bike Magazine had not been changed. He felt that this was giving a wrong impression of what the TRF is about. Alan Wilkinson apologised for not getting this advert altered, but would be doing so now.

Gwyn Thomas wanted the meeting to recognise all the hard work done behind the scenes by Alan Kind and Tim Stevens. **All agreed.**

Richard Hawker moved that the subscriptions remain at current level. Jeff Ward noted a number of complex and related problems with subscription rates, and would like to see a specific meeting to analyse this before going for a raise in subs. A suggestion was made to transfer general funds into the Fighting Fund. John Pritchard suggested letting the membership know that the subs may increase next year, this could be done through discussion at Executive Meetings and local groups and maybe in TRAIL.

**Proposal:** Richard Hawker proposed that the subscription remains at current level. Seconded by Tim Stevens. **Carried by show of hands.**

Date and Venue for next meetings:

To be announced later.

The meeting then closed at 5pm.

## Book Review

### *So, YOU are DIFFICULT to buy Christmas Presents for?*

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# letters



## WRITING TO OUR MPs

Ref. Eric Haworth's letter asking what we should write to our MPs about the DETR's proposals. It is confusing I know. If it is any help to older riders this is what I sent to Nick Harvey, M.P. on October 7th. I am still awaiting the courtesy of a reply!

"As a 70 year old, one of my recreational activities that keeps me fit is leading a group of younger riders along the green lanes of this area. I note with concern that it is proposed by the ironically titled "Improving Rights of Way" document by the DETR that many RuPPs be downgraded to bridleways which would mean that motorised vehicles could not be legally used thereupon and that all historical aspects regarding usage be ignored.

I am not so concerned for myself as these proposals will not be implemented for ten years, when, as my wife puts it, I will be 'resting in my grave', but for the younger riders. It is possible that my son and daughter, currently aged ten and six, (many a good tune is played on an old fiddle!), will become interested in this vigorous physical and mental pursuit. Whilst riding the lanes, youngsters will not be bored and so are unlikely to undertake criminal activities. In any case they are likely to be too mentally and physically exhausted to do more than rest after a day's ride.

Apparently access to the lanes is to be improved for disabled people - (difficult considering the hundreds of miles involved). Many of my age cannot walk far because of physical infirmities but are still able to reach areas of peace and tranquillity on off tarmac motorcycles.

*John Chilcott, N. Devonshire*

## PLEASED WITH OUR NEW PASTIME

As new members of the TRF who have yet to attend an area meeting Kay and I feel a little reticent about writing to TRAIL, however, having spent several weekends this summer exploring the green lanes of East Yorkshire we are keen to let you know how pleased we are with our new found pastime.

The places we have explored and the views we have enjoyed have been brilliant. The entertainment for us is three fold. One has been the exploration, the finding of the routes, both on the maps and on the ground. Two has been the terrific scenery especially the new angles from which we have seen familiar landscapes. Three, has been the improvement of our riding skills. I don't suppose this is any different to anyone else but having figured it out for ourselves we can at least

imagine that we are pioneers!

Some of the trails are big and wide with mature hedges on both sides whilst some have been disguised as Bridleways or diverted around field edges. Wherever we have been we have been confident that we were on highways (UCRs) as I obtained the information on their whereabouts from my colleague at the Highway Authority. Indeed those locations where I found the way obstructed are to be 'inspected' with a view to re-establishing the routes in the near future.

Which brings me to our involvement with the TRF. We were very pleased with the help we received from everyone we telephoned for information about trails outside the East Riding area. We have been up around Scarborough and intend to investigate Lincolnshire soon. Thanks to everyone who marked up our maps. It took me a while, in some cases, to establish that we were responsible people before the area reps would agree to mark my maps. I found that both necessary and reassuring. We have closed every gate we have opened, even the electrified one, and been polite to everyone we have met. Not that we have met many folk. It has been a surprise to us how few people there are in the countryside. Nevertheless all those we have met have been courteous including walkers, horse riders and farmers. This was somewhat of a surprise to us after reading TRAIL.

There seems to be an air of gloom around TRAIL. Is it that only bad news is news worthy or are there parts of the country less friendly than East Yorkshire? That

is not to say we have our heads in the clouds. We understand the urgency of reacting to the 'Improving Rights of Way' document and have already both visited and written to our MP Kevin McNamara. Kay and I are both active members of MAG (Motorcycle Action Group) and are prepared to do our bit for the cause when needed.

We had mistakenly hoped to be able to go trail riding just as a hobby without the need for political input. Oh Well! I suppose it was no surprise to us that there would be spoilers out to get us here too. Whoever said 'The price of freedom is eternal vigilance' hit the nail on the head.

*Kay Shuttleworth and Dik Stapley, Hull*

*Ed* Nice to meet you at the AGM Dik. Hope to see you on the trail sometime.

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# HOW TO RUN A TRF GROUP MEETING

## In One Easy Lesson!

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1. Always book the room by phone. This is properly the Secretary's role. This is a common courtesy at their request.
2. Be there on time i.e. at least 5 - 10 minutes before 8.00 p.m. start.
3. Start on time - whether there is a full house or not. Clearly you'll need someone to talk to.
4. Have an agenda and stick to it. Keep comments to the point. Be firm. Be polite.
5. Plan a time for the meeting - say 30 minutes or 1 hour depending on the issues.
6. Finish on time and formally close the meeting. Then people can chat in a social manner.
7. CHECK/INSIST people write their TRF membership number.
8. KEEP MINUTES for future reference (Secretary's job).

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## TRF HANDBOOK YEAR 2000

It is our intention to produce an up-to-date version of the TRF Handbook for everyone as the February edition of TRAIL. Your opinion as to what the membership would find helpful would be appreciated. Help us to help you.

As a new member (or old) I would have found the following of interest and value.....

Signed ..... Please print ..... Memb.No. ....

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