



TRAIL RIDERS
FELLOWSHIP



Devon TRF Newsletter

December 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the Dec 2020 Newsletter.

It really is amazing what our group is capable of and we should be extremely proud of the people that make these things happen. Thanks folks and WELL DONE!

Don't forget that we still have vacant positions to fill, so if you feel you may be interested in them, then please contact to discuss the posts.

The primary function of the newsletter is to educate, motivate, and inform its readers. This can only be completed with your assistance

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on:-

Meetings will be held via Zoom, Web Conferencing.

please see Forum for more details

EVENTS

Check [Forum](#) for Latest Updates

T2T
now cancelled



Above the clouds Lockdown 2



AGM

December 2020 AGM Minutes

Welcome, Noel Squib

Noel welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the number of attendees would make the process of election worthwhile.

We welcomed 2 new members; Dave Burnett and Peter Badcock

Apologies

No apologies were received

Members present 20 ish

Treasurers report Jacki

This was Jacki's last report, as she was standing down. We thanked her for her efforts

Lane clearing, Ian Collins

Devon TRF end of year report 2020

December 31st 2019

Pops + I attended 'old cleave lane' to have a butchers at the damage the storm water had done, I started the match funding process with national TRF

Plus liaising with Devon Pro Rights of Way about repair works needed.

Informed the DTRF officers of what was occurring, price for repairs £2,400.00 from DTRF with National TRF paying back £1,000.00 from their coffers under the match funding process.

DCC PRoW team paid the same funds to the repair of £2,500.00

The green road was reopened

On the same day Pops + I visited 'Ham lane' the famous sleeper green road, we surveyed the sleeper crossings with the aim for a site meeting between various authorities + land owners, but the Covid Virus struck the country before we could get the meeting off the ground

Ross Davies had visited the site at some point then contacted me for opinions/discussion.

There must be something in the back ground to this green road that's becoming important, I know many locals use the road for walking and very evident signs of recent works to the sleeper crossings. One to keep an eye on

March the 8th Trevor and I dropped in on a couple of trees that were down on 192-207, all completed without a hitch, thanks Trevor

May, Repairs completed by contractor on 'old cleave lane' East Devon

Sunday May 24th visited our friend Chris the farmer on 'blind lane' Colyton to drop in some more mega rocks to support/add to the already existing rocks we have in the lane, plus Vic Crudge + I along with Kev Parnell did some

upgrades on the lane, special thanks to Chris the farmer for using his tractor to drop the rocks in the lane then he helped relocate some of the rocks to.

192-010 Devon PRoW had a contractor clear this lane of its vegetation in June, rambler's contacted me via email for discussion, and their complaint got it sorted with PRoW

June 20th Rill farm path shut off from motorised vehicle use on East Hill, East Devon.

It's a whitey but the visible damage is from water erosion

July the 9th Brian Sussex and I investigated the true legal line of the green road at Dalditch farm 192-173 knowle East Devon, interesting evening, Thanks Brian!

The cancellation of lane clearing on 202-327 South Milton

Sorry lads Corona

Rights of way, Ray Tribe

1 192-207 Three Tree, Teignmouth golf course

Since the last meeting PROW have confirmed that the landowner is playing hard-ball over the existence of the ROW, so he has work to do to convince them. In the meantime, the Haldon Tree fairies have visited and opened gaps adjacent to the two obstructions and the UCR is now useable again.

2 202-081 The Compton Mud Plug

As per forum posts, there is a TTRO 07-11 Dec 20 so that PROWs contractor can grade the western end and maybe put in steps to break up the water flow.

3 202-360 Fursdon Ray is waiting to hear from PROW Peter Guy/ Paul McFadden if any progress made. Then we can plan to assist with the hedge clearing.

4 DMMO Claim C-030 Bradford and Cookbury up for DMMO, replies by 15 Jan 2021

Rob Drake has offered to represent DGTRF at the DMMO. I have taken him up on this offer.

5 181-009 Holwell Farm Bampton Stopping Up Order This has not been finalised or gone away. There is a hearing for the Diversion Order on 21 Jan 2021. It appears on face value nothing untoward. Ray has asked DCC why the status of both the current route and the proposed Diversion route, which we have actually been riding for ages, is already shown on their interactive maps with the proposed status, but is still waiting for a response on this point, but we do not plan to object to the application.

GRM

The beta version will soon be available to group Officers. I am still working on the Cornwall submission together with Andrew Sillence.

There have been two Teams video meetings, 03 & 10 Dec20, with examples of the GRM and explanations using trial data. The project team will soon load proper data and carry out tests. They hope to have it live to members by March 2021.

Chainsaw courses

still the same position, we are awaiting for National to supply insurance details, and the end of Lockdown2 restrictions when training courses re-commence.

That's it.

Cheers, Ray.

Group rep, Paul

Paul started by thanking everyone for coming and their efforts over the last year.

He told us about the management change at National HQ and said he had spoken to the new boss several times.

He felt that of late the lines of communication had improved and he also felt that despite being left behind by the technology he was becoming more involved again.

Marketing/PR, Sean

It's been a quiet 12 months obviously owing to Covid. There has been no outdoor events or shows. I have contributed to the newsletter which we've managed to produce almost on a monthly basis. I've also started to promote Devon TRF via a regular column in the National TRF Trail magazine, the second of which will come out in the Winter Trail edition. I've promoted Devon TRF on a local scale, managing to sign up a number of new members who have contacted me from the local (Cullompton) area.

Run records, John Leah

52 Overlays issued

32 amendments made (comments etc)

174 run sheets submitted so far (already more than last year)

John would like more comments to be able to update the lane descriptions.

Sean once again submitted the most track logs

PB asked about the significance of the track logs, John explained that they proved use of lanes and showed historic condition to compare with present.

It was explained that e bike use was not recorded as they were governed by a very different set of rules to motorcycles.

Newsletter, no report

Website no report

Forum, Doug, no report

Events John Heal

John reported that we had not managed to run any events and this had greatly affected our income. He was hopeful for next year and reported that the usual supporters of our endeavours were still on board.

Horse events, Jacki

All events were cancelled despite there being volunteers for them

Election of officers Noel Squibb

Election of officers for 2021

Chairperson, still vacant
Vice chair, Noel Squibb
Treasurer, Kirsty Parnell has volunteered
Secretary, Trevor Foxon
ROW officer, Ray Tribe
Map marker, Liz Millet
Run recorder, John Leah
Newsletter editor, Phill Lowe
Forum coordinator, Doug
Club welcomer, John Heal
Event coordinator, Chris Cole and John Heal
Media coordinator, Sean Coomber
Horse trial coordinator, Jacki Cole
National rep, Paul Studley
Web Site manager, Phill Lowe
Lane clearing coordinator, Vacant

All the new committee members were proposed and seconded then voted for by the meeting attendees.

Thankyou to the people who have stood for re-election and the new members who have been generous enough with their time to help the Devon TRF continue.

Our thanks also go to the members who have stood down, for their efforts in the past.

AOB

SV asked about chain saw courses which were now more important as we had lost IC,

CC answered that he had spoken several times to Dave Carling about it and was still seeking some clarity. It was suggested that we just organised our own.

RT will book courses for volunteers once it is possible.

CC will try Dave Carling one more time.

TF asked about what we could do to attract more people to meetings, we discussed what had been done before and what we could try for the future. TF had appealed on the forum but to little avail.

We could get in external speakers and cover costs by charging an admission fee.

TH asked about South Hole 190-031

Various suggestions were made including just doing the clearing, swerving round the garage, creating a dead end. There were offers of help

CC suggested some restraint and a more considered approach.

Paul proposed a vote of thanks to Ian Collins aka Wacky for the years of service he has given to the club as our lane clearing maestro. Ian's passion for rights of way and his huge knowledge of the subject and the people involved will be greatly missed. He was applauded by the gathered 'zoomers' and the vote was unanimous.

TF then thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Lockdown 2.0

It is interesting how folk take to the lockdown rules. Second time around seems a lot more flexible. All the things we enjoy doing in a social way have been shut, restaurants, bars, gyms, hairdressers etc. The latter of being an obvious concern to trail riders.... This time around the clear guidance supported pairs being outside taking exercise together and trail riding is exercise. End of. This coincided with some rather disturbing data regarding that 55 is the age you start lose ambition, I guess the watershed between youth and old age where life revolves around slippers, soap operas, ranting at people enjoying themselves and so on. Combine this with concerns regarding over drinking, over eating, mental health all side effects of Covid, then getting out on the bikes has so many benefits far above just getting exercise. I cannot remember the time I went out on the bike and came back without feeling positive about myself a bit like getting in the water and surfing. Maybe it is the immersion in the environment, losing yourself in the moment, escaping reality. And at times like this, escapism is crucial to all of our sanities. So to tackle some of these challenges face on, Paul and I decided to take off across the top of Honiton to maximise the exercise aspects, I decided to only kick start the TTR to show my manliness and also increase that heart rate, and we'd ride uphill and go up Blind Lane rather than down as I noticed recently that recently I was chickening out of riding lanes that could be considered 'technical' in the most challenging direction. So I was keen to nip that aging attitude in the bud as I tick over into the post 55 category.



Late autumn colours in the Umbourne Valley

The weather the last few weeks has been very dreary, hardly any sun, low cloud, showers and a general dankness and last Sunday was no different. Consequently I togged up in my most waterproof(ish) clothing to keep out the worst and we kicked off down the Cully- Honiton road. Wilderness Lane, the first and best lane on the way to Honiton was full of activity, the last of the russet beech leaves lighting up the lane and squirrels running randomly in front of us, doing more U turns than the Government's response to Covid, the lane was wet from recent heavy rain with water running in many places. It's a great loosener though, shakes off the cobwebs and gets some decent squats in, changing from sitting to standing position as we ducked and weaved through the low hanging brambles and encroaching holly here and there. Running up past Dan's place at Beer Farm we crossed the road and bounced down over Hembury and skittered along the lane above the washed out lane to Lower Cheriton, fun without being overly taxing. We crossed into Honiton and up the technical little climb at Northcote and down the new motorway past Southcote farm, a once enjoyable technical ride, now heavily sanitised. However, the ride back up the Cleave with the old dumpy bags now providing a few 'launch' pads is great fun and so it is win some lose some.



Sweeping views deep within the 'Haynes'

We doubled back across to Cotleigh and the lanes down to Holmsleigh Green, narrow, muddy and fun but nothing technical. Climbing up and over Stockland Hill and down the byway at Shore Bottom. More scrambling was undertaken rising the long and stony Heathstock lanes over Beacon Hill before splashing across the Yarty at the ford at Waterhouse Farm which nicely links to the Membury lane across the ridge down to the hotel then back up the river to Yarty Farm. We met folk out and about, including groups of horse riders and everyone had a smile on their faces, which was nice and I guess reflected the fact that we're in this together and going out in small groups to get fresh air and exercise is something to be enjoyed by all. I like that about our county – there is still a degree of tolerance and mutual respect amongst citizens. After all, we all want to be loved don't we? Recrossing the river and blasting up Danes Hill is always a lovely ride and the lumpy top to the hill always fascinates me. The very name – "Dane's Hill" always makes me imagine Viking dragged a longboat up the river from Axmouth and buried a local Chieftain in his boat full of gold under the top of that hill. I have an overactive imagination.... Near the top of the hill it splits where 4x4s have wallowed a bit and I became undecided in which direction to take and ended up having a bit of a tankslapper, legs akimbo and flaying, but just held on as the bike straightened itself out. I'm always thankful that trail/enduro bikes abilities always outweigh those of their riders! I was not helped by the fact that my coccyx's were being a proper pain in the arse so to speak.

For several weeks now I've been very ginger riding the bike and thankful for the decent padding on the CRM and TTR but even then I was spending a lot of time standing up. I tried to trace back when I cracked them – as I only feel the pain when riding the bikes. I finally reckoned I did it leaping into the hot tub after a couple of bevies..... I know first world problems.... We dispatched the byway and UCR around Shute Hill without drama and I mentally pulled on my big boy pants and primed myself mentally to ride up Blind Lane for the first time. I did chicken out of crossing the Umbourne owing to recent rain but we rolled into Blind lane and picked our way up having a whale of a time. We were glad of the stout bash plates and the lifted/bounced our front wheels up the steps, mostly generated from the dumpy bags sunk into the lane to act as dams to keep it from washing out. Clang! The TTR bulldozed up hill, ever onwards, me trying to maintain enough momentum to allow the bike to do its thing. Needing to stay up on the pegs in keep my bruised derriere clear of the seat helped. In my head I imagined I looked like Dougie Lampkin gliding up, but as I said – I've a vivid imagination..... Ian, Pops and his willing band of volunteers have done a truly stunning job with the adjacent landowners to keep the lane open. We salute you! We exited at the top grinning like Cheshire cats, me laughing in the face of the statisticians that say I'm over the hill at 55. Bring on Hell's Gate, the Romaniac, the Iron Giant, I could still kick Graham Jarvis's arse around those extreme endure courses..... roiiighhtttt.....



Above the clouds on Danes Hill – mind the Vikings....

We now found ourselves in familiar territory the long and sweeping lanes over Sutton Thorn, down to Tritchayne then up through Downhayne, Carswell Moor Hammerhayne, Rockerhayne, so many Haynes..... Tricombe seems to becoming more technical, even before the repaired, lose corner in the woods, water is washing out the narrow section up from the farm and it is quite overgrown so mind the brambles. Stopping to admire the view down the Offwell Brook Valley we took on water before the push for home. The lovely Offwell lanes then down over the washed out lane down to Northcote Hill brought us into a quiet Honiton, a few masked individuals scurrying between the few shops still open. We splashed across the ford at Tape Lane and around Buckerell to scamper up over Hembury Hill. If you reach the top of that lane without a smile on your face, then you really do not have a soul.... Beer Fam and Wilderness Lane left us the run home to Cully, thoroughly exercised, mentally refreshed and ready to face the next week of home working and lockdown.

Sean Coomber

Election of officers 2021

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