

INTERLOPERS

(www.interlopers.org.uk)

Chairman: Ken Daly
1F1, 19 Waverley Park
EDINBURGH
EH8 8ER

Treasurer: Pat Bartlett
11 Wilton Road
EDINBURGH
EH16 5NX

Secretary: John Barrow
3 Charlton Grove
ROSLIN
Midlothian
EH25 9NY

0131-440-2136
info@interlopers.org.uk

THIRTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Conservatory at The Steading, Hillend, Edinburgh,
at 6:45 pm on Thursday 26 June 2014

1 Present

Graeme Ackland, Jane Ackland, John Barrow, Pat Bartlett, Jane Carcas, Ken Daly, Colin Eades, Fiona Eades, Lorna Eades, Mairi Eades, Lucy Galloway, Robin Galloway, Ann Haley, Martin Hyman, Rachel Kirkland, Rob Lee, Graham McIntyre, Mary Ross, Pat Squire (19).

Apologies for absence were received from James Ackland, Paul Caban, Max Carcas, Carol McNeill and Gordon Ross.
Ken welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2 Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting

2.1 Adoption

The Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting were accepted as a fair record of the proceedings. Proposer Robin Galloway, Seconder Colin Eades.

2.2 Matters Arising

Any Other Business in the Minutes of the 2013 AGM was reviewed.

- Pat Bartlett had communicated the thanks of the Meeting to Ben Bate, the Auditor.
- The Committee had investigated the issue of the Club's Date of Origin, and had concluded that the 40th Anniversary date had been missed. The first Club AGM had been in 1976, but people had been running under the Club's name since late-1971. Accordingly, it was suggested that arrangements be put in hand to commemorate the 50th Anniversary in due course.
- Barry Owen, duly appointed as the Club's Child Protection Officer, had been co-opted to the Committee.
- Some investigations were made into producing a sweatshirt for Juniors, but plans were shelved for the time being, on cost grounds.
- Ken asked about the Coaching Bag which Lorna had suggested. She replied that there was now the makings of such a bag, containing a few items.
- The sum of £75 had been donated to Lakeland O.C. for their efforts in helping at the 2013 6-Days. This had been matched by a similar sum from BASOC.
- Specific Club members had been encouraged to apply for Disclosures under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults scheme.

There were no other Matters Arising from the Minutes.

3 Chairman's Report

Ken presented his Report for the Year.

The normal convention at an AGM is to promote the Club's success over the past year, and to minimise the negatives. I am not a conformist, so I might throw in a few controversial observations (home truths), perhaps towards the end, for everyone to debate and reflect upon. If we hide from reality, we will not improve and progress as we should. I mean well, and do not intend to offend anyone, so please forgive me if any of my comments lack tact or accuracy.

This is also my final Report after 6 years as Chairman, so I will also reflect back over all of those years, but not in detail. However, let me begin with **2013-14**.

Membership

We started the year with approximately 80 adult and 40 junior members. That included 10 members living in other countries. The membership has fallen slightly over the year. However, in 2008-09, we had approximately 100 adult and 55 junior members, so the trend really is a decline and a serious one at that.

Events

We hosted 7 events (lead volunteers in brackets), 2 of which were for the SOA. I cancelled 3 CATI events and the Summer evening Urban series of 5 events due to a lack of volunteers, but reinstated 2 of the CATIs later in the year:

- Old Town summer evening urban event (Ken)
- Carse of Ardesier Scottish 6-Days Day 4 (Robin, Paul, Ken, and 2 from BASOC)
- Kinneil CATI (Barry and Ken)
- INTrepid Howden Sprint (Steven, Heather and Ken)
- INTrepid Dechmont SoSOL (Ann, Colin, Ken and Lindsey (RR))
- Craigmillar CATI (Mary, Jane and Paul)
- Dalnamein Scottish Champs (Ken, Janice (ESOC), and Terry (STAG))

However, Interlopers also made significant contributions to events hosted by other Clubs and organisations, including the Tinto Twin, EUOC Big Weekend, and Scottish Schools Championships. Our members are also taking the lead on a number of World Championships roles (various people).

Interlopers also hosted a number of schools and cub-scout events. I believe they included Nether Currie, Heriot PS, and St. Peter's. We also led the way on the ESOA Junior training programme and team management for competitions (Jane Ackland, Pat Bartlett and others).

The Club also organised a number of excellent social events, including the AGM meal, 6-Day BBQ (no, we did not eat for 6 days), Hallowe'en Party, training weekend/banquet, Club Championship/Christmas Party (Carcas, Ackland, Eades, McIntyre, Bartlett/Twissell and other families).

Administration volunteers

Chairman (Ken Daly)
 Treasurer (Pat Bartlett)
 Secretary (John Barrow)
 Newsletter (Mary Ross)
 Web Site (Graham McIntyre)
 Junior Member (void)
 Social Secretary (Max Carcas)
 Club Captain (Rob Lee)
 SI Manager (Rachel Kirkland)
 Maps Manager (Colin Eades)
 Mapping (Graeme Ackland)
 ESOA Rep. (John Barrow)
 Child Protection (Barry Owen)
 Equipment (Paul Caban)
 Training (Ken Daly)

Sponsorship

Thank you to CompassPoint who continue to sponsor Interlopers. They offer a discount to our members, so please support Rick and Angela by purchasing your O kit from CompassPoint.

Event Success

Scott Fraser, Murray Strain and Hector Haines (all Interløpers) represented Great Britain at the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) in Finland. Scott and Murray went on to compete in the World Games in Columbia. Both achieved top ten finishes in these events, which is brilliant. However, Scott went one better by taking the silver medal in the WOC sprint event. Chris and Matt Galloway were also selected for BOF Squads.

The Interløpers Men's Open Relay team recorded a record-equalling fourth JK Relay victory, and went on to win the British and Scottish Relay Championships.

Hector won the Men's 21 Elite class at the JK, and came third at the British Championships. Mary Ross also became British Champion.

Interløpers also won the 8-Person Relay, and several members became SOA, ESOA, SOL and SOUL Champions. The Interløpers Champion is Robin Galloway.

Projects

A development project has been agreed with West Lothian Council, and a grant aid bid submitted for funds for mapping, permanent courses, teacher training, etc..

The INTrepid Weekend has been introduced with this in mind, as well as our commitment to host more local events and the need to help generate the income required to run the Club. The previous 2 years/events in Livingston were fun and successful. We have an excellent opportunity in Livingston and West Lothian, so please continue the good work/events in the years to come.

6-Year Reflection

When I was elected, I said:

- “The promotion of our elite status is one of my aims, and should also help us to market the Club, inspire our juniors, and provide a unique opportunity for everyone to learn from the best.” [The men have been a fabulous success, but we still need to recruit elite women.]
- “Another target is to co-ordinate with neighbouring Clubs to develop a full season of local events that supports recruitment, the development pathway and retention of our new members. To support this I want to develop focussed marketing and therefore require a volunteer..” [We do not host enough local events and, although we have new templates, we need to do more proactive and targetted marketing.]
- “Another of my aims is to introduce regular training sessions. It's good for you, so I hope you will make the effort to join in.” [The regular Thursday training runs and Autumn training weekend are popular.]

In subsequent years:

- “I praised the Club for its excellent team spirit, and explained why I think it is essential for Club success (it promotes participation, enjoyment, success and growth).” [Team spirit is high. The new Club O-tops, ESOA junior training, relay successes and excellent socials all help.]
- “I praised the Club for its relay successes.” [We now have a record-equalling 4 Men Open JK Relay victories, as well as other successes.]
- “However, I raised concern over the Club's event programming and lack of lead volunteers, which I think are our Achilles heels. The problem is cyclical in that a lack of volunteers for lead roles leaves a few stalwarts overloaded, and the programming, lead-in time and quality of our events suffer. Our reputation also suffers, and this undermines all our other efforts. Over the last few years, the Committee has, in response to member requests, concentrated our events closer to home. We have also provided courses to train volunteers, and Graeme Ackland has provided more local maps. What we now require is everyone to volunteer to plan, organise, control or coordinate an event (large or small) every year. We also require an events coordinator to help programme, recruit for and drive our events forward, but not inherit the event roles themselves.” [This person would free up the Chairperson to lead the Club, and not get bogged down or burnt out. It should also make it easier to recruit a Chairperson in future.]

I believe the key problems are the decline in membership and lack of regular local Interløpers events, which also means lack of volunteers, and also confirms the need for a proactive events coordinator. I have experience of new orienteers attending Interløpers CATIs, and asking how they join ESOC (not realising Interløpers exist).

Perhaps we need to do less for SOA and other bodies?

Perhaps we need to make it compulsory to take a lead role every year?

I also think our Club web site needs to be much more attractive and active. Graham built it and trained people to populate it, so please start populating it on a daily basis. If I were moving up to the Edinburgh area, as I did 22 years

ago, the first thing I would check is the web site for activity, etc., and I am confident that on current evidence I would not join Interløpers. Get yourselves together, and sort it!

Our next event commitments are as follows (only the first 4 of approximately 34 lead roles have been filled - the 6-Day event roles have not been included in my assessment). Any volunteers?

- 07/08/14 - Lakes 5 Blisco lower start
- 10/10/14 - Edinburgh Race the Castles warm-up event
- 02/11/14 - Venue TBC SoSOL & possibly the INT Champs
- 08/03/15 - Drummond Hill SOL
- ??/05/15 - Dechmont Law Scottish Schools Champs TBC
- CATIs x 5
- Summer Series x 5
- Scottish 6-Days 2015
- Scottish 6-Days 2017 Central Organisers with MAROC

Despite my observations and pleas for more volunteering, I know most people do already volunteer a lot, and most also have other commitments like young families. I therefore want to say a very big thank you for what you have done. Well done!

Please continue the good work next year, and hopefully a little bit extra each. More importantly, it would be good to see some less involved people volunteer - we can train and mentor you - so why not?

Ken Daly
Interløpers Chairman

4 Financial Statement for the Year ending 31 March 2014

Pat Bartlett introduced the Accounts and accompanying Notes.

Jane Ackland asked if there was an explanation for the loss at the Kinneil Wood local event. Pat replied that there were several factors: entry fees were set such that the effect of the change in BOF levy structure was not properly anticipated (all competitors now attract levy), there were significant map printing costs, and the turn-out was quite low. In contrast, the turn-out at the Craigmillar event was much higher, and there were no map printing costs. Pat suggested that a recommendation be made to the ESOA Committee to advise setting entry fees for Local Events to cover the effect of the revised BOF levy structure.

Pat Squire asked about the apparently high level of Debtors in the Balance Sheet. Pat replied that this was mainly due to outstanding payments from members for Relay entry fees and for O-tops.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Graeme Ackland, and seconded by Jane Carcas.

5 Membership Fees for 2015

Following last year's AGM, the Committee had decided, for simplicity's sake, to follow the basic fee structure which BOF and SOA had adopted for 2013, viz. setting fees for Senior and Junior members only (respectively £5 and £1), and dispensing with the Family category.

Pat Bartlett recommended that there be no change in these fees for 2015, and this was accepted by the Meeting by a show of hands.

John pointed out that the Affiliation Fees figure was slightly up for 2014, compared with that for 2013, and that this could probably be attributed to the change of fee structure for Family members, in that all adults were now paying £5, rather than £7 for a Family partnership.

6 Election of Office Bearers

The full list of Elections was as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
a) Hon. President	Carol McNeill	Martin Hyman	Ann Haley
b) Chairman	(tbc)		
c) Secretary	John Barrow	Pat Squire	Jane Ackland
d) Treasurer	Pat Bartlett	Robin Galloway	Pat Squire
e) Social Secretary	Max Carcas	Jane Carcas	Lucy Galloway
f) Newsletter Editor	Mary Ross	Ann Haley	Jane Ackland
g) Club Captain	Rob Lee	Pat Bartlett	Robin Galloway
h) Junior Member	(tbc)		
i) Ordinary Member	Barry Owen	Pat Bartlett	Rachel Kirkland
i) Ordinary Member	Colin Eades	Lucy Galloway	Fiona Eades
j) Area Representative	(one of the above)		

The Meeting agreed that John, as current ESOA Chairman, could continue to act as Area Representative.

Barry Owen would continue to act as the Club Child Protection Officer (CCPO).

Colin Eades was happy to continue as the Club's Mapping Representative.

Graham McIntyre was prepared to stay as Webmaster.

Paul Caban would continue to be responsible for the Club's equipment.

Ben Bate (ESOC) had agreed to continue to act as Auditor of the Club's accounts.

Efforts had been made before the Meeting to try to identify candidates for post of Chairman, to no avail. It was decided to leave the appointment for the new Committee to consider.

In response to a question, Ken mentioned that he intended to create Job Descriptions for the main Committee posts; he already had access to templates to help in this exercise.

Ken also mentioned that, in his Report at last year's AGM, he had set the Club three targets, viz. to appoint an Events Coordinator, to create a Development Project, and to update the maps of Drummond Hill and Norman's Law, and to map more of Livingston. The Development Project was now well under way, and several areas of Livingston had been or were about to be mapped as part of that Project. It remained to extend the map of Norman's Law, and to identify someone to take on the role of Events Coordinator.

Martin suggested that a crucial role for an Events Coordinator would be to establish realistic deadlines for the appointment of event officials and helpers, and have a date agreed with the Committee as to when a cancellation decision must be considered.

7 Presentation of "Gullane Rock"

As a preliminary to presenting the Rock, John made the following remarks.

I understand from Ann that she has really enjoyed having the Gullane Rock over the past year, proudly displaying it on her mantelpiece. I only hope that this year's recipient will treat it with such reverence.

My nominee for 2014 has been heavily involved in Scottish Orienteering for many years. He has served on both the ESOA and SOA Committees, the latter as President over a period of three years. Since 2008, he has been Chairman of the Interlopers Committee, having said that initially he intended to serve for at most three years. Like all such posts, once in harness it's very hard to relinquish a position (whether from a sense of duty or simply because of unwillingness of others to take on the job). However, this year, he has finally decided that enough is enough.

Ken (for it is he!) has taken on the job of our Chairman with great enthusiasm and dedication. Finding it difficult to recruit other volunteers, usually for event planning or organising, he has often stepped into the breach himself. For several years, he coordinated our Spring Series of Street-O events. More recent examples have been the overseeing of this year's most successful INTrepid Weekend, and as Day Coordinator for the SOA Individual Championships at Dalnamein. He has also devoted a lot of effort into developing links with West Lothian Council.

In his role of chairing our Committee Meetings, Ken has overseen them with great humour and patience, despite the usual tendency of others to drift off the subject. As Secretary, I have found his leadership very helpful, in particular his diligence in checking the draft Minutes with care to make sure I haven't missed anything.

So it is my great pleasure to award the Gullane Rock this year to Ken Daly.

8 Future of the Club

Ken introduced this Item by referring to a mention in the recent Club Newsletter (no. 167). He had had an approach some time ago with a suggestion that the Club might like to contemplate merging with ESOC. The issue was discussed at a recent Committee Meeting, where it was decided to raise the matter at this Meeting, with the intention of trying to identify the pros and cons of such a merger. It was not expected that the issue be debated, or even a vote taken, at this AGM. The topic was then thrown open to the floor.

Steven McHarg had responded by e-mail, and suggested that a merger should lead to greater financial security, but the main reason that Interlopers exists at all is because it is an orienteering identity. He added that we are in Interlopers to run and compete against other Clubs, so he was not sure what the point would be if all Clubs merged and reduced the competition. He believed that Interlopers has a very strong identity, which would be lost if we merged.

Paul had also pointed out, in an e-mail, that the two Clubs shared the same geographical footprint.

Ken agreed about the loss of Club identity. He also believed that the strengths of each Club individually would not necessarily be reflected in the merged Club (i.e. the sum of the parts would be greater than the merged sum). An example could be some people being less likely to volunteer if they were part of a bigger Club and thought they could leave it to others.

Martin wondered if the ethos of the two Clubs separately were the same, given the different sizes of the two. He did feel, though, that a reduced personnel effort should be one advantage.

Ken began to summarise the content of two e-mails from Martin, but did not complete the reading. For the record, the e-mails raised the following observations: possible efficiency savings, easier to field relay teams, whether a merger required major or minor administrative changes in modus operandi or changes in ethos which some would be uncomfortable with, and that small Clubs tend to be “our Club and success depends on the collective contribution” whereas the danger with large Clubs was a view that “the membership entitles them to receive services”.

Ann further enlarged on the individual identities of the two Clubs, fearing that these would be lost within one overall entity. Pat Bartlett agreed with this view.

As far as could be ascertained, the principal motive from ESOC was that the merged Club would be stronger competitively (a view that Mary Ross echoed in an e-mail, particularly for the Junior membership). In addition, the staging of events should benefit from the larger membership.

Ken tried to sum up the points raised, and suggested that the Club appoint a group of representatives to get together with ESOC to try to take the matter further.

9 Any Other Business

No Other Business was raised.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 30 August 2014