SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTIETH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 25 March 1996, at 161 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh

Present: Steve Ambler, John Barrow, Colin Eades, Colin Inverarity, John Kenworthy, Charlie Walton.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 29 January 1996 were approved.

There were no Matters Arising which would not be dealt with later under their appropriate agenda item.

2 Secretary's Report

A reply had been received from the SOA to our letter about the revised Membership Structure, explaining that the Club's interpretation of the structure was what had been intended from the start. An observation was made that much debate and soul-searching could have been avoided if this had been made clear by the SOA in the first place.

A reply had been received from the BOC 96 Organisers, asking if Club members could be responsible for card-checking at the Relay event on the Sunday (5 May).

A cheque for £488 had been received from the 6-Day Event Company. After a telephone conversation with John McNee, the Company Treasurer, it transpired that this sum represented one third of the profit allocated to Day 3, which in itself was 3/25 of the total. Obvious consequences of this were that (a) no recognition had been made by the Company of the additional effort provided by Clubs in the form of the major Day officials, and (b) no allocation had been made to University clubs, on the grounds that they provided little or no effort, and that they were not in a position to undertake significant mapping projects for which such funds were largely intended. It had been claimed by the Company that all Club Chairmen had been consulted about this policy before the Event itself, but this Club knew for a fact that no such consultation had been made (at least to this Club). This Meeting also felt that the system of allocation was extremely unfair to the University clubs, and was rather patronising in assuming that such clubs were not in a position to undertake mapping projects (witness EUOC's recent revision of the maps of both Corstorphine Hill and Arthur's Seat). It was felt that, if a similar policy were to be adopted for future 6-Day Events, then the Club might consider not volunteering any major officials. In any case, the views of the Committee should be communicated to the Company.

ACTION: John

A letter had been received from Ken Hall, together with a questionnaire to be completed regarding the Club's attitude towards Junior development. Colin E. agreed to complete and return it.

ACTION: Colin E.

A letter had been received from the Outdoor Education Teacher at Low Port Centre in Linlithgow, asking for details about the Club which could be passed on to those taking part in orienteering courses at the Centre (which was now recognised by BOF).

3 Treasurer's Report

In the period from the start of the Financial Year to date, the accounts showed a surplus of about £800. However, several cheques for expenses had just been issued which would reduce this sum, and the accounts for the circuit training session were yet to be finalised.

Steve asked whether the Meeting felt that the Archerfield maps should continue to be regarded as financial assets. There was considerable discussion, but the conclusion was that, while the maps remaining a saleable item (particularly in view of the ESOC Badge event in November 1996), a value should continue to to be placed on them for the purposes of the annual accounts.

4 Equipment

20 new control markers had now been purchased by Colin E.

5 Mapping

Donald Petrie had been in touch with details of his activities in investigating land ownership on Glenearn & Berryknowe. The situation was even more complicated than at first thought, and this was even more so with the news that Mr Reid (of Lochelbank, the venue for access and parking) was selling up. The Meeting was somewhat concerned that Donald was proceeding on the premise that the Club would try to organise a Scotlandsgaloppen event on the area in 1997, specifically 19 October of that year; the misgivings were that the area might not be capable of providing sufficient technical challenge for such an event. These misgivings were somewhat mollified by Donald's own views that, having seen the area himself, the area could indeed cope with such a technical event, despite its largely open nature.

This question was tied up with a request from the SOA Fixtures Secretary for Clubs to apply for Scotlandsgaloppen dates in 1997, and to reply by 31 March.

Donald had agreed to summarise his progress in a letter. It was agreed to submit a request for an event on the above-mentioned date on the area, with the proviso that some Club members, and perhaps someone like Jon Musgrave, should visit the area and assess for themselves its suitability, before finally going ahead.

It was pointed out that Steve Terry should be kept informed of any progress with this project, particularly if it was to be decided that ground survey alone was needed, and that the Club itself could organise this. It was recognised that, because of the size of the area, a professionally produced survey would be very expensive (probably costing at least £500 per squ. km.).

Colin E. had been in touch with Jon Musgrave with a view to organising a mapping course for Club members; however, Jon was unable, because of pressure of work, to help out before September.

6 Events

6.1 Summer Series 1996

John had checked the status of stocks of Colinton Dell maps, and these were found to be sufficient to stage the proposed Summer Series event there on 15 May. Scott Balfour was happy to organise this event.

As for the event on 26 June, it was suggested that Pat Squire could be asked if he could organise it. Charlie offered to do some course planning, and John Kenworthy was keen to help with this. It was recognised that the use of the barbecue facility would need to be reserved, and John would contact the Ranger to arrange this.

ACTION: John

6.2 CompassSport Cup 1996

The tie against FVO did not take place at the LOL at Penicuik. The hope now was that it could be played at the final LOL at Devilla on 28 April, and that the subsequent tie, against either Loch Eck or Clyde, could be held concurrently (to keep the Cup organiser happy).

6.3 J.K., BOF Relays

Teams had been entered for these two events.

6.4 SOA Relays

It was noted that the closing date for entries for this event was 26 April.

6.5 Lothian O-League 1996/97

The LBOA had agreed that the Club could stage the event in October 1996 in the 1996/97 series. Colin E. reported that a form for completion was somewhere in Edinburgh, and he would try to get it to John in due course. It was suggested that we try for the use of a LINOC area, perhaps Kinneil. Once an area had been chosen, the event registration procedure should be commenced.

ACTION: John

6.6 SOA Relays - 25 May 1997 - Strathmashie

Although the Club had expressed a preference to organise the Individual event at the 1997 weekend, Colin E. found that, at the recent LBOA meeting, the others present had already decided that ESOC should lead the team for the Individual, and that Interløpers would take on the Relays (again!).

As far as current progress was concerned, access for the event itself and for parking was virtually agreed. The maps would be sold to the event at 50p each. Major Officials now needed to be appointed: a Planner, an Organiser, and perhaps an Assistant Planner.

John had asked Pat Squire about putting down a marker for reserving Woodlands for the weekend.

7 LBOA

Most of the business at the last LBOA Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 27 February and attended by Colin E., had already been dealt with.

8 Newsletter

Colin I. apologised for the quality of the copying of the recently distributed Newsletter; the copier used was not the normal one, and he had no control over how it had been produced. (He also apologised for distributing the wrong version of the Address List!)

He hoped to produce another issue immediately before the AGM (towards the end of April), and this posting could therefore include the formal Agenda as required by the Constitution.

9 Socials

An impromptu Pancake Night did indeed take place after the Meadows session on 20 February.

A meal would be organised for after the AGM, but its nature was not yet known.

10 A.O.B.

The Meeting Room at the Pleasance had been booked for the AGM. Most of the current Committee members indicated their willingness to stand for re-election (although Steve said he would rather only serve for one more year). Colin E. suggested that, in view of a slight hiccup last year, it would be advisable to check whether someone with a membership card needed to collect the key for the room; however, everyone agreed that, given that the Department had accepted the booking from the Club, this ought not to be necessary.

Charlie commented that the possible price of £5 for a T-shirt, as reported in the Minutes of the last Meeting, was slightly optimistic. He would continue to try to obtain a firm quote for the chosen design.

The date of the next Meeting would be fixed by the new Committee after their election at the AGM.

The Meeting closed at 10.45pm. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 2 April 1996