THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY FIFTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 15 January 2001, at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin

Present: Graeme Ackland, John Barrow, Paul Caban, Ken Daly, Dave Godfree, Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman

Apologies for absence were received from Darina Cunnane, Colin Inverarity, Niall Inverarity, and Tim Lenton.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 30 October 2000 were approved.

2 Secretary's Report

There was a general discussion of membership changes.

Julian Hall and Cecilia MacIntyre had joined as SOA members, as a Senior Individual and a Family respectively.

John commented that Keith Dawson's name had been missed off the list of his family on the latest BOF return; he would call to check.

It was mentioned that Graham and Morag McIntyre had moved house, though the new address was not known.

There was a rumour that Kate Hampshire and Nigel Bartlett might be moving away from Edinburgh.

Daniel Marston was spending another year in Oslo.

Murray Strain had asked for details (by e-mail) for joining the Club. John was currently in contact with him.

Scott Fraser, a Junior who had been to Mortonhall, and more recently the ESOL event at Dalkeith Park, and who was a great prospect as a runner, was keen to join the Club. John would send him details, once Graeme had found out his address.

Terry O'Brien had circulated Clubs, asking what their feelings were about the inauguration of an SOA Championships in Park/Sprint-O, and soliciting replies by the end of January. John had circulated the details to the e-mail list, and would summarise the replies to Terry.

3 Treasurer's Report

Paul voiced some concern that, now that the bank balance had returned to some sort of normality after payment of bills for mapping, event levies, etc., the general level of funds (approx. £2K) was quite low. This ought to be ameliorated somewhat if BOF recompensed the Club for the unexpectedly high cost of organising the BEOC last June - this ought to bring in approx. £1500. Colin Eades was chasing this up.

Paul asked the Meeting's feelings on whether it felt a claim for £30 expenses, incurred in hiring a car for the weekend to organise the Club Championships at Kinneil, was justified. The Meeting unanimously agreed that Paul should receive the full cost of the hire, i.e. £50.

John mentioned that it had been decided at the ESOA's meeting towards the end of last year that the Area's Clubs should be asked to contribute towards the costs incurred in taking the Junior Squad to representative events, to the tune of £50 each. Paul would provide a cheque at the end of the Meeting.

4 Equipment

It had been established that the Club had been loaned 60 trestles by the 6-Day Event Co.. Paul mentioned that there were currently just over 30 in his shed, so there were still 30 missing. Eddie Harwood was convinced that the trestles used for the Highland Fling last June had been collected from his porch after the event, and he assumed that this had been by a member of Interløpers. It was agreed to check these facts with Colin Eades and then, presuming that Colin didn't have them, with both INVOC and Moravian.

ACTION: Paul and John

30 more standard control markers had been bought, as well as a number of mini-kites.

Paul mentioned the issue of producing an up-to-date Inventory of Club equipment. However, doing so would mean his finding time to inspect his attic in detail.

5 Mapping

There had been no further progress with the area near Bridge of Cally. The general feeling was that it wouldn't be of suitable quality for a Badge event, and hence it was probably not worth mapping it professionally.

In general, it was agreed that, if a potential area was quite remote from Edinburgh, then it would need to be of Scotlandsgaloppen quality to justify the effort needed to produce a good map. Otherwise, if a local Club were prepared to come in on the development costs on a 50/50 basis, then perhaps an area suitable for colour-coded events could be considered.

There was a general discussion of other potential areas to be considered, including those for which LINOC held the current map stocks.

Dave said he would be quite happy to scan in current maps, and convert them to a form suitable for using OCAD. Graeme said he would try to find out the current status of Dechmont Law and Calder Wood. Gillian also mentioned the possibility of using Muiravonside.

6 Events

6.1 Club Championships

These had taken place on 17 December, with a good turn-out of Club members. After a fiendishly complicated piece of handicapping devised by Ken, Tamas Toth was declared the winner, followed by Darina.

6.2 New Year events

A Score event was staged at Loch Vaa by Ken and Ben on Friday 29 December. This was enjoyed by a good turn-out from not just Interløpers and Central Belt Clubs, but also INVOC, BASOC, and other north-east Clubs.

6.3 Spring Saturday Series

We had agreed with ESOC that Interløpers would stage events in the Spring Saturday Series on 27 January, 3 March, and 17 March, at Craigmillar, Mortonhall, and Blackford Hill respectively. John would organise the first event, using the same courses as for the event last August (to which only 4 non-Interløpers took part), and Paul would put on the last one. Someone would need to be found to stage the Mortonhall event - Paul would sound out Ann Haley.

John mentioned that ESOC had been asked to pay a flat fee of £25 by Edinburgh City Council for permission to use Davidson's Mains in the first event in this Series, on 13 January. This was a disturbing development, and Janet Clark had made strenuous efforts to negotiate with the Council to try to resolve the issue.

(Subsequent to this Meeting, she reported that an arrangement had been reached with the Council whereby any event attracting 20 or fewer competitors to an event held on Council land would not need to pay a fee, but that all others would still need to pay the sum of £25. It was realised that this was still an unsatisfactory arrangement since, even with say 25 competitors, the event costs would easily wipe out the entry fee income. It was hoped that Donald Petrie's help could be sought to come to a more equitable solution.)

6.4 ESOL 2000/2001

Keith had had to turn down the Planner's job for this event. Graeme had asked for volunteers via the e-mail list, and Gordon Ross had offered his services. Ian Pyrah (ESOC) had agreed to be Controller. Graeme, with Brad's help, would Organise.

Graeme reported that access permission was probably OK, at least for over half of the area. Although the developers had said they would commence operations to build the golf courses at the earliest opportunity, realistically it was felt that this would not be until well after the event.

He wanted to laserprint the maps, at 1:10000, feeling that a proper print run would not be economically feasible. There followed a short discussion on printing - one point made was that there were cheaper printers than those whom Stirling Surveys used.

It was pointed out that a flier for the O-League event would be needed soon; it probably ought to be available for the EUOC event in Holyrood Park on 17 February, but definitely for the RR event on 4 March at the Eildon Hills. The O-League courses would use SportIdent (which Brad was to be responsible for).

6.5 ESOA Summer Series

There was some discussion about the Club's involvement in this year's Series. Given the difficulty of almost all Club members in being able to be involved with an event which started at 4.30pm, it was agreed that the Club would offer to the ESOA to organise mass-start short races at 7pm at all events in the Series with city venues (unless, of course, the other Clubs wanted to arrange their own such races); this would be instead of events starting at 4.30. If the ESOA still wanted to have the 4.30 starts on the days which were provisionally allocated to Interløpers, it was hoped that other Clubs might be in a position to step in to provide these.

It was suggested that Lothian Running Club might be able to provide people to take part in events at Dechmont Law and, possibly, Calder Wood.

It was further suggested that the ESOA ask local Scout groups when they would want an event put on.

Gillian would speak to teachers involved in the schools cross-country league, to see if an event could be provided for them. She would contact Mark Davies, and suggest a date around end-March/early April. A venue of Braidburn Park was mentioned.

6.6 SOA Championships 2001

It was hoped that Graham McFadyen would be able to act as Controller. He, like the writer, had thought that the Controller for the Individual Championships had to be Grade 1; however, closer inspection of the BOF Rules revealed that a Grade 2 controller of sufficient experience could do the job.

6.7 6-Day Event 2001

An Organiser was still required for this event.

Ben reported that the planning was going fine.

It had been agreed that Club members could participate in Day 5, provided that enough other members could cover for them.

There was some discussion on how the two Equipment collections for this year's event might be efficiently managed (given the distribution of the 6 days over quite a wide area). The resultant suggestion was to have 1 set designated for Days 2 and 5, while the other would be for Days 1, 3, 4, and 6. A necessity would be that Club members would need to work on the Rest Day (between Days 3 and 4), in order to set up things for Day 5 at Arisaig (since the venues for Days 3 and 4 were both a long car journey south of Fort William, almost as far as Oban, while Arisaig was a similar-length journey west of FW, making it virtually impossible to set up Day 5 on any other day).

Ben would make available a list of suitable accommodation for the week.

6.8 ESOA Championships 2001

The ESOA seemed to think that it was the Club's turn to organise this event in 2001; however, it was pointed out that we organised the 1998 event (in conjunction with the Tinto Twin event that year), and that therefore it ought to be some other Club's turn.

In any case, a scan of the provisional Fixture List revealed almost no available dates. It was suggested that it might be possible to hold the Championships in conjunction with another event (as was done in 1998). Further information might be forthcoming from the ESOA Meeting the following evening.

6.9 ESOL 2001/2002

It was suggested that we should apply to stage our event in this Series next Autumn, probably at Glenearn & Berryknowe.

6.10 Hogmanay 2001

There was a suggestion that the successful staging of events in the Christmas week in 2000 could usefully be repeated at the end of the current year.

6.11 Scotlandsgaloppen 2002

A form had been received from Terry O'Brien. This had been completed, with the Club's first three priority dates of 24 March, 21 April, and 23 June, with a venue "somewhere on Speyside".

6.12 6-Day Event 2003

It was stressed that some way should be found of keeping the activities of Club members with active rôles in the 6-Day organisation separate from those involved with maintaining the Club itself.

A rumour was mentioned concerning Rob Bloor's involvement in mapping for the event.

7 ESOA

As mentioned earlier, the next Meeting of this Association would be held on 16 January. Ken was now Secretary, and John attended as the Club's representative.

8 Newsletter

The last issue had appeared in time for Christmas. In Colin's absence, it wasn't known what plans he had for the next issue.

9 Socials

The Burns Night would take place at Graeme's at 7.30pm on Thursday 25 January. People would be asked to bring haggis and drink.

10 A.O.B.

It was suggested that a reminder of how to apply to join the e-mail list be included in the next issue of the Newsletter. Paul would provide details for Colin.

There was a suggestion that an introductory leaflet for new members be devised, giving details of names of Committee members, where to find information, etc.

Gillian made a plea for some local night events to be put on, at places like Cammo, as well as other informal training events.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 12 March 2001 at 29/4 Prestonfield Avenue.

The Meeting closed at 10.20. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 28 February 2001