FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 16 July 2001, at 30 Blackwood Crescent

Present: John Barrow, Paul Caban (later), Darina Cunnane, Ken Daly, Dave Godfree (later), Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman, Colin Inverarity.

Apologies for absence were received from Graeme Ackland and Tim Lenton.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 30 April 2001 were approved.

2 Secretary's Report

John asked Colin if Niall were prepared to continue as Junior Rep., to which Colin replied that he was. In addition, Ben would sound out Murray Strain to see if he would be interested in taking on the position.

3 Treasurer's Report

In both Dave and Paul's absence, there was no business to discuss. However, there was a reliable rumour that the bank balance was largely unchanged.

4 Equipment

John had discovered a relatively up-to-date list of Club equipment (as at 28 October 1999), and it was agreed that this could serve as a basis for drawing up a new list. However, it was also agreed that this process should be left until after Lochaber 2001.

It was also noted that a new location for the 60 trestles needed to be found soon, since Paul would prefer access to the other contents of his shed. It would also be more satisfactory if a new keeper could be found for the whole stock of Club equipment.

5 Mapping

The new map of Dechmont Law was duly completed by Dave, and was ready in time for the local event on 16 May. However, there were still some inaccuracies in it, and Gillian agreed to complete the field survey needed to correct them.

Darina mentioned that a contact of hers would very much like a map to be made of his school grounds, and wondered if the Club could assist. Dave would be asked if he could help.

6 Events

6.1 ESOA Summer Series

The Dechmont Law event took place as planned, with a good turn-out for both the CATI and the Sprint-O at 7pm. Thanks were due to Martin Hyman for organising the proceedings.

6.2 6-Day Event 2001

It had only recently been announced that this event would proceed as planned.

Planning for Day 5 was on course. It would almost certainly be necessary to have precautions in place for Foot & Mouth Disease prevention. Hilary was organising a T-Bar-BQ at her house on 21 July to prepare all the trestles for the event. Arrangements for collecting controls after the competition were still to be made.

The T-bars would be placed at the control sites during the weekend of 28/29 July, while the SI units and control markers would be put in place during the Rest Day of the Event (8 August).

Because of the nature of the access road, it would be necessary to insist on no departures from the Car Park before 12.30 on the day, except in the case of emergencies. Officials manning key points along the access road would be equipped with two-way radios to allow this to happen.

John, as Club Leader on Day 5, would liaise with Phil Smithard, the Day Organiser, regarding the procedures and timings for setting up the Assembly Area. It was hoped that most of it could be done on the Rest Day, with a minimum left to the evening of Day 4, or even early on Day 5 itself (because of the remoteness of the area from the Event Centre).

It was agreed that the Club should formally recognise the contribution of members of LOC to the on-the-day organisation. However, because of the expected low entry (approx. 2700 instead of the usual 3500), it was anticipated that there would be very little profit, if any, from the event, and that the 6-Day Company would probably need to subsidise the Event from its resources.

Some Club members were keen to know if it would be possible to camp overnight at the venue on the day before Day 5. John would find out.

6.3 Autumn Saturday Series 2001

At the recent ESOA meeting, the Club had been asked to stage events in this Series on 8 September, 13 October, and 10 November; discussion among Committee members resulted in venues of Braidburn Park, Dechmont Law, and Mortonhall being chosen. (This took place outside a formal meeting since material for inclusion in the July issue of "Score" needed to be prepared at quite short notice.)

It was suggested that an approach be made to Martin Hyman regarding the Dechmont Law event. It should be put to him that the Club would stage the event, but that he was very welcome to invite members of Lothian Running Club to take part.

Paul would be asked if he could organise the Mortonhall event.

An organiser for the Braidburn Park event would be sought by an e-mail plea.

6.4 SOA 11-Person Relay - 16 September

A further e-mail plea would be sent out to solicit interest for this event. It was agreed to enter one, or possibly two, teams (depending on the response).

6.5 ESOA Championships

It was suggested that Graeme be asked about setting up permissions to use Archerfield. The date had now been fixed as 28 October, and the Championships would be incorporated within the Club's ESOL event.

It was mentioned that a UK Cup race might be held at Archerfield in April 2002. This need not be a Hagaby-style event; it could be a Sprint-O. However, Gordon Ross would be asked if his Hagaby courses, originally planned for the event on 24 March this year, could be used next year instead.

The question of the printing of the maps was discussed. The Lottery grant included an element for printing, so in effect some printing had already been paid for. However, any progress with re-developing the area might affect how much of the map was finally printed. It was suggested that a separate print run be done for the UK Cup race, perhaps including the course overprinting, and making use of the new SOA laserprinter (for which copies would work out at 55p each).

As for the ESOL/ESOA Championships event, Interløpers as organising Club could decide on how to allocate Championship classes to the various colour-coded courses. One question raised was whether competitors would be permitted to copy their courses before the start, or after. It was also suggested that SI be used, which meant that punching starts could be employed.

Dave offered to program the SI units, and Heather might be able to help with course planning. John would ask Graeme about seeking permission.

6.6 SOA Individual Championships - 1 June 2002

Now that the issue of when the next SOA Championships would take place was resolved, it was possible to resume preparations. Graham McIntyre had offered to complete his course planning, held over from the abortive 2001 event (provided the event took place at Rogie). Darina would take entries, and Dave would organise the aspects involved with SI. Hence an Organiser and a Controller were still required. Roger Scrutton would be asked if he would be prepared to resume the rôle of Coordinator; it was felt that this would be quite likely, provided that the Relays were held at Littlemill, as originally intended.

6.7 6-Day Event 2003

There was still no sign of a Coordinator, or a Publicity Officer or Secretary, being appointed for this event. However, a Web Site Maintainer had been identified, and had agreed to do the job. It was pointed out that the nominees for posts in the Moray 2003 organisation should make contact with their counterparts at Lochaber 2001 during the forthcoming 6-Day Event.

6.8 Scotlandsgaloppen 2003

After some discussion, it was felt wise to withdraw our application to stage an event in this series, given our commitment to Moray 2003. John would contact Terry O'Brien.

7 ESOA

At the last meeting of this organisation on 19 June, Gillian was thanked for bringing her Juniors to the Summer Series events, and for organising the Sprint-O races at these events. It was suggested that some of the wording on the series publicity could be modified somewhat, in order not to put off potential participants who might otherwise think that the massed-start courses were not for them. Indeed, such people should be encouraged to take part in these courses by, perhaps, starting earlier than the advertised massed-start time.

In reply to a question, it was pointed out that results of the events in the 2000/2001 ESOL had been posted on the ESOA WWW page. The best 3 from 5 results were to be taken for the overall positions in the series.

As mentioned above, a firm date for the Club's event in the 2001/2002 ESOL series was now set (as they were for most of the other events in the series).

There was some discussion on the proposals of the Scottish Executive for Land Reform. The SOA had made a submission, but encouraged all orienteers to lobby their MSPs on the issue.

It was also mentioned that a Club Delegate Conference would be held at the National Centre on 24 November, at which the main subject for discussion would be the revised Scotlandsgaloppen rules. An added attraction would be the SOA Score Championships at Lossie on Sunday 25 November.

It was noted that an advertisement for a Junior Development Officer for the Edinburgh area had appeared in the July issue of "Score". A probable candidate for the job was Peter Coutts of ESOC.

8 Newsletter

Colin announced that he hoped to produce the next issue soon after the 6-Days. He would welcome submissions, particularly by e-mail (thus saving on typing!).

9 Juniors

As mentioned in the ESOA Report, that Committee were hoping to appoint a JDO for the Edinburgh area, to be supported financially by ESOC, ELO, and Interløpers, and an advert was in the current issue of "Score".

10 Socials

In Tim's absence, it wasn't clear what plans there were for social events in the future. However, it was suggested that some selected events in the Festival and/or Fringe might deserve a visit.

A T-bar-BQ session was due to be held at Hilary's, to prepare the trestles for Day 5 at Lochaber 2001.

11 Treasurer's Report (continued)

A mandate form, signed by the new Office Bearers, had been delivered to the Bank.

Paul and Dave would fix a date, probably after Lochaber 2001, for the transfer of the Treasurer's paperwork.

The takings for Dechmont Law on 16 May needed to be cleared up with Martin Hyman.

12 Equipment (continued)

The Club needed to provide 60 trestles for Day 5 at Lochaber 2001. Although Eddie Harwood admitted to holding some of these 60, John Colls would chase him up for the remaining trestles which hadn't seen the light of day since BEOC in June 2000.

There was some discussion on the issue of who could take over storing the trestles and kites from Paul. He offered to keep the other equipment in his attic, if no clear candidate emerged. It was suggested that the Haleys, or perhaps the McIntyres, be approached.

13 A.O.B.

The SOA had asked that Clubs make submissions regarding the revision of Scotlandsgaloppen rules by 30 September, prior to their discussion at the Club Delegate Conference in November. Dave mentioned that he had some definite views, and would circulate them to everyone by e-mail in due course. They could then be discussed at the next Committee meeting, prior to making a submission to the SOA by the end of September.

Colin mentioned that he had heard from Ishbel Mollison (as was), who had said that she had an O-suit in Club colours which she no longer needed, and wondered if it could be found a good home.

There was a short discussion on the possibility of holding a Club Weekend. It was pointed out that there was an event at Anagach on the weekend of 22/23 September, and hence a weekend could be organised around that. It might prove difficult to arrange a weekend just now, given that the Fixture List was only just beginning to be re-established after the Foot & Mouth Disease restrictions. Some concern was expressed that such Weekends tended to be organised around what the élite members of the Club wanted to do; activities should also be considered for other Club members. It was also suggested that a social event be arranged for the Saturday evening.

There was also a discussion abut the Club Championships. However, it was stressed that this event needed to be staged within relatively easy reach of Edinburgh.

The forthcoming ESOL series was mentioned. Some events had had to be re-arranged, such that the first event in the series would now be the TAY event, on 30 September at Drumbuie (an extension to Craig A'Barns), and the next one the KFO event at Devilla on 7 October. In addition, 7 October is also the SOA Coaching Day, and KFO want ESOA Coaches to bring people to their event. Kirsteen Kershaw was compiling a list of ESOA Coaches, and will write to them all mentioning this Devilla event. (One problem affecting all such Coaches was the necessity of maintaining a valid First Aid certificate.)

Some concern was expressed about recent problems with errors and omissions in the SOA Fixture List as published in "Score". Several factors contributed to the problem, such as the need to register events with BOF long beforehand, the apparent lack of proof-reading by the Fixtures Secretary/"Score" Editor, the current restrictions caused by the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak, and the late arrival of "Score". One positive suggestion was to try to keep the Fixture List on the SOA website more up-to-date.

Dave offered to keep the Club list on the WWW page more up-to-date with relevant information, including event closing dates, social events, etc.. There was a rumour that Brad might be willing to take on the upkeep of the Club website. Graeme would be consulted.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 10 September at 7.30pm at 27/16 Maxwell Street, Edinburgh.

(Subsequent to the meeting, the Secretary asked if the date could be changed, since it clashed with a family commitment. Accordingly, the next meeting would take place on MONDAY SEVENTEENTH SEPTEMBER, at the same time and venue.)

Gillian and Dave were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9.45. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 27 August 2001