SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 17 September 2001, at 27/16 Maxwell Street, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Darina Cunnane, Ken Daly, Dave Godfree, Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman, Colin Inverarity, Niall Inverarity, Tim Lenton.

Ben welcomed Niall to the meeting as the Junior Rep.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 16 July 2001 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Gillian reported that she had not yet been able to get out to Dechmont Law to carry out the field survey to check the map. However, the necessary changes would be incorporated in the map in time for the next event on the area.

Darina had not managed to find out any more about the school which wanted its grounds mapped.

It transpired that Moravian had identified 22 trestles which were not theirs, and which turned out to be those of Interløpers. It seemed that they had been in possession of these trestles since June 2000.

Dave had begun to send out Fixtures summaries to the e-mail distribution list. Everyone agreed that these were excellent.

3 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

4 Treasurer's Report

Dave had still received no paperwork from Paul.

It had been agreed that the Club should pay the full entry fees for the 11-Person Relay.

5 Proposed Changes to Scotlandsgaloppen Format

All Scottish clubs had been asked to comment on proposed changes to the format of the Scotlandsgaloppen series, as outlined by articles in the July 2001 issue of "Score" by Terry O'Brien and Donald Petrie. Dave Godfree had circulated his suggestions for revision by e-mail to the Club, and this served as an added basis for discussion.

One main suggestion was for a radical change in the number of courses planned at each event. The outcome of such a revision would result in a sort of extended set of colour-coded courses; the usual White - Brown set would have a Black and perhaps a Short Green added to it. One point made was a possible need to include a Purple course, to allow adult novices (e.g. running club members) to be able to run a longer, but less technical, course.

Major discussion ensued on the various ideas put forward in the Score articles, and in Dave's suggestions.

There was comment about the possible scoring systems, in particular about the difficulty of combining scores for competitors in the same age class but who chose to run different courses.

One area which elicited a lot of comment was the significant variability in the standard of course planning, the inconsistent quality of areas chosen for events, and the varying ages of maps used.

The need for all this discussion was to try to arrive at a Club viewpoint on the issue, and to summarise the views in a submission to the SOA, to be received by 30 September.

Points to include in the Summary were as follows:

- Scoring - this should not be attempted between courses.
- Course structure - the basic colour-coded set (named as such), but augmented with Black and Short Green courses; distinction between O-League events and Scotlandsgaloppen events should simply be a matter of quality. An issue which might arise would be the assessment of Levy liability.
- Elite competitors would want some clear indication of expected winning times.
- 3 essential requirements:
  1. high quality, up-to-date, accurate maps
  2. high quality course planning
  3. high quality areas, where possible, given the locality

  To assist in 2), the Controller would need to be more pro-active, although any impulse to impose his/her own ideas on courses would need to be resisted.
- Map printing - with the advent of high-quality laserprinting, the economics of map production had altered significantly. This also affected whether maps could be printed with the courses overprinted. The view was that the issue of Late Entries could be addressed by deliberately printing more maps than the totals of pre-entries would indicate.

It was suggested that a motion could be put to the forthcoming Club Delegate Conference, to be held at Aviemore on 24 November, concerning what courses a competitor could enter. The choices appeared to be either (a) to allow anyone to enter whichever course he/she chose, or (b) to decide in advance that, for instance, all M45s should run Course 3. The Committee were asked to vote on these two suggestions; the voting was 2 in favour of (a), 5 in favour of (b), with 2 abstentions.

The recommendation from the Committee regarding course structure was for the basic set of White - Brown, with additions of Red, Purple, and Black. As for map scale, it was agreed that there should be only one scale per course. It seemed that, at the international level, there was a trend towards 1:10000 for all courses, in any case.

It was agreed that, as far as Juniors were concerned, the current BOF proposals to provide White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, and Green courses (but to allow the runners to enter whichever course they wanted) should be supported.

John and Ken would draft a reply from the Committee to the SOA, but would consult the remainder of the Committee before submission.

6 Archerfield maps

There was a short discussion on how much of the area to print on the Archerfield map, given that the development of the eastern end appeared to be proceeding and would become unavailable in future.

7 Junior Development Officer

Peter Coutts had been the only person to respond to the advert in "Score"; he had been given a copy of the Job Description, and informal discussions had already begun with him regarding the appointment.

Both ESOC and INT had promised £250 towards funding the position, and it was expected that ELO would contribute £125. Given that the SOA would match the total of these amounts (to be confirmed by the SOA Treasurer, Peter Lamb), it was expected that £1250 could be directed towards the activities of the JDO.

The meeting ratified the actions taken so far, and agreed that the ESOA should proceed with trying to finalise the appointment.

8 "Score"

Considerable concern had been expressed from many quarters about the content of the September/October issue of "Score", in particular about the tone of the article entitled "A SixDay Diary", written by the Editor. After discussion, it was felt that a Club response was appropriate. Ben would draft a reply, and circulate it around the Committee by e-mail, with the intention of sending it to the SOA (with a copy to the Editor). Ken mentioned that the SOA recognised some of the concerns expressed about the quality of recent issues of the magazine, and would be addressing these at their next Committee Meeting.

9 Equipment

See "Matters Arising", para. 3.

10 Events

10.1 6-Day Event 2001

This event duly took place, with great success. All reports on the courses on Day 5 at Arisaig were favourable, and the organisation went very smoothly.

10.2 Autumn Saturday Series 2001

Paul organised the event at Braidburn on 8 September. Despite little publicity, 22 people turned up.

Brad would be organising the event at Dechmont Law on 13 October, while Ann Haley would stage the Mortonhall event on 10 November.

10.3 SOA 11-Person Relay - 16 September

Two teams were entered for this event at Beecraigs. The first team came second, about 8 minutes behind the leaders, FVO.

10.4 ESOA Championships 2001

The main officials for this event were Barry Owen (Planner), Fiona Weir (Organiser), and Sheila Strain (Controller). Dave would arrange for the use of SportIdent and the associated computing. Access permission had been confirmed by 5 of the 6 interested parties, the exception being East Lothian Council. In view of the fact that access to the area from the usual entry past Archerfield House was now denied, and that the only access was from the west at Gullane Bents, it was now urgent to get in touch with the Council to (a) seek their approval for our use of the competition area under their control, and (b) find out about the possibility of parking cars at Gullane Bents. John agreed to do this.

Considerable discussion ensued about the allocation of age classes to the normal ESOL colour-coded courses. It was stressed that the final decisions should be communicated to all SOA Club Secretaries well before the event, as well as included in the event flyer.

10.5 Club Championships 2001

Darina agreed to organise these, at a venue to be decided, and on a date to be confirmed (probably Sunday 16 December).

10.6 Christmas Cracker

There were tentative plans for local events in the period between Christmas and New Year, in the Speyside area. INT, INVOC, and BASOC would be involved in organising them.

10.7 UK Cup - 6 April 2002

It was proposed to hold an event in this Series, at Archerfield, with Gordon Ross planning (probably using the courses he would have used at the equivalent event in April 2001 which was cancelled because of Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions. Gillian agreed to take entries. However, an Organiser and a Controller were yet to be appointed.

10.8 SOA Individual Championships - 1 June 2002

Ben and Heather had agreed to organise this event, while Graham McIntyre would be Planner (using the courses he would have planned for the postponed 2001 event). The new SOA Controller of Controllers, Peggy Gordon (INVOC), was trying to find a Controller. (The Relays were to be held at Littlemill, as originally intended in 2001.) It was noted that this weekend in 2002 would have an additional Public Holiday, to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

10.9 Moray 2003

A substantial rumour had it that Pat Squire had offered to be overall Coordinator, which was excellent news. It was pointed out that, now that Lochaber 2001 was over, efforts could be directed towards the Club's lead rôle in Moray 2003. Pat had originally agreed to be Day Coordinator (a job carried out by Jackie Riley for Lochaber 2001), so someone would now be needed to fill that position; the main function of this job was to act as liaison between the Central Organisation and the individual Day Organisers.

11 ESOA

This organisation had last met on 21 August. The main business had been finalising the programme for the Autumn Saturday Series, and the Winter ESOL.

The next meeting would be the AGM, at The Steading on Tuesday 16 October at 7pm, to which all ESOA Club members were invited. he meeting would be followed by a meal.

12 Newsletter

Colin announced that he expected to be able to produce the next issue towards the end of September. He hoped to include a report from Our Swedish Correspondent, as well as 6-Day Experiences. He asked for a set of address labels, and an up-to-date address list.

13 Juniors

Nothing to report.

14 Socials

Tim announced that the Christmas Party would be held at his flat on Saturday 15 December.

15 A.O.B.

A question was asked about the current requirements for appointment as a Grade 3 Controller. One of these was for candidates to attend a Controllers Course, and Ken mentioned that the SOA were currently trying to arrange such a course.

A query was made about Forestry Commission charges for the SOA Championships, and whether these would be treated as two separate events. This would of course have financial ramifications for the events.

It was reported that BOF were still intending to introduce a membership scheme whereby all competitive orienteers became BOF members. However, there was much opposition to this plan from the SOA, and indeed this Committee also had significant reservations. One major objection was the potential tendency to put off beginners by trying to make them pay out-of-proportion membership fees, particularly if they started out as casual participants. However, it was pointed out that, since the BOF AGM had been postponed from its original date this year, there would not be enough time to try to have the plan ratified in time to introduce it in 2002, thus giving more time to try to force further discussion on the issue.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 19 November at 7.30pm at 29/4 Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh.

N.B. Subsequent to this meeting, the date and venue for the next meeting were changed to MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER at 19 WAVERLEY PARK, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm.

Ben and Heather were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.13. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 4 November 2001