THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 13 November 2001, at 19 Waverley Park, Edinburgh

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

Apologies for absence were received from Tim Lenton.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 17 September 2001 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

With reference to "Matters Arising", Ben mentioned that all our trestles had been returned to the fold, although a final count needed to be done. An Equipment Inventory could now be undertaken.

Darina reported that the name of the school which wanted its grounds mapped was the Harmeny House School, Mansfield Road, Balerno, and the contact name was Matthew Goodyear. The Club's mapping reps. would follow it up to try to find out the extent of the grounds.

Congratulations were extended to Brad Connor for taking on the Editorship of "Score", and for producing an excellent first issue.

It was reported that Peggy Gordon (the new SOA Controller of Controllers) was hoping to put on two Controllers Courses in the fairly near future, one in the Central Belt, and one based at the National Centre. This information should be included in the next Club Newsletter. The Rules for qualification as a Grade 3 Controller were summarised.

3 Secretary's Report

A reply had been received from Mike Atherton to our letter commenting on the previous issue of "Score". This situation had of course been overtaken by events.

Martin Hyman had written, enclosing a cheque representing the income from his Dechmont Law event of 16 May. He also praised the efforts of the Club in encouraging Scott Fraser. However, he still felt that there was not yet an effective mechanism to support any other promising Juniors who otherwise would be unable to get to orienteering events, particularly those who were members of Lothian Running Club residing in or near Livingston. There was some discussion on this issue, and the main point arising was the provision of transport for such Juniors. Ken suggested the issue be raised at the following evening's ESOA meeting, proposing that any established orienteers living anywhere near Livingston, whatever their Club, could be recruited to help out. It was also suggested that more informal events could be held at Dechmont Law, and any other suitable areas, specifically targetted at members of Lothian R.C..

John reported that Paul had offered to continue as our representative with the SportIdent suppliers.

John introduced the annual SOA Questionnaire, to which Ken gave some background. John had gone through it with Ben earlier, and just needed to discuss a few remaining questions with the Meeting. This was done, and the completed document handed to Ken in his capacity as SOA Vice-President (Administration).

Terry O'Brien had sent round an e-mail regarding SOA's plans to stage an SOA Championship in Park-O or Sprint-O. It transpired that BOF had decided to establish a Sprint-O Championship, which might influence what the SOA decided to do. They would have further discussion at their next meeting in December.

4 Treasurer's Report

Dave had now received the Treasurer's paperwork from Paul.

The bank balance had been swelled considerably by the receipts from the Archerfield ESOL event, although the BOF levy remained to be paid, as well as any hire charges of the SI equipment from the SOA. £50 had been donated to St. Andrews Ambulance Association.

5 SOA Club Conference - 24 November 2001

Ben had distributed by e-mail papers made available by Terry O'Brien for this Conference. Ben himself volunteered to be the Club's official representative, with the 3 votes available (any other Club members present being allowed 1 vote each).

Ken had submitted a summary of the Club's discussions at its last Committee Meeting as the Club's contribution to the Conference. It was noted that our recommendations largely matched Terry's (as described in his August/September "Score" article). However, possible areas of debate concerned the number of proposed courses (Terry wanted more, we wanted less), and it was felt that his ideas constituted a "threat" in the form of the continued use of master maps, while, in the era of cheaply printed maps including overprints, we felt this was no longer necessary. There was further discussion over the allocation of age classes to courses.

The Meeting wanted to stress the three important points: competitors should expect quality courses on quality maps using quality areas. To achieve this, it was felt that Controllers might need to intervene more in the area of course-planning. A further requirement was for properly overprinted maps.

6 Moray 2003

The Steering Committee had met on 9 October. Ben described various points arising from the meeting.

It was clear that, in proportion to its membership, Interløpers was not well represented in terms of the main officials. Ben and Pat Squire (the overall Coordinator) would be meeting to single out people to try to coerce into taking a rôle in the Event.

One post in particular need of filling was that of Day Coordinator (with Pat's elevation to the Top Job).

Also needed was a Computer Support team to assist Robin Strain.

It was felt that the allocation of Clubs to Days should be arranged so that a consistent policy of allowing on-the-day Club members to run or not should be reached - preferably to allow such runs.

There had been some discussion over the choice of areas. The experience gained from using Strathmashie twice at Lochaber 2001 had led some to appreciate the advantages of such a policy, although there were disadvantages (such as using the same car park in adverse weather). Phorp was probably the weakest of the existing areas, while both Lossie and Loch Vaa could cope with being used twice during the week. One suggestion which might affect such a decision was the possibility of choosing one Day to offer Short Courses instead of Classic-length courses.

There was an investigation under way into the use of on-line entry systems (involving Les Smithard, Heather, and Brad).

7 Events

7.1 ESOA Championships 2001

The event duly took place, in good weather conditions, with about 200 competitors taking part. Fiona was congratulated for her organisation, and Barry for his courses. Despite the (minor) hiccup of all the control site SI units being told to turn themselves off, rather than go into standby mode, frantic efforts to re-program a Start and Finish unit paid dividends, and competitors were basically allowed punching starts, after having copied their courses from the master maps.

7.2 Autumn Saturday Series 2001

Both Dechmont Law on 13 October and Mortonhall on 10 November attracted good numbers. Hence it was agreed that such events proved worthwhile (although, at Mortonhall at least, very few of the competitors were beginners).

7.3 SOA Inter-Club Championships

These would take place in conjunction with the SOA Score Championships at Lossie on 25 November. Terry O'Brien had asked Clubs to formally enter, although there was no entry fee. John had completed and returned the entry form.

7.4 Club Championships 2001

Darina was hoping to stage these at Yellowcraigs, on Sunday 16 December. She asked John for details of whom to ask for permission. John would register the event with BOF.

7.5 Christmas Cracker

Ben confirmed the intention to put on an event at Loch Vaa on Sunday 30 December. John would register it.

7.6 Training Weekend

Gillian announced that she was planning a Training Weekend, based at the Stop-Over hostel in Grantown, on 8/9 December. She would put out some controls in Anagach for use on the Sunday, while various suggestions were made for events/happenings for the Saturday.

7.7 ESOA Spring Saturday Series 2002

It had been suggested that ESOC and INT put on events in this Series, based on similar dates in 2001. This meant that INT would have dates of 26 January, and 2 and 16 March. The Meeting basically agreed to this suggestion. It seemed that no cross-country events would clash with these dates, since the East League would be over by then, the East District championships were to take place on 19 January, while the Nationals would be on 23 February. There was some discussion over areas to use, with the suggestions being Craigmillar, Cammo, and Colinton Dell. There was some talk about using Dechmont Law (but see below). Names of Organisers, and final venues, could be decided outside the Meeting. John would confirm all the dates with Dave by e-mail.

7.8 Dechmont Law - Spring 2002

Ben pointed out that there were several dates free in the calendar in the Spring, and suggested that the Club put on a colour-coded event at Dechmont Law, and invite members of Lothian Running Club to attend. He offered to plan courses and organise the event himself. The date of 13 January was proposed. Martin Hyman would be asked if he could find out about permission to use the area, and also whether the car park at Deans High School could be used.

7.9 UK Cup - 6 April 2002

An Organiser and a Controller were still to be appointed for this event. It was agreed that the event should be classified as a C4.

7.10 SOA Individual Championships - 1 June 2002

Ben announced that John Colls (ex-ESOC, and Controller for Day 5 at Lochaber 2001) had agreed to be Controller.

7.11 Scotlandsgaloppen 2003

Given that this Series had been postponed in its entirety from 2002, because of the Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions, it had been previously agreed that the Club could not undertake an event in the Series, as well as act as Lead Club for Moray 2003. Accordingly, John had written to Terry O'Brien, asking for our offer to stage an event in the Series to be withdrawn.

8 Condes

Ben proposed that the Club purchase a licence to operate this software, which many people had found very useful (including John Colls). It would be a good idea to try it out for the SOA Championships in June. The one-off cost would be 2122 Danish kroner (a bit less than £200). After a brief discussion, the Meeting agreed to this proposal.

9 BOF AGM

The intention had been to discuss any issues which had arisen from the BOF AGM. However, since no-one present had actually attended the AGM, there was almost nothing which could be discussed! However, there was a well-substantiated rumour that Göran Anderson had resigned as Squad Coach, and that Jon Musgrave had temporarily taken over.

10 Juniors

Nothing to report.

11 Newsletter

Everyone commented favourably on the latest issue. Colin hoped to be able to produce a further issue in time for Christmas. John would supply a set of labels.

12 ESOA

This organisation's last meeting had been its AGM, held on Tuesday 16 October at The Steading. Unfortunately, neither Ken nor John had been present.

Ken reported on the negotiations with Tiso's and with Run & Become regarding discounts for club members. Tiso's had agreed to inform Clubs of their discount nights, and would send out tickets on request. Run & Become had asked if Clubs would send their membership lists to them, and also asked if we would be prepared to include their logo on our stationery and Newsletters. The Meeting agreed to this, and John would send Ken a list of members (names only).

12.1 Junior Development Officer

Ken reported that the negotiations with Peter Coutts were well advanced. One slight drawback was that the SOA had promised a maximum of £500 (in line with their contributions to the other JDOs around the country), which reduced somewhat the total amount of money available to fund the position. The major stumbling blocks now were that Peter needed an official assessment as a Coach, and there was currently a waiting list for people needing such an assessment. There was also a potential problem with the First Aid certificate, since it was not on BOF's list of approved courses (although in Ken's view the qualification seemed perfectly adequate). Peter also need to be registered for Child Protection purposes.

It had been suggested that an ESOA sub-committee be formed to oversee the appointment and performance of the JDO. Kirsteen Kershaw (ESOC) had already agreed to serve on this sub-committee, so representatives from INT and ELO would be needed.

The next meeting of the ESOA Committee was to be the day after this Meeting.

13 A.O.B.

There was positive comment about Dave's regular e-mail containing up-to-date Fixtures information. John mentioned that he had prepared a flyer for Mortonhall, on which beginners were invited to complete a tear-off slip to receive details of future events. It seemed that Dave's fixtures e-mails would be ideal for sending out to such a list.

The next Committee Meeting would be held on Monday 14 January 2002 at 7.30pm at 29/4 Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh.

Ken was thanked for his hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.20. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 19 November 2001