FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 14 January 2002, at 29/4 Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh

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

Apologies for absence were received from Niall Inverarity and Tim Lenton.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 13 November 2001 were approved, with the following amendments:

- under Section 7.6, "Training Weekend", "Sunday" should read "Saturday";
- under Section 7.8, "Dechmont Law - Spring 2002", it turned out that the proposed date was not suitable for Lothian Running Club.

2 Matters Arising

Under Section 3, "Matters Arising", it was reported that the area at Harmeny House School in Balerno was too small to be considered as a Club mapping project suitable for a local CATI area. It was suggested that, if the School wished to pursue the mapping of its grounds, an approach could be made to Peter Coutts (the ESOA JDO-designate) for him to follow up as he thought appropriate.

3 Secretary's Report

John mentioned that he had had a flier from Friaoch Lodge in Boat of Garten, offering reasonable rates in hostel-style accommodation.

Donald Petrie had drawn attention to a meeting to be convened by Edinburgh City Council on Saturday 19 January, to discuss the formation of a Sports Strategy for the City, and seeking input from local sporting interests. It was suggested, and agreed, that this be referred to the ESOA meeting being held the following evening.

4 Treasurer's Report

The bank balance was still looking healthy, and there had been further income from the Dechmont Law event the day before.

One pressing need was to derive a budget for the SOA Championships, and to determine how any surplus or deficit for the event would be treated. Many factors would affect the outcome, including the total entry numbers (and the resultant BOF levy), how joint costs (e.g. toilets) would be shared, etc.. What wasn't clear was whether the Individual and the Relay should be combined for the purposes of an overall surplus/deficit. It was agreed to consult ESOC, and the weekend Coordinator, Roger Scrutton, to try to come to an agreement.

The SOA had asked for a copy of the most recent Club Accounts (from all SOA Clubs), so that they would be in a better position to decide on any applications from Clubs for support from the Development Fund. John would send a copy of the Accounts accepted at the 2001 AGM.

5 Events

5.1 Training Weekend

Gillian reported that her Training Weekend in early December went well. About 10 club members turned up, and enjoyed the exercises in Anagach on the Saturday. All also enjoyed Brad's humour, even more so once some alcohol had taken effect.

5.2 Club Championships 2001

These duly took place at Yellowcraig on Sunday 16 December, with 28 Club members participating. Most people managed to avoid bursting their balloons.

5.3 Christmas Cracker

This event had to be postponed because of bad weather.

5.4 Dechmont Law - 13 January

This event took place, with plenty of helpers, and it attracted 93 competitors, who had five courses available to them (ranging from White to Blue).

5.5 ESOA Spring Saturday Series 2002

Ben reported that he had managed to persuade Pete Tryner to organise the first event, at Cammo on 26 January. In addition, Paul offered to stage the Craigmillar event on 16 March. An organiser for the 2 March event was still needed, however.

5.6 UK Cup - 6 April 2002

Hilary Quick had offered to Organise this event, and John Emeleus would Control it. A few details remained to be included on the Registration form, and John would then send it off. Darina asked if the landowners would be happy for traders to operate in the Car Park – John would try to find out.

5.7 BUSA Championships - 13/14 April 2002

Dave and Gillian reported that they were planning the Individual event, at Touch. The Relays were being held at Beecraigs. Dave suggested that, if some members of Interløpers turned out to help, then some EUOC members might be persuaded to help at the SOA Championships in June.

5.8 SOA Individual Championships - 1 June 2002

Most of the discussion on this event had taken place under Treasurer's Report.

5.9 Christmas Cracker re-run - Loch Vaa

It was suggested that this event be rearranged for the coming Spring. Two dates were suggested: either 11/12 May, after the BOF Championships, or else on the Monday (3 June) after the SOA Championships weekend. The preference seemed to be to go for 3 June, on the understanding that this might attract more punters to the SOA events.

5.10 ESOA Summer Series

It was pointed out that Interløpers' involvement in the 2001 Series seemed to be quite successful, particularly the organising of the Sprint races at several of the events. It was agreed that we should offer to organise these races for the coming Series, but only for those events within Edinburgh. We would liaise closely with the ESOA.

5.11 National Orienteering Week - 8-16 June

It was suggested that a small event be organised for this week, perhaps targetted at local running clubs. They should be consulted before any decision on a date were taken.

5.12 ESOA Autumn Series

There was still concern about the aim of the Saturday series of events. They did not seem to be attracting any significant numbers of beginners, but on the other hand calling them CATIs wasn't attracting many established orienteers. The experience with the Dechmont Law event on 13 January showed how putting on a limited colour-coded event on a Sunday could attract reasonable numbers (93 were at Dechmont), with minimal organisation. It was suggested that, instead of putting on events on Saturday mornings, a trawl through the Autumn fixture list for any free Sundays would be more productive, provided any events staged on these days were easily accessible from Edinburgh so that beginners wouldn't be deterred from turning up (any more than they might have been from coming to a Saturday morning event).

There followed a discussion on publicising such low-key events, to try to get the message out as widely as possible without a large amount of possibly-costly and largely-unproductive effort. (A case in point was the distribution of the Summer Series flier to all Lothians secondary schools – the apparent uptake from these schools was almost nil.) Some suggestions were made, such as the Scotsman outdoor activities WWW page, which included a section for orienteering events, inclusion in the Herald & Post, and circulation around local running clubs.

5.13 Harvester Trophy

This event was scheduled to take place on 31 August.

Gillian asked if the whereabouts of the JK Relay entry form were known. John said that none had been forthcoming so far. It was suggested that the BOF Fixtures List on the WWW be consulted.

(Subsequent to this Meeting (the next day, in fact), the entry form arrived by post, and John duly delivered it to Gillian.)

6 Moray 2003

The Central Organising Committee was due to meet on 21 January.

The current priority was to fill certain COC posts, in particular that of the Day Coordinator. Names of various Club members were suggested, and Ben would sound out some of them. Graeme Ackland had volunteered for the post of Daily Newssheet editor.

7 Newsletter

It was agreed that the Christmas issue was fully up to Colin's high standards.

8 Socials

It was rumoured that a Burns Supper was to be held on Friday 25 January, though at this stage the full details weren't known.

9 Juniors

There was some discussion over financial support of Juniors in attending official training weekends and tours, with particular reference to Scott Fraser.

Scott had been invited to join BOF's World Class Start programme (the BOF Squad for 15/16 year-olds). However, there was a funding anomaly in that, although this was a programme designed for all members of BOF, it only attracted support from Sport England, and that until recently it had proved impossible to obtain any money from Sport Scotland for any Scottish participants. At least now Scott can obtain support for attending weekend training camps; however, there is still no finance available to enable him to attend a summer tour. Indeed the situation was still unsatisfactory in that this funding had apparently been diverted from the running of ScotJOS.

The Meeting agreed that the Club should be able to provide some subsidy towards this end. A precedent had already been set in the days of Anthony Squire, when the Club considered claims for individual tours. (A paragraph in the Minutes of the Club Committee Meeting of 4 October 1993 referred to a single claim limit of £50, or 50% of the sum claimed, whichever the lesser amount.) It was suggested that it might be sensible to set a maximum annual sum for Junior support, perhaps of the order of £200. A limit of £100 could be set on an individual claim. We should proceed on such a basis, and see how the policy worked in practice.

10 ESOA

This organisation's next meeting would be the evening following this one.

Matters for discussion would include the meeting convened by Edinburgh Council on 19 January to discuss the formation of a Sports Strategy for the City, and the make-up of a sub-Committee to oversee the work of the JDO.

11 A.O.B.

Ken reported on the latest situation regarding discounts from Run & Become, and from Tiso's. He was still trying to obtain lists of names of members of all Clubs to submit to the former concern.

The Club Delegate Conference at Aviemore on 24 November had agreed on the renaming of the Scotlandsgaloppen series as the Scottish Orienteering League (SOL). There was a description of the SOL in the latest issue of "Score", and a letter describing the changes would be sent to all Club Secretaries.

John had asked Ken earlier about the situation of the liability of Clubs to SOA Event Levy. John was of the opinion that there had been no demand for SOA Levy, or even for participation figures, for perhaps a year or more. Ken felt that the matter had fallen into abeyance because (a) there had been a change of Fixtures Secretary, and (b) this change had taken place during the event embargo introduced as a result of the Foot & Mouth Disease crisis. He would consult the new Fixtures Secretary, and try to find out the current situation.

The next Committee Meeting would be held on Monday 25 March 2002 at 7.30pm at 1F1, 18 Roseneath Terrace, Edinburgh.

Darina was thanked for her hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.07. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 18 February 2002