SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 13 May 2002, at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin

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 11 March 2002 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

None.

3 Secretary's Report

John mentioned the sudden death of a former Club member, Bob Stobie, while in intensive care following a heart triple-bypass operation. At the time of his death, Bob was Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town, and had been credited with being the driving force behind the formation of the 10-metre Southern Africa Large Telescope project. In the 1970s, Bob joined the Club on his return to Scotland from a period working at the Mount Stromlo Observatory in Canberra, where both he and his wife Mary had been instrumental in getting orienteering off the ground in the ACT in Australia. Bob served for some years as Club Treasurer, and was the local liaison officer for the Australian Team which participated at the World Championships at Aviemore in 1976.

There was a further summarising of the situation regarding membership renewals.

4 Treasurer's Report

Dave reported that there had been little financial activity since the last meeting. In his investigations into preparing the books for the AGM report, he had managed to resolve an issue concerning a missing £148.95. He also mentioned that the UK Cup event at Archerfield was likely to raise over £300, after all expenses had been paid.

There was a brief discussion of the costs relating to the forthcoming SOA Championships weekend. The maps would cost £1 per A3 sheet, with the hope that many courses could make do with an A4 map. The copyright fee would be 70p per competitor. The total cost of the toilets for the weekend would be £540, which was less than originally expected.

It was agreed that the practice of not using an Auditor to prepare the Annual Accounts, as adopted in recent years, was quite in accordance with the Constitution. Dave intended to adopt the same practice for this year.

5 Events

5.1 ESOA Spring Saturday Series 2002

Paul Caban staged our last event in the Series, at Craigmillar Castle Park, on Saturday 16 March. It was very well attended.

5.2 UK Cup - 6 April 2002

Everything apparently went according to plan.

5.3 BUSA Championships - 13/14 April 2002

The courses at this event were reportedly excellent. Even SportIdent worked satisfactorily.

5.4 ESOA Summer Series

The Short Races organised at this year's Series had been well attended, and the results published on the WWW under the title of Edinburgh Park Orienteering. Dave Godfree was coordinating these results, and was also publishing cumulative scores. Gillian was congratulated for organising the courses at each event.

5.5 SOA Individual Championships - 1 June 2002

Ben reported on progress with the event. At this stage, it wasn't clear just how many pre-entries had been received. Darina would provide the information for Dave in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. Final details would be distributed in the week 20-24 May, and Roger Scrutton would be preparing a booklet for the weekend as a whole. Ben asked if Darina could provide entry totals to help him in the seeding of certain classes. Given that the starts would take place over a 3-hour interval (12noon - 3pm), it was felt that a 4 minute start interval would be suitable.

Some main areas of organisation had now been allocated, including the Starts, Results/Computing, the String course, and Registration/Enquiries. The main problem remaining was to sort out the required equipment. It wasn't clear if the SOA tent would be needed. It was suggested that Scott Balfour's van would be useful if he could be persuaded to come to the event. The 6-Day splits printers might be available.

Roger would be trying to recover both the Individual and the Relay trophies. The prize-giving for both events would be held immediately after the Relays.

5.6 National Orienteering Week - 8-16 June 2002

Plans were now in place for the Club's main event in this series, at Dunsapie Loch on the evening of Friday 14 June. There would be 3 courses, of length 3km, 5km, and 7km. The Club would be preparing a new map, although EUOC would retain copyright - we would be charged 50p per map. It was agreed to produce 30-40 overprinted maps for each course. John noted that the SOA, through Marsela McLeod, had offered all clubs financial help with publicity for staging these NOW events.

The suggestion of holding a limited colour-coded event at Beecraigs on Sunday 23 June was discussed. It was suggested to put on Orange, Red, and Purple courses. It was agreed that a volunteer organiser be found first, then the Rangers and the Biggars should be approached for access and maps.

It was suggested that the Club should enter a team in ESOC's Princes Street Gardens event's demonstration relay, probably taking place at 2pm on Saturday 15 June.

5.7 ESOA O-League 2002/03 - 17 November 2002

The need was for a Planner and Organiser to be appointed for this event. In addition, permissions from all the landowners needed to be sought - John agreed to do this.

5.8 Autumn CATIs

It was agreed to look for free Sundays on which to stage informal colour-coded events (rather than put on Saturday morning events which attracted very few participants). Now that the Fixture List was more stable, it ought to be possible to select some suitable dates.

Ken volunteered to put on an event at Loch Vaa in the Autumn, and it was suggested that this could be combined with a Club Weekend.

5.9 Moray 2003

John gave a summary of progress with this event. It was due to be launched at the Scottish Championships weekend, with the appearance of the Brochure. The Event had an active WWW site, and negotiations had been completed to set up entry via the Internet (although this would not be available until December). The (re-)mapping of the areas was proceeding satisfactorily. Some Central Organising Committee (COC) posts still remained unfilled.

The COC was due to meet next on 22 May.

5.10 Scottish Orienteering League 2004

An invitation had been received from the SOA to bid for dates in this Series. After discussion, it was agreed to go for dates of 25 April, 12 September, and 16 May. It was felt that we should avoid specifying areas for the time being (particularly SOA-owned areas), pending an analysis of how the use of such an area could affect the finances of the event (in the light of the Scottish Championships at Rogie). It was agreed to make the final choice of dates at the next Club Committee meeting (after the AGM), since a reply to the SOA was not needed until the end of September.

6 Newsletter

The next issue would be out soon. Colin asked for a set of labels and an up-to-date Address List.

7 Socials

It transpired that the skittles alley at the Sheep Heid was fully booked on 14 June. Gillian had asked Tim to try to organise something, but Tim replied that the Jukola Relay was being held the same weekend. It was suggested that we should simply go to a pub somewhere convenient, maybe even the Sheep Heid. Darina would investigate.

8 Juniors

It was noted that Scott Fraser was continuing to do well, having come 2nd at the BOF Championships.

9 ESOA

Ken summarised points discussed at the last ESOA Committee meeting on 12 March.

There was a general discussion on how to attract newcomers, and to encourage Juniors. It was suggested that help should be made available at the Start for any novices needing it. Encouraging members in the Area Junior Squad would be helped by trying to put on some social events. Certificates should be awarded to all Juniors competing at the ESOL series, and who qualified for a coloured badge. A need was clearly identified for more colour-coded events.

The Treefest organisation had established a WWW site, and all O-clubs were encouraged to publicise their events on it.

There was a short discussion on the pros and cons of allowing the copying of master maps before the start time at colour-coded events. Some surprise was expressed at the vehemence of the views, on both sides of the argument, which had been expressed in SOA circles over the winter.

The idea of holding Short Race events on the Saturdays before SOL events was raised once again. This idea had been tried a few years ago, but had fallen into disuse. It was felt to be a good idea in principle, but it was also felt that it was more likely to attract élite competitors rather than the average orienteer.

There was also some discussion of ideas raised at SOA meetings. The suggestion of a Park-O Championships was supported - there were many areas in and around Edinburgh which would be more than adequate. The topic of Sprint-O and Short Races was also considered. However, it was pointed out that, at a championship level, the IOF only supported Short Races (in addition to the Classic distance) at the World Championships. Hence perhaps efforts should be directed towards encouraging the establishment of a Short Race Championships.

The SOA had been directing efforts towards sorting out the Fixture List, particularly on the WWW site. It had been agreed to concentrate on a single List, incorporating both conventional events and local series. Whenever published, an Update Date should accompany the Fixture List.

Allan Downie (TAY) had been re-appointed East Area rep. at the recent SOA AGM.

The ESOA's next meeting would be on the evening following this one.

10 SOA AGM

Ken gave a brief summary of relevant decisions at this meeting. A need for qualified Controllers had been identified. The ceiling for payment of levy on small events was raised to £6. Most of the Executive Committee were re-elected. Sport Scotland had made available a one-off capital grant of £10K, and there was some discussion on what to spend it on. The present meeting agreed unanimously that it should go on more new maps.

11 Club AGM

There was discussion on the identity of the new Office Bearers to be elected at the AGM. Ben, Tim, and Niall were all resigning, while all others were available for re-election. The key position for which a new name was needed was Chairman.

There was some discussion over any amendments to the Constitution. Ben suggested that these be circulated around the Committee by e-mail, before being sent out to all members within the required Notice period. The was a little discussion on the appointment of a member to represent Junior interests, and if this really required a Junior, or simply a member to carry out the function of representing the interests. It was suggested that an approach be made to Scott Fraser to see if he might be prepared to take on the rôle, although it was suggested that he wouldn't necessarily need to actually attend Meetings to carry out the job.

12 A.O.B.

There was some discussion over whether a fresh order of O-suits was needed. There were several people who were known to have asked for suits, so it was agreed to advertise in the Newsletter to ask those who wanted one to make themselves and their sizes known.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at a time to be arranged by the new Committee elected at the AGM.

John was thanked for his hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.10. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 13 June 2002