FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SEVENTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 26 August 2002, at 30 Blackwood Crescent

Present: John Barrow, Darina Cunnane, Dave Godfree, Gillian Godfree, Colin Inverarity.

Apologies for absence were received from Ken Daly, Scott Fraser, and Janine Hensman.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 13 May 2002 were approved.

2 Chairman's Statement

Gillian gave a short introduction in which she described what she saw as the priorities for the Club in the forthcoming months.

3 Secretary's Report

John reported that Paul had noticed that Newhailes House had recently been taken over by the National Trust for Scotland, and was being advertised as having "interesting gardens". He wondered if an exploratory visit might be worthwhile to see if the area would warrant the making of an orienteering map. Dave offered to check it out.

It had been suggested at the AGM that some investigation be undertaken in order to try to register an appropriate Internet domain name for the Club. John had found out that, although some obvious names had already been registered by other organisations, the name "www.interlopers.org.uk" was so far unallocated. It was suggested that Graeme and Paul be consulted about how to proceed with this.

As an aside, it was mentioned that Gordon Ross had suggested the staging of a Park World Tour event in 2004, to consist of 5 races during one week, hosted in Edinburgh.

4 Treasurer's Report

There was an extensive discussion on the finances of the SOA Championships weekend at Rogie and Littlemill. John reported that he had managed to obtain a copy of the Results of the Individual from the Internet, had calculated the BOF Levy due, and had posted the cheque to BOF. However, some of the joint expenses with ESOC had still not been finalised, and we were waiting for Roger Scrutton to sort it out. Hence no overall figure for any profit/loss for the weekend was yet available. The issue was complicated further, since the SOA had received a letter earlier in the year from Ben Hartman, the Individual Organiser, regarding the payment of SOA levy. Ben felt that the imposition of SOA levy, in addition to the charging of 70p per map for copyright, would place the financial viability of the weekend in jeopardy (in particular for the Individual event, since this was subject to a higher rate of levy than the Relays). Despite Ben's request, the SOA had rejected his argument.

5 Events

5.1 ESOA Autumn Saturday Series

Paul had offered to stage an event in this Series, on 16 November at Mortonhall. John would register it. Unlike the other events in this Series, this one would take place at 11am, rather than at 2pm.

5.2 ESOL event 4 - Glenearn & Berryknowe - 17 November 2002

John reported that the event has been registered. Access permissions were all in place. Barry had offered to Plan, and Fiona would Organise. A Controller was still to be identified - John would check the latest list of qualified Controllers in the SOA Handbook.

As somewhat of an aside, Dave suggested that he might be able to hold a short course for Club members on the use of SportIdent.

5.3 Club Championships 2002

There was discussion about the staging of this year's event. It was suggested that the 2nd-placed competitor at last year's event be approached to organise this year's Championships (since the winner last year, Ben Hartman, was currently on a World Tour). This arrangement would follow an established precedent, since Darina organised the 2001 event because the 2000 winner, Tamas Toth, had almost certainly returned to Hungary). The dates of either 8 or 15 December were proposed.

5.4 Informal colour-coded events

A trawl through the SOA Fixture List for the remainder of 2002 revealed that the only practical date available for such an event was 27 October. It was suggested to try to put on an event at Dechmont, or else to ask KFO if Devilla could be used.

5.5 6-Day Event 2003

The Event had been formally announced at the SOA Individual Championships at Rogie on 1 June, with the launch of the Brochure. Pat Squire had assumed the post of overall Coordinator. However, a Day Coordinator was still required, as was an Entries Coordinator (with the withdrawal of Les Smithard). The next meeting of the Central Coordinating Committee would be on 28 August at Pat's.

5.6 Scottish O-League 2004

This issue had been discussed at the last Committee Meeting, but it was realised that a submission needed to be made to Terry O'Brien before the end of September. It was agreed that the dates suggested at the last Meeting should be proposed to Terry, but with no firm indication as to the venues. John would write to/e-mail Terry with our requests.

6 Socials

In Janine's absence, there was nothing to report.

7 Juniors

It was reported that Scott had participated in the World Class Start tour (consisting of 16 people), and had won the Tour Classic race. However, he had unfortunately had to drop out of the ScotJOS Tour.

It was agreed to donate £100 towards equipment for Scott. Darina announced that CompassPoint would donate a compass.

8 Newsletter

Colin announced that he was hoping to produce a new issue within a month or so. He had upgraded his printing software which should improve the quality.

It was mentioned that there had been some requests for an electronic version of the Newsletter.

9 SOA

Ken had sent a message by e-mail to the Committee, with various submissions regarding current SOA business.

He felt that Clubs should make more effort to plan fixtures well ahead (certainly further ahead than at present). However, to assist in this, he felt that the SOA could organise its Fixture List better, particularly in keeping it more up-to-date on its WWW pages, and also in setting down a more organised framework for fixtures.

10 ESOA

This Committee had last met on Thursday 15 August. Most of the discussion at the Meeting had revolved around the O-League and the Autumn Saturday Series. This year, the latter events were almost all taking place in the afternoons. It was decided to hold the Association's AGM on Tuesday 15 October at The Steading, at 7pm, followed by a meal.

11 A.O.B.

Ken had suggested that the Club's Loch Vaa event, postponed from last New Year, could be staged on the weekend of 30 November/1 December. It was also suggested that Emit be used, since no programming would be needed, and the relevant equipment was available locally. The weekend could also be used for a Club Christmas meal. However, it was pointed out that there was already an ESOL event planned for 1 December, and so the following weekend was proposed. It was felt that BASOC should be consulted about any plans for using Loch Vaa on that date. If this date was found to be suitable, it was suggested that the Club Championships could be held the day before (Saturday 7 December), perhaps at Kinnoull Hill.

There was a suggestion that a Training Weekend be held in The Lakes sometime in February, to consist of some technique training as well as a social event.

A request for members to put their names down for Club O-suits was included in the last Newsletter. However, Darina (as a representative of CompassPoint) reported that she had had no responses.

Some copies of the BOF document "Finding and Keeping Volunteers" were handed round, and members spent some time reading them.

Gillian mentioned that she was prepared to continue as Club Captain, but would prefer if a volunteer stepped forward. A plea to this effect would be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 28 October at 7.30pm at 161 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.

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

Gillian and Dave were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9.30.

John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 17 October 2002