THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SEVENTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 13 January 2003, at 29/4 Prestonfield Avenue

Present: John Barrow, Darina Cunnane, Ken Daly, Scott Fraser, Dave Godfree, Gillian Godfree, Janine Hensman, Colin Inverarity.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4 November 2002 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Gillian had spoken to Sheila Strain (ELO) about Newhailes House, and had been told firmly to "keep our grubby paws off", since it was apparently an ELO area.

There was no further news on any progress with ordering a new batch of O-suits. Darina and Gillian would investigate.

The submitted designs for a new T-shirt were considered, and eventually a design was agreed - they would be yellow, with black lettering.

3 Chairman's Report

Gillian reported that no trophy had yet appeared for the Men's UK Relay League (apparently SYO were keeping it as long as possible).

4 Secretary's Report

The Club had been asked by Terry O'Brien to consider proposals for possible combinations of Clubs in adjoining areas when forming teams for major Relay events (such as the SOA and 11-Person). Apparently this has been an acceptable practice at BOF level for some time. However, the only instance which Committee members could bring to mind was a request from GRAMP and MAR to join forces at the UK Relay League races last year. The Meeting discussed the issue, and concluded that it was not in favour of such a proposal.

The Club had also been asked to consider proposals for classification of Clubs for the SOA Inter-Area Championships. It was noted that this event had recently been combined with the SOA Score Championships, in an effort to encourage people to enter an event relatively late in the year. A 3-tier set of groupings had been proposed, based on Club SOA membership - this Club had been placed in the top (most members) tier.

John asked Gillian about the status of any requests for completion of a BOF Risk Assessment form in connection with registering events. The issue arose because Forest Enterprise had asked for such a form to be completed for the proposed event at Devilla on 26 January. (John queried this issue since the form, which Gillian sent him copies of, called itself "Draft Version A", and was dated 10 November 2000.) He wondered about the status of the form, in the sense that it wasn't clear to him whether completion of such a form was now a requirement when registering events - no such notification had ever been received from BOF. His concern was that this was yet another burden on event organisers' valuable free time. However, Gillian felt that this was not such a big issue, since the form was relatively straightforward to complete (if required), although the conditions which required such a form to be filled in were not clear. It was suspected that the only organisation which required such completion was Forest Enterprise.

John asked if Dave could let him have a cheque for £30 to send to BOF to renew the Club's BOF affiliation. He also asked (and received confirmation) if a cheque for £4 was sent to Janet Clark as the ESOA administration fee for our

ESOL event on 17 November. Dave was also asked to check with Fiona Weir about the position on the payment of BOF levy and the completion of the ER3 form for the Glenearn & Berryknowe event.

John reported that, so far, he had not managed to progress any application to register a WWW address for the Club, but would do so.

Donald Petrie had sent a letter, reminding the Club that the trestles which it retained on behalf of the 6-Day Event Company would need to be made available for Moray 2003 in the summer. The Club's stock of these would need to be checked.

A letter had been received from Dave Northcott (ELO Secretary), thanking the Club for its permission for ELO to commence re-mapping of Duns Wood.

John reported that he had forgotten to send an entry to Peter Guillaume, the CompassSport Cup organiser, for the 2003 competition. The nominal closing date had been Friday 10 January. The Meeting agreed that an entry should be posted forthwith, with a covering letter. There was some discussion on the competition, including how to encourage Club members to take part. It was suggested that the Club should pay the entry fees to the Scottish round for those members who ran on the correct course for their class. To this end, Janine asked for sight of the Rules of the competition.

5 Treasurer's Report

There was nothing to report.

6 Socials

A very successful Christmas Party had been held at 34 Queen Margaret Close on Thursday 19 December.

Janine mentioned several suggestions for social events in the coming months.

The first was a Burns Supper, on a date and at a venue yet to be decided.

She also suggested going to the Norwich Union Athletics meeting, at the Kelvin Hall, on Sunday 2 February at 1pm.

There was also an ABBA revival concert on 8 February at the Festival Theatre.

7 Newsletter

It was generally agreed that the recent issue, out just before Christmas, had been "brilliant". Colin mentioned that he would be planning a further issue next term.

8 Juniors

Gillian reported that Scott had been dropped from ScotJOS "for lack of commitment". She felt that this was a travesty of the true situation, and suggested that a letter be written to Maureen Brown, the coordinator of the Squad, to ask for an explanation, and to point out Scott's potential and level of commitment given his circumstances. She would send a draft to John, who would prepare a final version to send to Maureen.

9 ESOA

The ESOA Committee would meet next on Tuesday 21 January at 7.45pm.

10 SOA

Ken briefly summarised recent happenings.

One major issue was the request (and the granting of that request) from the North Area to use the Emit electronic punching system at the 2003 Championships.

Other developments were the formulation of a Child Protection Policy, a copy of which would be sent to each Club, a proposed Development Conference in May (in association with the AGM) at which the next 4-Year Plan would be discussed, and a review of charges for laser-printing SOA maps.

11 Events

11.1 Colour-coded event, Devilla

Gillian reported that preparations for her event at Devilla on 26 January were proceeding according to plan. She would be circulating members by e-mail, seeking offers of help.

11.2 Other Spring dates

It wasn't clear if any other dates were available to stage limited colour-coded events this term. There was a fairly full programme of such events up to mid-March. The uncertainty over whether the EUOC ESOL would be on 2 or 9 February at Archerfield meant that those two dates could not be considered, while the only other available date was 30 March - it was doubtful if any officials could be found for this date.

11.3 Technique Training

Gillian would be going ahead with holding a Technique Training weekend on 1/2 March, probably in the Perthshire area (the Lakes proving too expensive).

11.4 6-Day Event 2003

On-line entries were now coming in steadily, the system having had very little trouble (apart from an initial hiccup). There was some concern over whether the BOF membership database was sufficiently up-to-date. Janine had offered to organise a Park Race, probably on the Rest Day, in the public park in Forres.

11.5 Scottish O-League 2004

Gillian reported that TAY had agreed to our using Mill of Fortune for our event in this Series. They had not decided whether to participate in the organisation of the event. What was still not clear, however (despite having had all the submissions since the end of September 2002), was the date granted by the SOA to the Club. It seemed that this would only be made known after an SOA meeting in May 2003. The reasoning was that there had been applications from 8 Clubs for the 7 events, but it might be the case that the Club not granted an event would be asked to organise the 2004 CompassSport Cup SOA round instead. Criteria for arriving at this decision had not yet been agreed. There was also the possibility of clashes between the SOL dates and UK Cup races. The Meeting felt that this was quite unacceptable, since event officials would need to visit the area at least a year in advance. The SOA would be pressed to come to an earlier decision.

12 A.O.C.B.

Janine asked about possible accommodation for this year's SOA Championships, on 24/25 May. It was suggested that the possibility of using Woodlands at Kingussie should be investigated.

It was reported that Kim Buckley had said she was available for both the JK and the British. However, this year, the Harvester Trophy clashed with several major events, such as a SOL and the Jukola Relay.

Ken asked that the 4 members who organised the Loch Vaa event at New Year be congratulated, for coping with the 70 competitors who turned up.

It was confirmed that EUOC would now stage their Archerfield ESOL on 2 February.

Ken asked for any feedback on how the SOL events had gone in 2002, in particular the class groupings. One suggestion was that M35s would probably be better combined with M40s, rather than with M21s. It was pointed out that BOF planned to revert to using standard age classes for Juniors next year (although, subsequent to the meeting, BOF council have approved the continuation of the scheme).

John mentioned that he had had a flyer from Field and Trek, asking for Clubs to indicate any interest in receiving details of offers. It was agreed to respond.

BOF had circulated Clubs, asking for notification of details of Press Officers. The Meeting agreed not to respond, since it was hard enough to find volunteers for anything, let alone a position as onerous and time-consuming as this.

The next Committee Meeting would be held on Monday 17 March 2003 at 7.30pm at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin. Darina was thanked for her hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9.20. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 12 February 2003