FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 1 September 2003, at 30 Blackwood Crescent, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Ken Daly, Scott Fraser, Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman, Colin Inverarity, Helen Murray.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 24 May 2003 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

The Jamie Stevenson Trophy for Juniors had been held the day before, at Kinnoull Hill, Perth. Stephen and Mark Haley represented the Club.

3 Chairman's Report

Gillian reported that one Club team had been entered for the 11-Person Relay at Crathes Castle on 13 September. The Club would pay the full entry fee.

It was reiterated that, in general, the Club would pay half the entry fees for relay events, such as the J.K., SOA, BOF, and Harvester Relays.

4 Secretary's Report

John reported that several e-mails had been received from Terry O'Brien.

One was regarding the SOL series for 2004, and asked Clubs to register their events in this Series by 30 September. Gillian pointed out that our event in the Series, on 25 April at Mill of Fortune, had already been registered.

Another referred to bids for hosting an event in the 2005 SOL Series. Two other Clubs (CUNOC and INVOC) had sought to stage an event on 2 October, but in each case this date was their 3rd choice. They had both chosen the same set of dates, so the assumption was that they would be able to choose between them which date they wanted from their 1st and 2nd choices. Hence, neither would want their 3rd choice, which left the date free for Interløpers. Choices of venues and officials needed to be made, and approved by the SOA Executive, by the end of 2003.

Terry had also announced that the Park Races, originally scheduled for 6 and 20 September in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively, had been cancelled owing to a lack of entry numbers.

A flier had been received for the FVO weekend on 27/28 September.

Donald Petrie had asked all Clubs for lists of their mapped areas, together with names of landowners. He had begun a programme to set up agreements with various land-owning bodies, and wanted to establish which areas had been mapped on National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Wildlife Trust land. John would draw up such a list, and send it to Donald.

ACTION: John

5 Treasurer's Report

Dave was still in the process of tidying up the financial affairs before handing the books over to Ben. Hence, at the start of the Meeting, it wasn't clear just what the Club's current assets were (apart from the knowledge that there was a healthy bank balance).

There was a consensus that there was no need to try to extract a large profit out of next year's SOL, so that the entry fees could be set accordingly. Figures suggested were £7/£2.50 for Badge courses (the lower rate including Students and unwaged), and £4/£2.50 for colour-coded courses.

Scott Fraser had written to the Committee, asking what level of support the Club would be prepared to provide for any overseas competitions he might try to attend to further his experience next year. At present, his sights were set on the Swedish Schools Championships, and the Jukola and Tio-Mila relay events. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Club's present policy in this regard was still appropriate, viz. £100, or 50%, whichever is less, in any one year.

6 Mapping

The Club's current mapping projects had suffered a setback, in that the Godfrees' computer had crashed, destroying some files (including the current work on the update of the Kinneil Wood map).

There had been no progress yet with an updated map of Calder Wood.

Some members had been investigating the status of the mapping of Norman's Law in north Fife. This was an area which had been mapped by orienteers from St. Andrews University (including Graham Relf) many years ago, and was largely hilly and open, with fast running, and some woodland. Apparently, TAY have also expressed an interest in the area. It was felt that we should write to them to find out their level of interest, and to try to persuade them not to pursue it. The current contact in STAUOC was Andrew Dalgleish (son of Margaret and Les, of ESOC).

ACTION: John

As an aside, it still wasn't clear if TAY wanted to help with the SOL at Mill of Fortune next April. Interløpers were now providing all the main officials.

7 Events

7.1 ESOL - 16 November 2003

Gillian was organising this event, although she expected lots of help from other Club members. Claire Ward (née Williams) was planning, and Graeme Ackland had agreed to control. Dave was continuing to organise the mapping.

7.2 SOL 2004 - 25 April 2004

Gillian was doing organisational matters for the time being, but it was hoped to persuade Pat to take on the full Organiser's rôle nearer the time. Ben and Heather had agreed to plan the courses. The event is (minimally) registered. It will not be in the UK Cup series (because the date clashes with the Tio-Mila). Terry O'Brien had asked that no Short Race be planned for the day before, because no firm dates for any Short Race series had yet been chosen for 2004.

7.3 SOL 2005

As described earlier (Secretary's Report), it seemed as if the Club's preferred date of 2 October would be available. It was agreed not to pursue the idea of staging the event at Loch Vaa, but to look for some other area in or around Speyside. There was some discussion on the possible use of Rannoch. Questions to be answered

included whether the map prepared for JK2000 was still adequate, and whether the Club could afford to take over the map from the SOA. Given that it was rumoured that Rannoch School had been sold, there might be access and/or parking problems. If we wanted to proceed with this area, we should ask Donald Petrie to check the access question for us.

It was pointed out that the East Area would be asked to organise the SOA Championships weekend in 2005, and consequently Interløpers would probably be the lead club for the Relays. It might be that Rannoch would prove to be a better choice for the Championships weekend, and that therefore another area would need to be identified for our SOL.

7.4 CATIs

The Club had no obligations for organising any such events in the forthcoming term.

7.5 Club Championships

Ken had asked ESOC if we could use the map of Corstorphine Hill on 30 November. There might be some clash of dates with STAG's plans for this date, but Ken would liaise with Terry O'Brien.

8 Socials

So far, nothing had been organised. However, Helen pointed out that, almost certainly, something would be arranged for Hallowe'en, on whichever day would be appropriate.

9 Newsletter

His responsibilities as Programme Editor for Moray 2003 had taken up a lot of Colin's time in the late Spring and Summer. Consequently, production of the next Club Newsletter had been significantly delayed. However, he reported that he had started on the next issue. An update to the labels set would be appreciated.

10 Secretary's Report - extra

A brief mention was made of those members who had apparently not renewed for 2003. Of these, two (Keith Dawson and Richard Dibley) may or may not have renewed directly with BOF, although John had not received any notification. Andy and Kate Kitchin were having a "break", while Toni O'Donovan was reportedly injured.

11 Juniors

There had been little activity. However, it was reported that, at the Jamie Stevenson Trophy event the day before, Mark Haley had come 4th on the Yellow course, while Stephen was 6th on the Orange.

12 Treasurer's Report - extra

At this point, Dave announced to the Meeting that the current Bank Balance was £4189.19, while Cash in Hand amounted to £18.60.

13 ESOA

It had been agreed that, in the event of the ESOL and WOSOL series merging, the resultant series would be known as the S(outh)OSOL. The West were checking available dates, to see if their planned events would fit into the ESOL series, and they were also checking the Rules on the ESOA's WWW site.

The next Committee Meeting would take place on 30 September, while the Area AGM would be held at The Steading on Tuesday 28 October.

Ken announced that Tiso's were holding another Discount Evening, to be held on 29 October at the Leith store from 18:30 to 20:30.

The promised sums of money to fund the Area JDO had now all been received (from INT, ESOC, ELO, and the SOA). Now it was simply a matter of deciding on a formal appointment date, consequent upon which were the dates of paying Peter Coutts.

14 SOA

Ken reported that plans for the new National Centre at Aviemore would have to be scaled down, since the main source of funding had been cut by 70%. This would now only allow the construction of a double garage, to serve as an Equipment Store.

It was announced that Russia had withdrawn from organising JWOC 2004. A bid would be made to try to bring the event to Deeside; this bid needed to be with BOF by 8/10 September, before being formally submitted to the IOF by 14 September. Other competitor countries included Finland and Lithuania.

There had been considerable discussion over the format of the Fixture List in "Score" and on the SOA WWW site. At present, events of category C5 and below were listed separately, but there was a move to incorporate them in the main List so that all events scheduled for a particular date were shown together. This met with general approval from the Meeting. This would not prevent series of small events appearing in separate boxes. It was also suggested that including information such as the nearest town, and the week-day, would help novices find out more about each event. However, the current Fixtures Secretary was not in favour of such changes, so some sort of compromise would need to be reached.

Ken mentioned that the audit of the SOA accounts was about to take place.

He also reiterated that Park Races 1 and 2 had been cancelled for lack of support. He also pointed out that holding Race 3 in Glendye might conflict with any successful bid to stage JWOC in 2004, since this might be one of the areas under consideration for use in that competition.

The SOA Conference had just taken place, and the Club had been represented by Ken, Gordon Ross, and Hilary Quick. The major item for discussion had been the creation of the next 4-Year Plan.

15 A.O.C.B.

Thanks were formally offered to the key Officials for Moray 2003. It was almost universally agreed that the event had been a great success.

Ken had arranged a couple of news releases at short notice, regarding the success of Jamie Stevenson and the Men's Relay Team at the World Championships in Switzerland.

Following some discussion, Ken volunteered to act as Marketing Officer for the Club. He asked if a plea could be sent out to all members, asking for news and ideas to be e-mailed to him.

As a consequence of the previous announcement, it was agreed to try to get the Club's WWW site properly set up as soon as possible.

ACTION: John

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 3 November 2003 at 16/3 Greenhill Place, Edinburgh.

The Meeting closed at 21.12. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 10 September 2003