SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 3 November 2003, at 16/3 Greenbank Place, Edinburgh

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

Also present was Hilary Quick, in her capacity as SOA Assistant Professional Officer (Club Development and Marketing).

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 1 September 2003 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Any matters arising from the Minutes would be dealt with under the appropriate heading.

3 Socials

Helen reported that the Hallowe'en Party did not take place, largely because no-one volunteered to host it while she was away.

However, she suggested two possibilities for further events; (a) "Abigail's Party" was being staged at the Kings Theatre in the week 10-15 November, and (b) a touring Glyndebourne company was putting on 3 operas in December (Mozart's Idomeneo, Handel's Theodora, and Verdi's La Traviata).

She would send round an e-mail advertising these events, as well as a suggestion for an Evening featuring silly games.

There would also be a Christmas Party, but at this stage no date or venue had been chosen.

4 Hilary

Hilary described part of her new rôle as attending Committee Meetings of as many Clubs as she could, to find out what they all do. She saw one part of her job as drawing up Resource Packs describing "How to" achieve various things, such as creation and management of a Club WWW site, obtaining Funding, organising Coaching, obtaining Sponsorship deals, arranging Publicity and Marketing, targetting leaflets, etc., and publishing all this information on the SOA WWW site. She had already identified several problems, including significant gaps in the age profile of Club membership, and the perpetual issue of finding volunteers for (a) post-holding on Committees, and (b) appointing Event Officials. Another issue was the provision of longer easier courses at colour-coded events, to try to attract members of running clubs to take part in Red or Purple courses. She would probably suggest the holding of a Club Conference at Glenmore Lodge to discuss such ideas in small lightly-structured groups, and to undertake training exercises.

5 SOA 4-Year Plan

John had distributed Ken's draft version of the next SOA 4-Year Plan to all Committee members.

Gillian had a couple of comments. She favoured the idea of a "buddy" system whereby established Clubs could help University clubs with, for instance, courses for Freshers, and coaching help. She also suggested that more use could be

made of local Permanent Courses at, for instance, Dechmont Law and Calder Wood, although she stressed the need for maps of such Courses to be easily available from, say, the Ranger Service.

Ben initiated some discussion on the Club Targets template, with particular reference for Interløpers. We could, for instance, set a target of winning the UK Relay League.

6 Events

6.1 SOSOL 4 - 16 November 2003

Dave had been having problems with the map of Kinneil Wood, but Gillian assured the meeting it would be ready in time.

6.2 SOL 2004 - 25 April

Pat had now agreed to Organise this event, and Mike Atherton (BASOC) had consented to Control.

6.3 SOL 2005 - 2 October

Recent discussion had produced suggestions for venues of Drummond Hill and Achlean (recognising the fact that Drummond Hill was an SOA area). At present, Gillian and Dave were the front runners for Planners, and Ken agreed that his name could be put forward as Organiser. Terry O'Brien needed to know this information by 29 November.

ACTION: John

6.4 SOA Relays 2005

After some discussion about possible areas, the idea of using Kinnoull Hill came up. Hilary was asked if she could check with TAY if this area would be available.

6.5 New Year 2003/04

Ben announced that he was intending to organise a Score event at Anagach on Saturday 3 January 2004. BASOC were planning a local event for the the previous Sunday, 28 December.

6.6 Club Championships

Ken was definitely planning this event for 30 November, but was now pursuing the intention of holding it at Dechmont Law. He had asked Martin Hyman for details about access permission.

7 Mapping

Quotes had been obtained from Dave Peel and from Jonathan Musgrave for re-mapping Norman's Law in north Fife. The general feeling was that the Peel quote was much cheaper, but that DOLM's quality was higher. StAUOC, through Andrew Dalgleish, had approved of any plan to update the map. However, TAY and/or KFO had yet to be approached for their views on any such plan.

ACTION: John

Gillian would pursue the access issue.

ACTION: Gillian

It was suggested that, if it were decided to proceed with mapping this area, it could be useful for staging our SOSOL in 2004/05.

Gillian reported that Dave was not now able to work on an updated map of Calder Wood.

It was suggested that Donald Petrie be approached for his views on whether an attempt to obtain an "Awards for All" was likely to be successful to help with mapping such an area.

Ben pointed out that we were now talking about preparing maps of possibly 3 areas (including maybe Drummond Hill for the 2005 SOL), and that some discussion on the financial viability of such a plan should be undertaken.

8 Chairman's Report

An e-mail had been received from Ron Nolan (ESOC), giving details of a training programme he had devised for his Club's younger Juniors (White/Yellow standard), and inviting any parents in Interløpers to bring along their Juniors to the next training day. John had copied this e-mail to Ann Haley.

There was some discussion on the Club's WWW site. The general consensus was that the current page fell down on both content and design, and was also prone to the usual problem of falling out-of-date very quickly. John mentioned that he had been in touch with Roger Coombs about putting a front page on the SOA's site, which would then direct readers to the real pages (where-ever they might be). Once the Club's preferred address had been registered, this would point to the SOA page. Hilary mentioned that one of the things she planned to do in her new rôle was to prepare a template for Clubs to use as a WWW page, so this might serve as a model for that of Interløpers. Gillian wondered if, now that Dave had said he no longer wanted to do any mapping, he might be persuaded to become the Club's Webmaster. Helen suggested that her brother might be able to design a suitable page (although it was accepted that this would cost the Club a certain sum of money).

Gillian announced that Peter Coutts, the JDO-designate for the Edinburgh area, had now decided not to take up the position. ESOC had already discussed this situation, and had agreed that the position should be re-advertised as soon as possible. This Meeting concurred with this view.

9 Treasurer's Report

Ben reported that the current bank balance was approx. £4500. There would be some income from the Moray 2003 distribution (although at this stage it wasn't clear on what level this might be). It was also hoped that the SOSOL might make a small profit. He had a few tentative plans for some expenditure.

One significant item was the level of support to be offered to Juniors in their efforts to attend international events. The current policy of up to £100 in any one year was now several years old, and he suggested that this figure be raised to £200 at the Committee's discretion. This met with unanimous approval. In particular, Scott Fraser had written describing his plans for attending important events in 2004. It was agreed to offer him up to the new limit, but to suggest that he retain his membership of the Club despite now being at the University of Edinburgh - this of course was quite possible, given the BOF Rule allowing membership of 1 Closed and 1 Open Club simultaneously.

Ben pointed out that, of the recent SOA team attending the Senior Home Internationals, 9 of the 16 competitors and one Manager were members of the Club. However, this event was unfunded by the SOA. In line with the Club's policy of supporting Juniors financially, it was suggested, and agreed, that a letter be sent to the SOA, asking that the sum of £75 be refunded to each Junior taking part in that Event (albeit competing at Senior level).

10 Secretary's Report

An e-mail had been received from Terry O'Brien, asking Clubs to formally enter the SOA Inter-Club Championships, being held in conjunction with the SOA Score Championships at Devilla on 23 November 2003. This involved nothing more than a Yes or a No reply. The Meeting agreed that the reply should be "Yes".

ACTION: John

Rab Philp, the SOA Secretary, had written to Clubs, asking if any would be prepared to fund a new trophy for a Junior Relay class at the SOA Championships. It was suggested that it might be possible to find some sponsorship for this, and that Lorna Eades' list of sponsors she derived for Moray 2003 might prove helpful. In any case, the Club agreed to provide such a trophy, and John would reply to Rab accordingly.

ACTION: John

Robin Strain had distributed a list of certificate winners in the 2003/03 ESOL series, and the names of those winners who were members of Interløpers would be published in the Newsletter.

11 Newsletter

Colin reported that, now that the pressure and "euphoria" of Moray 2003 had subsided, he was more able to turn his attention to producing the next issue of the Club's Newsletter. He hoped it would be published within a couple of weeks.

12 Juniors

This topic had already been discussed earlier.

The ESOA Committee had agreed at its recent meeting to ask the Area Clubs for a contribution (of £50 each) towards this year's costs of running the Junior Squad.

13 ESOA

Nine people attended the recent AGM of the ESOA, on 28 October. John Barrow was elected Chairman, as successor to Alan Robertson of ESOC who had been in post for many years, and Ken Daly was re-elected Secretary. Ann Haley had agreed to serve as Junior Squad Coordinator, in partnership with the existing incumbent (Kirsteen Kershaw of ESOC). Bill Stevenson had agreed to act as East Area representative to the SOA.

The Meeting considered the question of the Edinburgh Park Orienteering series, held in conjunction with the Summer Series of local events, and wondered if Interløpers would be prepared to organise it in 2004. Gillian said that she was not prepared to take in on herself, and wondered about the viability of the series (given that it was rather poorly attended in 2003). It was suggested that an e-mail plea be distributed to try to find someone to take it on.

There was some discussion (initiated by Ray Heyworth) as to why the Area Championships was no longer a Badge Event - he felt that this downgraded the status of the event, which had its own set of trophies going back many years. There had been a suggestion that, in 2004, the event could be combined with a SOL event, possibly that organised by Interløpers on 25 April at Mill of Fortune. However, there was a rota in force, by which the East Area Clubs in turn organised the event, and this suggestion might not be suitable. The rota would be checked.

Ray also raised a further point regarding the devolution of financial responsibility for organising the SOA Championships to the relevant Area (such as the ESOA in 2002). He was not happy that the Area might be liable for any loss, or that any surplus be retained and not returned to the SOA - this had not been the case in earlier times.

14 SOA

Ken mentioned that the audit of the SOA accounts was taking place.

15 A.O.C.B.

Ken reported that BOF were now part part of a new National Coaching Strategy.

He also announced that there would be a Conference in November to discuss the next BOF 4-Year Plan.

It was pointed out that new legislation required that any photographs of children in magazines now required the written consent of both parents and the children. Hilary pointed out that it was also now illegal to name any children in photo captions, regardless of whether consent to publish had been obtained.

Helen was thanked for her hospitality, especially in view of her jet-lag.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 January 2004 at 161 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.

The Meeting closed at 21.23. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 14 November 2003