FIFTH COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 10 May 2004, at 27/16 Maxwell Street, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Ken Daly, Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman, Colin Inverarity.

Apologies for absence: none

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8 March 2004 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Items of new equipment purchased since the last Meeting include a new tent, water carriers, a Finish banner, signs, a portable table, and map boxes.

The trophy for the Junior Women's class at the SOL is expected, along with the new clipboards.

3 Chairman's Report

The arrangements for the forthcoming AGM were discussed. John reported that the Meeting Room at 46 Pleasance had been booked, and was available from 6pm to 9pm at no charge. It was agreed to fix the time of the Meeting as 6.30pm for 7pm. Gillian would ask Helen to organise the post-AGM meal.

A review of Office Bearers was carried out. Of the present incumbents, Gillian, John and Ben agreed to continue in office (if elected). Colin also reluctantly agreed to stay on (but more below). Ken, in his new capacity as SOA President, felt he should stand down. It was thought that Helen might not want to continue. Darina's and Scott's wishes were unknown (although it was expected that Scott would agree to continue, albeit with the current attitude towards attending meetings).

After a short discussion on the rôle of the Newsletter Editor (in these days of easy internet access, and more frequent news items appearing on the Club's webpages), it was suggested that the wording of the Constitution regarding the responsibilities of the Newsletter Editor be amended, by removing the words "at least five times per year" from paragraph 5.5. John would prepare a motion for the AGM proposing this amendment, together with a justification.

ACTION: John

Anthony had indicated his willingness to continue as Club Captain.

4 Secretary's Report

Graeme Ackland had amended his webpage to include a link pointing to Dave's new pages.

John reported on the status of membership renewals. Of the full BOF members, only Scott Balfour, Aidan Boswell and Richard Dibley had so far not rejoined (although it was suspected that Richard was still rejoining as a member of KERNO, his old club in Cornwall). (Subsequently, Aidan had indicated that he would not be rejoining.)

Of SOA-only members, the Andrew/Wyatt family, Steve Conway, Paul Jackson and David Simmonds had not paid up (despite two reminder letters each). (Subsequent to the Meeting, Jamie Andrew had sent his subscription.)

John mentioned that a Feedback form had been received from the organiser of the CompassSport Cup/Trophy. The immediate reaction from the Meeting was quite straightforward: the Final would have been so remote that no Scottish Club would contemplate attending, the Final was at the wrong time of year (the Autumn would be much more suitable), on an unattractive area. The feeling was that the competition needed radical overhaul, perhaps by the holding of Regional rounds, with the Final being held in conjunction with a major event. As it stood, most were of the opinion that the format was too contrived. John would try to summarise these points and complete the Feedback.

ACTION: John

5 Treasurer's Report

Ben reported that the current bank balance was in the region of £7600. Of this amount, approx. £2000 was earmarked for new equipment, and payment of levies for the Mill of Fortune SOL. This event had made a profit of £400-500, due largely to the good turnout on the day because of the fine weather (the total entry was 390).

It was agreed that, for all the Club's events, strenuous attempts should be made to continue to keep entry fees as low as possible.

Ben mentioned that, although he had asked for expenses claims at the last Meeting, only one had been forthcoming.

John reported that he had obtained Peter Dymoke's agreement to continue as Auditor of the Club's accounts. Owing to a "senior moment", he had informed Dave Godfree of this, not Ben!

Ben raised the issue of the use of 6-Day Event profits, and referred members to an article in "Score" which he felt should be considered carefully.

6 Socials

There would be a meal after the AGM on 17 June.

Helen had felt that her efforts over the year had been met with a rather disheartening response.

7 Newsletter

Colin reported that the next issue was largely ready, and would be out before the AGM.

8 Juniors

Gillian reported that Scott had been selected again for the JWOC team. He had recently won M18 at the Future Champions Cup.

9 ESOA

The Area Committee was looking for a new Secretary, after Ken's elevation to the SOA Presidency.

There had been some discussion on the selection of Dates for the 2004/05 SOSOL series. The plans made at the previous meeting had been thrown into some disarray by the early registration of C4 events by CUNOC and STAG, without reference to the ESOA Committee. As it now stands, the events in the latter part of 2004 would be as follows:

19 Sep	ESOC	
26 Sep	TAY	Deuchny (Jamie Stevenson Trophy)
10 Oct	CUNOC	
24 Oct	TAY	
14 Nov	STAG	

After some discussion, this Meeting agreed to choose either 21 or 28 November on which to stage the Club's event in the Series, at Archerfield. John would check the availability of the date, and register the event.

ACTION: John

Ken reported that Ron Nolan had continued to organise Junior training sessions, to which all Clubs in the area were invited. The next session would be on 22 May at Vogrie.

It was mentioned that the Junior Inter-Area competition would be held on 18/19 September in the North area.

Ken also mentioned that an average of 35 people had attended the Spring Saturday events, a good increase in interest over recent years. Unfortunately, it had not proved possible to find an EPO organiser for the Summer Series, partly because quite a few events were still some distance from the City.

The Committee would next meet on 15 June.

10 SOA

Ken reported on business at the recent SOA AGM. He himself had been elected President, in succession to Mike Atherton. Gordon Ross had stepped down from Vice-Presidency (Performance), leaving a vacancy. Rab Philp and Peter Lamb had been re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer. The SOA had been successful in attracting a Modernisation Grant from Sport Scotland. A review of the format of the 11-Person Relay would be undertaken.

11 Events

11.1 SOL 2004

Ben was expecting to receive the Levy forms from Pat, and also had to pay TAY for the map copyright. Anthony would be sending out the paper copies of the Results.

11.2 SOL 2005 - 2 October

The SOA had replied positively to our request for the transfer of the copyright of the map of Drummond Hill, should we decide to proceed with re-mapping the area.

Gillian had requested a form from the Forestry Commission for the use of Drummond Hill for this event. Dave and Gillian had volunteered to be Planners, while Mike Atherton had agreed to be Controller. An Organiser was still to be identified. John would register the event.

ACTION: John

Requests to quote for updating the map had been sent to several mappers. However, only Jonathan Musgrave had so far replied. He had suggested two options: do either a full re-survey, or else a quick vegetation check. It would be suggested to Jon that he have a look over the area, but almost certainly it would only be necessary to opt for the latter. Any other necessary modifications could be included by the Planners using OCAD. Jon had indicated that he would be able to do the work on the ground during September this year, and hence the draft would be available for the Planners for October, the same time of year as the event. The Meeting discussed the situation briefly, and agreed that, despite no-one else having yet replied, Jon should be asked to proceed. Rob Bloor was thought to have a suitable Contract (from his Moray 2003 work), and it was suggested that an amended version of this should be drawn up and agreed with Jon (and signed by him).

11.3 SOA Relays 2005 - 29 May

Discussions since the last Meeting had concluded that the most suitable venue for this event would be Tentsmuir. Chris Godfree had volunteered to be Planner, and Graeme Ackland the Organiser.

Discussions had also included Phil Smithard, in his capacity as Championships Coordinator. He had agreed that, once Planners, Organisers and venues for both the Individual and the Relay had been settled on, he would pursue the question of access.

11.4 Royal Deeside 2005 - Day 1 (Cambus O'May)

The Club, together with ELO and KFO, would be responsible for Day 1 of next year's 6-Day Event, based at Crathies Castle. Hence this grouping would need to supply the usual complement of officials, viz. 2 Planners, 2 Organisers, and an Assistant Controller. Colin and Lorna Eades had tentatively volunteered to be Planners.

11.5 ESOA Summer Series

The series had now started, and the Club's events would be held on 19 May and 16 June, at Craigmillar and Colinton Dell respectively.

11.6 SOSOL 2004/05

This had been discussed under "ESOA" earlier. However, it was pointed out that, regardless of the date eventually settled on, a Planner and an Organiser would be needed.

11.7 Other local events

Given the improvement in attendance at the recent Spring Saturday series around Edinburgh, it was agreed that the Club should involve itself once more in staging such events (starting in the Autumn).

It was also agreed to try to put on limited colour-coded events on any free Sundays identified in the Fixture List, a policy begun with the event at Devilla in the Autumn of 2002.

12 Mapping

Given the difficulties in trying to organise access at Norman's Law, it was agreed to defer attempts to update the map of this area for the time being.

Initial enquiries had been made with West Lothian Ranger Service regarding re-mapping Calder Wood, near Midcalder.

The question of re-mapping Rannoch was resurrected. It was recognised that this was another SOA area (like Drummond Hill), and hence if the Club were to put any effort into this it would need to know if the SOA would be prepared to transfer the copyright of the map (as they had recently agreed with Drummond Hill). Ken pointed out that the next SOA Executive Committee meeting was to be on Saturday 22 May, and hence a letter would need to be sent very soon. John agreed to do this.

ACTION: John

The issue of applying under the Awards for All scheme to obtain financial assistance with such mapping projects was discussed. Ben pointed out that he understood it might be possible to contribute in-kind effort (such as field surveying), as well as matched funding. He agreed to check this information, and how soon a claim under the scheme could be submitted. Once an agreement for copyright transfer of the Rannoch map had been obtained from the SOA, and a quote for re-mapping had been acquired, a programme for submitting a claim could be devised. This should include the plans for Drummond Hill, Calder Wood and Rannoch.

Gillian reported that Graeme Ackland and members of EUOC had devised a plan to map the whole of Edinburgh at 1:15000, and had applied to the University for a grant. The original plan would be for a Long-O, but it was pointed out that the map as a whole could be used as a base map to produce maps of smaller local areas.

13 A.O.C.B.

Ken mentioned that, although he wanted to step down from the Club Committee at the AGM, he would be reasonably happy to continue as Marketing rep. He noted the range of items currently available for publicity purposes, including BOF posters, leaflets produced by Hilary Quick, and a BOF CD.

It was agreed to hold the final Committee Meeting of the year on Monday 7 June. Gillian's preference for a venue was a restaurant in the city, just to be different. John suggested a French bistro in Thistle Street, and would find out the details and communicate them to Gillian. Helen might then be asked to check it out.

Ben and Heather were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 21.45. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 27 May 2004