THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY NINTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 15 November 2004, at 104 Tryst Park, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Paul Caban, Darina Cunnane, Chris Godfree, Gillian Godfree, Ben Hartman, Barry Owen

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4 October 2004 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Paul's new shed had still to be built.

3 Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

4 Treasurer's Report

There was about £5,400 in the bank. So far this Financial Year, there had been an excess of Expenditure over Income of about £640, mostly due to the purchase of new equipment. Membership fees for 2005 had still to come in. It was expected that, over the year, the Club should break even, or perhaps make a small loss.

The re-mapping of Drummond Hill was still to be paid for in this Year.

Ben asked that, if any Club member was planning to put on an event, his advice should be sought when setting entry fees.

5 Secretary's Report

John reported that Trina Rogerson had been in touch, regarding the outcome of the recent SOSOL at Gullane/Archerfield. She mentioned that there had been an encounter with Paul Lightbody, the Director of Golf at the new golf course at the far eastern end of the mapped area. He appeared to be quite pleasant and approachable, and asked if he could be kept informed when future events were planned on the area. Trina had supplied his contact details.

It was mentioned that East Lothian Council had recently placed an advert in "The Scotsman" for a Countryside Ranger for Archerfield.

Hilary Quick had e-mailed Lothian Club Secretaries with a suggestion that competitors at SOSOL events who quoted their affiliation as Independent for several events be chased up, and attempts made to persuade them to join a Club. ESOC and ELO had already made some approaches.

BOF had pointed out that their Development Fund was available (on a matched-funding basis) for Clubs who wanted to undertake development projects.

6 Socials

A very successful Hallowe'en party was held at the Ackland household, with plenty of children present.

Helen had been to see all the plays she had mentioned earlier, on her own, and John mentioned that he and Jo had also been to see two of them.

Rob Bloor and Patricia Alston had offered to hold the Christmas Party at their house on Saturday 18 December, from 4pm until 10pm.

Darina had investigated the Youth Hostels in the Killin area, with a view to having a Club Weekend around February time. One was probably too small, but the other was a possibility - it could be hired at a cost of £225 per night.

7 Newsletter

Barry mentioned that preparation of the next issue was "moving slowly".

8 Juniors

A short note had been received from Scott Fraser, together with a map, as a contribution to the Newsletter. He had not received any money from the Club yet. Scott had also written to Gillian, outlining his aims for 2005 (including a "top-10" performance at JWOC). He had also described what he had spent last year's Club grant on.

9 ESOA

At the recent AGM of the ESOA, John had been re-elected Chairman (in his absence), and Ann Haley would continue as joint Junior representative.

The ESOA had contacted ESOC and INT, regarding a possible purchase of trophies for the 3 remaining classes at the ESOA Championships for which no trophy existed. These were M65, M70 and W60. Ray Heyworth had won M70 at the recent Championships at Gullane/Archerfield, and the Meeting agreed that the Club should donate a trophy for this class.

In his capacity as Treasurer for the 2005 SOA Championships, Ben had suggested that the banking for the event could be handled through the Club's own account. This would avoid the need to set up a separate account, which could be quite difficult in these days of extra security measures introduced by banks.

At the recent Committee Meeting (on 4 November), there had been discussion on the format of the CATI events, both in Spring and Autumn terms, and in the Summer Term. A suggestion had arisen for moving the Summer Series events from Wednesday evenings to Saturday afternoons, in line with the other two terms, thus providing some degree of continuity. This would allow organisers more time to plan for events (while accepting that other commitments at weekends might prevent some people from taking part). It was also felt that an ESOA-wide Summer Series was becoming less and less cohesive, with the suggestions that the events had become more dispersed from Edinburgh in the last two years; however, a series organised by ESOC, ELO and INT should still be viable (just as the Spring and Autumn series had proved to be). It was suggested that this proposal be aired in the Newsletter (and perhaps sent to the e-mail list).

There had been some discussion on the Spring 2005 Saturday Series. Paul had already offered INT's resources to stage 2 events, on 12 February and 12 March.

10 Events

10.1 SOSOL - 21 November

Paul reported that "it'll be fine". As usual, more members to help on the day would be good. The courses would be pre-marked (printed by Stirling Surveys), but would not be bagged. Paul would borrow his work's new colour laserprinter, in case more copies of overprinted maps were needed.

10.2 Club Championships

Pat had sent round an e-mail with details of this event, to be held on Sunday 19 December, probably at Devilla. Unfortunately, FVO were charging £1.50 per map, which probably meant that members would need to pay at least £3 for entry. It was suggested that perhaps some members of the Club could lay their hands on some old copies of the map, with overprinted courses, which could be used, but the general feeling was that this was rather unsatisfactory. An alternative suggestion was to use Kinneil instead; these maps would be considerably cheaper, leading to lower entry fees. This would be suggested to Pat.

10.3 "Christmas Cracker" - 2 January 2005

This event had been registered, but no entry fees had yet been set.

10.4 Limited C-C event - January

Ben and Heather were proposing to put on a limited colour-coded event at Kinneil on 23 January. After some discussion, it was agreed that a date of 16 January would be better.

10.5 ESOA Spring Saturday CATI events

Paul had liaised with Janet Clark, and had proposed that the Club stage two events in this Series, on 12 February and 12 March, probably at Braidburn Park and Corstorphine Hill. He himself would organise the former, so an Organiser for the latter would be needed. This plan was agreed by the Meeting.

10.6 SOA Relays 2005 - 29 May

Chris said "it'll be fine", although he had some concerns over the Assembly area.

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

Nothing to discuss.

10.8 SOL 2005 - 9 October

The date of this event had been changed to 9 October 2005, to avoid a clash with the Hodgson Relay.

10.9 SOA Night Championships 2005

The date of this event had also been changed, to 8 October, to reflect the date of the SOL. Paul would coordinate the event, but the Organiser would now come from TAY. Once someone had been identified, the event could be registered.

11 Mapping

Drummond Hill would be re-mapped during December.

Donald Petrie had mentioned that he was uncovering more and more details about land ownership at Norman's Law.

A quote had been obtained for re-mapping Calder Wood.

12 A.O.C.B.

12.1 Events

A query arose regarding whether a Club member who was proposing to put on an event needed to obtain the approval of the Committee. The Meeting felt that this should be so, particularly since (at the moment) the Secretary was the one person through whom all event registrations were channelled.

Paul pointed out that the distribution of fixtures in Scotland in 2005 was quite uneven. In particular, there was a gap in major events between SOL 2 on 10 April and the SOA Championships on 28/29 May. This was caused by an embargo placed by BOF on the staging of such events at this time, to avoid clashes with the World Cup. Hence, by implication, there was an opportunity for staging more events at level C4 and below during this period.

12.2 BOF Membership

BOF had recently circulated a document around Clubs, in which it described the current situation where income from membership subscriptions was continuing to fall, and a significant proportion of competitors were not BOF members - hence the BOF members were subsidising non-BOF members who benefitted from BOF services.

The BOF Council had put forward several proposals aimed at dealing with this situation. Among these were a lowering of current subscription levels, together with a significant rise in event levy, as well as an entry fee surcharge for non-members (including what BOF describe as Club-only members).

There had been some e-mail discussion within the Club, and this, together with some discussion at this Meeting, provided a means of arriving at a consensus which would be communicated to BOF.

The main recommendations from Interløpers which would be presented to BOF were as follows:

- there must be some provision for Social only/Honorary/Second Club/Overseas members, who should not be forced into paying a BOF subscription;
- there should be no entry fee surcharge for juniors' or beginners' courses, i.e. JM/W1-5, or White, Yellow, Orange, Red, or Purple;
- there should be no surcharge on anyone taking part in Local events (i.e. C5), in order not to deter beginners;
- if BOF want to simply increase income, rather than membership levels, there should be more discussion of overall BOF income/expenditure if there is a serious proposal to increase event levies significantly.

Concern was expressed at how the surcharges would be implemented. Presumably, for District events and below, they would need to be collected at Registration, which would imply that Clubs would then need to account for them to BOF in some way.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 54/5 Balbirnie Place (Roseburn), Edinburgh, on Monday 10 January 2005 at 7.30pm.

Gillian and Dave were thanked for their hospitality (especially the waiter service).

The Meeting closed at 21.30. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 7 December 2004