FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTIETH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 18 July 2005, at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin

Present: John Barrow, Paul Caban, Brad Connor, Chris Godfree, Stephen Haley, Ben Hartman, Barry Owen

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 9 May 2005 were approved.

2 Matters Arising

Paul's shed had been constructed, but would need to be lifted on to its final location. He was concerned that the trestles should not be stored in it, since they would probably occupy most of the space, leaving little extra for the contents of his attic.

Paul was still to attend to the issue of mapping the grounds of Merchiston Castle School.

The Data Privacy Policy document has been sent to the Club's webmaster for inclusion on the website.

It was reported that Chris' idea of loops and padlocks for markers worked out quite well at the Street-O events. It was felt that the loops could do with being a little larger.

The issue of a possible merger with ESOC had been discussed at the AGM, and the consensus had been against such a step.

3 Secretary's Report

There was some discussion on attending the final of the CompassSport Trophy competition at Clowbridge, near Burnley, on Sunday 16 October. Issues to be decided were travel and accommodation arrangements, and who could be persuaded to go to make up as complete a team as possible. Paul and Anthony would try to compile a list of people going, and then a plan for travel and accommodation could be derived. It was agreed that the entry fees would be subsidised.

Sue Birkinshaw had written to Clubs taking part in the Final, asking if there would be any interest in a training event the day before, at Watergrove. This was "typical South Pennine terrain", somewhat like Clowbridge. It was agreed that, assuming this would be available on the Saturday afternoon, we should respond positively.

A brief re-visiting of the list of non-renewers in the previous Minutes was carried out. Almost all members had now either rejoined, or else indicated that they would not renew. A couple of others had not replied, and they would be chased up.

4 Treasurer's Report

Ben reported that there was currently a lot of money in the Club's account. This was inflated by the net income/expenditure from the SOA Championships which had not yet been processed. The break-even budgeting for the weekend had assumed quite a low entry, and the better-than-expected entry had produced a larger surplus. The profits from the Individual would be merged with those from the Relays (also benefitting from a larger-than-anticipated entry), before being split between the organising Clubs.

The mapping of Calder Wood had now been paid for, while Norman's Law was currently being mapped. Ben confirmed that there were sufficient funds to be able to undertake other mapping projects. It was suggested that the Club could liaise with ESOC in (re-)mapping the grounds of Riccarton, and Paul would follow this up. ESOC were in the process of preparing maps for the Dalmeny Estate, the grounds of Mary Erskine School, and Lauriston Castle grounds.

5 Newsletter

Barry reported that the next issue was now being cobbled together. It was hoped to include reports from Scott (JWOC) and Stephen (Scottish Schools), as well as some bits from Paul, and a report from Chris on the SOA Relays.

Barry had reluctantly come to the conclusion that the printed form of the Newsletter was preferred by members (although the electronic version would still be posted on the website). Once of the drawbacks was the size of the PDF files; the current Newsletter was nearly 1.4 MByte in size (hence the need to split it into individual pages), and this sometimes caused problems with downloading.

It was agreed to set a copy date of the end of July for material for the next issue.

6 Brad

Brad reported that he had recently attended the ESOC Coaching Course, and that he was keen on furthering his interest in coaching Juniors. All course attendees were encouraged to apply for Disclosures.

The discussion turned to the production of a Welcome Pack for new Club members, in particular Juniors. John would try to find out from Hilary about the existence of an SOA template Welcome Pack, and Brad would put some more material together with a view to producing a Club version.

7 Chris

Chris reported on planning the SOA Relays, and overall felt it was a good experience, especially working with a good Controller. Several issues arose from the Weekend, and these were discussed in some detail (including the use of pits as control sites, in areas of thick bracken, on some of the Individual courses, and the lack of updating of the map for parts of the Individual area. There had been some adverse comments on the Relays start layout but, given the nature of the forest, it was felt that best use was made of the area eventually chosen.

As far as the Club was concerned, Chris was disappointed at the lack of support from Club members, and the Relays were organised on the Day very much on a shoe-string basis. He felt that this was symptomatic of a certain lack of Club spirit, and the discussion turned to ways of improving morale. It was felt that taking part in the CompassSport Trophy Final should improve matters.

The issue of a regular "social" event was mulled over, and it was suggested that members should be solicited on their views on such events as a "running night", or more socially-oriented evenings. It was also suggested that members wanting new Club kit should be asked to contact Paul with requests. These requests for views would be included in the next Newsletter.

The question of establishing a Marketing Policy, referred to at the AGM, was answered, in part, by efforts to be made by Brad and Stephen.

8 Stephen

The suggestion raised at the AGM to encourage Juniors to keep event logs in a ring binder was aired. Stephen felt that a lot of the documents on the SOA website were far too verbose (in particular the "Jargon Buster"), and that more, smaller, documents would have more success. Other material for the log book could include a regularly-updated list of Fixtures, and a current Contacts list.

9 Events

9.1 Summer Street-Os

These events had been taking place very successfully. One event remained, on 27 July.

9.2 Royal Deeside 2005 - Day 1 (Cambus O'May) - 31 July

There was still a concern over manpower for Day 1. Only 22 Interløpers had entered the event.

9.3 Autumn CATI events

The Club had offered to stage an event in this Series, on Saturday 12 November. An Organiser would be needed.

9.4 SOA Night Championships - 8 October 2005

It looked as if Paul would end up, at least in name, being the Organiser for this event. There was nothing else to report.

9.5 SOL 6 - 9 October 2005

Nothing to report.

9.6 Club Championships

Ben offered to organise this, probably on the last Sunday before Christmas (18 December).

9.7 SOSOL - 26 February 2006

Norman's Law was being considered as the venue for this event.

9.8 CompassSport Trophy - 9 April 2006

It seemed that Interløpers had first call on organising the Scottish round of this competition.

10 A.O.C.B.

Barry mentioned that he could do with an up-to-date list of members' e-mail addresses. He was shown how to obtain one from the Majordomo list.

As pointed out at the AGM, a Social Secretary was still needed.

Lorna had raised the question of a Club Banner at the AGM, and it was thought that she would pursue this.

There was some discussion on new Club kit, and it was agreed to retain the existing style for the O-suits. It wasn't yet know what the current position was with Compass Point sponsorship, and Darina had been asked to try to find out.

It was agreed that the Club should buy the ring binders to contain the event logs being proposed for the Junior members. John had provided a list of names to Ann.

It was agreed that entry fees should be paid for any Juniors attending the Jamie Stevenson Trophy, being held on 11 September in Perth.

It was pointed out that a further opportunity for Club "bonding" would be at the 11-Person Relay, taking place on 25 September at Tentsmuir South. The hope was expressed that the map could be updated somewhat, to try to avoid the sorts of problems which affected some competitors at the Individual SOA Championships.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 34 Queen Margaret Close, Edinburgh, on Monday 12 September at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.58pm. John Barrow – 12 August 2005