FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY FIRST YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 21 August 2006, at 50 Buckstone Road, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Paul Caban, Chris Godfree, Stephen Haley, Ben Hartman, and Emily Seaman.

Apologies for absence were received from Brad Connor and Anthony Squire.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 15 May 2006 were approved, with the following amendment:

- Under "5 Treasurer's Report", replace "£1500" with "£50-100".

2 Matters Arising

Paul had had no time to attend to the issue of mapping the grounds of Merchiston Castle School.

The Auditor took an unconscionable time to return the cheque book, so Ben had been unable to supply John with a cheque for Iain Wilson's membership. John had accordingly decided to submit his own personal cheque, and would claim the amount in his annual Expenses submission.

The AGM duly took place.

Labels were supplied to Barry for the Newsletter.

Chris had managed to have a look round Archerfield, and had found no sign of any felling. There might be some problem with access to the area near the new golf courses; however, we do have a contact who might be able to help.

Teams were duly entered for the Harvester Trophy. The one comment made about the event was that it was "a bit midgy".

The post-AGM meal was held at Banns.

3 Events

3.1 Autumn CATIs

The Club would be putting on two events in this Series, on 14 October at Cammo, and on 25 November at a venue to be decided.

3.2 SoSOL 2006/07

The Club had been allocated the date of 26 January 2007 for an event in this Series, probably to be held at Calder Wood.

3.3 SOL 2007

It was hoped to put on this event, probably on 25 March, and probably at Archerfield.

Both CATI events and the SoSOL were fully registered, but the SOL remained to be registered; the latter was waiting for an Organiser to be identified.

3.4 Jamie Stevenson Trophy

An entry had been put in for this event, which was held the day before this Meeting.

3.5 11-Person Relay

Anthony had been forwarded the details of this event, to be held on 9 September at Achlean.

3.6 2007 6-Day Event

As mentioned previously, the Club would be supplying two Planners and one Controller for this event. However, no Organiser for Day 3 had yet been found.

4 Secretary's Report

John announced that several papers had been received from BOF regarding the new membership structure. However, he pointed out that it was his understanding that the existing structure would remain in place for 2007. He would report on the situation at the next Meeting.

ACTION: John

5 Treasurer's Report

Ben reported that there was a healthy balance in the Club's bank account.

He also mentioned that he had finally received the working cheque book from the Auditor, so would now be able to issue a cheque to CompassPoint, an account which had been outstanding for some time.

John asked for a cheque for £24, representing entry fees for the JST.

Paul handed Ben some cash he had received from members for some new O-tops.

6 Mapping

ESOC had staged an event on the new joint ESOC/INT map of the Riccarton campus. The event had been a great success. The plan was for both Clubs to hold events there in turn.

Graeme had finished the extension of the Blackford Hill map. The Club would now be able to hold events on the area for no mapping cost.

Graeme and Graham McIntyre had collaborated on producing a map of Burdiehouse Park, an area which included Ellen's Glen.

Paul mentioned that he would still like to pursue the area around Portmore Loch (in preference to Merchiston Castle school).

A contact in the City Council had intimated that there would be some changes to the area around Craigmillar Castle. ESOC were to put on a CATI there, while INT would be able to use Cammo on a map-swap basis.

7 ESOA

The Inter-Area Junior event would be held in conjunction with the Tinto Twin on 4/5 November.

The BOF Championships were to be staged at Culbin in 2008, and this would have an effect on the timing of that year's SOA Championships (which were the responsibility of the East Area, again). There was a possibility that the latter event might not take place on its traditional weekend at the end of May, but such a change would need to be checked with BOF and the SOA Executive.

The next meeting of this Committee would be on 5 September.

8 Equipment

Paul reported that the new batch of O-tops had arrived.

In addition, a new 3-hoop tent had been ordered.

Some of the 5-hoop tent's poles were broken (and the fabric might also be ripped), but it was thought that a new pole set could be obtained.

9 Socials

So far, in the new regime, one social event had taken place, in the form of a barbecue after the Buckstone Street-O on 5 July. This was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. It was hoped to hold another, perhaps after the 11-Person Relay on 8 September.

Emily wondered if the Christmas party might be better held in a hall somewhere, rather than in someone's house. In recent years, the Haley and Bloor/Alston families had been hosts. After some discussion, it was accepted that a family home was the ideal choice of venue, preferably in the City in reasonably easy reach of most members. Some names were mentioned as possible hosts for this year's event.

There was a suggestion that the Hallowe'en Party could perhaps be held in conjunction with a Night Street-O event.

10 Juniors

Stephen mentioned the team members who had taken part in the Jamie Stevenson Trophy, and that they wore Club O-tops for the event.

He also mentioned that he was still waiting for more resource material from Brad for the introductory Welcome Pack.

11 Annual General Meeting - 8 June

Paul mentioned one issue outstanding, regarding a submission to the SOA by Ann Haley concerning the description of courses at the SOA Relays, and the tendency of Short courses at recent SOL events to be too long. Paul asked for her to be reminded to e-mail him, whereupon he would raise the issue at SOA Executive level. John would contact her.

ACTION: John

12 Chairman's Report

Paul mentioned that he was beginning to tire of being the fall-back Organiser for so many events (mostly CATIs), when there were so many other Club members whom, he felt, could pull more of their weight. He wondered if there were some events which we didn't need to feel we should take on. For instance, SOLs tended to be not as lucrative as they once were, partly because the Club had made particular efforts at its recent SOLs to keep the entry fees low, but also because it was now accepted that toilets were a necessary provision and these were expensive to make available. Clearly, events held on our own maps would be more cost-effective. In addition, numbers at CATIs were increasing significantly, and this brought in more income.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to all senior Club members, soliciting views on how we should be trying to find more volunteers for event officials.

Another possibility would be more collaboration with ESOC and EUOC, although it was pointed out that these days most students, once graduated, left Edinburgh altogether.

Paul also mentioned the monthly Running Nights. Although only 6 or so turned up for these, they were most enjoyable for the participants. It was agreed to continue with them

13 Newsletter

Brad had intimated that he would like to set a deadline of the end of August for material for the next issue of the Newsletter, and would need a set of labels.

ACTION: John

14 A.O.C.B.

It was agreed that the offer of free Club membership for new beginners be continued. It was accepted that some effort should be put into producing a Marketing/Publicity board for use at CATI events.

The SOA had invested in some banners, which were hosted by key individuals in various locations around Scotland. There was one in the Edinburgh area, which seemed to be kept by either Paul or Janet Clark.

There was a brief discussion on the Club's website, culminating in the unanimous view that it needed significant overhaul. How best to achieve this was, however, hard to establish; an IT expert would be almost essential, but the issue of maintaining the site also needed to be addressed.

Chris offered to have a look over the site, and come up with some suggestions on how to proceed with updating it. One idea was to include the names of the current Committee, along with mugshots. Members were asked to provide suitable pictures, although it was realised that the Child Protection Act needed to be borne in mind when making any details of Stephen publicly available.

ACTION: All Committee members

It was mentioned that, with the departure of the Coombs family to Norway, the SOA had a new webmaster in the person of Paul Frost (Lynne Walker's partner). He had already instigated a new look for the SOA website.

Stephen offered to help with the planning of the CATI at Cammo on 14 October.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 October, at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin.

The Meeting closed at 9.05. John Barrow – 4 October 2006