FIFTH COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY THIRD YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 11 May 2009, at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin

Present: John Barrow, Pat Bartlett, Ken Daly, Lorna Eades

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Eades, Stephen Haley, Emily Seaman and Anthony Squire.

Also in attendance was Scott Fraser, the SOA Professional Officer.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 23 February 2009 were approved.

2 Matters Arising (Action Items)

- Colin had sent an OCAD map of Dechmont Law to Hugh Ilgunas for him to draw on the locations of his permanent controls.
- John had contacted Janet Clark regarding the possibility of finding someone in ESOC who might be prepared to audit the Club's accounts. The matter would be raised at ESOC's forthcoming Committee Meeting.
- Ken had drafted a reply to the SOA Competitions Review, but had not yet sent it off.

ACTION: Ken

- Ken had contacted Steve Terry regarding the area near Shotts. See under "Mapping".
- Organising a quiz at a social event was still to happen.

ACTION: Ken

- Formulating a Business Plan for the Club was still outstanding.

ACTION: Ken

- In the end, the planned Club Weekend in the Lake District was cancelled.
- Ken had talked to Paul about the Central Belt ROMP idea. They felt that only a few good technical areas exist locally and there was a high risk of vandalism; thus it could provide a poor image to beginners, not be of much interest to the experienced orienteers and put a strain on local clubs and fixture proposals.
- John had summarised the status of membership renewals for Pat. However, more information on the BOF memberships would be helpful.

ACTION: John

- The CATI at Craigmillar duly took place, with approx. 70 competitors. Thanks were due to Paul for staging the event.
- John had circulated the possible dates for 2010 SOL events to the Committee.
- Ken had visited the area near Polkemmet (for which Hugh Ilgunas had supplied a map). He concluded that it might be suitable for a CATI.
- John had informed Anthony of the Club policy on subsidising Relay entry fees.
- Relay events - see separate Report by the Club Captain.

- John had finally managed to discover that BOF had decided to support an application from the SSOA for the entire World Schools Championships team, by offering £30 per team member. However, we were thanked for the quality of our application on behalf of the ESOA Juniors.
- John's potted history of the Club was still to be begun.

ACTION: John

- The location of the AGM was still to be decided - see later.
- The Club contact details needed to be added to the Club's maps.

ACTION: Colin

- It was stressed that volunteers needed to be found and training arranged to allow them to become Coaches and SI officials.

3 SOA Professional Officer

Scott began his presentation by describing the SOA's intentions to try to increase the liaison with Clubs across Scotland. He himself would try to attend Committee Meetings of all the Clubs from Perth southwards, while Donald Grassie would visit Clubs in the North.

He noted that, in the past year, there had been a 40% increase in SOA membership (up from 1100 to 1500). One of his missions was to see how the SOA could help Club Committees to carry out their business more easily.

Two issues arose from this Club's point of view: Ken would be writing to Paul Duley and Donald Grassie to express our concern that two SOL events were planned on one weekend this year; the other point was that the "Score" magazine should always carry an up-to-date Fixtures List, and that the paper copy of the magazine should be retained. Scott replied on the latter point that the absence of the Fixtures List from the March/April issue was a one-off, pending the settling in of the new BOF fixtures management system.

Scott mentioned that the SOA has a Development budget. At present, this was being spent just on Coaching qualifications; ideas were being sought on other areas for the funds.

An issue of concern was the general standard of event officiating; this was something of a hit and miss at present. One idea was to update the Course Planning booklet. Another area to be developed was the use of, and training on, IT.

The SOA was undertaking two main Projects. The first was to create a Development Pathway to enable Juniors as young as 8 years old to progress through to Elite level, and to try to keep Juniors in the sport. Associated with this was the need to seek closer liaison with Active Schools Coordinators.

The other Project was to try to develop Major Events in partnership with Event Scotland. This would open the way to much greater sources of funding, and has been approved by the Board of the BOF. Events considered were the Junior World Championships in 2015, and the World Championships in 2017. Links with the 6-Day Event in these years would be actively encouraged. This approach would enable taking advantage of professional development personnel.

4 Secretary's Report

Nothing specific to report.

5 Treasurer's Report

Pat reported that the final accounts for SOL6 indicated a net profit of approx. £1265. This was largely due to a higher turnout than expected.

Pat distributed a draft set of Accounts for the Financial Year. The one comment he had was to stress the difficulty of collecting members' contributions towards Relay entry fees. As a one-off decision, it was agreed to dispense with any further efforts to collect any such contributions for the CompassSport Trophy event on 29 March.

It was decided to pay the entry fees for the Jamie Stevenson Trophy on 21 June. John would let Ann Haley know.

ACTION: John

6 Events

6.1 Street-Os

The programme of these events was almost finalised. The Controllers would probably be Ken and/or Graeme. In order to be registered on the BOF website, all Planners, Organisers and Controllers needed to be BOF members. In addition,risk assessments needed to be completed for each event.

6.2 Tay 2009 Day 6 - 8 August 2009

The proof maps had now been sent out. All control sites were taped.

For Day 6, a Club representative was needed to liaise with the Day Organiser (Jackie Riley), as well as a String Course Organiser.

ACTION: John, Ken

6.3 2009 SOA Score Championships - 22 November

Plans for this event were now up in the air. The initial venue, Glenearn, had been declared unsuitable, and now Gullane Dunes was rejected because Jamie's Neuk had been felled, rendering the area unusable.

(Before the latter news broke, Ken had obtained the SOA's agreement on the three points he had raised, viz. a map exchange, a committed leg to get competitors into the area, and a time extension to compensate for the latter.)

TAY had been approached to see if any of their areas might be available. They replied to the effect that Moncreiffe Hill was not, but that either Newtyle or Pitmedden would be. TAY normally charge £1 per A4 map, or £1.50 per A3, but it was hoped that a lesser sum could be agreed. A tentative proposal was made to go for Pitmedden.

6.4 Future Champions Cup Final 2010

Given the preferred terrain for this event was sand dunes, and that the only two areas in the East (Tentsmuir and Gullane Dunes) were unavailable, the Club had reluctantly passed the ball back to Jason Inman's court.

6.5 2010 SOL

Of the available dates, only those in May, June and October would really suit the Club. Ken recommended choosing a fairly remote venue, simply because there was no suitable terrain nearer home.

6.6 Other Events in 2010

It was suggested that the Club should put on the Scottish Sprint Championships (a Level 3 event) on the Saturday afternoon before the BOF Night Championships on 6 March, possibly at KB, or Riccarton, or Blackford Hill, or Craigmillar.

Instead of a SOL in 2010, it was proposed to hold a SOL at Norman's Law in March 2011 on an extended map.

A further one or two Level 3 events should also be held within the next year or so.

We should also try to put on some CATI events in the usual Saturday series.

In addition, there was also Ken's New Year local event, which was becoming a fixed feast.

7 Mapping

Ken reported on Steve Terry's area near Shotts. His impression was that some of the vegetation was complex and required for control sites, and as a result aerial photos or professional mapping would probably be required. Hence, he wondered if the Park authority would fund it, or perhaps a neighbouring Club (e.g. TINTO or STAG). He felt that, apart from its first use, it would be too small, even for a SoSOL standard event.

John had been asked by ESOC if they could use Kinneil Wood for their Sprint-O event on 31 January 2010. The Meeting agreed.

Ken proposed that we should investigate the possibility of applying for an Award for All Lottery grant, in order to finance the possible expansion of the Norman's Law map, a revision of Dechmont Law, perhaps the grounds around the Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters at Gogar, and an area at Mayfield. Scott agreed to send a copy of his Gore Glen map to Colin.

8 Equipment

Ken confirmed that the 3-pole hooped tent was in good order. He would check on the condition of the 5-pole tent.

ACTION: Ken

It was reported that the lockable kites for use at the Street-O events needed counting.

9 Club Captain

There had been no take-up for the Harvester Trophy.

The BOF Relays and JK Relays had duly taken place.

Anthony had e-mailed the members asking for names of those wanting to run at the SOA Relays.

Ann Haley would coordinate the entries for the Jamie Stevenson Trophy, to be held on 21 June at Pitmedden.

10 Juniors

Stephen had been presented with his Young Volunteer of the Year award at the JK.

11 Newsletter

Emily was putting together yet another new issue, to be produced in May; she had set a copy date of Wednesday 20 May.

12 Website

Nothing to report.

13 Training

Feedback on training activities was always welcome.

It was suggested that it would help to try to set dates for Club Weekends well in advance, such as definite Spring and Autumn sessions.

ACTION: Lorna

14 Governing Bodies

Nothing to report.

15 Marketing

Nothing to report.

16 A.O.B.

During negotiations with Edinburgh Council for the CATI at Craigmillar, it had become apparent that the appointment of a Welfare Officer for the Club might be appropriate.

Emily had recommended that the policy to offer members an opt-out for receiving paper copies of the Newsletter be changed to an opt-in policy, i.e. members would be encouraged to accept the electronic distribution, but to explicitly say that a paper copy would be preferred. This change was intended to save on ever increasing postage costs.

Pat asked if John could e-mail him the Compliments Slip.

ACTION: John

17 AGM

It was confirmed that the Meeting itself would begin at 6.30pm. The table at Tusitala would be reserved for 8pm.

A poll of those present revealed that all would be prepared to stand again for election at the AGM. However, Lorna would rather serve only 1 further year. It was the Meeting's understanding that Emily was also prepared to stand again, but only if no other volunteer could be found. John would check on the preferences of those not present, i.e. Anthony and Stephen. The question of Junior representation might need to be addressed if Stephen felt that, by going on to university, it might not be appropriate for him to continue; John would check this with the Haley family, and see if Mark might be prepared to step into Stephen's shoes.

ACTION: John

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 29 June at 19 Waverley Park, Edinburgh.

The Meeting closed at 10.11pm.

John Barrow – 25 June 2009