THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY FIFTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 26 January 2011, at 12 Dryden Place, Edinburgh

Present: Tricia Alston, John Barrow, Ken Daly, Colin Eades, Chris Galloway, Ann Haley, Mark Haley, Rachel Kirkland.

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Bartlett and Anthony Squire.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 11 October 2010 were approved.

2 Matters Arising (Action Items)

- Ken had done some work on formulating a Business Plan for the Club, but this was still incomplete.

  ACTION: Ken

- There had been no further progress on writing a potted history of the Club.

  ACTION: John

- Addition of Club details to Interløper maps was ongoing.

  ACTION: Colin

- The sending out of an e-mail soliciting volunteers to organise CATI events had now been superseded.
- It wasn't clear whether there had been any progress in purchasing a new Club tent, and a Finish banner. Ken would check the situation with Paul.

  ACTION: Ken, Paul

- The access arrangements for Buckstone and Riccarton, specifically with regard to EUOC's FWTN events on 10 February and 3 March, had not yet been checked.

  ACTION: John

- The First Aid course duly took place. Ann, Jane and Paul attended.
- Ken had now managed to extract the cash from Murray for the 2010 Street-O series, together with some more details. John gave copies of the Results to Ken.
- The Action regarding the ESOA Championships to be held at the Dechmont & Deans event had become irrelevant, since the event had to be postponed because of the weather. The Championships were eventually held in conjunction with the EUOC event in Holyrood Park on 23 January (although determining the trophy winners had become more complicated because of the change in age groups in 2011).
- Ken's New Year event had to be cancelled because of the weather, so the Action item had become superfluous.
- Ann had the Disclosure forms ready to give to Pat.
- The 2010 Hallowe'en Party had taken place in the pavilion on the Meadows, and was enjoyed by all present.

- A Training Weekend had been organised at Woodlands in Kingussie for the weekend of 19/20 March.
- The venue for the 2011 Hallowe'en Party had not yet been booked. Tricia commented that the Meadows pavilion had proved so acceptable in 2010 that she recommended that we use it this year too.

ACTION: Tricia

- Ken had yet to apply some thought to combining training sessions with a pub visit afterwards.

ACTION: Ken

- Ann and Ken had supplied Tricia with the marketing material devised by Iain Cackette.

3 Secretary's Report

John expressed his concern about the very late appearance of "Score" for November/December, and the out-of-date nature of the Fixtures List in it. Ken suggested that there were several issues which the Club could raise with the SOA, including the apparent absence of a Trophy Manager, and the current structure of the Competitions Rota. A draft letter would be prepared.

ACTION: Ken, John

John reported that, since the last Meeting, BOF had announced the availability of "event paraphernalia" in the form of publicity material and direction signs for Clubs staging CATI events in the near future. John had submitted an application, and had received the material - it consisted of a large roll-up banner (for stringing along a fence, say), as well as a selection of A1, A2 and A4 signs on polystyrene boards. The material was currently in his garage, but he would try to persuade Paul to store it with the other Club equipment.

John mentioned the condition of the Permanent Course controls at Craigmillar. Paul had asked for a copy of the control codes list, but John only had a map, together with an insert sheet with suggested courses which formed part of the pack made available to the Ranger Centre at Hermitage House for resale. He had decided to spend a happy lunchtime checking the control sites, but was rather dismayed to find that, of the 21 controls, 6 posts were missing altogether and, at another 2, the plate had disappeared to be replaced with a generic one. John would check with Paul, but recommended that we contact the Ranger Centre to suggest that the packs be withdrawn for the time being until we had had a chance to rectify the situation.

ACTION: John

It was subsequently discovered that the damage to the Craigmillar control sites was far less than first thought, and that therefore the sale of map packs could continue.

A minor panic occurred just before Christmas, when it was made known to the Club that the SportIdent Autodownload licence had expired at the end of October, and that the Club Championships were about to take place. The original purchase had been for one year only, and needless to say the renewal date had crept up unnoticed. The licence was renewed on-line for a further five years.

4 Events

4.1 Spring CATIs

Paul had both of these in hand. Robin Galloway had offered to help with the first, at Mortonhall on 19 February, since it was on his home patch. The second, at Craigmillar on 2 April, was also in hand. Paul was dealing with access permissions. Janet Clark had offered to include the events in an article to be placed in a newsletter distributed to all Primary Schools.

4.2 SOA Night Championships - 19 February

Negotiations had been going on behind the scenes to set up this event, which the Club was responsible for. Graeme Ackland was planning courses, and Ann had volunteered to be Organiser. The venue was to be the Braids and Mortonhall, and permission had been obtained to use the golf courses (two on the Braid Hills and that at Mortonhall). It wasn't clear if any other part of Mortonhall would be used. Possibilities for Controller were Sheila Strain and Ted Finch. The map had been prepared, but no courses had yet been planned. It was suggested that a certificate could be generated by converting the one used for the 2010 Sprint event. Tricia agreed to try to add a head torch to the Club's "wee man" logo for Scottish Night O adverts.

4.3 SOL 2011 - 6 March

Matters were in hand for this event. Ken pointed out that teams would be needed to (a) erect a stile, using one of the 6-Day ones which had been found behind a wall, and (b) be on hand to push cars out of the car park at the end if necessary. There might be a need to compensate the farmer for possible damage to the assembly field.

4.4 2011 SOA Relays - 29 May

Negotiations for the use of Twenty Shilling Wood had effectively fallen through. The current preferred venue was Torlum/Drummond Wood, near Drummond Castle, but permission was still in doubt - Dave Prentice was pursuing this.

So far, the Club had been unable to find an Organiser. However, Roger Scrutton (ESOC) had volunteered to take on the rôle (thanks, Roger).

John mentioned that he was Treasurer for the Weekend, and had approached the SOA Treasurer for guidance on what to do about banking. Les Dalgleish had replied to the effect that the organising Club usually handled the finances (even though, as John pointed out, there was no one organising Club). However, John recalled that, on one previous occasion, Ben Hartman (then Club Treasurer) had performed this function for the SOA Championships Weekend using the Club's account, and John recommended that the same be done this time, subject to the Meeting's approval. Ken pointed out that Pat would need to be consulted but that this seemed to be the simplest solution, and the Meeting agreed. Once Pat had given the OK, John would consult all other Clubs involved, for both the Individual and the Relay, and seek their agreement that the Weekend be treated as a whole financially (in particular, if one event makes a profit, and the other a loss, then the overall position is considered, and any profit - or loss - is shared equally by all participating Clubs).

ACTION: John

A Budget for the Weekend would need to be drawn up soon.

ACTION: John

4.5 Street-O Series 2011

Ken mentioned that six venues were under consideration, and 3 or 4 volunteers had offered to take on one event each.

John mentioned that Chris Huthwaite had asked if the Club might be able to help out with plans to stage a similar event for the Army on the evening of Tuesday 10 May at The Steils, and there was speculation that this event could form part of the Series. Ann suggested that BAOC be asked if they could open up their event to schools, as the time of day and location correlated well. Ken believed that the BAOC event was not meant to be a full open event, so much as a run out for the Army personnel who had travelled a long way that day. He would ask Chris Huthwaite.

ACTION: Ken

4.6 Oban 2011 6-Day Event - Day 4 - 4 August

Nothing further to report.

4.7 JK Sprint 2012

Ken reported that he had recently attended a JK2012 meeting. He mentioned that some of the event hierarchy had questioned the suitability of Livingston for the Sprint races, which was ironic because it was their past Professional Officer that had pursued it. They also asked how the Club thought the map could be funded and, when a sensible suggestion was made, they, somewhat rudely, told the Club to conform, even though they had asked the question and not communicated any guidelines, timetable, club groupings, funding information, etc.. Although Graeme Ackland or Kalvis Mihailovs could have been used and the Club charge the SOA copyright fee, it now looked inevitable that 3 professional mapping company quotes would be required and the best one used. The Club should not carry the risk of the JK requirements changing at the same time as a fixed budget being imposed, so it would probably be wiser for the Club to use its own mappers on Club projects. Ken also pointed out that he believed the JK communications and progress were probably circa 6 months behind, and as a consequence time was now tight.

4.8 Cancelled events

Ken mentioned that the cancelled/postponed events at Dechmont & Deans and at Loch Vaa would be re-scheduled in due course.

4.9 SoSOL 2011/12

There was a suggestion that the postponed event at Dechmont & Deans could be used as our SoSOL in the 2011/12 Series, perhaps in the Autumn. There had also been a suggestion that the 2011 ESOA Championships could be incorporated into this event, although to date the Committee had been unaware of this suggestion.

5 Juniors

Ann, Mark and Chris reported that the programme for Junior training sessions was continuing - the next would be at King's Buildings on 5 February. Ken wondered if more Club volunteers were needed to help with the sessions; however, Ann replied that Jane was now assisting, as was Pat Bartlett on occasions. Arrangements were in hand to obtain Disclosures for both of these people.

There was some discussion on selections for the World Schools Championships, being held in Italy in the Spring, for which Matt Galloway and Matt Murray had been chosen. John mentioned that last year an application had been submitted to BOF for financial support from the Bertie & Elsie Ward Fund, but it wasn't clear if this could be done this time. John would check the Fund deadlines.

ACTION: John

It was mentioned that Chris and Matt Galloway had also been selected for the ScotJOS.

Ken pointed out that Club Juniors could ask for funding help from the Club - there were several precedents for this.

6 Mapping

Graeme Ackland had written an article for the Club Newsletter to encourage potential new mappers. The Club encouraged people to have a go, and contribute to the Club's mapping aspirations and map updates.

John pointed out, and others agreed, that the map of Inch Park was significantly out of date, now that the drainage works had been completed. Graham McIntyre had done some work on it, as part of his helping Liberton Primary School.

It was suggested that some urban area maps could be extended, to include Club members' houses.

There was some discussion of OCAD licences. Colin mentioned that Graeme had acquired a licence through the auspices of the University (and hence obtained a 20% discount). However, it was felt that the Club should support such activity (subject to Pat's approval). Colin would enquire further.

ACTION: Colin

John had a feeling that the Club already had an OCAD licence, and would check in his paperwork at home.

ACTION: John

It was agreed that, for the Club's "running man" logo to be incorporated on Club maps, it should be properly digitised. Colin thought that Steve Barratt (Stirling Surveys) might be able to assist with this, and he would consult him.

ACTION: Colin

7 Equipment

As mentioned earlier, Ken would check with Paul on the status of the tent and Finish banner purchases.

Also mentioned earlier was the acquisition of the Event Paraphernalia, distributed under an agreement with BOF.

Ken reported that there had been no word on the progress of the O-tops order.

8 Club Captain

Anthony had submitted a report by e-mail, which John read to the Meeting.

It wasn't clear if a date had been chosen for the CompassSport Cup SOA round. However, once it was decided, Anthony would circulate the Club, asking members to keep the date free (and also for the Final).

He mentioned possible entry to the 2011 Jukola Relay in Finland. Despite several Club members competing for Scandinavian teams, he felt that there ought to be sufficient other members to justify entering a team for the main Jukola Relay (7 people), as well as one for the Venla (4 people). Together with the hire of a military tent, the total outlay would be £370, and he would recommend that this sum be underwritten by the Club. The first closing date was 1 March.

He also pointed out that closing dates for the major Relay events were approaching. He would target some individuals, and base team entries on responses to e-mails to the Club list.

9 Newsletter

The latest issue had been very well received.

10 Website

It seemed that Graham still needed updates from people for inclusion on the site, rather than initiating them himself. Tricia suggested, and others concurred, that some News material was now quite old, and should be put into an Archive section, rather than clutter up the front page. The same should apply to Event Results. The latter should be kept up-to-date more frequently; the latest event with results was the SoSOL at Calder Wood, back in May 2010. Almost all the 2010 Street-O Series results were outstanding, as were those for the Devilla SoSOL/CSC event.

11 Socials

There was nothing to update. All agreed that the programme had been very good so far.

There was some discussion on the proposed BBQ at the 6-Days. It was suggested that it be held on the Friday, Day 5, after that day's event, perhaps at 4pm. Someone would need to be found to coordinate it (as well as Tricia and Rob). As for location, the proposal was for somewhere on the coast, north of Connel Bridge. Colin suggested that Tim Brand might be able to come up with an idea, since he lived in the area. Colin would check with him, and liaise with Tricia.

ACTION: Colin

12 Training

As mentioned earlier, Ken would think about coordinating weekly training sessions with Pub nights.

Graham and Morag McIntyre had offered to coordinate arrangements for the Training Weekend on 19/20 March at Woodlands in Kingussie.

Tricia mentioned that she had tried to submit details of this Weekend to Graham McIntyre for inclusion on the website, but so far without success.

Ken agreed to ask Graham and Moray McIntyre if they would also take the bookings for the Training Weekend. He would then circulate an e-mail to the Club to confirm all volunteers were in place and members should book places.

ACTION: Ken

13 Marketing

Nothing to report.

14 A.O.B.

Nothing further to discuss.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16 March 2011 at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin.

Tricia and Rob were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

John Barrow – 14 February 2011