FIFTH COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY FIFTH YEAR

7.30pm, Wednesday 18 May 2011, at 11 Wilton Road, Edinburgh

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Haley and Anthony Squire.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 16 March 2011 were approved.

2 Matters Arising (Action Items)

- The creation of a Business Plan for the Club was still in hand.

ACTION: Ken

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

ACTION: John

- Colin had made some progress with adding Club details to Interløper maps. A version of the Club logo, prepared by Tricia, had been sent to Stirling Surveys with a view to working out how it could be added to maps.

ACTION: Colin

- Tricia mentioned that the Bowling Club near the Pollock Halls was already booked up for our preferred date for next Winter's Club Party. As an alternative venue, she suggested the use of their house. Graeme would be asked if he could extend the map to include Dryden Place.
- A letter to the SOA, regarding improvement ideas for Score, and for SOA generally, had still be drafted.

ACTION: Ken, John

- Colin mentioned that Lorna had prepared a digitised version of the logo using Adobe Illustrator. Tricia asked for a copy.
- Ken asked if the Club's donation to Matthew Galloway and Matthew Murray to assist them to attend the World Schools Championships had still to be sent.

ACTION: Pat

- Pat reported that the auditing of the 2009/10 Accounts was now formally complete.
- All claims for expenses for 2010/11 had now been met.
- Ken reported that the Street-O programme was now largely complete (see under Events).
- The 2011/12 SoSOL event, originally to be held on 13 November using the courses and maps from the postponed event of December 2010, would now take place on 6 November.

- Ken reported that he had received word from the SOA that any plans for the use of Loch Vaa would have to be put on hold pending the outcome of a bid to host the 2015 World Championships. He was hopeful that any costs he had incurred to date (such as map preparation) could be reclaimed.
- The discussion of the JK 2012 Sprint Championships would be moved to Events.
- It was a while since Ken had made contact with Graham McIntyre regarding updating the map of Inch Park. He would ask for a progress report.
- The tent had now been bought.
- The existence of the 5 remaining old-style O-tops had been advertised in the latest Newsletter.
- Anthony had e-mailed the Club list seeking people to take part in the BOF and SOA Relays. After some discussion, it was agreed not to subsidise any entry to the Jukola Relay.
- John had provided Ann with address labels for the Newsletter.
- Tricia had sent Graham details of the BBQ to be held at the 6-Days, but these had not yet been posted on the website. Colin was liaising with Tim Brand. At this stage, numbers attending were not needed.
- Tricia had investigated the possibility of skating at Murrayfield. There was a beginners session with instruction at lunchtime on Sundays, and more general sessions on Saturdays.
- Ken had not yet contacted Carol about the logo, although it was felt that we should still try to get in touch with Parawanga Orienteers in Canberra.
- Tricia had prepared some templates for a letterhead, event flier, etc. These would be discussed under Marketing.
- There was some discussion about the venue for the AGM. More under AOB.

3 Secretary's Report

John reported that he had received a request from John Owen at Glenalmond College for a copy of a suitable Street-O map of central Edinburgh. He was organising a 3-day exercise for some Lower Sixth students at the College. On the third day, the students were to make their way from Redford Barracks via Braidburn Park to the area covered by this map, search for some locations on it, before heading for the Castle to defuse a bomb, thereby saving the world.

Ken and Colin had been able to provide PDFs of a map, with and without an overprinted course, and John had e-mailed these to the College. They had proved to be most suitable, and John Owen was concerned that the Club should be recompensed. However, the Meeting agreed that this was not necessary, but that the College should be aware that the map itself was likely to become out of date over the course of time, and that they should make their own arrangements for risk assessment. If they really wanted to give the Club something, a donation would be most welcome. It might be worth finding out if they wanted an overprint for the map. John would get in touch.

ACTION: John

4 Treasurer's Report

Pat reported that the Park World Tour organisers had sent the Club £250. Colin Eades and Graeme Ackland were thanked for their parts in the organisation of this event in Perth.

The accounts for the SOA Night Championships had been finalised, and the net surplus was £406. This took account of a fee of £70 for the use of the Golf Clubhouse. It was noted that there was no charge for mapping.

Ann mentioned that there was no really satisfactory First Aid Kit at the SOA Nights. She was convinced that the Club used to own one, probably as recently as the SoSOL at Calder Wood in May 2010, although it could not now be found. Jane would be asked to advise on creating and stocking a new Kit.

ACTION: John

Pat reported that the accounts for the SOL at Dalrulzion were nearly finalised, with an expected surplus of £1100. There were over 400 entries in total.

He mentioned that he was close to finalising the Accounts for 2010/11. Once finished, he would circulate them to the Committee, before the AGM.

John had resurrected the question of Club membership fees, raised at last year's AGM. The significant point was that these had remained unchanged since 1998, standing at £5, £1 and £7 for Seniors, Juniors and Families, and that there would be some justification in raising them, simply from the general cost-of-living standpoint. However, it was pointed out that, compared with Event Income, income from membership fees constituted a much smaller amount, even though (as John pointed out) Relay entry fees had increased over the same period. John had discovered that the corresponding fees for ESOC were £8, £3 and £12, although there was some confusion over whether these included the BOF Local fee. (It was subsequently discovered that the wording on the ESOC website was slightly misleading in that SOA and BOF Local fees for new members were waived in the first year of membership in any case, for all Scottish Clubs.)

After some discussion, it was decided not to recommend an increase in membership fees at the AGM.

5 Juniors

Chris reported that he had been selected for the GB team to attend the European Youth Championships. (Rona Lindsay of ESOC had also been chosen.)

He also mentioned that Alan Cherry had been selected for the JWOC team.

Ann mentioned that Jane and Pat had helped at the recent Junior training session, which was very well attended.

She also mentioned that the Addison family intended to renew their BOF Local membership.

Matthew Murray had written, thanking the Committee for the donation towards his attending the World Schools Championships.

6 Events

6.1 Spring CATIs

The Craigmillar event on 2 April took place as planned, with an excellent turn-out. Thanks to Paul for his efforts, as ever.

6.2 2011 SOA Relays - 29 May

Ken reported that Graeme was having to modify some courses, because at the last minute SNH had expressed concern about some areas in the middle of the map. Ken also asked members to support Roger Scrutton is his efforts to recruit people. It was suggested that Roger should be given a couple of bottles of wine for his efforts - Tricia would get these.

ACTION: Tricia

6.3 Street-O Series 2011

As mentioned earlier, the programme was now complete with most officials in place. It was suggested that control cards be used, with SI simply recording Start and Finish times.

6.4 Oban 2011 6-Day Event - Day 4 - Torinturk - 4 August

It was reported that a section of the middle of the map had become unavailable. Consequently, some courses had had to be modified at short notice. Nottingham O.C. had generously offered their help on the day. Ken agreed to thank LOC, but stand them down. Moravian were hoping to recruit some RAFO members to organise the car parking. A String Course organiser was still needed.

6.5 SoSOL Series 2011/12 / ESOA Championships

As mentioned earlier, this event would now take place on 6 November. Oleg and Graeme were happy to reprise their rôles of Planner and Organiser from last December.

6.6 New Year Fling

Ken had abandoned any plans to hold an event next New Year.

6.7 JK Sprint 2012

Ken mentioned that progress now needed to be made on appointing volunteers, and to considering how the map should be prepared. Although Graeme Ackland was happy to be involved in the mapping, he didn't want to get involved in financial discussions with BOF, who would probably want three tenders.

6.8 Tinto Twin

Ken proposed that the Club consider hosting an annual flagship event, akin to the EUOC "Big Weekend", to consist of a Night and a Street event, normally using Livingston.

7 Mapping

Ann asked about map packs for the Craigmillar permanent course, specifically where to get hold of them. She felt it wasn't clear on the website how this was achieved. It also wasn't clear how Club members could obtain copies of the map with all the controls on - Colin didn't have it. Paul would be asked if he had any of the material for the map packs. John would investigate, and ask Graham to amend the website if necessary.

ACTION: John

Ann also mentioned that there were references to ESOC and INT on the website for the Friends of Braidburn Park, but that the link to the INT site didn't work. She would let John have the site address, and John would try to get the link changed.

ACTION: Ann, John

The issue of extending the Norman's Law map was discussed again. It was suggested that a plea be made at the AGM for a volunteer to undertake this work. It was also suggested that we should go ahead with the project, regardless of whether we apply for funding. Rachel suggested contacting Richard Speirs to see if he could find out details of, and seek permissions from, relevant landowners.

ACTION: Rachel

Ken had some information about Norman's Law and a list of other smaller areas which could be mapped. Ann mentioned Portmore Loch, to the east of the A703 between Leadburn and Eddleston, which Paul had proposed some years ago. It was also suggested that Calder Wood might be extended further south to include the area previously used for parking and the woods on the other side of the railway.

Graeme Ackland and Jegor Kostylev were apparently interested in re-mapping the grounds of Merchiston Castle School, and merging it with the adjacent Colinton Dell. There currently existed a map, prepared by Doug Tullie. However, the School was believed to be very reluctant to allow the public on to its grounds. Nevertheless, it was felt that an approach could be made which would highlight the benefits which could accrue to both the School and the orienteering fraternity. John mentioned that he knew a staff member, and would get in touch to try to obtain names of either PE or Geography staff who could be approached.

ACTION: John

8 Equipment

Paul had organised the new tent purchase, and it was now sitting in his hallway.

Almost all the new O-tops which had been pre-ordered had now been delivered, and most had been paid for (Webb and Ambler outstanding). Some interest had been expressed in a re-order.

9 Club Captain

There had been no news from Anthony. However, Ken thanked him in absentia for handling the various Relay team entries.

(Subsequent to the Meeting, Anthony had tendered his resignation, owing to his pending move to Nottingham.)

10 Newsletter

The latest issue appeared during April, and all agreed that the quality was excellent.

11 Website

There was some discussion on the website. It was suggested that some content was out of date, other areas sparse and some news not reported. It was suggested that older material be archived.

It was mentioned that several SOA Clubs had had their websites set up in a manner recommended by Paul Frost, the SOA website manager, and that it might prove useful to investigate this option. Other ideas put forward were to revamp the image akin to the templates, and consider recruiting a Reporter. Ken agreed to discuss this with Graham McIntyre and investigate the ideas.

ACTION: Ken

12 Socials

There was nothing further to report, other than what had been mentioned in Matters Arising.

13 Marketing

Tricia had circulated the Committee with suggested templates for a Letterhead, an Event Flier, a CATI Flier, a Compliments Slip, and a Certificate, and had asked for comments at the Meeting. There was considerable discussion, very complimentary. It was suggested that any further comments should be sent to Tricia by 4 June, and she could then produce final copies. John could then use them to produce working copies of the Letterhead and the Compliments Slip.

Tricia also wondered if there would be any demand for buffs in the Club colours. However, it was felt that the likely cost of these (approx. £12 each) was a bit excessive. She would send an e-mail around the Club seeking expressions of interest, to try to judge viability.

ACTION: Tricia

14 Training

There was nothing to report on the regular Thursday evening sessions.

Ken mentioned that the Training Weekend had been a great success, and he thanked all involved in organising it.

15 A.O.B.

- The date of the AGM was discussed again. Ken and John both indicated that they could not now make the original date of 23 June. After some discussion, it was agreed to hold the Meeting the following Thursday, 30 June.

  The Meeting was asked if anyone wanted to stand down from the Committee. Ann mentioned that Mark wished to do so. Otherwise, everyone indicated their willingness to continue in office.

  There was some concern that the management at The King's Buildings had revised the way in which they dealt with room bookings, and that the charge for hiring the same room as last year would be £35. It was suggested that the use of the conservatory at The Steading, at Hillend, be investigated. ESOA AGMs had been held there for several years, and there was no hire fee provided that most attendees also stayed for a meal afterwards. John would try to find out the availability, and confirm this with Ann. It was suggested that the Meeting should start at 6:30, with the meal to follow at about 8pm.

  ACTION: John

- It was mentioned that Colin, Ken, Paul and others had attended a BOF Event Safety Training course recently.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at a time and place to be decided by the new Committee elected at the AGM.

Pat and Su were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9.51.

John Barrow – 26 June 2011