SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Wednesday 23 November 2011, at 34 Queen Margaret Close, Edinburgh

Present: Tricia Alston, John Barrow, Pat Bartlett, Ken Daly, Ann Haley, Rob Lee, Rachel Kirkland.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Eades and Chris Galloway.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 26 September 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

- The addition of Club details to Interløper maps was still Ongoing.

ACTION: Colin

- A letter to the SOA on various matters had still to be drafted

ACTION: Ken, John

- John and Ken had asked Jane about stocking the First Aid Kit, but the issue was quite tricky in the light of possible litigation concerns. It was suggested that Barry be consulted, as well as trying to find out what other Clubs did.

ACTION: John

- John had investigated the availability of the Craigmillar Woods Permanent Course map packs. However, the information on where to obtain them had yet to be put on the website.

ACTION: John

- Ann had put together and submitted a Development Grant application. However, although the application was not successful, the SOA feedback indicated that a re-submission with more ambitious aims might be looked on more favourably. This could include plans for a significant increase in the programme of CATI events, and the purchase of a SportIdent Kit.
- The possible errors in the Telephone List had not yet come to light. The Committee were asked to check the list again to see if any mistakes could be identified.

ACTION: The rest of the Committee

- Any relationship between annual Event Income and the level of Surplus or Deficit would need to be discussed once Pat had arrived later in the Meeting.
- The suggested entry fees for the Dechmont/Deans event were satisfactory.

- The only practical SoSOL date (26 February) had turned out to be somewhat contentious in that the SOA Nights Champs were taking place the previous evening on Deeside, and the organisers might want to put on an event on the Sunday to attract more competitors.

  Regretfully, therefore, it was accepted that it wouldn't be possible to put on an event in the current financial year. However, there were two possible dates later in the Spring, 29 April and 27 May. Unfortunately, it was later realised that the latter date was pencilled in for the ESOC Long-O. Consequently, it was agreed to pursue the possibility of putting on an event on 29 April (even though this was not long after the JK). John would check the availability of Riccarton on that date.

  ACTION: John

- There had been no progress with identifying a date for a SOL at Norman's Law in the Spring of 2013. Paul was unlikely to be in a position yet to have determined dates for the SOL programme for that year. However, a tentative enquiry would be made.

3 Secretary's Report

An SOA Club Development Conference would take place, probably at Fordell Firs in Fife, on Saturday 26 May 2012, and it would be appropriate that one or more representatives from the Club attended. Ken indicated that he would attend if his diary permitted. Perhaps someone else could be persuaded to go (possibly Pat Bartlett).

John reported that two new members had joined the Club. Steven McHarg was from Livingston, and had been at the ESOA/INT Champs recently with his brother Andrew. His connection was through the Hartmans. The other newcomers were Tim and Heather Kieniewicz (defectors from ESOC) - they happened to live in the adjacent street to Ken.

John mentioned the recent Event Safety Workshop for Organisers, held by Roger Scrutton and Ian Pyrah. Ann (as well as Paul) had attended, and found it most worthwhile. Colin Eades had attended the pilot Course, and Ken had also been on one. It was felt that more Club members should attend such a Workshop.

This last point raised an issue regarding what the BOF database contained as regards Club members qualifications (whether as a Controller, a Coach, or if they held a Disclosure or a First Aid certificate). John would try to find out.

ACTION: John

It would probably be good to try to find out the level of interest within the Club for a further Event Safety Workshop. Ann would summarise the proceedings and circulate the membership. Responses should come to John.

ACTION: Ann

Lindsey Knox had circulated Clubs, asking for opinions on how the surplus from Oban 2011 should be allocated. The sum available for distribution was unknown, but as a rough guide it was believed that previous 6-Days had allocated approx. £1000 for each Day. The Meeting agreed that the sum ought to be divided equally between the Clubs involved, regardless of their degree of involvement in the organisation or indeed their membership levels. John would reply, but would also try to confirm which Clubs were involved on Day 4 (probably only Moravian and ourselves). Ken was keen that Moravian and RAFO should be treated as a single Club, since most of those involved had dual-membership, and it could set a risky precedent with regard to all the non-Scottish clubs that help.

ACTION: John

Roger Scrutton had circulated a summary of the Club-only membership discussion at the BOF Club and Association Conference on 15 October. John had circulated this summary to the Club membership. It was stressed that this was still a discussion topic, but firmer proposals would be brought forward in time for the BOF AGM next Easter. Roger would advise Clubs nearer the time. A watch should be kept for the BOF proposals, and the Club should flag up any concerns we might want to comment on.

ACTION: All

4 Development Fund bid

As mentioned in Matters Arising, Ann had submitted a bid for SOA Development funds. As reported there, the SOA had turned it down, but recommended that a subsequent more ambitious bid be submitted, to include items like the purchase of a SportIdent kit. Any successful bid would expect to be accompanied by matched funding from the Club, which the SOA had indicated should be possible since Interløpers were relatively healthy financially (having a bank balance in the region of £9000). The SOA also explained that Scottish clubs generally had a range of balances between £2000 and £15000 each. Ken had ideas for the Club to offer a JK Legacy programme, and link it to the Club's Development Grant bid. Ideas for such Development projects would be welcome from Club members.

ACTION: Ken

5 Events

Ken expressed the thanks of the Club to all volunteers and helpers at the ESOA/Club Championships, held at Dechmont/Deans on 6 November. There was a fine turn-out, with over 200 participants.

5.1 CATI - Cammo, 26 November

Members were asked to note the CATI, being run by Paul at Cammo on 26 November.

5.2 SoSOL 2011/12

As described in Matters Arising, John would try to find out from Heriot-Watt about the availability of Riccarton on 29 April 2012.

5.3 JK 2012

Preparations were progressing.

5.4 Street-O Series 2012

Ken asked, and the Meeting confirmed, that the Club should continue to arrange an annual Street-O series. No action was really needed at this early stage, other than to recognise that liaison with ESOC over dates would be advisable.

5.5 SoSOL 2012/13

John would try to find out from Paul if there were any available dates in Autumn 2012 for a SoSOL, although it was unlikely at this early stage that any consideration had yet been given to this Series. A tentative venue of Gullane Dunes was suggested.

ACTION: John

5.6 SOL 2013

As mentioned in Matters Arising, possible dates for a SOL in February/March 2013 would be sought from Paul.

ACTION: John

As far as anyone was aware, there were no pressing requirements for the Club to prepare for any SOA-level events in the near future (recognising that the Individual Championships in 2014 would probably become our next major commitment).

6 Mapping

Arrangements to extend the map of Norman's Law really needed to be pushed along soon. Details of the new landowners should be found, and the relevant people approached. It wasn't clear if Dr Melvyn Thomson, the one-time owner of Denmuir Farm, was still there, but if so he might be able to help.

ACTION: Offers please

7 Equipment

It was suggested that some suitable stakes for maze orienteering could be acquired. It was noted that a pole in the new tent still needed to be replaced.

8 Club Captain

Rob reported that the team at the CompassSport Trophy Final acquitted themselves very well, coming second by just 9 points. It was a very good event, held in lovely weather at Longshaw in Derbyshire. He recommended that, in future years, should the Club reach the Final, the entry fees should be fully subsidised by the Club.

He mentioned that next year's Final would be organised by Roxburgh Reivers on John Tullie's farm in the Borders, on 30 September 2012. The provisional venue for the SOA round was Faskally, on 19 February 2012, organised by STAG.

The next Relay event would be the JK, at Newtyle on 9 April 2012.

9 Training

The Club's training programme was continuing.

Pat mentioned that there had been a recent e-mail from ESOC, concerning their Circuit Training sessions, with an invitation for Club members to join in. Unfortunately, the sessions were held at the Royal High School in Davidson's Mains, which was a bit inconvenient for most Interløpers. Pat would forward the e-mail.

ACTION: Pat

Rob mentioned the Crags Centre, near Holyrood Park, which apparently had good facilities at very reasonable rates. He would enquire further.

ACTION: Rob

Ann would investigate the availability of the gym at the King's Buildings.

ACTION: Ann

Post-Meeting note: Ken and Tricia were making enquiries with the Inch Park establishment.

10 Juniors

Ann announced some significant results from the recent Schools Sprint and British Schools events.

She demonstrated the new Club Event Record Cards, to be issued in conjunction with the 5, 10 and 25 Completed Events badges. She arranged with Ken for him to take a batch of cards to Cammo for the CATI on Saturday.

11 Newsletter

The latest issue had appeared, to general acclaim.

12 Website

Graham McIntyre had set up a draft website based on the Googlesite mechanism. This allowed the specifying of approved contributors to the site, based on a username/password. He had communicated the details of this new site to selected people (although unfortunately not to the Secretary), and invited them to have a look at the new site and to experiment with adding material.

It was suggested that a follow-up meeting be held in the near future to try to finalise the appearance and layout of the new site, before making it go live, perhaps before Christmas. Tricia offered to host a meeting at her house, and the date of Tuesday 29 November was settled upon, at 7pm. Graham and Robin Galloway would be invited, along with Colin Eades.

Ann promised to forward Graham's e-mail to John to allow him to look at the new site prior to Tuesday's meeting.

ACTION: Ann and John

13 Socials

The Hallowe'en Party was duly held on 28 October, and was well attended. Tricia and Rob were thanked for their hospitality.

There was some discussion about a Christmas Party. Eventually, it was decided to investigate possibilities for venues on the way back from the TAY Christmas event on 11 December at Kinnoull - the venues should probably be in the Edinburgh area. Tricia would investigate.

ACTION: Tricia

14 Training Weekend

Graham McIntyre had offered to arrange a Training Weekend, but was struggling to find suitable dates in the Spring. He has asked if anyone could suggest suitable dates. The meeting considered the possibility of holding it in conjunction with the CompassSport Trophy round at Faskally on the weekend of 19 February, perhaps at Faskally Youth Hostel, but it was also thought that it would be better to find a free weekend or at least a weekend that did not clash with an important event.

ACTION: All

15 Marketing

People were encouraged to begin using the templates which Tricia had prepared.

ACTION: All

16 Treasurer's Report

Pat handed round copies of a draft Budget for the Year, and summarised some key points.

In response to the Action item in the previous Minutes, he had investigated the Financial Statements for previous Years, and had found that there was indeed a strong relationship between Event Income and overall Surplus.

Pat accepted that the Club was due to pay the ESOA for SOA Relay entries fees for ESOC and INT, paid directly into the Club's bank account. John confirmed that, at the recent ESOA Committee Meeting, it was accepted that the resultant overall surplus would be retained by the Association, and would not be distributed among the organising Clubs.

17 A.O.B.

- Pat drew attention to an article in the Autumn "Focus" about qualifications held by Club members, in particular with regard to attendance at Event Safety workshops and grading of Event Organisers. Club Fixtures Secretaries had been asked to check the details in the BOF database, and confirm the details. John wasn't sure if he was nominated as the Club's Fixtures Secretary, and would check with BOF.

  ACTION: John

  (Subsequently, it was confirmed that he was. He was then able to download the details of qualifications as BOF understood them, in the categories of Controller, Organiser, holder of valid First Aid and Coaching certificates, and valid Disclosures.)

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 February 2012 at 11 Wilton Road, Edinburgh

Ken expressed the thanks of the Meeting to Ann and Graham for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.15. John Barrow – 5 December 2011