INTERLØPERS

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FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Wednesday 28 May 2014, at 19 Waverley Park, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Pat Bartlett, Max Carcas, Ken Daly, Colin Eades, Rachel Kirkland, Rob Lee.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 10 March 2014 were approved.

2 Action Items

John distributed copies of the Action Items spreadsheet, as it stood to date. Comments on the Items follow in the order on the spreadsheet.

- Ken had made a start on drawing up a list of Club maps, and had sent it to Colin.
- There had been no progress in organising a visit to Drummond Hill.
- John had chased up non-renewers, and the membership list was now stable for 2014.
- The Awards for All bid for club map updates would be considered once a recce of Drummond Hill had taken place.
- Discussion of an event in the 2014/15 SoSOL Series was deferred until later. See "Commitments" and "Other Events".
- Access to information about available First Aid courses was now fairly well known. In fact, perusal of the Coaching Edinburgh website revealed that a two-evening course was available on 17/18 June, and an all-day course was scheduled for Sunday 17 September. Those members who needed to attend a course would be encouraged to apply, and the Club would pay the fee.
- Graham would be asked to check out the legalities and practicalities of including references to Flickr links on the Club website.
- The question of publishing O-maps on the website revolved around the use or otherwise of O.S. base material, and hence the requirements of Copyright needed to be addressed. This item was Ongoing.
- Persuading Club members to provide completed Gift Aid registrations was continuing. The latest effort resulted in only four further forms.
- The taxation issue had been resolved. See "Treasurer's Report".
- The recruitment of an Events Coordinator was still Outstanding.
- Updating the Event Registration card was still Outstanding.

ACTION: John

- Murray had still to respond about providing material for an Elite section on the website.
- A replacement String had yet to be bought. Ken had made some investigations.

ACTION: Ken, Paul

- Information on landowners on Turnhouse Hill was now known.
- A Report to the Committee to explain the West Lothian Council (WLC) Development Project, and the Grant Bid for the Project, was outstanding.
- The status of the Permanent Controls at Craigmillar had still to be checked.

ACTION: Ken

- The Base Map for the Dechmont Permanent Course was still to be updated.
- There had been no progress in revamping the website to make News more prominent.

ACTION: Graham

- New display boards were yet to be purchased.

ACTION: Paul

- Collection of Relay entry fees was ongoing. Very little was outstanding from 2012. This Item was felt to be so routine that it was not considered worthwhile to include as an Action Item for each Meeting.
- A review of available Software Licences was still Ongoing.
- Preparation of the Club History was still to be done, but it was thought to be a good idea to pursue this with some degree of urgency.

ACTION: John

- A Business Plan had still to be written.

3 Secretary's Report

John reported that his latest attempt to persuade adult members to submit Gift Aid declarations resulted in only 4 further submissions. This left approx. 45 outstanding.

There had been suggestions of a possible merger with ESOC. After delving through previous AGM Minutes, John found that the matter had been raised at the 2005 AGM but, although it was not put to a vote, the overall feeling at the time was not in favour.

Ken elaborated on the last item. It seemed that the issue had been raised by both Graeme Ackland and members of the ESOC Committee. He had received an e-mail from someone at ESOC, but could not positively remember who. He would look through his messages to try to find it. After some discussion, it was suggested that the membership be circulated with a proposal to raise the matter at the forthcoming AGM. A list of pros and cons would be drawn up and presented to the next Committee Meeting.

Consideration of the Treasurer's Report was deferred until Pat's arrival.

4 Past Events

4.1 Local Events

The event at Craigmillar on 29 March attracted a good turn-out. Thanks were expressed to all involved.

4.2 SOC 2014 - 24/25 May

The SOA Championships Weekend had just taken place, and was a great success. Ken was congratulated on his organisation, and in his turn he thanked all who helped.

5 Commitments

5.1 Race the Castles

Volunteers to Plan and Organise the Warm-Up race for this event on 10 October had still to be identified. In a later discussion, Max offered to plan.

5.2 SoSOL 2014/15

It had been realised that attempting to hold an event on Turnhouse Hill in November would not be a good idea. Consequently, it was decided to postpone this event. However, if the Club could acquire permission to use a wooded venue, such as Tulliallan, it should host a SoSOL on 2 November 2014.

5.3 Club Championships

Robin Galloway was due to organise this. It was suggested that it could piggy-back on another event. Later on, however, it was thought that it could take place on 2 November.

5.4 SOL 2015 - 8 March

Volunteers for Planner and Organiser for this event, hopefully to be held at Drummnd Hill, were still needed.

5.5 Scottish Schools - May 2015

Ken mentioned that this was likely to be held at Dechmont, and that the Club might be asked to help.

5.6 Highland 2015

The Club would be joined by CLYDE, SOLWAY and EUOC in putting on Day 4 at Darnaway, on Thursday 6 August.

5.7 2017 6-Days

The Club was now committed to taking on the Central Organisation of this event with MAROC.

6 Other Events

- Mike Atherton had asked if the Club could offer some assistance at this year's Lakes 5-Day event, on Day 4 at Langdale. This would depend on how many members were intending to travel to the Lakes.
- There was some discussion as to whether we should try to put on some Local Events in Spring or Summer 2015. John would try to obtain a schedule of ESOA planned events to see if there were any available dates.
- There was further discussion on the subject of a SoSOL in the 2014/15 Series. Although the idea of an event at Turnhouse Hill in November had been abandoned, it was suggested that we might be able to find another venue. Some discussion ensued about the possible use of Devilla, and the area between it and the Tulliallan Police College. This would be followed up. John was asked to make sure that Paul didn't remove the 2 November date from the Fixtures List.
- A tentative suggestion was made to make sure we bid for an event in the 2016 SOL Series, with a possible venue of Gullane Dunes. At present, the date was negotiable.

7 Mapping

At present, updates were still needed for the maps of Drummond Hill and Mortonhall. A car load of volunteers was to visit Drummond Hill to assess the level of professional mapping required.

8 Equipment

Ken reported that Paul was aware of the requests for new equipment. He (Ken) had done some market research on suitable string, but had not yet come to a conclusion.

The possibility of acquiring more SI units was mentioned, though it was realised that they were quite expensive (approx. £90 each). The Committee decided not to purchase any more, but to borrow SOA units when hosting full events.

9 Club Captain

Rob mentioned that, of the three major Relay events, two (the JK and the Scottish) had now taken place. The Club were Champions at both events. It just remained for the BOF Championships, being held on the forthcoming weekend.

Rob would make further efforts to recover outstanding entry fees. The question was asked as to whether it was feasible to collect contributions on the day, but Rob felt this idea wouldn't work.

For this year's Relays, the fees for both the JK and the SOA events were the much the same as in previous years, while those for the BOF Champs. were higher. However, on balance, and after some discussion, it was felt that the policy of collecting £10 from Seniors, and fully subsidising Juniors, should continue. Ken suggested that reiteration of the policy should be described in an article in the Newsletter.

It was pointed out that, this year, the Club had not entered the CompassSport Trophy, so there would be no outlay in supporting entry fees for this event.

10 Treasurer

Pat reported that the accounts were being finalised for the 2013/14 Financial Year. Hence any outstanding claims from the Committee should be submitted very soon.

The surpluses for the INTrepid Weekend were now pretty well finalised. The Howden event made £490, while the SoSOL at Dechmont brought in £520. (The latter figure was in spite of an outlay of £450 for a map update.) Major factors in these surpluses were a good entry and no toilet costs.

As a consequence of the introduction of BOF's new Levy structure, which required each participant to be counted in the levy calculation with no minimum cut-off, it was felt that a suggestion should be made to the ESOA to recommend an increase in the normal entry fees for any future SoSOL events. However, event organisers should note the level above which events were liable for SOA levy (currently £8 per BOF Senior).

There were no map costs for the Craigmillar Local Event, so the expected surplus for this event was likely to exceed that for the Kinneil event for this reason, and because of the significantly larger turn-out.

Pat asked for a contact address in LOC so he could send them the agreed donation for their assistance at last year's 6-Days.

There were still a few O-tops for which payment had not yet been forthcoming.

11 Training

Nothing to report.

12 Juniors

Pat reported that the remaining ESOA Junior training sessions for the year had taken place, the last one at Vogrie being devoted to Relays.

He also suggested that, as in previous years, the entries to the Jamie Stevenson Trophy on 15 June be fully subsidised by the Club, and the Meeting agreed.

Finally, he mentioned that the Scottish Schools Championships would be taking place at Drumpellier on Friday 6 June.

13 Child Protection

In Barry's absence, there was nothing to report.

14 Newsletter

Mary had circulated the Club, asking for contributions for the next issue, and setting a copy date of 9 June.

15 Website

In Graham's absence, there was no significant discussion. It was simply recognised that the site really needed a major refresh.

Ken asked if Jane's offer at a previous AGM to act as Reporter still stood. Max would ask her.

16 Socials

It was agreed that we should have a meal in conjunction with the AGM. Discussion of any dates was deferred to later in the Meeting.

Max also mentioned that he would be attending the Swiss O-Week, and any other members were welcome to join him for a social occasion during the course of the event.

17 Marketing

Ken suggested that efforts should be made to write up the Club History.

18 A.O.B.

- As predicted at the last Meeting, the West Lothian Council Awards for All grant would not cover the original targets. The Club (in the persons of himself and Graeme Ackland) would probably be able to take on the mapping of the two parks, Eliburn and Almond, while the Grant could pay for the mapping of School grounds and the training of teachers.
- Ken and John would liaise on trying to find appropriate First Aid courses for potential Club coaches and those willing to be first aiders at events to attend. John pointed out that Coaching Edinburgh had a continuing programme of courses at the Inch Community Centre, so it was suggested that those who needed to attend a course be encouraged to apply. Pat agreed that attendance at such courses should be subsidised by the Club, at a cost of £60 each.
- Max wondered if a report needed to be provided for BOF describing our use of the SI kit over the past year. Ken suggested that we should only expend effort on it if a request were forthcoming.
- John referred to the Action Item regarding taxation risks for Club accounts. He was clearly under a misunderstanding, since the issue actually concerned payment for services. Pat explained that what was not permissible was paying volunteers for anything other than their expenses when doing work for a Club. Payments to registered companies was of course perfectly acceptable. The Action was therefore considered complete.

19 AGM

After a short discussion, it was agreed to set the date of the Meeting at Thursday 26 June (provided the preferred venue, The Steading at Hillend, could accommodate us). If so, John would book the venue, ask Mary to place an advert in the next Newsletter, and circulate the membership with an appropriate Notice. He would also ask members to contact Max if they wanted to remain for the post-Meeting meal. It was agreed to set the Meeting start time at 6:45pm, and the meal would follow at 8pm.

Ken announced that he would be standing down as Chairman. Several names were suggested as potential successors, and they would be contacted informally to sound out their views.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at a venue and date to be arranged by the new Committee elected at the AGM.

Ken was thanked by the Meeting for his hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.00. John Barrow – 21 August 2014