INTERLØPERS

(www.interlopers.org.uk)

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SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, THIRTY NINTH YEAR

7.30pm, Wednesday 19 November 2014, at 11 Wilton Road, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Pat Bartlett, Max Carcas, Rob Lee, Barry Owen, Pat Squire.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Eades and Mary Ross.

After some persuasion, Max offered to chair the Meeting.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 2 September 2014 were approved.

2 Action Items

The Action Items spreadsheet had previously been distributed. Comments on the Items follow in the order on the spreadsheet.

- John had approached the Forestry Commission regarding permission to use Drummond Hill for our SOL on 8 March 2015. The upshot was that most of the forest would be out of bounds to us - capercaillie restrictions would be in force from 1 March until mid-September. In addition, a zip-wire company using an area on the south side of the forest, near the public entrance, did not want cars using the forest road access, so parking on forest roads would be impossible. The public car park was too small to cope with the number of cars expected at a SOL. Despite representations from Colin Matheson, the FC would not budge. Accordingly, John recommended that the use of Drummond Hill for the SOL be abandoned.

  There followed a discussion on whether an alternative venue could be identified. Various suggestions were made, in particular Dalrulzion. However, it was agreed that the simplest solution would be to go for Gullane Dunes, and find another venue for the projected SOL on 10 April 2016. John would apply to East Lothian Council as soon as possible, as well as the other interested parties. Once formal permissions had been granted, the SOA could be informed, and a Controller sought.

  ACTION: John

- Following on from the above, it was felt that spending a large amount of money updating the map of Drummond Hill would not be cost-effective; restrictions on when the forest could used would make it unlikely that we would ever recoup such an outlay.
- Pat S had drawn up a draft Event Programme for the next 18 months, and had distributed it around the Committee.
- Investigations into the publishing of maps on the website were continuing.

  ACTION: Rob, Ken

- Colin was currently attending a meeting of the 6-Day Event Company. Consequently, he might soon be able to provide some information on what might be needed at this stage for Deeside 2017 (or whatever it's to be called).
- FVO had agreed that we could use their map of Tulliallan for the proposed SoSOL on 26 April 2015. They would charge a unit map royalty of £1.50. Hazel Dean had provided details of who to apply to for permissions to use the area. Pat had circulated the Club membership, asking for volunteers for Planner and Organiser. John would try to obtain permissions.

ACTION: John

- John had managed to find out from East Lothian Council that the public toilets at Gullane would be open from 1 April until 30 September. However, this was now largely academic, since we had decided to use Gullane Dunes for the SOL on 8 March 2015, when those toilets would be still closed, and we would have to provide other facilities.
- Max had been notified about the two parties. He had already organised a very successful Vampire-O for Hallowe'en, on The Meadows, and had recently announced the Christmas Party, to take place on Sunday 21 December.
- The details of who in ESOC had proposed a merger were still unknown.

ACTION: Ken

- Pat S had asked around about what maps the Club owned. Colin had sent him a list, in the form of a spreadsheet. It was suggested that details of when each area was last used should be added to the spreadsheet.
- The updating of the map of Drummond Hill had been abandoned.
- There had been no further progress in investigating Flickr links for the website.
- Updating the Event Registration card was still Outstanding.

ACTION: John

- John had finally managed to persuade Ann to provide the updated Junior Handbook material for posting on the website. He had yet to decide how it should be presented, and would probably liaise with Jane Ackland.

ACTION: John

- There was some disquiet about how long it was taking to acquire a Replacement String and new Display boards, despite budgets being provided. Pat S said he would make some investigations into what was available. John would get in touch with Paul to see if he had made any progress on either acquisition.

ACTION: Pat S, John

Discussion on the remaining Action Items was deferred, since almost all of them involved Ken.

3 Secretary's Report

John announced that a new Family had joined the Club. They were Trish Johnson and her daughters Emma and Katie.

Nominet, our ISP, had been in touch to announce that a new series of top-level .uk domain names were becoming available. This meant that we would be able to reserve the address www.interlopers.uk if we so wished. After some discussion, it was agreed that there was no need to follow this up.

Hilary Quick had circulated a letter from the SOA President, Roger Scrutton, containing three Action points which he wanted Clubs to respond to.

- Firstly, Sportscotland had asked that all Clubs affiliated to the SOA should complete a declaration form, confirming their affiliation. Since there was no Club affiliation fee to the SOA, this was merely a formality. John had completed the form, and returned it to Hilary.

- Next, Tiso had offered to provide a free poster for display in Community Sports Hubs and similar sports centres. A link to a list of over 130 such hubs and centres had been given, so John had gone through it to identify which were within the catchment area of the Club (and, by analogy, within that of ESOC). He had come up with 9 locations, 5 of which were Sports Centres and 4 were Community High Schools. He had replied accordingly to Hilary, and copied the reply to the ESOC Secretary. Subsequently, Janet Clark had been in touch, suggesting a brief meeting to discuss the local content for the poster, and to work out a strategy for getting in touch with the hubs and centres. John would meet Janet in due course to take this forward.

  ACTION: John

- Finally, as part of a programme of trying to increase membership and participation, the SOA had prepared Membership and Welcome Packs which would be suitable for handing out to new Club members. These would be provided free to Clubs, and it was suggested that each Club would be allocated 15-20. The Meeting briefly discussed this, and agreed that we should take up the offer. John would reply to Hilary accordingly.

  ACTION: John

Ken had circulated a further communication from Roger Scrutton, regarding the current SOA Strategy for the four-year period 2012-15, and asking for Clubs' comments on an update to that Strategy to accompany an application to Sportscotland for continued funding for 2015/16 and the following 3 years. A link had been provided to the full Strategy document, but an Executive Summary was attached. Comments were to be submitted by 5 December. The Meeting had no immediate comments. It was felt that even the Summary was rather verbose, containing as it did 27 Action points in six "cross cutting activities", whatever they were.

John mentioned that he had at last received the updated Junior Welcome Pack material from Ann Haley, but had yet to put it up on the website. Pat B pointed out that Jane Ackland had essentially taken over from Ann as regards Junior activities, so John would liaise with her. It was suggested that John let Jane know about the Johnson family joining the Club.

ACTION: John

Ken had been in touch, expressing his concern that the public image of the Club was a bit of a mystery to lay people, in that the name "Edinburgh" did not appear in the Club's title and usage, and that therefore incomers to the area (whether orienteers or otherwise) might not be aware of our existence. The Meeting discussed this matter, but felt on balance that it was not an issue: any orienteers new to Edinburgh would already be aware of the Club.

4 Treasurer's Report

Pat distributed copies of a draft Budget for 2014/15. The projected figure for Event Income assumed that the SOL in March 2015 would go ahead, and bring in a surplus of approx. £1000. In response to a question, Max replied that there was not really much prospect of any income from Race the Castles. However, the overall finances for that Series had yet to be finalised.

The net Event Income for 2013/14 was £1600, and the same figure for 2014/15 would be about £1000. This would lead to a small overall deficit for the Year.

There followed a general discussion on issues which might affect the situation both for the current Year and for 2015/16.

5 Commitments

5.1 Club Championships

These were now being staged at the ELO SoSOL at Saltoun on 30 November. Robin Galloway had matters under control.

5.2 SOL 2015 - 8 March

See discussion earlier under "Action Items". Regardless of venue, Max would be the Planner and Robin Galloway the Organiser.

5.3 SoSOL - 26 April 2015

See discussion earlier under "Action Items". Officials had yet to be chosen, although Pat S had e-mailed the Club, asking for volunteers.

5.4 Scottish Schools - 5 June 2015

In Ken's absence, it wasn't clear just what would be required from the Club for this event. John would contact Ken.

ACTION: John

5.5 Highland 2015 - Day 4 Thursday 6 August

Since the last Meeting, it had become apparent that Day Organisers for Day 4 had already been appointed, in the persons of Andrew Macpherson and Robin Orr of CLYDE. Pat S had offered to act as Club Liaison.

5.6 2017 6-Days

Nothing to report. (Colin was currently at a 6-Days meeting, so might have some news in due course.)

6 Other Events

Pat introduced his Report (in particular the "Future" section) which had been previously circulated to the Committee.

- Local Events. Paul had offered to put on 3 events in the ESOA Saturday afternoon Series, in February - April 2015. John had previously distributed a list of dates which ESOC were planning to use for events in this Series, so our choices would need to fit around these. John would send the list of ESOC dates to Paul.

  ACTION: John

- Pat suggested that the Summer Urban Series be resurrected. Until 2013, these Series had been very successful for several years, but no events took place in 2014 because the chief architect, Ken, felt that someone else should step in as Coordinator, and none could be found. Pat would follow this up.

  ACTION: Pat S

- Pat suggested that some form of local Relay event should prove popular. A possible format might involve multi-person teams being set the task of finding all controls in the area, by dividing them up between the team members.

Some discussion ensued about continuing with the very successful INTrepid Weekend. It was recognised that it would not be possible to put it on in 2015, since ESOC already had their 50th Anniversary Weekend in place. The uncertainty about the SOL in March also cast doubt on the wisdom of attempting to provide a weekend of events at that time. However, it was agreed that efforts should be made to stage a Weekend in 2016, probably in conjunction with the proposed SOL on 10 April. Pat would contact the SOUL Coordinator to find out about the mechanism for including events in that Series.

ACTION: Pat S

7 Mapping

The question of updating the map of Mortonhall was discussed. It seemed that the original reason to do this was now almost forgotten. It was suggested that, if anyone knew anything, it would be Paul. John would contact him.

ACTION: John

8 Equipment

Most of those present were mystified as to why acquisition of a replacement String and new Display Boards had still not been achieved. John would ask Paul (see final entry under "Action Items").

The BOF-loaned SI kit was also discussed. There was some worry that the kit was not being used enough to fulfil the Club's "bargain" with BOF. John would ask Ken, since he had a copy of the loan agreement.

ACTION: John

9 Club Captain

Bills for this year's Relay event entry fees needed to be sent out to team members.

There was a query about the 2015 CompassSport Trophy. Rob mentioned that the Final would be in The Lakes, which meant that it would be in the Club's interest to enter a strong team in the Scottish round. After some research, it was discovered that this would be on 15 March 2015, at Balnagowan. Rob would send out an e-mail to the Club membership nearer the time.

10 Training

There was nothing to report on Training in general.

However, Pat B reported that the ESOA Junior training sessions had begun for 2014/15, with the first one being on Corstorphine Hill on 25 October. The next session would be at Mary Erskine's on 29 November.

Lorna had organised another Women's Training session for Club members.

11 Juniors

Several Club Juniors were in the East Area team which participated in the Inter-Area Championships on 13 September at the Falkirk Wheel. The East team were 3rd overall, behind the winners North, and West who were 2nd.

12 Child Protection

Nothing to report.

13 Newsletter

Mary had circulated the Club, asking for contributions for the next issue, and setting a copy date of 1 December.

14 Website

There was some discussion on the current state of the website. To some, it seemed that the site was rather randomly managed. There were several members authorised to contribute material, but very few actually did so - this was partly because of a perceived lack of expertise in writing material in a suitable format. The overall feeling was that it required more active mnagement, albeit with contributions from those who felt confident enough to submit their own amendments.

15 Socials

Max had organised a very successful Vampire-O for Hallowe'en, on The Meadows.

He had also sent round an e-mail in the last day or so, advertising the Christmas Party which would be held in the late afternoon of Sunday 21 December (in conjunction with Paul's 50th birthday bash). The venue would be announced in due course.

16 Marketing

Nothing to report.

17 A.O.B.

- It was noted that the chairing of Committee Meetings continued to be "by rotation".

The next Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 February 2015 at 5 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh.

N.B. Subsequent to the Meeting, Colin reported that the 6-Day Event Company had also fixed their next meeting for the same date. Accordingly, the Club Committee Meeting would now take place on WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRARY 2015, still at 5 Strathearn Road.

Pat and Su were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10.15. John Barrow – 10 February 2015