INTERLØPERS

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FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY FIFTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 23 August 2021, held on-line via Zoom

Present: John Barrow, Colin Eades, Robin Galloway, Katherine Ivory, William Ivory, Rob Lee, Ali Masson. Apologies for Absence were received from Jane Carcas.

In view of the continuing restrictions introduced to try to counteract the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it had been decided to hold this Meeting on-line using Zoom.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 10 May 2021 were approved. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes.

2 Secretary's Report

John reported that the recently appointed Regional Development Officer for the East, Lorna Simpson, had resigned her post. Until a replacement could be found, the SOA's Sarah Dunn would handle any enquiries.

3 Treasurer's Report

Robin reported that the Accounts for 2020/21 had now been audited.

Fiona Eades had asked if the Club could sponsor her to attend the JROS Training Camp. It was agreed to give her £80.

Collection of Sprintelope entry fees was in hand.

A discussion on the relative merits of applying for Charitable Status, probably under the SCIO scheme, was deferred until AOB.

4 Events

The Sprintelope series proved to be a success, each event attracting 60-70 competitors.

The Local Event at Polkemmet attracted fewer participants, although there were four courses.

Our Day at the 6-Days was a resounding success, thanks to Max, Graham and Mike.

Forthcoming events for the remainder of 2021 included a Local Event at Braidburn Valley on 4 September, another at Almond Park on 2 October (organised by Graham McIntyre), and a SOUL in the Livingston area on 6 November. For the latter event, the Planner would be Iain Embrey, the Organiser Robin Galloway, and the Controller would be Bill Stevenson.

In 2022, it was hoped to put on a SOL at Gullane Dunes, perhaps in February. Tessa and Murray Strain were down as potential Planners, and Caspian Richards the Organiser. However, at present, the dates of the SOL Series were unknown.

Local Events would be pencilled in for the first Saturdays of March, April, May and June. Various possibilities for venues were discussed.

5 Juniors

Katherine was hoping to run an ESOA Junior Training session at the Braidburn Valley event. John would register this as an Activity, under the auspices of Interløpers.

Congratulations were due to Pippa and Mairi on being selected for JWOC. However, unfortunately, the team would not be attending the event.

6 Training and Development

Continuing thanks were due to Graham McIntyre for organising the Thursday off-road training sessions.

To comply with the Bronze Clubmark standard, we need to put on 6 Skills Training sessions each year. To achieve this, a volunteer Coordinator would need to be found. It was suggested that Club members be asked what kind of sessions they would like.

Lorna proposed to re-instate her Stretching Exercises sessions.

7 Marketing

The "final" re-arrangement of the website material was now complete.

8 Mapping

There was a significant discussion on developing a map of the Portmore Estate. This was prompted by expressions of interest in the area by both ESOC and ELO. It was felt to be essential that we stress our prior claim on the area since, some years ago, Graeme Ackland had prepared a base map. It was accepted that, in order to proceed, the services of a professional mapper would be needed. It was noted that there was agreement in principle from the area's owner.

Ken Daly had, on a previous occasion, mentioned a list of possible areas to be mapped around Livingston. It was felt that it would be helpful if there were some way of prioritising these areas, but it wasn't clear what level of commitment Ken would be able to devote to this at present. Rob would try to contact Ken.

It was recognised that the Club's Permanent Courses might need checking over.

It ws also felt that the map of Dalrulzion would probably need updating at some point.

Although Newbattle Abbey and surrounds had been mentioned in the past, there were no current plans to devote any effort to that area at present. It was understood that ESOC had expressed an interest in it.

Colin would circulate the Club membership, asking for any ideas on areas felt to be worth developing.

9 Captain

Rob reported that there was still no definite decision on the venue for the CompassSport/Trophy Final, scheduled for Sunday 17 October.

At the British Sprint Championships, the Club's SuperVet team of Paul, Jane A and Phil Murray won the Mixed Relay.

10 Newsletter

Katherine announced that the next issue of the Newsletter would appear within the next week. Colin would write a Chairman's Chat. There was a brief discussion on whether a Christmas Letter should be prepared in due course.

11 Socials

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

12 A.O.B.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions currently still in force, there would be no entry-on-the-day at events, there would no handling of cash on the day, and club tents would not be allowed. A bottle of hand sanitiser should be available. These restrictions would remain in place until guidance changed.

After some discussion, it was agreed to hold the 46th AGM in September, given the uncertainty about the full easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The date chosen was Thursday 23 September.

There was a discussion on the possibility of obtaining Charitable Status for the Club. There was a wealth of information on the website of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and Robin would read up on the basics of applying to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). He had also consulted the SOA Finance Director, Ben Hartman. The main concern appeared to be protection in the case of adverse Risk in our operations. It was pointed out that no orienteering club had ever been sued in such circumstances, although it was recognised that this was not really an argument in favour of not obtaining Charitable Status.

There was a brief discussion on First Aid courses. It wasn't clear how many candidates could be accommodated in a sample Course, and whether, if it were decided to hold such a Course, it could be made available to members of other Clubs. The first step was to source a Provider of these courses. Club members who attended would have their fees paid by the Club. Katherine would circulate the Club, seeking volunteers.

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7:30 on Monday 8 November 2021. It was hoped that COVID-19 restrictions would be sufficiently relaxed to allow the meeting to be held face-to-face, probably chez Galloway.

The Meeting closed at 9:30pm. John Barrow –30 October 2021