INTERLØPERS

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FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY SIXTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 8 November 2021, held at 7 Whitedales, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Colin Eades, Robin Galloway, William Ivory, Rob Lee, Ali Masson. Lorna and Fiona Eades joined the Meeting via a Zoom connection.

Apologies for Absence were received from Katherine Ivory.

Fiona Eades had agreed to act as Junior Representative.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 23 August 2021 were approved. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes.

2 Secretary's Report

John reported that two new members had recently joined the Club. They were Isaac Murdoch, a member of the Scout Group which Angus had been volunteering for, and James Taylor, an M21.

ESOC had been in touch to say that they were no longer using the jointly-owned generator, and had nowhere to store it. They wondered if we still wanted it. Paul had already indicated that he did not want to store it at his home. After some discussion, it was agreed that we, too, no longer had a use for it, and were prepared to take advantage of the improved technology offered by modern power packs. Consequently, John would let ESOC know accordingly, and it was agreed that it could be sold, and any proceeds divided equally between the two clubs.

3 Treasurer's Report

There were about 130 participants at the recent SOUL at Almondvale Park, and it was expected that there would be a significant surplus, once expenses and BOF levy had been paid.

An application had been submitted to SOA for a £1000 Development Grant for Mapping. At this stage, it wasn't clear which area should be prioritised, given that questions had arisen over the availability of Portmore.

To take advantage of any such Grant award, Robin had e-mailed the Club, asking for expressions of interest in taking on a mapping project, under the supervision of a professional mapnaker. So far, he had had two responses.

4 Events

The Club had recently staged a Local Event at Braidburn Valley Park, attractig 96 competitors. A SOUL event took place at Almondvale Park, with 119 participants. All officials and helpers were thanked for their efforts. It was

thought that the most recent version of the Reaults was now on the BOF website. John would attend to the Levy submissions.

William announced that the long-awaited SOL at Gullane Dunes was now scheduled for 13 February 2022. Organisers and Planners had already been identified.

A programme of Winterlopes had been devised, along the same lines as those of last winter, in the form of MapRun events. They would take place on alternate Thursdays from EUOC's Fight With The Night series. Further details were available from Graeme Ackland.

Discussion then ensued about a programme of Saturday Local Events in Spring 2022. Eventually, dates of 5 March, 9 April, 7 May, and 4/11 June were settled on. The June date might be affected by whenever the SOA Championships took place at the end of May or start of June, and it was recognised that the Northern Championships were scheduled for 3 April. In addition, the British Middle Champs were on 6 March at Leighton Buzzard, and the CompassSport Cup Heat was scheduled for the 13th. The British Sprint Weekend was on 11/12 June near Leeds.

Venues for the Local Events would be Craigmillar, Kinneil Wood, Dechmont Law, and somewhere in Livingston. John would make provisional registrations with BOF. It was hoped to incorporate Training Exercises at each event.

Looking further ahead, it was suggested that we could put on Local Events in the Autumn, on 3 September at Braidburn, 1 October at Mortonhall, and 5 November at Deans. The latter event might be made into a SOUL. John would register these dates.

5 Juniors

Fiona Eades had attended a Junior Training Weekend.

She also took part in an on-line brainstorming session, organised by the SOA, on the Future of Young People in Orienteering in Scotland.

6 Training and Development

The Thursday off-road training sessions were continuing.

There was some discussion about appointing a Club Development Officer. It was understood that FVO had a 4-Year Development Plan. It would be of interest to find out what other clubs did.

It was planned to re-commence the Stretching Exercises sessions. Lorna would circulate the membership, seeking a preference for which day and at what time these should take place. Once a consensus had been established, John would register the sessions as BOF Activities.

7 Marketing

John asked if the date of posting could be included in the title line of News items on the website. William would investigate.

8 Mapping

It seemed as if the owner of the Portmore Loch area was having cold feet, and wasn't keen on allowing the area to be mapped for orienteering. It was suggested that discussions be held with Walter Clark (ESOC) on how best to proceed.

A Development Grant application for mapping has been submitted. Any further action would depend on the outcome of the submission.

9 Captain

The Club was placed 3rd (1st SOA team) in the CompassSport Trophy Final, held at Tankersley on 17 October. One fact to note was that fielding as many Juniors as possible led to a significantly higher score. Rob was thanked for his sterling efforts in raising the team, and overall it was felt worthwhile in persuading members to take part.

It was noted that the invitation to take part in the 2022 event had been received. The SOA Heat would be held on 13 March, organised by FVO. The Final would take place at Devilla in October.

Rob mentioned that FVO were putting on a Relay event at Aberfoyle on 13 November. The event would serve as the SOA Relay Championships for 2021; in addition, the M Open and W Open courses would be treated as the British Relays for 2021. 9 members of the Club would be taking part.

It was expected that Relay competitions in 2022 would be held more or less as usual. There may also be a Harvester Relay (in Scotland), and the Jukola.

10 Newsletter

Katherine was planning to produce a single-sheet Newsletter for Christmas, like the one issued in 2020.

11 Socials

Lorna suggested that an Activities Evening at a Leisure Centre might prove attractive to members.

She also wondered about how people would feel about resuming get-togethers at each other's houses, given the current COVID-19 situation

Perhaps a novelty O-event, followed by a social, would have more appeal.

It was eventually agreed to leave holding a close-contact function until the Spring, say February, when the situation should have stabilised a bit more.

12 A.O.B.

A First Aid course had been held recently, with 12 participants including 4 from EUOC. Helena Nolan would be arranging a further course. Katherine would check the contents of the Club's First Aid Kit.

Consideration of applying for Charitable Status was ongoing. Robin's feeling was that it would provide marginal benefit. However, he would re-circulate an FAQ e-mail he had previously sent out. Walter Clark had said that the application process was "a bit of a hassle".

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7:30 on Monday 31 January 2022, at 7 Whitedales.

Robin was thanked for his hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9:25pm. John Barrow –1 December 2021