

INTERLØPERS

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FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 4 September 2023, held at 8 Gilmour Road, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Colin Eades, Lorna Eades, Robin Galloway, Katherine Ivory, William Ivory, Mike Stewart. Max Carcas and Ken Daly were also present.

Apologies for absence were received from Rob Lee.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

Section 4 “Events”, para. 4, should read: “...all the Sprintelope maps *should adhere to* ...”.

This prompted a short discussion, the gist of which was that templates for grid lines and map scale should be obtained to assist in presenting a more uniform design.

With that correction, the Minutes of the Meeting of 15 May 2023 were approved. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes that would not be dealt with later in the Meeting.

2 Secretary’s Report

John noted that Tessa Strain had renewed her BOF membership for 2023.

3 Treasurer’s Report

Robin reported that the Current Account balance was approx. £5200. There was still about £11K in the Savings Account.

The Club had recently received £350 from Benevity Causes.

The laptop purchase referred to in the last Minutes was proving its worth at all Club events.

In reply to a question, Robin mentioned that there had not yet been any dispersal of funds from the 6-Day Event Co. in respect of Moray 2023.

4 Events

72 competitors took part in the Sprintelope at Little France in May. One SI key and spanner had been lost, but Paul would arrange to replace them.

There were 75 participants at the SoSOL at Dechmont Law in June.

The Sprintelope at Mortonhall attracted 45 people, while there were 46 at the Buckstone event. Finally, 75 attended the last Sprintelope at The Grange in August.

It was reported that approx. 2700 competitors took part in Day 3 at Moray 2023, staged at Roseisle, for which Robin and Max were the Organisers.

Mike Stewart mentioned that arrangements were in hand for the SOL at Loch Vaa on 24 September, but a large workforce would be needed.

A Local Event would be held on 7 October at Braidburn Valley, organised by Ann and Fiona. Another would take place on 4 November at Mortonhall, organised by Joe Hudd (currently a member of WCOG).

The Club's final event of the year would be a SOUL at Livingston on 2 December, planned by Pat Bartlett and organised by Murray Strain.

As far as the Club's responsibilities in 2024 were concerned, we would be due to take on the Scottish Score Championships, currently expected to be held in the Autumn. The Fixture List would be scanned for possible dates around late September, or early October. Holyrood Park was suggested as a possible venue, and the weekend of 5/6 October was posited.

Possible dates for SOL events in 2024 had been suggested by the SOA, but the Club would probably not opt for an event in this Series, given its other commitments.

As for Local Events in Spring 2024, we would probably go for Craigmillar Castle Woods, Polkemmet, a SoSOL in May, and Kinneil Wood.

It was suggested that we should choose to have the map of Calder Wood professionally updated, at a potential cost of £1-2K.

Colin then summarised the present situation regarding WOC24. There had been a series of difficulties, both financial and technical. The Event Director had resigned, but had since been replaced. BOF had put up some financial assistance, on a matched-funding basis. At this stage, the finances are balanced, but only just. A formal announcement about the future of the event was expected towards the end of September.

5 Marketing

The series of events under the title Orienteering Edinburgh duly took place, with approx. 20 participants at each event.

Max would put some effort into promoting the SOL at Loch Vaa.

The ESOA event fliers had been updated for the Autumn by Michael Atkinson (ELO), and had been distributed to Clubs.

There was a discussion about Welcome Packs and a Jargon Buster, intended for giving out to new members.

6 Juniors

We were looking forward to hearing about Laurence Ward's trip to Budapest with the British U16 Team to take part in the European Youth Orienteering Championships. He had promised to write an article for the Newsletter.

Mairi had attended a 5-day Young Leaders' Academy in Italy, organised by the IOF. Elements of the course included making a map and putting on an event. An article for the Newsletter was "on its way". Robin proposed that the Club should make a contribution to Mairi's expenses, and the Meeting agreed.

7 Training and Development

Thursday off-road training was continuing, as were the Tuesday evening intervals sessions on The Meadows.

Katherine had organised a First Aid course to be held, consisting of two evening sessions on 11 and 18 September, and available to members of all ESOA Clubs. 11 of the 12 available places had been taken.

Lorna had arranged for a Club Training Day to be held at Lagganlia on Saturday 23 September. BASOC have a Local Event at Nethy Bridge the same day, and the Club's SOL is at Loch Vaa on the Sunday.

8 Mapping

Ken summarised the aims of the West Lothian Development Plan which he had instigated over 11 years ago in liaison with West Lothian Council. The outcome had seen the creation of 4 Permanent Course areas, 11 maps, and approx. 33 events. The aims of the Plan were currently far from being completed, and there were several areas which Ken still had in his sights.

One area he had intended to pursue was Raven Craig, and he had lobbied the Ranger Service, with little success, for several years. It was with considerable surprise when it transpired that FVO had been granted permission to survey the same area, and had produced a map which they were about to use for a Local Event. Ken had submitted a formal complaint to the Ranger Service, and had also had discussions with FVO, who were to consider the issue at their next Committee Meeting.

Ken mentioned that he had 3 other areas in mind for mapping, and would appreciate some help. These were Seafeld Law, Campridge, and Pumpherston and Roman Camp, all of which would require reconnaissance. He also wondered about investigating Binning Craig, but felt that the area was a bit small. He would try to obtain quotes. It might be worth pursuing a matched-funding scheme with the likes of the 6-Day Event Company, or even Awards for All.

Other areas needing mapped included Drummond Hill and Calder Wood, both of which required major updates.

There were various possible mappers from whom to seek quotes; these included Jonathan Musgrave, Dave Peel, Martin Bagness, and maybe someone from Masterplan.

Widening the area of interest somewhat, several other areas were mentioned for the preparation of new maps. These included Selm Muir (near Kirknewton), an ESOC area in the 1970s, Thornielee Wood (in the Tweed Valley), and Glen Devon (near Auchterarder). Ken would check with Janet Clark to see if ESOC had any current interest in Selm Muir, and Lorna suggested she might be able to have a recce at Thornielee Wood.

Another couple of areas mentioned were Gore Glen, near Arniston House, and Red Barn, near Biggar.

9 Captain

Rob had issued an e-mail, soliciting interest in making up teams for the British Sprint Champs being held in the grounds of Brunel University in Uxbridge, on Sunday 17 September.

He also noted that the Final of the CompassSport Trophy would take place in the Forest of Dean on Sunday 12 November, and an e-mail with details and a request to indicate interest in taking part would go out soon.

10 Newsletter

Katherine announced that the next issue would appear soon, now that the deadline for submissions had passed.

11 Socials

Lorna mentioned that an enjoyable social event was held at the 6-Days in August. There was also a Club Training Day at Lagganlia coming up on 23 September.

She was still hoping to arrange a Skittles Night at the Sheep Heid in Duddingston.

12 A.O.B.

Max mentioned that Graeme was hoping to put on a sponsored Sprintelope at WOC24.

He also referred to a problem with Pentland Land Managers, who had recently been proving difficult on issues regarding land access, which should be free. At present, the Pentland Skyline race on 8 October had been cancelled; however, race organisers were planning on turning up at the venue to simply go for run in the hills, and see what happened.

It was suggested that the membership be circulated with details of the AGM, planned for Thursday 28 September at The Charwood. John would arrange this.

John mentioned that, at the forthcoming AGM of the ESOA on Wednesday 8 November, he intended to relinquish his rôle as Chairman, after serving for 20 years in the post. Provided a replacement could be found, he would also step down from his position as INT representative on that Committee.

Ken suggested that, as had been proposed several years ago, the Club should have a Business Plan which, if worded appropriately, might alleviate the “burn-out” of volunteers assuming too many rôles. He mentioned that the SOA website included some examples of such a Plan, and that it might be worth circulating details of these to the membership.

The next Committee Meeting was set for 7:30 on Tuesday 21 November 2023, at 8 Gilmour Road, subject to approval by the new Committee elected at the AGM on 28 September.

Katherine and William were thanked for hosting the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10:15pm.

John Barrow - 24 Sep 2023