

# INTERLØPERS

(www.interlopers.org.uk)

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Chairman: Colin Eades  
1 Nettlingflat Cottages  
HERIOT, Midlothian  
EH38 5YF

Treasurer: Robin Galloway  
7 Whitedales  
EDINBURGH  
EH10 7JQ

Secretary: John Barrow  
3 Charlton Grove  
ROSLIN  
Midlothian  
EH25 9NY

0131-440-2136  
info@interlopers.org.uk

## FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 21 November 2023, held at 8 Gilmour Road, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Colin Eades, Lorna Eades, Robin Galloway (later), Katherine Ivory (later), William Ivory, Rob Lee, Mike Stewart. Max Carcas was also present.

### 1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4 September 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 mentioned that he had received notification from BOF that a new member had joined the Club, one Daniel Murphy. No-one present had heard of him, so John would e-mail him for more information.

He had also received an e-mail from Richard Gamble of BOF, with details of quotes for the supply of defibrillators to those Clubs who expressed an interest. The Meeting felt that this was a good idea in principle, and that it would be preferable to own one outright, rather than rely on a joint purchase with ESOC, say, or one bought by the ESOA. The latter was not a likely occurrence, though, since at present the ESOA would not be able to afford one. The cheaper of the two options quoted would cost £876 (incl. VAT).

### 3 Treasurer's Report

(This item was actually taken later during the Meeting, once Robin had arrived. However, it is included at this point in the Minutes, for continuity.)

Robin reported that the Current Account balance was approx. £6000, after a significant surplus from the Loch Vaa SOL, and presumably from the 6-Days Event. There was still about £11K in the Savings Account.

The Club's affiliation fee of £80 for 2024 to BOF had been paid.

It was not yet known whether the WOC24 Organising Committee would be seeking any funding from Clubs.

### 4 Events

Since the last Meeting, Local Events had been held at Braidburn Valley and Mortonhall, attracting turn-outs of 66 and 80 respectively. SOUL11 was to follow on 2 December, with the Ward Family acting as on-the-day Organisers.

At this stage, it wasn't clear whether a Winterlope Series would take place. It was thought unlikely, given the average turn-out per venue last Winter of about 15.

A provisional programme of Local Events for Spring 2024 had been drawn up. looking like this: 2 March at Craigmillar Castle Woods, 6 April at Calder Wood (probably to be a SoSOL), 4 May at Polkemmet, and 1 or 8 June at Kinneil Wood. In the Autumn, dates of 5 October and 7 December were suggested. The latter might turn out to be a SOUL event.

It was the Club's turn to put on the SOA Score Championships in 2024, and Mike offered to plan this, on either 9 or 16 November, perhaps at Vogrie, and possibly in conjunction with the ESOA Championships.

A programme of dates for the 2024 Sprintelope Series had been published and, like 2023, many of the dates had already been reserved by ELO and ESOC. So far, those unreserved included 8 and 22 May, and 3, 24 and 31 July. For reference, WOC24 would be taking place on 12-16 July.

Looking further ahead, the Club would be responsible for staging the SOA Individual Championships in 2025, and it was hoped that it could take place at Barry Budden.

The plan to hold the 2023 Club Championships at the ESOC Local Event at Corstorphine never materialised. Instead, it was suggested that it could be incorporated into the SOUL on 2 December, and that perhaps the Ward Family could be persuaded to derive a plan to find a winner. John would contact them.

There was some discussion about the programme for WOC24. It had been suggested that the courses could be used as a basis for the 2025 Sprintelope Series.

Finally, a further series of 4 small events would be held each Thursday, starting on 23 November, as a continuation of the Orienteering Edinburgh programme.

## 5 Marketing

Mairi had spent some time developing material for a Welcome Pack, to be given out to new members. Examples were shown around the Committee. Further material had been provided by Max, and Ken also had some contributions.

It was suggested that the A-frame publicity boards be resurrected and refreshed. Such material as would be displayed on them should also be put on the website.

There followed a discussion about maintaining the website, and Max offered to help with this. In particular, it was felt that the Events page needed some attention.

There was also some discussion on how to follow up with new members who joined after attending an event. Colin would apply some thought to this.

## 6 Juniors

Nothing to report.

## 7 Training and Development

Thursday off-road training sessions were continuing. However, it had been suggested that, on some nights, a visit could be made to a local pub afterwards for something to eat and drink, to make the occasion more sociable.

On the subject of the training of volunteers, it was suggested that it might be more profitable to actually talk to potential officials, rather than send out a general e-mail.

John was asked to send the latest version of the Address List to the rest of the Committee.

There was a suggestion that a Club WhatsApp group be set up, and see what the reaction of the membership would be. Robin would investigate.

## 8 Mapping

Max reported that he had visited an area near Pressmennan, near an ELO area. He would find out more details.

It was agreed that the map of Calder Wood should be updated in time for the SoSOL event on 6 April. Colin would investigate.

It was also noted that it would be good to try to find out what plans Forestry and Land Scotland might have (if any) for felling at Drummond Hill over the next couple of years, before undertaking a potentially expensive re-map of the area. Lorna would follow this up.

Oleg would liaise with Lorna about Gore Glen.

## 9 Captain

Rob reported that the Club were beaten into 2nd place by Swansea Bay O.C. in the Final of the CompassSport Trophy on 12 November, by just 1 point. 16 members were able to make the trip to the Forest of Dean, and Colin and Lorna were thanked for organising the team.

Rob had received an e-mail inviting Clubs to enter the 2024 competition. The SOA Heat would be held on 18 February at Birnam Hill, while the Final would take place in S.E. Lancashire, probably on the same weekend as the FRA Relays.

## 10 Newsletter

Katherine asked the Meeting if a Christmas issue would be welcome, and the response was unanimously positive. She would e-mail the membership, soliciting suitable material.

The next normal issue would be scheduled for the end of March 2024.

## 11 Socials

A meal was held in conjunction with the CompassSport Trophy Final.

Lorna would try to find out whether a Skittles Evening could be put on at the Sheep Heid, some time in January.

## 12 A.O.B.

It was reported that Historic Environment Scotland was undertaking an exercise to derive a Strategic Plan for the future use of Holyrood Park. A Public Consultation was launched on 26 September, and all potential users were encouraged to respond. This exercise would close on 19 December. Full details were contained on the HES website.

There was some discussion about developing an alternative to the e-mail list for dissemination of information to Club members. Robin offered to investigate possibilities, including what methods other Clubs used.

It was also suggested that the Club should acquire a basic smart phone, and the preferred way to fund it would be a minimum monthly contract, at approx. £5 monthly. William would investigate.

It was agreed that the Constitution needed to be brought more up-to-date, to reflect the current roles played by the various Office Bearers.

The next Committee Meeting was set for 7:30pm on Monday 26 February 2024, at 7 Whitedales.

Katherine and William were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 10:00pm.

John Barrow - 15 Jan 2024