INTERLØPERS

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SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY EIGHTH YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 26 February 2024, held at 7 Whitedales, Edinburgh

Present: John Barrow, Colin Eades (later), Lorna Eades, Robin Galloway, Katherine Ivory, William Ivory, Rob Lee. Paul Caban and Max Carcas were also present.

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Stewart.

In Colin's temporary absence, Max assumed the Chair.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

Under "Mapping", the fourth paragraph should begin: "Lorna would liaise with Oleg ..." ...".

With that amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of 21 November 2023 were approved. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes that would not be dealt with later in the Meeting.

William suggested, and the Meeting agreed, that Action Items should be flagged as such in future Minutes. This would reinstate a practice which used to be followed in past years.

2 Secretary's Report

There was a short discussion about the awarding of the Club Champion for 2023. John and William had both tried to contact Claire Ward, but without success.

John mentioned the new members who had joined the Club since the last Meeting. These included Luke Fisher, Luke McGillicuddy, Eddie Narbett, Aoife McCavana, and Lindsay Robertson (SOA-only). In addition, Michael Docherty and Heather Dudley had upgraded their membership from SOA-only to full BOF.

There was some discussion about applying for a Grant from SOA to support a Club Development Officer. ESOC had recently teceived a grant of £1000, which would allow 1 person to be employed for 1 day per week. There was also the possibility of applying to the Orienteering Foundation for a grant, which could be of the order of £4000.

There was also a brief discussion about the formulation of a Club Development Plan. Katherine would welcome suggestions for targets for such a Plan. Colin would apply some thought.

ACTION: Colin

3 Treasurer's Report

Robin reported that the share of the 2023 6-Days surplus had been received, amounting to £295. There was a lower than hoped for turn-out, and there were only 5 events.

William had yet to acquire a cheap smart phone.

ACTION: William

The Club had received over £700 from Benevity Causes since last summer.

It was reported that Edinburgh Council were charging what amounted to a Land Access fee of £50 for the use of Craigmillar Castle Woods for our March Local Event. It would be interesting to find out whether other Clubs had been charged similarly, or whether other areas would also attract such a fee.

Lorna reported that the next ESOA Meeting would take place on 20 March. At that Meeting, Clubs were to be asked to contribute £100 each to help towards the running costs of the ESOA. This Meeting agreed to make a contribution.

Namesco had submitted requests for renewal of our website registration fees. These amounted to £232.80 for the Starter SSL DV for 2 years, and £116.99 for the renewal of our domainname for 10 years.

Settlement of the BOF Levy for the SOUL on 2 December had still to be made, but John was still waiting for confirmation of the amount from BOF.

ACTION: John

Finally, Robin reported that some new equipment had recently been purchased, costing just over £700.

4 Events

William reported that the SOUL event at Livingston on 2 December went well, with 97 participants.

Forthcoming events this Spring were a Local Event at Craigmillar Castle Woods on 2 March, a SoSOL at Calderwood (organised on 2 April by Graham McIntyre, planned by Louise Adams, and controlled by Neil Conway of FVO), a Local Event on 4 May at Polkemmet (planned by Paul Caban), and a further Local Event at Kinneil Wood on 1 June (planned and organised by Chris and Pip). It was noted that the May date clashed with a Sprint Scotland event in Glenrothes.

Winterlopes 1 and 2 had taken place, but events 3 and 4 were still to happen.

Graeme Ackland had drawn up a programmes of Sprintelopes, and it seemed that, after ELO and ESOC had chosen their dates, remaining dates were 8 and 22 May, and 3, 24 and 31 July. If these, KFO would take one, leaving the rest for Interløpers.

Later in the year, the Club would be responsible for staging the Scottish Score Championships, and the date chosen was 9 November, probably at Vogrie. Mike Stewart had volunteered to plan, and the controller would be Roger Scrutton.

It was expected that there would be Local Events on 5 October and 7 December. The venues would be Braidburn Valley and possibly Colinton Dell respectively.

Looking further ahead, the Club would be putting on the SOA Individual Championships in May 2025. At this stage, the venue had not been chosen, and neither Planner nor Organiser appointed. There was some discussion on the state of the Drummond Hill map, and how much updating would be needed since it was last used for the 6-Days and a CompassSport Cup heat.

Finally, it was noted that the Club had offered to handle the merchandising for WOC24 this coming Summer.

5 Marketing

It was reported that a new Welcome Pack was in production. There was some concern over print quality, and that efforts be made to ensure that it is mobile-friendly.

Some updating work had been carried out on the Permanent Courses web page.

There was considerable discussion over finding a possible replacement for the University's mlist e-mail distribution system, which had been proving siomewhat unreliable of late. Possibilities included creating a WhatsApp Group, and also Google Groups. There appeared to be a problem with the latter system, in that including more than 180 users would attract a charge for its use. Further investigations would be carried out.

ACTION: Robin

Some promotion of the Craigmillar Local Event had been included on Twitter (X).

6 Juniors

It was reported that two of the Club's Juniors had acquitted themselves well at the recent CompassSport Trophy Heat at Birnam.

7 Training and Development

There was a short discussion on meeting up at a local pub following some Thursday evening training sessions, to try to atttract more people. In the short term, suggestions were made for the Spylaw Inn on 7 March, and somewhere near Holyrood on 14 March. Graham would be asked to alert members to any arrangements made in his weekly e-mails.

ACTION: Graham

John mentioned that all Wednesday evening Stretching Exercises sessions were now registered with BOF until Easter.

8 Mapping

It was reported that the update to the map of Calderwood was now complete. It was noted that some areas of the revised map were now shown as Out of Bounds, to protect great crested newts, bluebells, and badgers.

There was some discussion about Permanent Orienteering Courses within the Club's remit. The map of Braidburn Valley needed updating, and the services of Dave Peel might be called upon. All posts were still intact.

Four posts on the Craigmillar Castle area were currently missing.

It was noted that POC maps of all areas within the remit of West Lothian Council were currently being charged for. The Meeting agreed that these should be free.

Work would be done to make sure that the information on both BOF and the Club websites should be checked for its accuracy.

9 Captain

Rob reported that the Club lost out to Swansea Bay by 1 point in the 2023 Trophy Final last November in Gloucestershire.

The 2024 SOA Trophy Heat had been held recently on Birnam Hill, where the Club was placed first, and thus qualified for the Final on 20 October. So far, a venue had not been announced, but it was thought that it would be organised by Pendle Forest.

Rob would soon be sending out a message regarding the JK Relays, taking place in The Midlands on 1 April. The British Relays would follow two weeks later. Then the SOA Relays were at the end of May, with the Sprint Relay in June.

10 Newsletter

Katherine was hoping to produce the next regular issue in time for Easter. It was suggested that some of the M21s could be persuaded to contribute some material. Colin and Max would also write something.

Robin would report on his investigations into setting up a WhatsApp Group.

11 Socials

Max and Jane had hosted a very enjoyable Burns Night in January.

Lorna still hoped to organised a Skittles evening at the Sheep Heid. Further ahead, it was suggested that a BBQ be held at the time of WOC24.

12 A.O.B.

Colin announced that he intended to step down as Chairman at the next AGM. The names of Ann Haley and Pat Bartlett were mentioned as possible successors.

William pointed out that the Constitution needed some amendment to reflect the current responsibilities of the Offfice Bearers.

ACTION: John

The next Committee Meeting was set for 7:30pm on Monday 13 May 2024, at 5 Strathearn Road.

Lucy and Robin were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9:50pm. John Barrow - 1 May 2024