INTERLØPERS

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SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING, FORTY NINTH YEAR

7.30pm, Sunday 23 February 2025

Present: John Barrow, Max Carcas, Mairi Eades, Robin Galloway, Ann Haley, Katherine Ivory, William Ivory, Rob Lee, Mike Stewart, and Laurence Ward.

Jane Carcas was in attendance for part of the Meeting.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

Under "Treasurer's Report", para. 2, "...a BOF Grant ..." should read "...an Orienteering Foundation Grant...", and, in para. 3, the second sentence should read "The Orienteering Foundation grant of £800 was the first instalment of three for Club Development work.".

With those amendments, the Minutes of the Meeting of 9 December 2024 were approved. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes that would not be dealt with later in the Meeting.

2 Action Items from last Meeting

- Action 3/1 - Purchase replacement equipment items - ongoing
- Action 4/1 - Inform Club membership of revisions to Safeguarding Policy - ongoing
- Action 4/2 - Update website to outline policy for supporting Juniors financially at representative events - ongoing
- Action 7/1 - Update website pages relating to Junior matters - assigned to Katherine
- Action 10/1 - Investigate possibility of mapping Broughtonknowe Woods - ongoing

3 Secretary's Report

Three new Full members had joined the Club since the last Meeting. They were Thomas Corlett, Ellie Bales, and Lindsay Robertson (upgraded from SOA-only). Thomas and Ellie were recent graduates, and so qualified for free first year membership.

There were still 9 Full members and 1 SOA-only member who hadn't renewed for 2025. John would send them reminder messages.

ACTION: John

The Ward family had announced that Tessa Strain had become Club Champion for 2024, following the Urban event at the Big Weekend. John would contact her, and ask if she would arrange to have the trophy engraved appropriately.

ACTION: John

There had been correspondence with BOF regarding names of Club members who had various Office Bearer responsibilities. Most were now correct, but the positions of Publicity Officer and SI Coordinator were currently unfilled. The Meeting agreed that Katherine could be nominated as Publicity Officer, and it was suggested that Paul Caban could be formally recognised as SI Coordinator. John would check with Paul, before informing BOF of the appropriate amendments to the list.

ACTION: John

4 Treasurer's Report

The ESOA had asked Clubs if they could contribute £100 towards their running costs, particularly given that there had been no injection of funds from staging the SOA Championships in the Area in recent years. Robin had paid this sum.

He had also paid the entry fee for the CompassSport Trophy for 2025.

Paul had been reimbursed for his outlay in purchasing a Splits printer and tent poles, as agreed at the last Meeting.

The third instalment of £900 had been received from the Orienteering Foundation for Club Development.

The sum of £1553.60 had been received from Benevity Causes for William's efforts during January.

There had also been income of £318 from sales of O kit. Lorna was in the process of putting in a new order, which would inevitably see rises in prices.

The current Financial Year ended on 31 March, and Robin would make arrangements to have the Accounts audited.

ACTION: Robin

It was noted that there would be fees to be paid for three members who had attended First Aid courses (Claire, Ray, and Katherine).

The current bank balance was approx. £13K.

5 Events

Arrangements were well in hand for the following Saturday's Local Event at Craigmillar Castle Woods. The SoSOL on Sunday 6 April at Calderwood was being organised by Graham McIntyre, and the courses planned by Louise Adams. The SOA Individual Championships at Barry Buddon on 3 May would be run by the Eades Consortium.

The Local Event on 7 June would now take place at Riccarton. Permission still needed to be obtained, and currently no Officials had been appointed.

ACTION: William

The Sprintelope programme had been established for this Spring/Summer. So far, the Club would be taking on two dates, 28 May by Robin Galloway, and 6 August by Colin Ledlie. It was expected that more dates in the Series would be taken up by the Club in due course.

The Autumn programme was beginning to take shape. The SOL at Gullane on 21 September would be planned by Ben Stevens and organised by Max. A Local Event would be held on 5 October at Braidburn Valley, and a SOUL on 9 November, probably in Livingston. Finally, a Local Event would be staged, possibly at Mortonhall, on 6 December.

It was noted that the preferred pre-entry system had now been decided upon as Race Signup, in line with that used by the other local Clubs,

It was also reiterated that helpers at the Club's events would gain free entry, but they should note this when entering.

When completing Entry on the Day forms, officials were encouraged to make sure that all information entered was clear and readable.

6 Juniors

Laurence was welcomed to his first Committee Meeting.

It was noted that Junior Coaching sessions organised by the ESOA would be taking place this Spring, starting at Craigmillar on 1 March.

7 Training

As mentioned above, Junior Training sessions in conjunction with Local Events would be starting on 1 March, and continuing through the Spring.

The Scottish Elite and Development Squad (SEDS) had been resurrected, and was under the tutelage of the SOA's Performance Manager Graham Gristwood. The Squad was designed for the continuing development of ScotJos leavers and orienteers in the 18-39 age group. More information was available on the SOA website.

8 Development

The CDO contract had been extended to cover Phase 3 of the Year 1 plan. This allowed work on the Craigmillar Castle P.C. to be continued, including the setting out of 16 new marker posts. 4 posts remained to be installed, and a stock of markers to be acquired. Numbers would be needed, and Mike offered to fix these to the posts. Given a choice between plastic or metal numbers, the Meeting opted for plastic.

There was a possibility that the Castle management might be able to stock map packs, but this was felt to be rather unsatisfactory, given the little space available for parking. Another venue should ideally be sought. Start/Finish locations would be marked at Bridgend and Castlebrae Avenue. Work could then be devoted to preparing the map products, and publicising the P.C. on the website and on social media.

A significant amount of effort had been devoted to publicising the Local Event at Craigmillar on 1 March.

Some planning had been put towards the Parkrun at Oriam/Riccarton on 17 May.

Looking further ahead, there was the possibility of entering Year 2 of the Development Plan. However, this would depend on the availability of personnel. At this stage, efforts would be concentrated on completing Phase 3 of Year 1, and reporting to the Orienteering Foundation. It was not proposed to apply to either the OF or the SOA for further grant funding until the question of finding a suitable replacement for Katherine had been settled.

9 Website

Jane had been applying some thought into how the appearance of the Club's website might be improved. She felt that one approach to consider might be to ask Paul Frost to re-design the site entirely, although she appreciated that this might be expensive (approx. £2500-3000). Examples of his work could be inspected, in the websites of BASOC, FVO, and ESOC. The Meeting agreed that Jane could follow up this suggestion further.

ACTION: Jane

10 Mapping

There was some discussion about standardising Club maps, particularly those around Edinburgh often used for Local Events and Sprintelopes. It would be useful to derive a template to be applied to the maps, and this could be based on that used on Alasdair Pedley's new map of Craigmillar Castle Woods.

It was still felt to be important to check on the status and any known future plans for both Dalrulzion and Drummond Hill. In particular, the issue of car parking at Drummond Hill might prove difficult.

It was suggested that some planning into standardising the appearance of local maps for ELO, ESOC, and INT might be fruitful.

11 Captain

Rob reported that the Club had provisionally won the SOA Heat of the 2025 CompassSport Trophy at Kinnoull Hill that very afternoon. The Final would be held at South Gare, near Redcar, on Sunday 14 September.

Mairi would write a piece for the Newsletter on the SOA Heat.

12 Communications

Katherine summarised the results of a survey of Club members' attitudes to the various forms of communication available. These included: Club newsletters, INTeresting, e-mail, WhatsApp, the website, Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter). It seemed that the first five of these outlets received the most use. After a very short discussion, it was unanimously agreed to terminate the Club's use of X (formerly Twitter), but perhaps to devote some time to developing the use of Facebook and Instagram.

Katherine announced that the next issue of the Newsletter would appear in early April, and asked for submission of articles.

13 Socials

Mairi reported that, since the last Meeting, a Christmas Party and a Burns Supper had been held. In addition, some Thursday evening off-road training sessions had been complemented by a meal in a local hostelry.

Mike mentioned that he and some others met on Wednesday evenings for a drink at the Cask and Barrel on West Preston Street, and anyone was welcome to join them.

It was generally felt that social events such as these would probably draw more punters if they were more widely advertised, including on the Club website.

14 A.O.B.

It was mentioned that the deadline for submission of nominations for the annual BOF Awards for Club, Coach, Volunteer, and Mapping would be this coming Saturday, 1 March. (Subsequent to the Meeting, this deadline was extended to Monday 17 March.) The name of Graeme Ackland was mentioned as a possible nominee for a Mapping award. Max would follow this up.

ACTION: Max

The next Committee Meeting would be held at 7:30pm on Monday 28 April 2025.

Katherine and William were thanked for their hospitality.

The Meeting closed at 9:20pm. John Barrow - 20 Apr 2025

SUMMARY OF NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Action Details	Assigned to
3/1	Contact members not yet renewed for 2025	John
3/2	Contact Tessa Strain about engraving Club Champion trophy for 2024	John
3/3	Confirm with Paul about his willingness to be nominated as Club SI rep.	John
4/1	Arrange for 2024/25 Accounts to be officially audited	Robin
5/1	Identify officials for 7 June Local Event	William
9/1	Investigate possibility of asking Paul Frost to re-develop Club website	Jane
14/1	Investigate suggestion of nominating Graeme Ackland for a BOF Mapping Award for 2024	Max