Minutes from the Council meeting on Thursday 21st April 2005

Present:	**John Graham**	**Chairman**
	Simon Breasley	
	Graham Crompton-Howe	
	Michael Evans	
	David Frost	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Ian Haddon	
	Robert Irvine	
	William Notton	
	Stewart Ogden	
	Peter Pursglove	
	Ray Walters	
	Tom Wylie	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Philippa Marshall-Purves	**Director of Business Management**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
	Glynn Cook,	**Director Wales**
	Vivienne Jasper	**IPS Secretary**
In Part Time Attendance		
	Alan McCormick	**Deer Officer (in attendance for agenda item A3.2)**
	John Harradine	**Director of Research (in attendance for agenda item B3)**
	Bettina Markussen	**Research Department (in attendance for agenda item B3)**
	Tim Russell	**Director of Conservation and Land Management (in brief attendance for agenda item B5)**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**

The meeting began at 10.30 a.m.

A1. <u>Apologies for Absence</u>

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Pollen; Jan Andrews; Walter Cole; Carl Eriksson; Sir Malcolm Guthrie and Andrew Macfarlane.

A.2. <u>To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th March, 2005</u>

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th March, 2005, were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings. Council accepted the changed format for Action Points.

A.3. <u>To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 17th March, 2005.</u>

A3.01. Provision of a discussion paper on procedures in firearms appeals cases.
Mike Evans has provided the Chief Executive with a paper and the item should now appear on the May meeting Agenda.

A3.02 Provision of a procedure for the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of Advisory Committees.
Item on main agenda.

A3.03 Creation of a Teachers Resource Pack. It was reported that Paul Hammans had met with Colin Shedden to ensure that Scotland was provided for in the final product. There is a plan in place to launch this in September 2005.
To remain as an action point

A3.04. Provision of a report on a wounding study
Item on main agenda.

A3.05. Provision of dates and venue of Gamekeepers Advisory Committee meetings.
Director of Operations to obtain and distribute the date as soon as possible.

A3.06. Provision of papers on Governance Issues.
Item on main agenda.

A3.07. Provision of paper on BASC as a Sporting Agency
Ton Wylie to provide a paper in October.

A3.08 Game shooting and gamekeeping issues. It was noted that it is intended that members of the Gamekeeping Advisory Committee have been attend the Game Shooting Advisory Committee in May.
It was agreed to consolidate the Animal Aid Rebuttal work into the report from the Game Shooting and Gamekeeping Advisory Committees.

To be placed on the agenda of the July meeting of Council

A3.09 It was noted that an internal meeting had been held on Monitoring of UK Shooting and that the Director of Research, will provide Council with a report in due course.

Director of Research to prepare an up-dated paper for Council for May/July meeting.

A3.10 Should English Directors be able to attend Council Meetings on a rotational basis.
Item on main agenda.

A3.11 Creation of a working party to assist the Chief Executive on a report to Council on battery type cage laying systems. It was reported that the Director of Communications and Stewart Scull, the Head of Gamekeeping, had arranged a trip to France to meet with French game farmers.

It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with a small group of other organisations for the 4 May 2005, and that feedback from this meeting would be incorporated into the paper on battery type cage laying systems.
Work is on-going, including visits to game farms in UK and France. Chief Executive to present a report to the May meeting of Council but if the work is not complete a further report may be required in July The Chairman would invite the Chairmen of NGO and GFA to attend the May Council meeting.

A3.12 Provision of a Rebuttal Paper to claims by Animal Aid.
This work to be incorporated in the joint game shooting/gamekeeping paper to be presented to July meeting of Council.

A3.13 Redevelopment of Trochry
Item on main agenda.

A3.14 Statement of intent regarding Sporting Rifle Course.
Noted that very positive response to the intent to launch was received at the Game Keepers Fair. Mike Evans, Tom Wylie and Peter Pursglove to work with Training Department on the course content and curriculum.
Council agreed that the course be launched officially at the CLA in July 2005.

A3.15 Position statement on wind farms and coastal erosion. It was noted that William Notton had passed information onto the Director of Conservation and Land Management.
Remains on-going.

A3.16 Provision of scooping paper on the proposed Communications Centre. It was noted that the stage had not yet been reached for the provision of a scoping paper.
Remains on-going.

A3.17 Provision of an up-dated Register of Interests
Item on main agenda

A3.18 Nominations for Honours and Awards at AGM
Item on main agenda.

A3.19 Provision of paper reviewing the subscription rate for Gundog membership.
To be placed on the agenda of the July meeting of Council.

A3.20 Review of resources to process Gundog survey.
Noted that staff interviews are scheduled for 10th May, 2005, following which it is intended that inputting from all surveys that have been undertaken will be completed as soon as possible.
Remains on-going.

A3.21 To find a new tenant for Grint land.
Noted that the vacancy is to be advertised on the BASC web-site for a period of three weeks following which a decision will be made.
Remains on-going.

A3.22 Irregular attendance of Council meetings.
Chairman to present a paper to the May meeting of Council.

A3.1. <u>Verbal Up-date on Redevelopment at Trochry</u>

Six invitation to tender letters have been distributed and tenders are to remain open for a period of three calendar months. Tenders are to be submitted by Thursday 28th April, 2005. These will be reviewed by the Surveyor next week. Andrew Macfarlane's wife, Joanne, has produced, free of charge, a landscaping plan; landscaping costs still to be ascertained. Interviews for the position of Project Manager have taken place and the position has been offered to one of the candidates. A final version of the brochure for the Country Sports Tourism Group was circulated to members. Contract signed with Scottish Executive that will give access to £99K over next 3 years for project, also Visit Scotland will be providing a similar contract for about £80K over same period and other sister organisations will contribute about £12K on an annual basis**.**

Council was also informed that the "awareness raising" contract with Food Standards Agency Scotland had been awarded to BASC Scotland. This is to the value of £24,500.
Director Scotland to provide detailed costings for the project to May meeting of Council.

A3.2 <u>Training programme for game and meat handling</u>

Alan McCormick joined the meeting to report on the current status of this programme. It was reported that since the last meeting, a statement had been received from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) which cast doubt on whether training was needed for game keepers and game managers. BASC have asked the FSA to clarify the position who in turn have passed the issue on to their lawyers for them to consider. A response is still awaited. Meanwhile it was noted that further money would not be invested in this project until clarification had been made, however, candidates had been identified in readiness. An update will be provided to Council as soon as more information is available.
To remain as an action point.

B.1 **Procedure for the Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Advisory Committee Chairmen.**

The paper was discussed and accepted.

It was resolved that the Chief Executive would be the Presiding Officer at the post-AGM meeting until a Chairman had been confirmed.

Council accepted a paper presented by the Chief Executive and agreed it should be incorporated into the governance paper relating to the Chairman

B.2. **To receive papers in respect of governance issues.**

The first paper, regarding the Chairman in an Association Registered as an Industrial Provident Society in relation to the governance issues was discussed in much detail. It was felt that the paper needed to be more user friendly and would be more helpful if it was put into tabular format.

Subject to the above, it was resolved that the paper be adopted.

The Chairman would rework the paper to tabulate it and make it more user friendly and members were to forward any comments for inclusion to the Chairman within a week. The paper would then be brought to the May meeting.

It was agreed to defer the other governance papers to a later meeting and that they would also be subject to reworking to make them more user friendly and relevant to BASC.

B.3 **To receive a report on the wounding study**

(Dr. John Harradine and Bettina Markusson in attendance)

A presentation was made to Council by Dr John Harradine, Director of Research on the results of the above. It was noted that there was still a significant amount of work to do before conclusive recommendations can be made.

B.4. **Register of Interests**

This document was debated by Council. It was noted that the policy was now in a more acceptable format although some amendments to the form were requested.

Subject to the amendments being made, it was resolved that the register of interests be adopted.

It was resolved that Vivienne Jasper would make the required amendments to the form and would produce a separate form relating to gifts and hospitality and would circulate these to Council members. Council members are then requested to return the completed form(s) to Vivienne Jasper within 2 weeks so that a completed register of interests may be brought to the Council Meeting in May.

It was resolved that, for the time being, the register would only be made available to Council members rather than the wider membership.

B.5. **To receive nominations for honours and awards for the AGM 2005**

(private session)

B.6. **To receive a paper on the up-grading of the web-site server.**

It was noted that the Chairman had authorised the request to upgrade the website server as this was an urgent requirement.

It was resolved that Council accepted this decision.

A request was made that an ex-budget authority level be set of £5,000 for the Chairman and the Chief Executive to use when required, and for any expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting.

It was resolved that the Chairman and Chief Executive can jointly approve revenue expenditure of up to £5000 for items not in the annual budget provided the issue is reported to the next Council meeting for ratification.

B.7. **Council Minutes**

Council were asked to consider whether the full version of Council minutes should appear on the website.

It was resolved that the Director of Communications should prepare the minutes of the last Council meeting by removing sensitive items and to circulate to Council members. Consideration may then be given as to whether the sanitised version should appear on the website.

B.8 **Regional Directors attending Council Meetings on a rotational basis.**

It was noted that this item had been raised by Council Member, Jan Andrews, who was requested to provide Council with written evidence that it had agreed to Regional Directors attending Council meetings on a rotational basis. Council agreed that evidence had not been provided despite sufficient time being provided.

It was agreed that the matter be closed.

C.1.1. **To take the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee**

The minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were accepted as presented.

It was noted that there was a recommendation for funds to be made available for the production of a bulletin on a regular basis. It was noted that the use of the Fast Track bulletins in Northern Ireland was not feasible at this time due to the limited availability of broadband in the region.

It was resolved that the Director, Northern Ireland and the Director of Communications should present a scoping paper to the July Meeting of Council.

C.1.2. **Wildfowling Liaison Committee**

The minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee were accepted as presented.

Thanks were expressed to Eric Begbie for his promotion of WHT on his website.

It was noted that there was one recommendation. The Committee recommended that BASC recommend through codes of practice and other methods a reduction from 3 to 2 greylag geese per person per outing.
It was resolved that the Director, Scotland should raise this as an issue for the Goose Guide Code and then for BASC to publicise.

C.2. <u>To take the Chairman's Activities Report</u>
The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.3. <u>To take the Chief Executive's Report</u>
The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. <u>To take the Director of Communications's Report</u>
The Director of Communications Report was accepted as presented.

C.5. <u>To take the Director of Business Management's report.</u>
The Director of Business Management's Summary Report was accepted as presented.

With regard to progress on the Communications Centre, it was noted that the architect has now been in touch with the Environment Agency and that they refuse to comment until they have seen a water engineers report. The architect is in the process of getting this arranged.

C.6 <u>To take the Director of Operations Report</u>
The Director of Operations Report was accepted as presented.

The Director of Operations expressed his thanks to all of the Council members who attended the Shugborough Show and to Carl Cox and his Midlands team for organising it.

D.1. <u>To take any other business by leave of the Chairman</u>

It was noted that the use of Airguns in Scotland was to receive an increased profile and that the BBC were to film a Young Shots day in May 2005.

It was reported that the Director, Scotland was to meet the Justice Minister, Catherine Jamieson on the 13 June 2005.

D.2. <u>Date of next meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 19th May, 2005, commencing at 10.30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.25pm.