<u>STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL</u>
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 19th May, 2005.

Present:	**John Graham**	**Chairman**
	Graham Crompton-Howe	
	Michael Evans	
	David Frost	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Ian Haddon	
	Robert Irvine	
	Andrew Macfarlane	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Philippa Marshall-Purves	**Director of Business Management**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
	Vivienne Jasper	**IPS Secretary**
In Part Time Attendance		
	Tim Farr	**President of the GFA (in attendance for agenda item B2)**
	Ken Butler	**Chairman of the NGO (in attendance for agenda item B2)**
	Bruce Wilson-North	**Director General of the CLA (in attendance for agenda item B2)**
	Jamie Stewart	**Game and Wildlife Management Officer (in attendance for agenda item B2)**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	

At the start of the meeting Council stood in silence in memory of John Anderton who had died on Sunday 15th May.

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Andrews, Simon Breasley, Walter Cole, Sir Malcolm Guthrie, William Notton, Stewart Ogden, Peter Pursglove, Ray Walters, Tom Wylie, and Roger Pollen. No word had been received from Carl Eriksson.

A2. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st April, 2005.

Subject to an amendment to the table of action points, number 10, to include Tom Wylie, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st April, 2005, were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A3. To take matters arising from the meeting held on 21st April, 2005.

A3.01 Discussion paper to be drafted by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Firearms and Air Weapons Committee outlining the procedure to be followed in appeals cases. It was noted that the Chairman of the FAWAC was satisfied that a number of points initially raised had now been resolved with just one or two minor points left to be discussed with the Chief Executive. It was agreed that this would be finalised at the July Council meeting.
To be placed on the agenda of the July Meeting of Council.

A3.02 Teachers Resource Pack. This is still on track to launch in September 2005.
To remain as an action point.

A3.03 Gamekeepers Advisory Committee. The next Gamekeepers Advisory Committee Meeting is to be held on 7 September 2005.

A3.04 BASC as a Sporting Agency
To remain as an agenda item for the October Meeting of Council.

A3.05 Provision of Governance issues.
Item on main agenda.

A3.06 The report to review the threats to future of game shooting. Due to the extent of the topic, it was accepted that the report will be delayed until the October meeting. The analysis of the Animal Aid claims will be incorporated in the October report to Council
To remain as an agenda item for the October Meeting of Council.

A3.07 Monitoring of UK shooting. It is hoped that the Director of Research, will be able to provide Council with a report on the Monitoring of UK Shooting at the July meeting. The Director of Operations will check to see that the date is feasible.
To remain as an agenda item for the July Meeting of Council. The Director of Operations to check that the date is realistic.

A3.08 To receive a paper on battery type cage laying systems.
Item on main agenda.

A3.09 Redevelopment of Trochry
Item on main agenda

A3.10 Sporting Rifle Course. It was noted that a provisional date had been set for a trial run of the course and PP, ME and TW had been invited to attend and to provide input to the course content and curriculum.
To remain as an action point.

A3.11 Position statement on wind farms and coastal erosion. Awaiting a response from the Director of Conservation and Land Management.
To remain as an action point.

A3.12 Provision of a scoping paper concerning the proposed extension to the Stanley Duncan building. It was noted that work was ongoing and that negotiations were to be held with the Environment Agency in relation to the flood risk.
To remain as an action point.

A3.13 Provision of an updated Register of Interests
Item on main agenda

A3.14 Nominations for Special Presentations at the AGM.
Item on main agenda

A3.15 Provision of a paper by Jan Andrews reviewing the subscription rate for Gundog membership.
To remain as an agenda item for the July Meeting of Council.

A3.16 Input of survey data. It was noted that an appointment had now been made to process the Gundog survey data.

A3.17 Grint land tenancy. It was noted that two prospective tenants had been interviewed to be the new tenant for the Grint land and that the Great Yarmouth Club were likely to take over the land.

A3.18 Irregular attendance of Council meetings by Council Members.
Item on main agenda.

A3.19 Training programme for game meat handling. Actions agreed at March meeting of Council are being processed. Information has been posted on the BASC web-site and leaflets distributed to regions and countries which will be circulated to Council Members along with a press release once finalised. An article on the subject appears in the current edition of S & C. Noted that an administrator has been appointed and adverts have gone out for Training Officers.

A3.20 Publication of the Council Minutes on the website.
Item on main agenda.

A3.21 Presentation of a scoping paper for the production of a NI Bulletin on a regular basis.
To remain as an agenda item for the July Meeting of Council.

A3.22 Election of next President. Following legal advice as to the validity of electing the next President at the 2005 AGM, it was noted that an announcement of intention would be made at the 2005 AGM and that the election would be formalised at the 2006 AGM.
Council were of the unanimous view that they would wish the Earl of Home to be considered positively by the membership for the role of President at the 2006 AGM

A3.23 Greylag geese. It was noted that the recommendation to reduce the number of greylag shot per flight from 3 to 2 would be raised as an issue for the goose guide code before the start of the season.
To remain as an action point.

A3.1 <u>Verbal update on redevelopment at Trochry</u>
A paper was tabled outlining the proposed re-development costs at Trochry. It was noted that three tenders had been received, all of which were in excess of the anticipated spend. The QS has recommended the lowest as acceptable and various savings had been identified which were now incorporated into the tender.
It was resolved that the tender be accepted.

Fundraising activities would continue. Consideration of the landscaping was continuing and Council would be kept advised.
To remain as an action point.

A3.2 <u>Publicising of the Code of Good Shooting Practice</u>
A query was raised with regard to the perceived lack of effort made to date to publicise the Code of Good Shooting Practice. It was stated that the code is publicised whenever possible and that the decision for articles to appear in Shooting and Conservation is with the editor.
The Director of Communications is to liaise with the Editor of S & C about the possibility of publicising the Code of Good Shooting Practice.

A3.3 An issue was raised regarding a recent alleged breach of confidentiality of e-mails that were sent outside Council. BASC has a disclaimer on the foot of all e-mails
It was suggested that all e-mails should contain a private and confidential statement.

A3.4 It was noted that relevant committees should be involved in a preview of any future reports.

A3.5 A discussion took place on the agenda item relating to cage laying systems before the external guests arrived. Council reconfirmed the statement it had made in January. It was noted that the Scottish draft Animal Welfare Bill was proposing a statutory Code of Practice for reared game birds.

A3.6 Council were asked to consider a recommendation from the Game Shooting Committee regarding Operation Artemis.
It was resolved that the Director of Communications would report back to the July meeting of Council.

B1 **<u>To receive revised papers in respect of Governance issues</u>**
It was noted that the Chairman had re-sorted the initial paper in this set as agreed at the last Council meeting. The Chairman stated that he had taken out all irrelevant and duplicated items and had made the paper more pertinent to BASC.
Subject to more detailed formatting it was resolved to accept the revised paper B1.3.

The Chairman went on to state that he had conducted a similar exercise with the remaining papers and that it was his intention to bring together all of the approved papers into one document.
It was resolved to accept papers B1.6, B1.8 and B1.10.
It was resolved to drop paper B1.11

It was noted that the approved papers would now be consolidated into one document and that any duplication between papers would be removed, and then correctly formatted by Sheila Potter. Mike Evans offered to proof read the final version.
Sheila Potter to consolidate and reformat the papers in readiness for the July meeting of Council.

B2 **<u>To receive a report on battery type cage laying systems</u>**
Council were joined by Tim Farr, Ken Butler, Bruce Wilson-North and Jamie Stewart for this section of the meeting.

Council received a report from the Chief Executive on the Keeping of Pheasants and Partridges in Captivity for the Purposes of Game Shooting and noted the observations made on the report by the GFA and CLA.

A discussion took place, which took into account issues from all parties and it was agreed that the way forward and best defence was by having unity and strength in numbers combined with similar objectives. It was agreed that the parties should continue to meet and communicate.

The key issues noted for consideration were:

- The education of the shooting community and the general public combined with the promotion of British quality.

- The GFA survey of its members and the survey's independence.

- The European dimension including the involvement of other organisations such as the European Land Association and FACE.

- The Animal Welfare Bill in both England and Scotland.

- The definition of battery cages.

It was further agreed

- To involve other experts
- To consider changes to the Code of Good Shooting Practice
- To encourage magazines to only take advertisements for British game farms
- To consider a joint approach to the media

It was resolved that a small working party co-ordinated by Jamie Stewart and to involve Charles Nodder; Christopher Price and Stewart Scull, be established to work electronically and flexibly together to deal with issues as they arise and to drive the issues noted above forward.

It was resolved that this group would report back to the July meeting of Council.

It was resolved that Tim Farr, Ken Butler and Bruce Wilson-North would be invited to attend the July meeting of Council.

B3 **To receive a completed Register of Interests**

It was noted that 3 council members had still to return their declaration forms – Jan Andrews; Walter Cole and Ray Walters.

IPS Secretary to send reminders

It was noted that newly elected Council members would be provided with a declaration form at the Council meeting immediately after the AGM.

It was noted that declarations of conflicts of interest would be requested as the first agenda item for all future Council meetings.

B4 **To receive nominations for special presentation at the AGM**

Council considered a nomination for a BASC Special Award for 2005.

It was agreed that Council did not find in favour of this nomination.

B5 **To consider Council Minutes for publication on the website**

A copy of the March Minutes, prepared for publication on the website, was considered by Council. It was agreed that in future sensitive items should be replaced by the comment ‘Council went in to private session’.
It was resolved that when Council approve the previous Minutes at each meeting it should highlight sensitive information so that this may be removed and then the agreed Minutes can be published the following day.

B6 **To receive a paper on irregular attendance of Council meetings**
It was noted that from a legal viewpoint elected members of Council are not obliged to attend a minimum number of meetings.

It was resolved that the Chairman should deal with non attending Council members in an informal manner.

It was noted that consideration of whether Council should advise members on the suitability of candidates for election will be given at a later meeting of Council.

C1 **To take the Minutes of Advisory Committees.**

C1.1 Northern Ireland Committee 06.04.05.
The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were accepted as presented.

Thanks were given to all those involved in the Northern Ireland Game Fair.

C1.2 Training Advisory Committee 07.04.05.
The Minutes of the Training Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C1.3 Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee 12.04.05
The Minutes of the Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C1.4 Deer Advisory Committee 20.04.05
The Minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee were unavailable.
To be placed on the agenda of the July meeting of Council

C2 **To take the Chairman’s Activities Report**
The Chairman’s Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C3 **To take the Chief Executive’s Report**
The Chief Executive’s Report was accepted as presented.

It was noted that Mark Hudson, Chairman of the CLA, was to visit Marford Mill.

It was noted that a report will be circulated to the wildfowling members and Colin Shedden in relation to the 6th Technical Meeting of AEWA held in Mauritius recently which was attended by the Chief Executive.

Council were asked to consider a request for membership by an ex-member who had previously been found guilty of firearms offences.

Council decided not to allow the membership application.

C4 To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

It was noted that the forthcoming edition of Shooting & Conservation had been increased in size to 92 pages due to increased advertising requests, and that the following edition will be the biggest ever at 100 pages.

C5 To take the Director of Business Management's Summary Report

The Director of Business Management's Summary Report was accepted as presented.

It was noted that as a result of the Financial Services Authority regulations there was a significant increase in the length of time per telephone call which in turn was impacting on staff resources. It was estimated that there would be a shortfall in resources in September of c.700 hours.

It was noted that a request for temporary staffing may be brought to the July meeting of Council.

It was noted that there was a quietening in economic indicators and caution was recommended on spending plans.

C6 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

D1 To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman

It was noted that the Chairman had asked E & F to consider the support BASC provides to WHT.

WHT working party to report to the July meeting of Council

It was agreed that correspondence or articles written for publication by Council members that was critical of BASC should, as a matter of courtesy, be provided to BASC first so that preparation may be made for media questions.

It was noted that this was the last meeting for Stewart Ogden and Sir Malcolm Guthrie. Council wished to place on record its thanks for their contributions over the last 10 and 5 years respectively.

D2 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be Saturday 11th June 2005, commencing after the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.45pm.