

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 20th October 2005.**

Present:	John Graham Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Simon Breasley Walter Cole Graham Crompton-Howe Carl Eriksson David Frost Duncan Greaves Ian Haddon Robert Irvine Andrew Macfarlane Ray Walters Tom Wylie	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Philippa Marshall-Purves Colin Shedden Glynn Cook Roger Pollen Vivienne Jasper	Chief Executive Director of Communications Director of Operations Director of Business Management Director, Scotland Director, Wales Director, Northern Ireland IPS Secretary
Secretary	Amanda Forshaw	
In Part Time Attendance	Tim Russell Paul Walkden Simon Cussons John Harradine Teresa Dent	Director of Conservation and Land Management (in attendance for item B1) WHT Trustee (in attendance for item B1) WHT Trustee (in attendance for item B1) Director of Research (in attendance for item B2) Chief Executive of the GCT (in attendance for item B2)

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A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Eric Begbie, Michael Evans, Lee Freeston, William Notton and Peter Pursglove.

A2. Declaration of Interests

There were four declarations of interest all in relation to item B1:

John Swift – WHT Trustee

Simon Hamlyn – WHT Trustee

Philippa Marshall-Purves – Treasurer of WHT

Ian Haddon – Former WHT Trustee (resigned on 19th October)

A3. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2005

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd September, 2005, were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A4. To take matters arising from the meeting held on 22nd September 2005.

A4.01 Teachers Resource Pack. The first section is now available on the BASC website, it is envisaged that the pack for both Scotland and Northern Ireland will be available at the end of the year

To remain as an action point.

A4.02 The instigation of a study on how best to provide BASC as a Sporting Agency.

To remain as an action point.

A4.03 Review of challenges and opportunities to the future of gameshooting.

Item on main agenda.

Provision of an analysis paper on Animal Aid claims.

To remain as an action point.

A4.04 Redevelopment of Trochry

Item on main agenda

A4.05 Wind farms and coastal erosion. Position statement on wind farms will be available for Council soon. Contact has been made with English Nature with regard to the provision of an expert on climate change to present to Council, further details to be discussed.

To remain as action points.

A4.06 Proposed Communications Centre. It was noted that the submission of the planning application was imminent. A paper on the cost analysis of moving to another site was provided to Council. It was agreed that this paper should be amalgamated with a paper showing costings for the proposed re-development and brought to the next meeting of Council.

To remain as an agenda item for the November meeting of Council.

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A4.07 Provision of a paper reviewing the subscription rate for Gundog membership. To be discussed at the forthcoming Gundog Advisory Committee and to be submitted to the November Council meeting.

To remain as an agenda item for the November meeting of Council.

A4.08 Presentation of a scoping paper for the production of a NI Bulletin on a regular basis.

Item on main agenda.

A4.09 The provision of advice to membership on suitability of candidates for election to Council.

To remain as an action point.

A4.10 Review of BASC support of WHT.

Item on main agenda.

A4.11 Presentation to Council on the Director of Shooting Standards vacancy.

Item on main agenda.

A4.1 Verbal update on redevelopment at Trochry

It was confirmed that all the preliminary electrical work was now complete, that the slates were in place and that the internal partitions had been built. An early December completion date with an official opening in January/February was anticipated. A request was made for a projection of overrun costs to be obtained from the Quantity Surveyor and for these to be supplied to Robert Irvine and Graham Crompton-Howe for their input. In addition, the Director of Scotland was asked to provide a note of the costs and fundraising obtained to date at the next meeting of Council.

Fundraising continues with shoot evenings and raffles being organised for October and November.

To remain as an Agenda item.

A4.2 To receive a presentation on the post of BASC's Director of Shooting Standards

A presentation was made to Council which highlighted some of the attributes required for the successful candidate to fulfil. In the main, a person of exceptionally high calibre was being sought, someone who could do for training what the Director of Communications had done for communications – someone to lift the game with an inter organisational role, drawing in other people. A detailed paper was circulated which Council were asked to take away and to provide their comments, if any, directly to the Chief Executive.

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A4.3 To receive a revised paper on the costings for the production of a NI Bulletin on a regular basis

Council received a paper which outlined the rationale and costings for the above. It was noted that the cost had been provided for in the 2006 budget.

It was resolved that a Northern Ireland Bulletin should be produced 3 x per annum.

Council were asked to state their view regarding the use of public funds to purchase sporting rights by compulsion. It was agreed that this was not acceptable.

It was resolved that the Director, Northern Ireland could communicate this viewpoint when meeting with Ministers.

B1 To review BASC's support of WHT

Council noted that the BASC contribution to the Wildlife Habitat Trust has increased dramatically over the years and also that the trading results of the WHT have declined over the same period of time. Council received a paper written by the WHT Trustees outlining cost savings intended to make the WHT Trusts more viable. Following a lengthy discussion the Trustees agreed to consider the following options and to submit a revised paper at the February 2006 meeting of Council:

- a) To maintain the status quo
- b) BASC to introduce a management services charge over a period of time
- c) WHT to become completely independent

B2 To receive a discussion paper on the challenges and opportunities facing game shooting

Council were provided with the above paper and an exercise was conducted to go through each section. It was noted that agreed changes would be made to the paper throughout the discussion and that the revised paper would be circulated to all Council members in electronic format after the meeting. On receipt of the revised version, Council were asked to review the paper in more detail and feed back their comments to the Chief Executive no later than Monday 7 November 2005. The paper would then be brought back to the November meeting of Council.

Throughout the discussion a number of points arose which are noted below:

- a) The Chief Executive of the GCT is to arrange for a presentation to be made to Council on the research findings regarding release densities.
- b) The Chief Executive of the GCT is to provide Council with documents relating to Langham.
- c) The Director of Research is to make a presentation to the GCT Council on the findings to date of the Wounding Study.

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- d) The Director, Scotland is to bring to the next meeting of Council details of the Scottish Raptor Policy.
- e) The Director of Operations is to establish contact with the CLA regarding planning law applications so that the Director of Research can liaise with the relevant contact.
- f) Ray Walters is to liaise with the Director of Conservation regarding the question as to whether the Conservation and Land Management team should be taking a more strategic role and rebalancing its local support for members, namely less on wildfowl and more on game.

To remain as an action point.

C1 To take the Minutes of Advisory Committees.

C1.1 Gamekeepers Advisory Committee 7.9.05

There were 4 recommendations to Council, the first 3 had already been dealt with at the September meeting of Council.

The 4th recommendation was that Council support the Defra report on the Independent Working Group on Snares and the proposed new code of practice. It was noted that the report had only just been published and that the Head of Gamekeeping was yet to study the implications on the code of practice. It was noted that a draft was available on the Defra website, the Director of Communications agreed to provide a link to the site for Council members.

It was agreed that the Head of Gamekeeping would discuss the above with the Gamekeeping Advisory Committee and provide a paper to Council in the New Year.

With regard to cages for pheasants and partridges, it was noted that the Chairman of the GFA had written to Council (the letter had been received on Monday 17th October, too late for the Meeting) and that the GFA had now revised their Code of Practice and Policy regarding cages.

It was agreed that the Head of Gamekeeping would contrast the old and the new versions of the GFA Code of Practice and the changes and the letter would be discussed at the November meeting of Council.

The minutes of the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C1.2 Scottish Committee 8.9.05

There was one recommendation and this had been dealt with at the September meeting of Council.

The minutes of the Scottish Committee were accepted as presented.

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C1.3 Welsh Committee 4.9.05

There was one recommendation to Council, that research be carried out into the increased buzzard population in Wales and its effect on the countryside.

It was agreed that the Director of Research and the Director, Wales be asked to liaise with CCW and to report back to the November meeting of Council.

The minutes of the Welsh Committee were accepted as presented.

C1.4 Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee 29.9.05

The minutes of the Firearms and Air Weapons Committee were accepted as presented.

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.

C4 To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

C5 To take the Director of Business Management's Report

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

C6 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations' Report was presented orally and accepted as presented.

In light of his imminent departure, thanks were extended to the Director of Training, Paul Hammans for the work he has done for BASC over the last few years.

D1 To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman

It was noted that there had been a change in rent for the garage in Wales to £300pa. Approval of Council was sought to use the organisation seal on the required memorandum.

It was resolved that the BASC seal be used on the memorandum.

Jan Andrews tendered her apologies for the November meeting of Council.

D2 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday, 17 November 2005, and would commence at 9am.

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There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.00pm.

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Chairman

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Date