

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER, 2005**

Present:	John Graham Michael Alldis Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Walter Cole Michael Evans Lee Freeston David Frost Duncan Greaves Robert Irvine Andy Macfarlane William Notton Ray Walters Tom Wylie	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Roger Pollen, Philippa Marshall-Purves Colin Shedden	Director of Communications Director of Operations Director, Northern Ireland Director of Business Management Director, Scotland
Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary
In part time Attendance:	Simon Clarke Mark Cokayne John Harradine Tim Russell Stewart Scull Ian Lindsay Tim Robbins Bruce Wilson-North	Head of Press Relations Wildfowl & Wetlands Officer Director of Research Director of Conservation Head of Gamekeeping Director of Advisory & Education, GCT Chairman GFA Director General, CLA

**All in attendance for the afternoon session of Agenda items
B.3, B.6, B.7 and B.8**

**Prior to the commencement of the business the Chairman asked members of
Council to stand for a few moments of silence, in memory of Lord Lichfield who
had died during the previous week.**

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A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Andrews, Graham Crompton-Howe, Ian Haddon, Peter Pursglove, Glynn Cook, John Swift and Vivienne Jasper.

A.2 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

A.3. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th October, 2005

The Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.4. To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 20th October, 2005.

A4.01. Teachers Resource Pack for Scotland

Item on main agenda.

A4.02 The instigation of a study on how best to provide BASC as a Sporting Agency – to be discussed by the Executive and brought to the January meeting.

To remain as an action point.

A4.03 Paper on game-shooting

Item on main agenda.

(a) Presentation by GCT on research findings regarding release densities.

Item on main agenda. Ian Lindsay, Director of Advisory & Education, GCT, in attendance.

(b) Provision of documents relating to Langholm.

To remain as an action point. Director of Scotland to provide verbal updates on this agenda item in relation to Scotland.

(c) Presentation to the GCT Council on the findings to date of the Wounding Study.

Noted that the Director of Research has now attended GCT Council and provided presentation as agreed.

(d) Scottish Raptor Policy

Item on main agenda.

(e) Contact to be made with CLA regarding Planning Law applications.

Item in Director of Operations Report.

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- (f) Consideration 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.

A4.04. Analysis Paper on Animal Aid. – Head of Gamekeeping to provide analysis after completing work on Game shooting paper
To remain as an action point.

A4.05. GFA Code of Practice and Letter to Council from GFA Chairman.
Item on main agenda.

A4.06. Re-development at Trochry
Item on main agenda.

A4.07. Position statement on wind farms and coastal erosion

- (1) Tim Russell to draw up a wind farm advice note as soon as possible
Item on main agenda

- (2) Expert on climate change research and development to be invited to a future meeting of Council.
Representative from English Nature to attend the March meeting of Council to provide a presentation on climate change.

A4.08 Proposed Communications Centre.
Item on main agenda.

A4.09 Provision of a paper reviewing the subscription rate for Gundog membership.
Noted that the Gundog Advisory Committee resolved not to pursue a reduction in the gundog category membership fee, but will attempt to raise awareness of the category over the forthcoming twelve months.

A4.10. The provision of advice to membership on suitability of candidates for election to Council.
To be placed on agenda of the January 2006 Meeting of Council.

A4.11. Review of BASC support to WHT
Presentation to be provided by WHT to the February 2006 Meeting of Council.

A4.12. Proposed DEFRA Code on snares
To be placed on the agenda of the next Gameshooting Advisory Committee and a paper drawn up for submission to Council.

A4.13 Increase in Buzzards in Wales.

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*Issue to be raised at a forthcoming meeting between CCW and BASC,
following which, a report will be presented to Council.*

Additional Matter Arising

Council considered the provision of relevant papers to Council Members wishing to attend Committee meetings as observers.

It was resolved that a paper should be presented to the next Council meeting providing more information and that the paper would be seen by the legal advisor.

A4.1. Verbal Up-date on Redevelopment at Trochry

It was confirmed that the building is now wind and water tight and all works are on schedule. It is hoped to move in during December with official opening in January/February. The Quantity Surveyor has provided a projection of outrun costs and these have been provided to Robert Irvine and Graham Crompton-Howe for their perusal. This had shown an anticipated underspend of £4,000. Council were also informed that fundraising in Scotland over the last two years had realised 70% of the anticipated costs of this project.

To remain as an action point

A4.2 Up-date on Teachers Resource Pack for Scotland

It was noted that minor amendments are in hand prior to the pack being available for both Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of the year.

B.1 To agree the Budget for 2006.

Following a lengthy discussion, the proposed budget for 2006 was accepted as presented. Council thanked the Director of Business Management for the clear and concise papers presented.

It was resolved that the proposed 2006 budget was accepted as presented.

B.2 To discuss the proposed Communications Centre

Council received a paper showing building costs, and alternative potential relocation costs, for the proposed development at BASC headquarters. It was noted that the proposal development will be considered by an internal Committee of the Planning Department prior to the submission of a detailed planning application..

It was resolved that BASC proceed with the development of the two-storey extension to the rear of the Stanley Duncan building in accordance with the proposals of the architect (noted as Option C on the detailed development paper). The aim of the fundraising target would be 100% of the costs.

B.3. To receive an update on Avian Influenza

Council viewed video footage of a report on BBC Scotland News entitled "Testing for Bird Flu on the Firth of Forth", prior to receiving an up-date by

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Mark Cokayne and Simon Clarke on the current situation in respect of Avian Influenza in the United Kingdom. It was agreed that a statement should be provided to members to advise them that BASC is working closely with DEFRA on this issue, and that in the event of an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, shooting will not cease as a matter of course but in each case BASC will liaise closely with DEFRA to ensure the correct action is taken.

A draft statement will be circulated electronically to Council members for any comments prior to publication on the BASC website.

B.4 To receive a Raptor Policy Paper from BASC Scotland

A paper was presented to Council on the BASC Scotland Raptor Policy.

Council resolved that, subject to some minor amendments, the document be adopted as a BASC policy for the United Kingdom.

B.5. To provide a wind farm advice note

Council considered a paper outlining the environmental impact assessment of wind farms. It was agreed that BASC is not in a position to make a definitive statement on this issue, but acknowledged that members are seeking guidance.

It was agreed to undertake a literature review on wind farms and place references on the BASC website.

B.6. To receive a presentation on game bird stocking density.

Ian Lindsay of the GCT provided Council with an interim view of research on this subject which is likely to be completed within the next twelve months. Council was requested to regard the presentation as extremely confidential for the interim.

B.7. Amended GFA Code of Practice & Policy on Raised Gamebird Laying Units and letter to Council from GFA Chairman

Tim Robbins, GFA Chairman, addressed Council on the September 2005 revised Code of Practice and Policy on raised gamebird laying units. After detailed discussion:

It was resolved that Council maintain its position as decided in September 2005 in that:-

- (i) Any variety of raised battery type cage laying systems for pheasants should be banned, and*
- (ii) Other than in a flock system, partridges should only be confined in traditional partridge boxes which are occupied by a single pair of partridges. Confinement should only be until the end of the laying period. Traditional boxes are constructed to specifications advocated by the Game Conservancy Trust.*

Council agreed to proceed with the publication of a press release informing the membership of BASC's position on this subject. Council members, advisory committees and other organisations to be circulated prior to publication.

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Council was advised of a letter received from David Fursdon, the new President of the CLA, suggesting a meeting to try to make the Shoot Summit a better forum for progressing country issues. The Chief Executive Officers and Chairmen of the four major organisations in this field, BASC, CLA, CA and GCT, are invited to meet.

Agreed that the Chairman will write in acceptance of the invitation and report to Council following the meeting.

B.8. To receive suggested amendments to the paper on the challenges and opportunities facing game shooting.

A paper was provided with all comments received.

It was agreed that all appropriate comments be incorporated and a revised paper be submitted to the January 2006 Meeting of Council.

C.1 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.1.1. Wildfowling Liaison Committee – 10.09.05.

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

C.1.2. Gundog Advisory Committee – 27.10.05

The Minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C.1.3. Executive & Finance Committee – 20.10.05

The Minutes of the E & F Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2 To take the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.3. To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

C.5. To take the Director of Business Management's Report

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

C.6. To take the Director of Operation's Report

The Director of Operation's Report was accepted as presented.

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It was agreed that efforts be made to produce a Memorandum of Understanding between BASC and the Countryside Foundation for Education, an educational charity which provides materials for schools.

D.1 To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman

It was noted that an additional paragraph to the draft Northern Ireland Wildlife Order refers to a proposal to introduce a new power to provide protection for quarry species for a temporary period of one season where this is justified for reasons of conservation.

Council agreed to vigorously oppose this proposal.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 26th January, 2006, commencing at 9.00 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.55 pm.

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman