

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006**

Present:	John Graham Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Graham Crompton-Howe Carl Eriksson Michael Evans Lee Freeston David Frost Duncan Greaves Robert Irvine Andy Macfarlane William Notton Ray Walters	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members:	John Swift Glynn Cook Roger Pollen, Simon Hamlyn Philippa Bursey Vivienne Jasper	Chief Executive Director, Wales Director, Northern Ireland Director of Operations Director of Business Management IPS Secretary
Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary
In part time Attendance:	Dr Peter Marshall Alan McCormick Dr John Harradine Charley May In attendance for item B1	Research Officer Deer Officer Director of Research Research Officer
	Bill Harriman In attendance for item B2	Director of Firearms
	Jamie Stewart In attendance for item B3	Gamekeeping Officer
	Simon Cussons Paul Walkden Tim Russell	WHT Trustee WHT Trustee Director of Conservation & Land Management
	Mark Cokayne	Wildfowl and Wetlands Officer (incorporating WHT Marketing & Development Officer)
	All in attendance for item B7	

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Walter Cole, Peter Pursglove, Tom Wylie, Colin Shedden and Christopher Graffius. Ian Haddon was not in attendance.

A2 Confidential Agenda Items

It was noted that items B.1. – Presentation on Deer Stalking Survey; B.5. – AGM – Special Presentations; C2 – Minutes of Advisory Committees and C6 – Director of Business Management’s report should be regarded as Confidential
This was agreed.

A3 Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in item B4 – Pension Trustee nomination. The Chief Executive, Director of Business Management, and the Director of Operations declared an interest in item B7 – BASC’s support for the WHT.

A4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th March 2006

A4.1 A request to amend the Minutes, that had been previously been refused by the Chairman was considered first. Following discussion, it was confirmed by Council that the matter was closed.

It was agreed that the item would not be taken and that the meeting should proceed to the next item.

It was noted that a further proposed amendment had been received for inclusion in the minutes relating to item B5 of the last meeting. Whilst it was acknowledged that the points raised in the suggested amendment were neither discussed nor agreed at the meeting, it was agreed that the penultimate sentence of the final paragraph on this item should read :-

“Finally there is a need to ensure that climate change is embraced in all of BASC’s functions”.

It was further noted in item A3, the word ‘Balackwater’ should be changed to ‘Blackwater’.

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

The Chairman acknowledged that recent minutes were becoming too cryptic in places and he would ensure that future minutes would be more self-explanatory, while still remaining concise.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

A5 To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 16th March 2006.

A5.01 BASC as a sporting agency.

It was noted that a plan had now been agreed between Decisions Express and AIS and that new software for the website to talk to the database could be arranged. The Go Shooting webpage had now been implemented and it was hoped that this would soon be interactive for members.

A5.02 Challenges and opportunities in gameshooting.

It was noted that the Game Shooting Advisory Committee had now submitted their comments to the review and that these had been taken on board. A revised paper had been sent to Simon Hart and Teresa Dent as the basis for a work plan for future shoot summit meetings. A response was awaited.

To remain as an action point

A5.03 Proposed Communications Centre.

Item on main agenda.

A5.04 The provision of advice to membership on suitability of candidates for election to Council

It was noted that a dates had now been set aside for the open day for prospective 2007 Council members. These were the 29 and 30 September 2006, all Heads of Department had been asked to attend. Council Members wishing to participate should let the Chief Executive know. Interest had already been shown by members following the recent edition of *Shooting and Conservation*.

A5.05 Review of BASC support to WHT

Item on main agenda.

A5.06 Memorandum of Understanding between BASC and Countryside Foundation for Education.

It was noted that an e-mail had been circulated to Council Members enclosing a copy of the MOU. This would be signed at the forthcoming CLA Game Fair.

A5.07 Regenerating ownership, partnership and commitment.

It was noted that a meeting had now been set up involving Eric Begbie and a small working group and it would be held on the day before the next meeting of Council.

To remain as an action point.

A5.08 Confidentiality Issues

It was noted that the revised Role and Operations paper had now been circulated to Council.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

A5.09 Avian Influenza

Item on main agenda.

A5.10 Role of Chairman.

To remain as an action point.

It was noted that the Chairman's Honorarium was now paid through the payroll in order to account for tax and national insurance contributions at source. There is no contract of employment.

A5.11 Proposed BASC Education policy.

A draft policy paper is being worked on. This would be brought to the October meeting of Council for Council to consider.

To remain as an action point.

A5.12 Shooting Times

It was confirmed that the Director of Communications had now dealt with this issue.

A5.13 Honours and Awards

Item on main agenda.

A5.14 Raptor Policy

It was noted that a meeting was to be held at the Cardross Game Fair on the 6 May 2006 involving the Director Scotland, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Scottish Committee to progress a policy paper.

To remain as an action point.

A5.15 SWOT Analysis

This was tabled at the meeting. Council members should refer comments to the Chief Executive.

To remain as an action point.

A5.16 Climate Change

Following on from the presentation on climate change at the last meeting by Mike Harley of English Nature, it was noted that the Director of Conservation and Land Management had accepted Mike Harley's invitation to attend a high level conference in the Autumn. Council were asked to consider the resource availability of BASC which limited an in depth pursuit of climate change, however they were assured that the implications of climate change would be addressed in the 5 year plan.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

A5.1 Verbal up-date on proposed Communications Centre

It was noted that there was still some difficulty in reaching agreement with the owner of the strip of land adjoining the entrance of the premises in order to satisfy the Highways Agency's requirement to have a clear line of sight for egress onto the highway. Alternative ideas were being pursued. As a result of this problem, planning consent had not yet been applied for.

To remain as an action point

It was noted that energy saving ideas for the new building would be pursued.

A5.2 Update on Avian Influenza

It was noted that BASC was still operating with the emergency plan in place. The position was brought to a head with the confirmed outbreak of H5N1 in Fife, though it was noted that there had been no further outbreaks. It was reported that the procedures followed in response to the outbreak had run reasonably smoothly and it was hoped that more time will enable officials to take sensible decisions for future outbreaks. Discussions are continuing with partner organisations. It was noted that good relations were being developed with Defra who held BASC in high regard. BASC had extended an invitation to officials from Defra to visit the Mill.

It was confirmed later in the meeting that the swan found in Fife was a Whooper swan and not a Mute swan as originally thought. This made more sense to the authorities, particularly as the H5N1 strain was very similar to that found in Germany, it was felt that the swan had probably washed up on the shore from the North Sea. It was noted that an insurance policy was likely to be made available and that more information would be given once this had been confirmed. It was confirmed that the provision of statutory notices for future outbreaks was being worked on.

To remain as an action point.

B1 To receive a presentation on the results of the Deer Stalking Survey 2004

Dr Peter Marshall made a presentation to Council on the above with the caveat that these were preliminary findings and therefore should remain confidential. The main findings showed that there were currently 13,000 – 14,000 members who stalked; there was an increase in interest, opportunities and activity in deer stalking; and that the importance of BASC members in deer management had increased.

Following the presentation, concern was expressed as to the misconception of some members in relation to insurance cover when called to deal with deer involved in road traffic accidents. It was noted that at no extra charge to members, cover can be provided as long as the member completes a form to request cover. It was felt that this should be publicised to members.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

It was also noted that given the increase in deer stalking interest, staffing in the Deer Dept. should be looked at carefully for the next budget year.

B2 To receive presentations on:

B2.1 Update on the Violent Crimes Reduction Bill

The Director of Firearms gave an update to Council on the concepts and issues relating to firearms matters in the Violent Crimes Reduction Bill. Issues which the Bill proposed to introduce covered: minding a weapon for someone else; stiffer and mandatory sentencing; increase in air weapons offences and that air weapons could only be traded by registered firearms dealers; face to face weapons sales (which would impact on web sellers); and raising the age limit for using an air weapon from 17 to 18. It would be an offence where a missile leaves the premises and there was to be more control of the re-loading of ammunition. A major issue for concern related to the proposal to inhibit the manufacture and supply of imitation firearms. It was noted that amendments were being sought in relation to Olympic pistol shooting as potential Olympians were currently restricted for training in the UK.

It was noted that the Bill has now passed through the House of Commons. The matter goes to Committee on either 15th or 22nd May, 2006 and BASC has received an assurance from the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers that the expertise of BASC will be sought when consideration is given to the matter of gun dealers retailing air weapons.

B2.2 Update on the use of handguns for the despatch of deer

The Director of Firearms gave an update to Council on the rejection by North Yorkshire Police of an application to use a handgun by a BASC member. The case was referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedure during which, the process highlighted the differences in the definition of a rifle. A legal Counsel's view was sought by North Yorkshire Police and this is currently being contested. Counsel upheld the views expressed by an officer of the British Deer Society that it was illegal in any circumstances to use a pistol for the humane despatch of deer. A further ADR meeting is to take place and the court appeal hearing has been postponed to accommodate this. It was noted that the parties involved were keen to see the matter resolved in a low key way.

B3 To receive a presentation on the gamekeeping network

Jamie Stewart, Gamekeeping Officer, made a presentation to Council on the establishment of the Gamekeeping network. It was noted that the key issue surrounding the reason for establishing the network lay around communication.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

It was felt that communication between BASC and Gamekeepers was important and one way to ensure that this happened was to set up the network. The three aims of the network included: increased communication; training opportunities and social events.

Council commended the work undertaken by Jamie Stewart and acknowledged that much progress has been made.

B4 Pensions Trustee Nomination

It was noted that the Chairman of the Trustees of the BASC Pension Schemes had invited John Graham to become a Trustee. Confirmation was awaited from the Scheme advisors regarding where the power to appoint a new Trustee lay, with the existing Trustees or through Council, it was felt that the former was the case.

It was agreed that should the latter be the case, Council was fully supportive of the appointment.

B5 To consider nominations for AGM Special Presentations

Council received 3 nominations to consider for special presentations to be made at the forthcoming AGM.

B6 To consider a proposed amendment to the Staff/Council relations paper

Two proposals were put forward to amend the Staff/Council relations paper. The first proposal was withdrawn when it was agreed that changing from “may” to “will” reduced the opportunity for flexibility. The second proposal concerned the amount of notice given to a member before a complaint was brought to Council. After some discussion it was agreed to remove ‘due notice’ and to insert ‘not less than 2 days notice’ in the section relating to this.

B7 To review BASC’s support of WHT

A presentation was made to Council that outlined the results of a business review conducted by the WHT Trustees and highlighted the areas for the future development of WHT. It was noted that significant cost savings for BASC were proposed and that whilst the WHT would still need support from BASC staff, the value of this had been reduced to £21,757 per annum, at full overhead cost recovery rate, for the year 2006. It was felt that a similar amount, plus inflation, would be required for the year 2007. Council was asked to consider whether the proposal was acceptable and if they were prepared to continue administrative support of WHT.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

It was agreed that Council would continue to provide administrative support for WHT in 2006 and 2007 in line with the figures presented and that a review would be conducted in October 2007 in readiness for the 2008 budget year discussions.

The Director of Business Management was asked to put a system into place to monitor the financial costs. The Director of Operations was asked to report to Council as and when significant progress was made.

C1 To note the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee of 23 February 2006

The minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee were noted as presented.

C2 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C2.1 Shooting Standards Advisory Committee – 28.03.06

The Minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee were noted as presented.

It was noted that a recommendation to Council had been made that a Respect for Quarry DVD be produced for circulation to members through Shooting and Conservation and at shows and events to raise awareness amongst BASC membership of improving shooting skills in order to reduce wounding. It was noted that the approximate cost of production would be £60,000.

It was agreed that the idea would be taken to the forthcoming Shoot Summit meeting to ascertain whether partner organisations would wish to participate in the initiative, thus sharing the burden of the cost. If possible, a report would be brought back to the May meeting of Council.

C2.2 Gamekeepers Advisory Committee – 17.02.06

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

It was noted that a recommendation to Council had been made that BASC's code on fox snaring should be retained but, where appropriate, to include key points from the DEFRA code.

It was agreed that this recommendation be adopted and that the revised code would come before Council in due course.

It was noted that a template structure had now been established to assist in producing future codes of practice to ensure consistency across all codes.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

C2.3 Wildfowling Liaison Committee – 04.03.06

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

It was noted that a recommendation to Council had been made that the necessary means and budget be found to continue production of the Wildfowling magazine for the forthcoming financial year. It was felt that the magazine needed to take on higher level issues affecting wildfowling and that more people needed to make contributions to articles.

It was agreed that the Director of Communication, when considering the frequency of Shooting & Conservation, will consider an action plan for both the Wildfowling magazine and the Custodian, including full costings, and bring it to a future meeting of Council.

C3 To take the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

A request was made for a more detailed report to be produced in future.

C4 To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's report was accepted as presented.

The Chief Executive spoke of the recent death of Bruce Wilson-North.

It was agreed that the Chairman write to the CLA to offer Council's condolences and to pledge BASC's support towards a project in memory of Bruce Wilson North.

It was noted that a Commemoration Album had been presented to BASC by Malcolm Lyell which recorded the production of a set of guns by Holland & Holland to mark BASC's 75th Anniversary. The album was available for Council members to view if they wished to do so.

It was noted that Lord Home was maintaining a very close interest in the progress of BASC particularly its relations with partner organisations and that in turn he was keeping the Patron briefed on the actions and words of co-operation. It was noted that a protocol for management of disagreement was being drawn up between the partners of the Shoot Summit and that this would be progressed through future meetings.

C.5. To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications Report was accepted as presented.

C.6. To take the Director of Business Management's Report

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

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006

C.7. To take the Director of Operation's Report

The Director of Operations report was accepted as presented.

It was noted that an offer had been made to a new fundraising manager and that this had been accepted. References were awaited.

It was reported that the post for the Regional Director South West had now been advertised and that interviews would be scheduled for the 11 May 2006.

It was agreed that the logo for the Centenary would be circulated for comment.

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

Council members were reminded to ensure that all fields in their expense claim forms were fully completed as the tax man was very keen to pick up on those claims which were not properly detailed.

It was noted that an article about a female member of staff in the recent edition of Shooting and Conservation was not considered appropriate. A request was also made that product reviews in Shooting and Conservation should be conducted by those best placed to review them. It was also noted that the picture on the front cover of Shooting and Conservation looked as though the person with the gun was shooting someone else, a similar issue had been raised previously.

It was agreed that the Director of Communications be asked to look into all issues.

A request was made for the BASC insurance policy to be reviewed to make it wider for members. It was felt that this was not appropriate as the cost to do so would become prohibitive. Council members were asked to inform the Chief Executive of instances where members were asking for cover that was not already there so that such requests could be dealt with appropriately.

It was noted that Harry Abbott had sent his best wishes to Council members.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2006**

Carl Eriksson reported that he had met recently with 6 MP's and they all considered BASC to be the main voice of shooting. It was felt that a 'pat on the back' was due to all concerned.

Concern was noted about a stand at the Gamekeepers Fair promoting dove shooting in Argentina. It was felt that the amount of birds shot compared to those retrieved was not very good PR.

It was agreed that the Director of Operations speak to the organiser of the fair to let him know of the concern and to take appropriate action.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 18 May 2006, commencing at 9.00 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.05 pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman