THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING and CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY, 2009

Present:	**Robert Irvine Chairman**	
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Walter Cole	
	Robert Crofts	
	Paul Culley	
	John Dryden	
	Lee Freeston	
	Andrew Macfarlane	
	Michael Sherman	
	John Thornley	
	Ray Walters	
	Helen Cormack (Candidate standing for election at 2009 AGM)	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive Officer**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business Management**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
In attendance	**Connor O'Gorman**	**Policy Development Manager- Agenda Item B.1**
	Bill Harriman	**Director of Firearms - Agenda Item B.2**
	David Ilsley	**Head of Marketing – Agenda Item B4**
Minute Secretary	**Amanda Forshaw**	

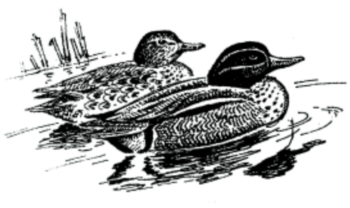
The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Helen Cormack, a candidate standing for election to Council at the 2009 AGM.

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Breasley, Glynn Cook, Peter Pursglove, Mike Robinson Colin Sheddon, and Tom Wylie.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

Agenda Items C.3 and C.5 should be regarded as confidential.



A.3. <u>Declaration of Interests</u>

There were no declarations of interest.

A.4. <u>To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd January, 2009.</u>

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.5. <u>To take matters arising from the meeting held on 22nd January, 2009</u> .

P.3. Recommendation 1(f) – Feasibility Study 2 – Regional Committees – making them work.

It was noted that this recommendation had been accepted and is an action point for the Chief Executive.

A.6 <u>To take action points from earlier Council Meetings.</u>

A.6.1. <u>WHT Progress and Development Plan</u>

WHT Trustees will provide Council with a progress report and Business Plan in October 2009.

A.6.2 <u>Objects</u>

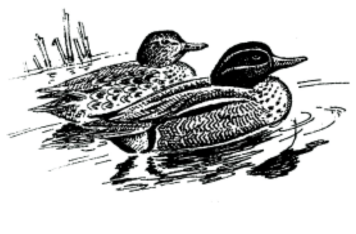
The Chief Executive will provide a review of the Objects of the Association for discussion at the April 2009 Meeting of Council. It is envisaged thereafter that the text for a possible motion for resolution at the 2010 AGM will be brought to Council in October.

A.6.3 <u>Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees – Policy & Practice</u>

Council will decide the Chairmanship for 2009/2010 at April 2009 Meeting of Council, for confirmation at the post-AGM Council.

A.6.4. <u>Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees – Policy & Practice</u>

A paper will be presented to the September 2009 Meeting of Council regarding the possibility of BASC employing a Chairman on a three year term.



A.6.5. Regional Committees

The Chief Executive will provide Council with a paper on regional structures at a date to be decided. (This is separate from the discussion about devolution).

B.1. To decide BASC's response to English Wildlife General Licences consultation.

Council was presented with a paper prepared by Conor O'Gorman detailing BASC's draft response to the issues relating to the 'general licences' raised by Natural England. Agreed revisions would be incorporated and the new version circulated by email; suggestions for further amendments should be advised no later than Friday 27 February.

B.2. To review the strategy for firearms ownership and use across the United Kingdom

Council was presented with a paper prepared by Bill Harriman which catalogued firearms controls in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It examined the consequences that could emanate from devolution and proposed strategies to counter such consequences. The strategies are based on the general premise that it would be undesirable for UK firearms controls to be further devolved.

The paper set out policy approaches pertinent to each of the home countries and these were agreed by Council.

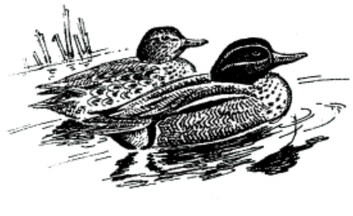
B.3 To discuss/decide arrangements for the 2009 AGM

B.3.1. Nominations for election to Council

It was noted that there had been seven vacancies: five for national seats, one in each of Wales and Scotland. Three nominations were received for the national seats – Helen Cormack, Peter Glenser and Michael Smith. Alan Balfour was nominated for the Scottish seat, and there were no nominations for Wales. Accordingly there will be no ballot and these nominations will be presented for election at the 2009 AGM.

B.3.2. To consider possible motions for resolution

It was noted that no motions had been put forward by members. There were two possible Council motions: the first would be the introduction of a rule on Conflicts of Interest; the second would change rules relating to members' rights in the event of a winding up to ensure BASC's ability to rely on the "mutual trading" exemption from Corporation Tax.



B.3.3. **To approve the outline AGM Agenda**

Council approved the outline agenda for the 2009 AGM

B.4. Presentation by David Ilsley, Head of Marketing

Council received a powerpoint presentation by David Ilsley that focused on his plans for membership marketing in 2009 and beyond; based on research, the strategy centred on improving member retention.

The paper set out three priorities for membership recruitment and retention in 2009 and beyond and Council agreed them. They were (1) priority for payments by direct debit (2) clear focus on BASC's five strategic objectives and (3) BASC's unique ability to deliver in these key respects.

C.1. **To receive the Minutes of Advisory Committees**

C.1.1. **To note the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee Meeting held on 24th September, 2008.**

There were no recommendations to Council.

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were noted.

C.1.2. **To note the Minutes of the Research Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12th November, 2008.**

There were two highlighted points for noting.

The Minutes of the Research Advisory Committee were noted.

C.1.3. **To note the Minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18th December, 2008.**

There were no recommendations to Council

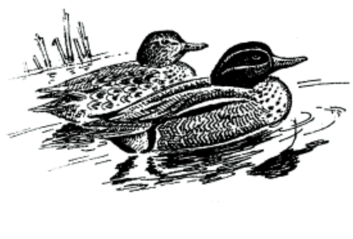
The Minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee were noted.

C.2 **To take the Chairman's Activities Report**

The Chairman's activity report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

C3. **To take the Chief Executive's Report**

Noting that the matter had to be treated as highly confidential until the scheme was launched; Council agreed that a discount



be introduced for members, both new and renewing, who can prove an entitlement to claim Jobseekers' Allowance.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

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

The Director of Communications drew the Council's attention to the item on Olympic Shooting and advised that John Leighton-Dyson, Performance Director, has unfortunately been made redundant. An alternative contact within Olympic Shooting is being sought.

The Director of Communications' report had been circulated and was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that membership income collections in February 2009 did not appear to have declined at a greater rate than normal. The VAT appeal in the High Court will be heard in the last week in February but the precise date was not known.

The Director of Business Management's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

C.6. To take the Director of Operations' Report

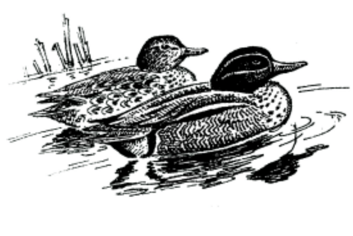
The Director of Operations' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

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

(i) Communications Centre development
A discussion took place regarding the financing of the Communications Centre and to the continuing priority for fundraising. Council's attention was drawn to the strength of BASC's balance sheet and it was also assured that the fund-raising and sponsorship drive will continue.

On behalf of Council, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were authorised to work with the Chief Executive, Director of Business Management and the deign team in reviewing all tenders prior to the placing of the contract by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to provide their professional experience and have particular regard for appropriate economy.

(ii) Devolution debate



Council agreed a proposal from the Chief Executive to establish a working party consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Chairmen of the three Country Committees and the three Country Directors, together with the Senior Management Team, to define the principals and issues to be addressed in connection with "devolution" in its widest context. It was agreed that the working party will report back to Council at a date to be agreed.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be on Thursday 19th March, 2009, at 9.30 am.

This will be preceded by a meeting of elected Council members only at 9.00 am.

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