THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING and CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Present:	**Robert Irvine Chairman**	
	Michael Alldis	
	Alan Balfour	
	Simon Breasley	
	Helen Cormack	
	Paul Culley	
	John Dryden	
	Michael Sherman	
	Ray Walters	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business Management**
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales.**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
In attendance	**John Harradine**	**Agenda Item B.3.**
	Alison Loram	**Agenda Item B.3**
Minute Secretary	**Amanda Forshaw**	

A.1. **<u>Apologies for Absence</u>**

Apologies for absence had been received from Robert Crofts, Lee Freeston, Peter Glenser, Peter Pursglove, Mike Robinson, Mike Smith, John Thornley, Simon Hamlyn and Colin Shedden.

A.2 **<u>To confirm Confidential agenda items.</u>**

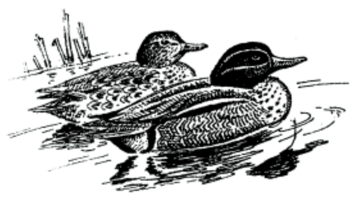
It was noted that Agenda Item C5 should be regarded as confidential.

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 15th October, 2009.</u>**

Page 3, B.1. WHT Progress report and Business Plan for their forthcoming 3 – 5 year period. It was agreed that the wording be revised thus:



Council agreed to adopt the recommendation of the paper that the financial support BASC provides be continued by applying the existing Council funding policy on an annual rolling basis. The Trust to be requested to bear in mind that loans should be made available to smaller clubs as well as larger ones.

Action : Revised minutes to be circulated to all Council members.

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

[Key words: WHT, Wildlife Habitat Trust]

A.5. **<u>To take matters arising from the meeting held on 15th October, 2009</u>**

P. 5. C.3 – Chief Executive's Report. Council was informed that in relation to the complaint against a member of staff made by the East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling and Conservation, the matter has now been fully investigated and the complaint was not upheld. The club has been informed of this outcome and their response is awaited prior to engaging on the wider issues raised by the club in their letter to the Chairman.

[Key words: East of Scotland, complaint, letter]

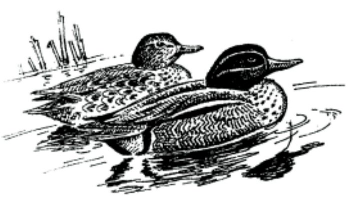
A.6 **<u>To take the tabled action points from earlier Council Meetings.</u>**

A.6.1. <u>Objects</u>

To present a review of the Objects of the organisation to Council following the outcome of the VAT Tribunal. The Chief Executive also drew attention to the new model rules for sports organisations, which merit consideration, which came into effect in October 2009 as the result of the Companies Act 2006.

A.6.2 <u>Devolution</u>

The Chief executive provided the Council with a brief progress report. Devolution Working Group envisages bringing proposals to the March 2010 meeting of Council setting out the relationship between Council and its country committees, the Chief Executive and the country directors and the teams at head office and in the countries and regions.



A.6.3. Use of teleconferencing and video conferencing to reduce costs and enhance communications.

A further review of the available options and their applicability to be conducted once the Communications Centre has been completed.

A.6.4. Phased Direct Debits

As identified in the 2010 budget documentation the item "*To secure further statistics on the possible effect on member recruitment and retention of offering a phased payment option and to reflect these in costed proposals*" must be deferred until 2011

A.6.5. Gamekeeping student members

To provide a review of the effectiveness of the special membership category for student gamekeepers to the October 2010 Meeting of Council.

A.6.6. Competence testing

Director, Scotland to provide Council with regular updates on progress.

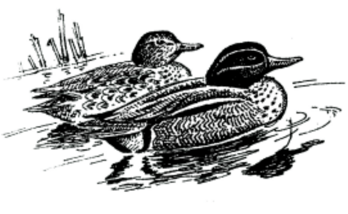
A.6.7. WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

WHT Trustees to provide a progress report and Business Plan for the forthcoming 3 – 5 year period to the October 2010 Meeting of Council.

B.1. To decide the Budget for 2010 and confirm subscription rates.

Council had been presented with a paper detailing the budget for 2010 being proposed by the Senior Management Team.

The Director of Business Management explained the key assumptions and proposals, noting that some membership growth had been anticipated. The key assumptions as recommended by Council in July had been the need for a breakeven outturn and a headline £2 increase in the Full membership subscription with effect from 1st March 2010 (in line with subscriptions policy and the rates for discounted categories agreed in September).



Council considered all the proposals including those for staff posts and noted that for overriding practical reasons a phased direct debit payment option could not be introduced before March 2011.

A motion requiring the introduction of phased direct debits by 1st March 2010 was rejected.

The substantive motion to approve the budget for 2010 as presented was carried on the second, casting vote of the Chairman. It was accordingly resolved that for 2010/11 with effect from 1st March 2010 the Full member subscription rate would increase by £2 and that other rates would be adjusted in accordance with the previously agreed formulae, as detailed in the table presented.

[Key words: budget, decision]

B.2. **To receive an interim report on the progress of Key Function Indicators**

Council received an oral, interim report from the Chief Executive regarding the progress of Key Function Indicators. The Chief Executive noted in particular the steps that were being taken to arrive at useable KFIs to monitor standards in shooting (which had been the only unsatisfactory measure when the first report had been presented in May).

It was agreed that Council will in future receive an annual progress report in May of each year with an interim report being provided each November.

[Key words: KFI, decision]

B.3. **To receive a presentation "Review of legislation relating to the environmental impacts of shooting".**

Council received a presentation given by Alison Loram with John Harradine which summarised a report prepared by Harriet Hunter on current and anticipated environmental legislation and how it may impact shooting.

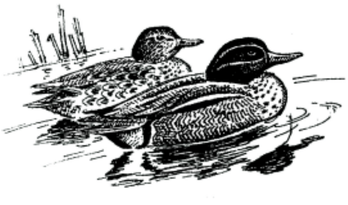
B.4. **To consider a proposal to co-opt a member to Council**

It was agreed to defer this matter until the January 2010 meeting of Council.

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

C.1.1. **To note the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee Meeting held on 10th September, 2009**

There were two recommendations to Council :-



1. To request the Marketing Department to develop the provision of "Point of Sale" displays for BASC publications, membership applications, etc.

Council noted the recommendation

2. To develop a gallery for photographs on the Northern Ireland pages of the BASC website.

Council noted the recommendation.

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee meeting were noted.

C.1.2. To note the Minutes of the Gameshooting Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14th September, 2009.

There were no recommendations to Council.

The Minutes of the Gameshooting Advisory Committee meeting 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. The Chairman provided a brief update on the progress of the new Communications Centre, highlighting some minor changes in design.

C3. To take the Chief Executive's Report

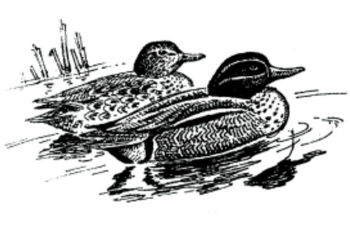
The Chief Executive's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented. The Chief Executive provided a brief update on the issue of lead shot and the possibility of the formation of an industry group to lead on this issue.

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

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

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

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



C.6. <u>To take the Director of Operations' Report</u>

The Director of Operations' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented. In the absence of the Director of Operations, Ray Walters provided Council with an update on the meeting held with the Kennel Club regarding the showing of docked breeds at Crufts. Council noted that this issue remains under consideration.

D.1 <u>To take Any Other Business by leave of the Chairman</u>

(i) It was noted that information on various policy decisions made by Council is now accessible on the BASC intranet.

(ii) It was proposed that work be undertaken to ensure that a phased direct debit option is available to BASC members by March 2010.

Council members voted as follows :- 2 in favour; 4 against; 3 abstentions.
The proposal was not accepted.

[Key words: decision]

(iii) It was agreed that Council will be provided with an update report at the January 2010 meeting on the issue of shooting rights over common land in North Norfolk.

(iv) It was agreed that the Director of Business Management will seek clarification from the BASC member insurance underwriters on the issue of insurance cover for BASC members involved in supporting rescue services on a voluntary basis.

(v) It was noted that a report will be presented to the next Wildfowling Conference on the issue of goose control in Holland.

D.2. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be on Thursday 21st January, 2010, commencing at 09.30hrs. It would be preceded at 09.00hrs by a meeting of the elected members only. The venue would again be the Rossett Hall Hotel.

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