

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Martyn Howat, Chairman
Mike Sherman, Vice Chairman
Alan Balfour
Paul Culley
John Dryden
Lee Freeston
David de Gernier
Michael Hardy
Alan Jarrett
Alisdair Troup
Claire Zambuni

Ex-Officio Members:	John Swift Philippa Bursey Christopher Graffius Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director of Business Management Director of Communications Director, Scotland
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In attendance:	Glynn Evans Peter Marshall	Agenda Items B.4.1 & B.4.2 Agenda Items B.4.3 & B.4.4
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Minute Secretary: Diane McKenzie-Hodkinson

A.1. Apologies for Absence

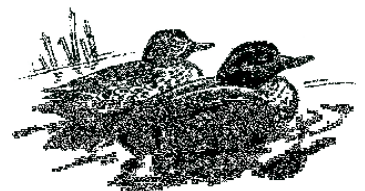
Apologies were received from Helen Cormack, Peter Glenser, Neil Griffiths, Robert Irvine, Sir Roger Jones, Mike Smith, John Thornley, Tommy Mayne and Meurig Rees.

A.2. To confirm Confidential items

It was agreed that Items A6.2, C.2 and C.5 be treated as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Items for 'Any Other Business' to be discussed under Agenda Item D.1 were put forward in advance in order to identify any matters capable of being resolved by the securing of information while the rest of Council's business was being addressed.



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A.4 Declarations of Interest

Amendments to the Declarations of Interest Register 2012 under Description of Interest were requested by:

Alan Balfour – to read ‘Member of the Tay Valley Wildfowlers Association’

Lee Freeston – to change ‘farm’ to ‘forum’

Alisdair Troup – to confirm no changes for 2012

A.5 To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 July 2012 *(incorporating amendments agreed by the Chairman)*

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A.6 To take matters arising from Council meeting 26 July 2012

A6.1 To receive the updated schedule of Council members’ declarations of interests

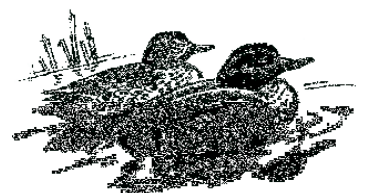
The paper had been re-circulated to Council members and, subject to the amendments noted above; *Council confirmed* its acceptance of the document.

A6.2 To receive a report on the Chief Executive recruitment and next steps

The Chairman updated elected and ex-officio Council members on the recruitment process. The Stage One Group had interviewed 8 candidates chosen from 55 applications; 3 candidates had been selected for a second interview to be conducted by the Stage Two Group on 26 September at which each interviewee will be required to give a presentation on threats to the sport of shooting.

The Stage One Group comprised Scott Black (FWB), Martyn Howat, Alan Balfour, Robert Irvine and John Thornley; the Stage Two Group comprises the Stage One Group together with Mike Sherman and Lee Freeston.

The Chief Executive and Ex-Officio members left the meeting to enable the elected members to discuss and agree contractual terms and the delegation of the necessary authority for an appointment to be made.



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Closed meeting

A closed meeting of elected Council members took place, the details of which were recorded separately. The Chairman sought the advice and approval of Council as to the detail and process for the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer.

Council gave their approval to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to progress matters as agreed on their behalf.

The Chief Executive and Ex-Officio members re-joined the meeting.

A.6.3 To receive the recommendations of the Land Policy Working Group

Council had been provided with a paper reflecting the working group's initial discussions. Recommendations had been made regarding composition of a group to continue investigating the matter. Noting the need for all the main shooting disciplines to be represented as well as the need to consider factors in all parts of the United Kingdom it was suggested that the group should temporarily co-opt members with special expertise. In this context Christopher Graffius confirmed he would be available when any PR/political expertise was required, but would not be a member of the group.

The group was asked to progress the matter and revert to Council with more comprehensive recommendations in April 2013.

A.7 To take the Action Points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

A.7.1 Objects

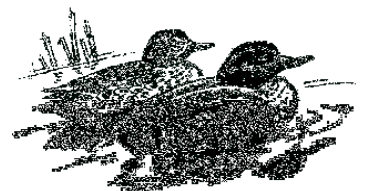
It was agreed this would not be brought back to Council until February 2013.

A.7.2 Use of teleconferencing and video conferencing to reduce costs and enhance communications

The Director of Business Management reported that the matter was being actively researched but it did appear that costs would be significant; an appropriate budget bid would be submitted.

A.7.3 Key Function Indicators

An annual report will be presented in July 2013.



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A.7.4 WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

A report will be presented in October 2012.

A.7.5 Sport and Recreation Alliance's Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector

It was agreed this would not be brought back to Council until February 2013.

A.7.6 Advisory Committees' Annual Reports

A report will be provided to the May 2013 Council meeting.

A.7.7 Risk Management Register

This will be brought back to Council for an annual review in January 2013.

A.7.8 Land purchase

This was covered under Agenda Item A.6.3.

A.7.9 Council election process

To be discussed at the November 2012 Council meeting.

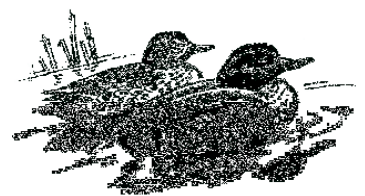
B.1 To appoint the members of the country and advisory committees

B1.1 Northern Ireland Committee membership

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Robert Irvine, Council was unable to approve the members proposed as the list only included one member of Council; under the Constitution¹ two Council members are required to sit on advisory committees.

It was agreed that Robert Irvine be asked to consider the second elected Council member.

¹ Rule 5(e)(ii)



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B1.2 Scottish Committee membership

Council approved the members proposed by the Chairman, Alan Balfour.

B1.3 Welsh Committee membership

The Committee Chairman requested that John Bond be removed from the list that had been circulated; he also explained that he had written to the Welsh Council representative asking him to sit on the committee, but had received no reply. *It was agreed* that Paul Culley be included as the second Council member on the Committee.

Subject to these changes *Council approved* the members proposed by the Chairman, Michael Sherman.

B1.4 Deer Stalking Committee membership

The Committee Chairman, John Thornley was not present at the meeting, but in his absence, *Council approved* the members proposed by him.

B1.5 Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee membership

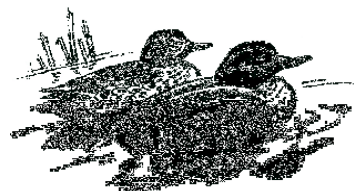
The Chairman explained that he was waiting for a response from a couple of new members.

Council approved the members proposed by the Chairman, Paul Culley, but requested he update them once he had heard back from the proposed additional new members.

B1.6 Wildfowling Liaison Committee membership

The Committee Chairman requested that the spelling of Richard Playle's name be corrected.

Council approved the members proposed by the Chairman, Lee Freeston.



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B.2 To receive a presentation on budget parameters for 2013

The Director of Business Management gave a presentation explaining the Association's budgetary cycle; an interactive model was used to demonstrate the effect on the budget of changes in key parameters such as membership levels, staff remuneration and subscription rates.

It was agreed that any Council member who wishes additional information to be provided in support of the budget proposals should email the Director of Business Management with a copy to the Chairman.

B.3 To receive a presentation by the Director Wales 'How we view the future'

In the absence of the Director Wales, the Director of Communications gave a presentation on public affairs agenda and his work with the Director and Regional Officer Wales.

Over the past 9 months they have been involved in 4 consultations²; 6 formal meetings have taken place with Welsh politicians, Assembly Members, Ministers and MPs and a meeting is currently being arranged with Leanne Wood, the new Plaid Cymru Leader. They are also considering a proposal to establish a working group on shooting within the Welsh Assembly.

A meeting with Visit Wales on reproducing the Countryside Best Tourism Project in Wales is being pursued.

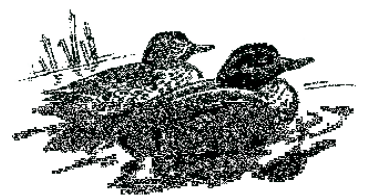
The ban on tail docking is still being monitored, awaiting the publication of research by the Scottish Government.

B.4 To receive short presentations from the 'service groups' for:-

B4.1 Woodpigeon

Glynn Evans gave a presentation on the work of the cross-departmental Woodpigeon group; advice is mainly given by email and there is a dedicated telephone hunt group made up of internal experts. Group "meetings" are generally teleconferences.

² Dog breeding, single environment agency for Wales, marine conservation zones and the micro-chipping of dogs



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Woodpigeon courses, run under the auspices of the regions but delivered by external trainers, are proving very popular. A Woodpigeon Register has been set up in the Eastern Region to assist farmers who have pigeon control problems, and a film based on the Woodpigeon Code of Practice is available on YouTube.

Glynn Evans was asked to establish whether there has been any change in woodpigeon club membership numbers as a result of this work.

B4.2 Gundogs

Glynn Evans spoke on the work of the cross-departmental Gundog group; it operates in a very similar manner to the Woodpigeon Group.

Chudleys' continued sponsorship of gundog events and prizes, including the Gamekeepers' ring at Crufts is highly valued. Meetings had taken place with the Kennel Club to try to resolve the issue of docked dogs at Crufts.

The Scurry League has proved popular though poor weather had caused the cancellation of a number of events in 2012.

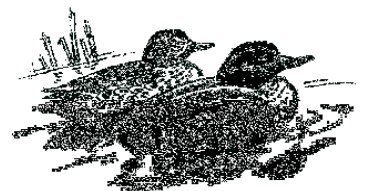
In his capacity as Chairman of the Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee Paul Culley expressed a wish to attend future meetings Gundog Group; *Glynn Evans would notify him of the dates but stressed that the group's business is carried forward electronically.*

B4.3 Airgun

Peter Marshall reported on the activities of the cross-departmental Airgun Group, which comprises 5 staff based at Marford Mill together with Kenny Willmitt, Development Officer – Scotland.

The airgun section of the BASC website sees a large number of hits and is kept fresh and up to date; codes of practice and other publications are also kept up to date and a number of airgunning items had been published in *Shooting and Conservation*. There are 40 people on the BASC register of airgun coaches of whom 20 are qualified and 20 are in training; there is now an airgun Safe Shot award.

It was noted that there are airgun clubs that would like to be affiliated to BASC but



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they cannot afford the current £46 subscription; unless insurance is required, it was suggested they become Group Supporter organisations.

Colin Shedden updated Council on the situation in Scotland regarding proposals that airguns be licenced.

B4.4 Clay shooting

Peter Marshall gave a presentation on the clay shooting group. Because BASC's focus is principally live quarry shooting this area of the website is less active but it is kept fresh with links on 'how to get into shooting'. Advice is also given in the various codes of practice. Since January there have been 13 pieces of clay shooting news, 13 pieces regarding BASC shotgun coaching, and 6 feature articles on clay shooting in the magazine. Informative pocket guides have also been published.

Talks with the CPSA are underway to try to identify a system for recognising one another's qualifications. Meanwhile, through Liz Lamb, BASC is becoming increasingly involved with the Disabled Shooters Association; ways to facilitate the accreditation of disabled people as BASC shotgun coaches are being explored.

Building on the work in the regions, the creation of a "starter pack" to enable schools to set up a shooting club is being explored.

C.1 To receive the Chairman's Report

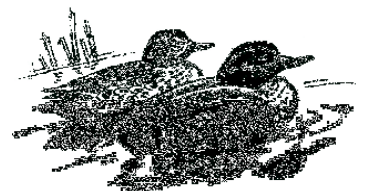
The Chairman's Report was accepted as presented.

C.2 To receive the Chief Executive's Report

Owing to a lengthy absence from the office, the Chief Executive gave an oral report on his current activities; he also highlighted aspects of his role that need to be considered by Council in the context of his impending retirement.

Deer Initiative – The Chief Executive will be standing down as Trustee Director and had spoken with both the DI and BASC chairs and in the light of that suggested that John Thornley be his successor as the BASC representative *Council approved John Thornley.*

Board elections for FACE – The Chief Executive had stood down as the UK Vice-President on the FACE Board and representative of the 'Big 5' which comprises Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the UK,



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enabling Jochen Borchert from Germany to take his place. He has taken up the post of **Treasurer General of FACE**. This means the UK Vice-Presidency is vacant, and a representative from the UK needs to be identified.

Lead – Research results on lead in food by the Food Standards Agency Scotland are imminent.

Lead Ammunition Group – Lord Mancroft, shooting stakeholder representative is standing down and a replacement is being sought. *Council members were asked to consider a replacement.*

Standing Conference on Countryside Sports – there is a vacancy as the current convenor Tim Hoggarth (CA) has stood down. *Council members were asked to make suggestions.*

The Chief Executive advised Council that consideration was being given to the establishment of a charitable trust to provide matched funding for conservation projects financed principally by landfill tax trusts such as Sita. He suggested that this be raised at the next Council meeting.

C.3 To receive the Director of Communication's Report

The Director of Communications updated Council on the Angling Trust's campaign to get cormorants put onto the General Licence; more information will be available in November.

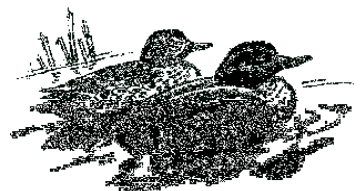
The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

C.4 To approve the Director of Business Management's Report

The Director of Business management had presented a full set of accounts to the end of August 2012 and updated Council on progress with the new accounting system, and was thanked for all the hard work undertaken by her and her team.

There was discussion on the reported decrease in Young Shot members and it was questioned why, when courses are now run, youngsters attending are no longer obliged to be BASC members. *The Chief Executive said he would look into this.*

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



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

D.1.1 The Crook of Baldoon

Paul Culley apprised Council of the current situation regarding the problems Wigtown Bay WA is experiencing with RSPB and their plans for a Visitor Centre alongside the club's shooting. Talks have been taking place, but Paul Culley requested that BASC becomes more pro-active.

The Director of Scotland confirmed they have been involved but was asked to see if they could help further.

D.1.2 Greylag Geese cull

The Director Scotland advised Council on arrangements that had been made in agreement with the National Goose Management Review Group for the culling of 6,000 greylag geese.

It was confirmed that to the extent possible all shot birds would be used as food, donated or given away, with the possibility of local sale for human consumption in the future.

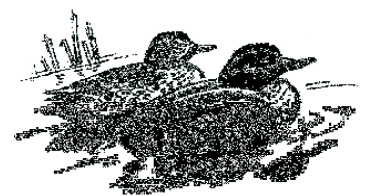
Discussions with SNH have been taking place regarding General Licensing which could be brought in at some point in the future.

D.1.3 South West Country Sports Tourism Project

It was agreed that the requested update on the activities and finances of the project would be given at the Council meeting on 18 October 2012.

D.2 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday, 18 October 2012.



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HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2012**

.....
Chairman

Date

