

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Martyn Howat, Chairman
Mike Sherman, Vice Chairman
Alan Balfour
Paul Culley
John Dryden
Lee Freeston
David de Gernier
Neil Griffiths
Robert Irvine
Alan Jarrett
Mike Smith
Claire Zambuni

Ex-Officio	John Swift	Chief Executive
Members:	Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
	Christopher Graffius	Director of Communications
	Tommy Mayne	Director, Northern Ireland
	Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland

In attendance: Richard Ali

Minute Secretary: Diane McKenzie-Hodkinson

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Helen Cormack, Peter Glenser, Mike Hardy, Sir Roger Jones, John Thornley, Alisdair Troup and Meurig Rees.

A.2. To confirm Confidential agenda items

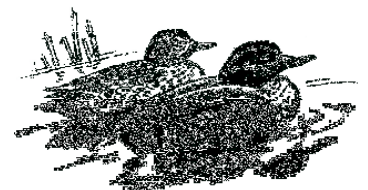
It was agreed that item C.5 be treated as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of Any Other Business

Items for 'Any Other Business' to be discussed under Agenda Item D.1 were noted.

A.4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.



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A.5 To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 October 2012

An inclusion under C.5 was requested to the effect that the Auditors had not been available in September to undertake an interim audit as had been agreed at the March 2012 E&F committee meeting.

Subject to the amendment the minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A.6 To Take Matters Arising from earlier Council meetings

A6.1 Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee

The Committee Chairman, Paul Culley, advised Council that the new member he had hoped to propose was unable to join the Committee. Paul was therefore still looking for a moorland and grouse shooting representative and asked Council members for suggestions.

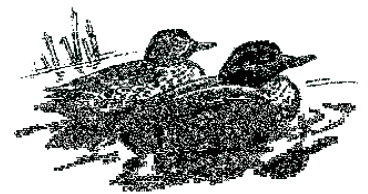
A6.2 Deer Initiative

The Chief Executive had recently met with Jane Rabagliati, Chairman of the Deer Initiative Limited (DI) and had agreed that the transfer of his responsibilities as Director of the DI to John Thornley would take place at the January 2013 DI Board meeting.

A6.3 Directors and Officer liability insurance for clubs and syndicates

The Director of Business Management had agreed to make further enquiries into the possibility of BASC providing Directors and Officers insurance as part of the BASC membership package for clubs and syndicates. Lee Freeston and Alan Jarrett were still to draw up a paper setting out what they saw to be the requirements.

Concern was expressed that an article published in the November/December issue of *Shooting and Conservation* lacked clarity in relation to the insurance of conservation activities undertaken by those clubs that were in receipt of taxable stewardship-grant income.



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It was agreed the Chief Executive, Director of Business Management and Director of Communications would arrange for a follow up article to appear in the next issue of *Shooting and Conservation* to clarify the position.

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

A.7.1 Objects

To be brought back to Council in March 2013.

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

A proposal put forward under the Budget, Item B1.

A.7.3 Key Function Indicators

An annual report will be presented in July 2013.

A.7.4 WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

A report will be presented in October 2013.

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

A Working Group was to meet on 26-27 February 2013; its recommendations would be brought back to the March 2013 Council meeting.

A.7.6 Advisory Committees' Annual Reports

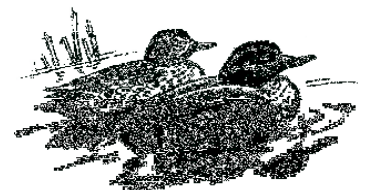
A report will be presented to the May 2013 Council meeting.

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 will be brought back to the April 2013 Council meeting.



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A.7.9 Council election process

To be discussed under Agenda Item B.2.

A.7.10 Key Function Indicators - clarification

To be discussed at a future Council meeting to include the Chief Executive Designate.

A.7.11 Council members' liability

To be brought back to the January 2013 Council meeting.

A.7.12 Directors' and Officers' insurance for club members

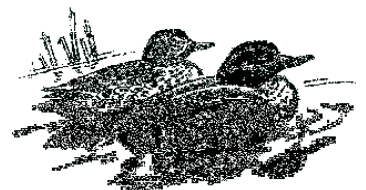
To be brought back to Council following receipt by the Director of Business Management of information from Alan Jarrett and Lee Freeston.

B.1 To decide the Budget for 2013

The Director of Business Management presented the budget that was being proposed for 2013.

It was agreed that presentation of the budget bids to the October meeting of Council would give Council a better opportunity to review them and help determine priorities before adopting a budget at the November meeting.

The budget was adopted as presented subject to the amendments noted.



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B.2 To review the Role, Governance and Operation paper insofar as it relates to the process for electing the Chairman

The Chief Executive had produced a paper of his recommendations.

Council discussed the reinstatement of the indicative vote for Chairman at the April Council meeting and the provision by each candidate of a written prospectus. This would provide information to assist newly elected members of Council in making their choice.

The need for a clearer mechanism for resolving an equality of votes was also identified.

Council considered whether to restrict voting to those in attendance or to provide for all elected Council members to be able to vote. It was suggested that any Council member who knew they would be unable to attend might submit a vote in advance so that the vote might be concluded on the day.

It was agreed that these matters be further considered by the Governance Working Group at its proposed workshop on 26-27 February.

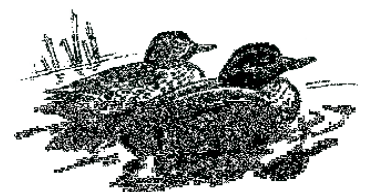
B.3 To receive a report on the Crook of Baldoon and Wigtown Bay wildfowling

Alan Balfour reported that, with BASC Scotland's assistance, agreement on all the outstanding points had been reached at a recent meeting between the RSPB and the club.

The Management Committee of the LNR will meet in January/February 2013 to confirm the agreement; it will then go to Council Planning Committee in April for final approval. All the byelaws should be in place for the start of the season in 2013.

Paul Culley enquired as to the arrangements in place in respect of other recreational activities on the Crook of Baldoon, Wigtown Bay, as a result of the changes to the shooting area.

Thanks were extended to the Director Scotland, Alan Balfour and Donald Muir for their hard work.



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B.4 To discuss Council meeting attendance figures

The Chairman expressed concern that attendance by elected Council members in October had been such that the meeting was only quorate¹ for part of the time; the order of the agenda had been changed to ensure that decisions could be validly made.

A table showing Council members' meeting attendance over the preceding 12 months was considered; the Chairman appreciated that last minute problems do arise but observed that certain Council members had extremely low attendance rates. Noting that this problem is not a new one, a number of possible solutions were suggested.

It was agreed that the Governance Workshop should consider the matter and bring forward proposals for consideration by Council in July 2013.

C.1 To receive the minutes of Council's Committees

C1.1 To receive the minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee meeting held 27 September 2012

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were noted as presented.

C.2 To receive the Chairman's Report

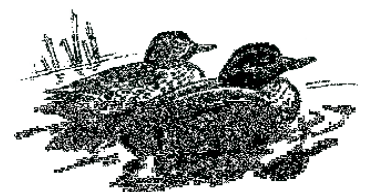
The Chairman's Report was accepted as presented.

C.3 To receive the Chief Executive's Report

C3.1 FACE Board Elections

The Chief Executive informed Council that Sir Barney White-Spunner, Executive Chairman CA, will be the UK Vice-President on the FACE Board, with Christopher Graffius as his Alternate.

¹ The quorum is 7



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C3.2 Lead Ammunition Group

The Chief Executive commented that he is still awaiting a nomination from Helen Woolley (CLA) for a farmer stakeholder interest to sit on the Lead Ammunition Group.

The Sub-Group on Risk Assessment had recently met; new material had been presented at the last minute which could not be considered properly. Professor Levy confirmed he is now in a position to suggest timetables for completing the Risk Assessments in the New Year.

The Chief Executive was to meet with Martin Spray, Chief Executive Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust to discuss WWT's positioning because of apparent conflict between its participation in the group and its public campaigning.

C3.3 Brown Hare

It was reported that BASC is leading the preparation of a code of guidance for the control, conservation and welfare of brown hares in England. This is being done in conjunction with GWCT and NFU and will be provided to ministers early in the New Year.

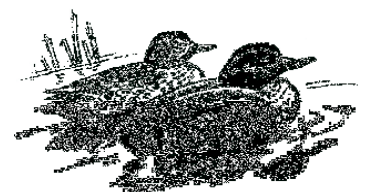
C3.4 Stalking on Arran

The Chief Executive confirmed the stalking of hinds was to resume.

Council discussed making a donation in memoriam to either the Scottish Search and Rescue Dogs Association or the mountain rescue service. *It was agreed* that £5,000 or an item of equipment to that value would be an appropriate amount.

C3.4 Director English Regions

It was agreed that Steve Bloomfield be appointed a member of Council in his capacity as Director English Regions.



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C3.5 Wildfowling at Blakeney

The Chief Executive and Chairman had met with the Blakeney Wildfowlers during their visit to the East Region. The club is very concerned over the Reference Area proposed on the North Norfolk coast at Blakeney, in the middle of the club's wildfowling area.

The Chief Executive had promised the club that BASC will prepare a brief on the prospects going forward at Blakeney, identifying the pressure points and critical opportunities. He had also promised the club to encourage support from the wider membership of BASC for their cause, give consideration to issuing a press statement to local publications expressing the wildfowlers' concerns and recommend an article in *Shooting and Conservation*.

A meeting to make representations on reference areas to Richard Benyon was to be sought.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4 To receive the Director of Communication's report

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

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

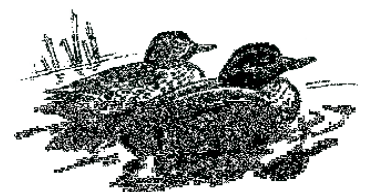
The Director of Communication's Report was accepted as presented.

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

D1.1 Northern Ireland

Robert Irvine reported that our sister organisation NARGC in the Republic of Ireland was seeking to establish a DMQ qualification facility that would be accepted in the country.

The Director of Business Management who is also the Company Secretary of Deer Management Qualifications confirmed that the DMQ board was fully aware of NARGC's interest and would be discussing it further at their meeting in December.



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D1.2 Tungsten Matrix

Paul Culley appraised Council that purchasing Tungsten Matrix in loose form for big bore loaders had become increasing difficult.

It was agreed John Harradine be asked to contact the Gamebore Cartridge Company on BASC members behalf to identify a way forward.

D1.3 Welsh Committee

Michael Sherman, Chairman of the Welsh Committee requested Council's approval for Sir Roger Jones to be included on the previously approved Welsh Committee.

Council gave their approval.

D.2 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday, 24 January 2013.

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Chairman

Date

