

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM THURSDAY 22nd MAY 2014

Present:	Martyn Howat, Chairman Alan Balfour Paul Culley Lee Freeston John Graham Duncan Greaves Neil Griffiths Mike Hardy Alan Jarrett Mike Sherman David Stinson John Thornley Alisdair Troup	
Ex-Officio Members	Richard Ali Gary Ashton Steve Bloomfield Philippa Bursey Stephen Curtis Christopher Graffius Tommy Mayne Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director, Wales Director, England Director of Business Management Director, HR and Operations Director of Communications Director, Northern Ireland Director, Scotland
Guests	Ian Grindy Daryn Hufton-Rees	
In attendance	Conor O'Gorman Matt Ellis John Harradine	Agenda Item B2, B3 & B4 Agenda Item B4 Agenda Item B4
Minute Secretary	Amanda Forshaw	

A.1. To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees

Apologies for absence had been received from Peter Glenser, Sir Roger Jones and Mike Smith. The Chairman, on behalf of Council, wished to place on record thanks to both Peter Glenser, who is standing for re-election, and Mike Smith, who is retiring, for their contributions to Council over their years of service.

A warm welcome was extended to Ian Grindy and Daryn Hufton-Rees, candidates in the forthcoming Council elections, who were present to observe proceedings.

At this point the Chairman also wished to place on record thanks to all who were involved in the arrangements for the clay shoot and barbeque held on the preceding day.



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A.2 To confirm confidential items.

It was agreed that items B6, B7, and C5 should be regarded as confidential. It was also agreed that an item for discussion under Any Other Business should also be regarded as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Four items of Any Other Business were identified: (1) Clay Shoot & Barbeque 21st May 2014; (2) Labour Party; (3) Review of consultations and communications; and (4) Charity shoot event on Saturday 9th August 2014.

A.4. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared in respect of any agenda item.

A.5. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th April 2014

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

A.6. Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising.

A.7. Action points outstanding from earlier Council Meetings.

All action points set for the May meeting had been included on the main agenda.

B.1. Health & Safety

It was noted that one near-miss had been reported in April 2014; no further action had been required.

B.2. Advisory Committees' Annual Reports

Conor O'Gorman presented a paper to Council detailing the work and activities of each committee during the period 24th May 2013 to 22nd May 2014.

Council agreed that it would be helpful if a brief pen-picture of each proposed member be appended to the committee membership lists to be presented to Council at its September meeting.

It was further agreed that it is not appropriate for committee members to have a specified term of office; each individual's continued membership should be at the discretion of the committee Chairman.



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Council agreed that to assist in the production of future Advisory Committee annual reports the Chairman of each committee should be asked to respond to the following questions:-

- (1) Has Council, the Chief Executive or the relevant Country Committee/Country Director asked the committee for any advice?
- (2) What advice or support has the committee given to staff?
- (3) Are there any other comments you would wish to make?

Council also agreed that a review of the terms of reference of each Committee be undertaken and a report presented to the September meeting of Council.

B.3. Terms of Reference - England Committee

Conor O'Gorman presented a report to Council detailing proposed terms of reference for the England Committee.

Council approved the terms of reference.

B.4 Research Department Update

Council received an oral presentation by staff from the re-structured Research Department.

Matt Ellis provided an update on research activities over the past six months and research commitments for the forthcoming six months.

Conor O'Gorman provided an overview of how the Business Intelligence section will focus on developments for the future.

John Harradine presented information on his new role as Chief Scientific Advisor, which focuses on providing scientific advice to the Chief Executive and Senior Directors of the Association and to BASC's staff teams.

B.5 Firearms Department Update

Gary Ashton presented an oral report to Council on the work of the Firearms Department. Council was provided with details of the annual numbers of telephone calls received by the department since 2007 and noted a significant rise of up to 54% over this period. Lost calls are currently averaging 4.5% with the highest number occurring in March 2014, which was also the month in which Legal Expenses insurance cover was introduced. The department is currently coping with the demands placed upon it; however this will continue to be monitored.



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B.6 Land Purchase

(Confidential)

Council considered a position statement

B.7 Corporate Structure

(Confidential)

The Director of Business Management provided an oral update regarding the the Industrial & Provident Society.

B.8 Engaging with non-departmental public bodies

(Confidential)

The Director of Communications presented a paper.

C.1. Committee Minutes

There were no minutes to be noted.

C.2. Chairman's Report

Council received an update on the Chairman's activity from 9th April 2014 to 12th May 2014.

It was noted that the Chairman and Chief Executive will be meeting with the Chairman of the RSPB on the 9th June in London.

It was also noted that the Chairman would be meeting with the President, Lord Home, regarding the AGM.

A meeting has been secured with the Deputy Director General of DEFRA who is responsible for agriculture and rural development.

A meeting is being sought with the Executive Chairman of the Countryside Alliance.

C.3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented a report on his activities and key areas of work since the April 2014 Council Meeting.

It was noted that a date has been set for the publication in Shooting Times of an article on white hat bias. This will be published on Wednesday 28th May 2014.



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C4. Director of Communications' Report

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

C5. Director of Business Management's Report

(Confidential)

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

C.6 Director of HR & Operations Report

The Director of HR and Operations presented his report to Council.

It was noted that a new initiative called 'The Browning Experience' had been trialled at Kelmarsh and worked well. Its aim is to encourage people to try shotgun shooting in a controlled and safe manner with fewer of the formalities of a full coaching session. It also allows the organisation to inform non-members of the benefits of the Association and to capture contact information for prospective new members.

C.7 To consider requests for advice from Country & Advisory Committees

In July, the Scottish Committee, in conjunction with staff, will present a paper providing options for the delivery of information to members to inform their voting decisions in relation to the Scottish Independence Referendum.

D.1 Any Other Business

(1) Staff Day, Clay Shoot & Barbeque, 21st May 2014 - The Director of HR & Operations provided an overview of the day's programme, noting that it had been a great success.

(2) (Confidential)

(3) The Director of HR & Operations tabled a paper reviewing BASC's handling of Natural England's consultation on general and class licences under wildlife legislation in England. BASC had used a number of mechanisms to alert members to this and, in addition to seeking the views of individual members, it took advice from relevant advisory committees. A comparatively small number of members had disagreed with BASC's position in relation to greylag geese and mallard. The review identified a number of improvements that can be made in the management of consultations.



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(4) Council members were reminded of the intention to enter two teams for the Hugh Van Cutsem trophy on Saturday 9th August 2014.

(5) The Chairman informed Council members that his term of office had been very enjoyable and rewarding, and thanked them for their hard work and support.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be held after the AGM on Saturday, 14th June 2014. The meeting after that will be held on Thursday, 24th July 2014 at Marford Mill, commencing at 08.30hrs.

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

