

CONFIDENTIAL

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM
ON THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Present:

Alan Jarrett (Chairman)
Mike Sherman (Vice-Chairman)
Sally-Anne Cockerill
John Dryden
Jono Garton
Peter Glenser
Duncan Greaves
Ian Grindy
Mike Hardy
Martyn Jones
Oliver McCullough
Professor Ann Mortimer
John Thornley OBE
Sarah Turner

Ex-Officio:	Richard Ali	Chief Executive
	Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
	Stephen Curtis	Director, HR and Operations
	Christopher Graffius	Director of Communications
	Steve Bloomfield	Director, England
	Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland

In Attendance:	Conor O’Gorman	Agenda item B.8
	Tim Russell	Agenda items B.9, B.10 and B.11

Minutes Secretary: Pauline Hayward

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

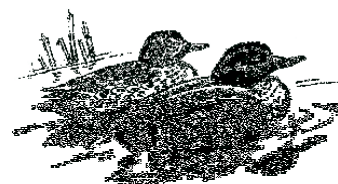
Apologies had been received from Gary Ashton, Alan Balfour, John Graham and Tommy Mayne.

A.2 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed the confidential items on the agenda as items B.5, 6 and 7 and C.5; it was subsequently agreed that B.12 should also be treated as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

The Chairman confirmed three items: one relating to the CLA’s decision to cancel the Game Fair and two items John Thornley wished to raise. A further matter, to be treated as confidential, was subsequently raised by the Vice-Chairman.



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A.4 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were notified.

A.5 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 July 2015

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings with one amendment to item B.4.4 as follows:

Delete the word 'proposed' - the minute then to read

"Jono Garton was elected as Chairman of the Welsh Committee".

A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising from earlier Council meetings.

A.7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

The action points, as circulated, were noted with three items being on the meeting's agenda.

The Chairman advised Council that, because their appointments were very recent, the Council Champions' reports would be deferred until October 2015; he had also asked the Chief Executive to report in October on the financial viability of the deer stalking schemes.

B.1 Health and Safety

It was noted that no incidents had occurred during the period under review.

B.2 Country and Advisory Committees

Each committee Chairman had circulated his proposed committee membership.

B.2.1 England Committee

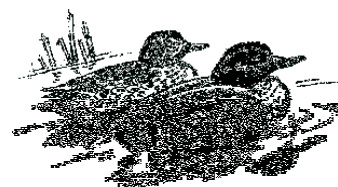
Council approved the committee as proposed with the addition of Hugh Thomas and Sarah Turner as members.

B.2.2 Northern Ireland Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed.

B.2.3 Scottish Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed, subject to it being noted that Alisdair Troup is not a Council member but Michael Hardy is.



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B.2.4 Welsh Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed as well as Mike Sherman's continued membership. The Welsh committee chairman informed Council that he was gradually meeting each committee member and Council noted that in due course he would be proposing additional members.

B.2.5 Deer Stalking Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed noting that the membership was unchanged.

B.2.6 Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed.

B.2.7 Wildfowling Liaison Committee

Council approved the committee membership as proposed. It was noted that Lee Freeston had been omitted from the list of proposed members.

B.3 Country and Advisory Committee Work Plans

Each committee chairman presented an oral report:

B.3.1 England Committee

Council noted that minutes of the recent meeting would be circulated in due course. The committee chairman wanted to recruit an additional member from the north of the country, ideally able to represent grouse shooting; Council members who could make a recommendation were asked to liaise with him or with the Director for England.

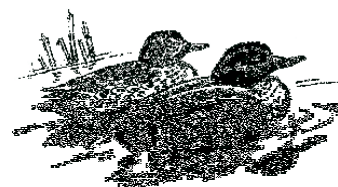
B.3.2 Northern Ireland Committee

Council noted that the chairman had prepared an article on his vision for the committee with a view to enhancing its development.

B.3.3 Scottish Committee

In the absence of the committee chairman, no report was available from the Scottish Committee.

B.3.4 Welsh Committee



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Council noted that a meeting of the committee would take place in October.

B.3.5 Deer Stalking Committee

Council was advised that commercial and operational matters are not discussed at committee level but, nonetheless, it was extremely active dealing with other matters relating to deer stalking.

B.3.6 Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee

Council noted that the committee will meet once or possibly twice a year and that its members had been circulated to actively encourage their help as volunteers. Council further noted that members had agreed to the use of e-mail in relation to both updates and consultations.

Council also noted that 2016 would be the 40th anniversary of the Gamekeepers' Fair, now being held at Catton Hall. It was the committee's desire to make this a special event emphasising its true roots within the gamekeeping profession and Council's support for this was sought.

B.3.7 Wildfowling Liaison Committee

Council noted that consents were a high priority for the committee and that a meeting with Natural England would be taking place before the committee next meets; planning for next year's conference would also be on the agenda for that meeting.

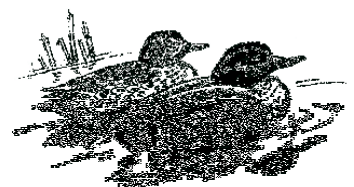
B.4 Codes of Practice Update

The Director of Communications reported that there were no Codes of Practice with substantive changes that required Council's approval. Council noted that work on the Loading code was in progress and that it was hoped that, by October, a draft would be circulated to those who had expressed an interest in the matter.

**B.5 Strategy/Operational Plan Review
(Confidential)**

The Chief Executive presented his report with Council noting that a review of the strategic indicators, by which BASC measures how successful it is in delivering its strategy and how the external environment is changing, is carried out twice year with an assessment of how the operational plan is being delivered being undertaken once a year.

B.6 Regional Review/Office Location



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(Confidential)

The Chief Executive presented his report. It was agreed that BASC should continue to have premises in the regions and that such premises should be required to meet a reasonable set of criteria pertaining to their location and the services available to them.

**B.7 Structure Update
(Confidential)**

The meeting was given an update on matters surrounding the Association's structure.

B.8 DCMS Consultation on a Strategy for Sport

Conor O'Gorman summarised the processes underpinning preparation of BASC's response to the consultation paper entitled "A New Strategy for Sport" the draft of which had been circulated to Council. Although BASC is not a governing body for target shooting it delivers a lot and accordingly is an interested party. BASC is also calling for meetings with the DCMS to talk in more detail about what BASC does for shooting sports. Council noted the response as drafted, recognising that before it is submitted reference to BASC's work with cadet forces would be included and the typographical errors corrected. The final draft would be submitted by the deadline and a press release issued on 2nd October.

Tim Russell joined the meeting for agenda items B.9, 10 & 11

B.9 Hockwold Stalking Scheme

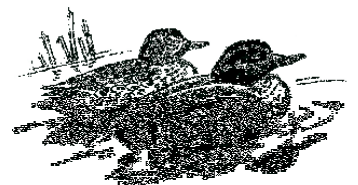
Tim Russell presented his report.

B.10 Invasive Alien Species Update

Tim Russell presented the report briefing Council on the new regulation and the implications for shooting. Council noted that of the 36 species in the list, 3 were of interest to those who shoot. Ruddy duck are now almost entirely eradicated. Muntjac are widespread in England and Wales only, not in Scotland or Northern Ireland; in England and Wales they will continue to be managed, in Scotland and Northern Ireland measures are already in place to control them. Grey squirrel are already widespread throughout the UK and accordingly will continue to be managed.

A number of risks had been identified as had opportunities for the further development of BASC's squirrel control projects, which could be promoted to the airgunning community.

In the context of the suggestion that a case might be made for pheasant and red-legged partridge to be added to the list when it is reviewed in 2021, the



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meeting was provided with background information relating to JNCC's recently completed 5-yearly review of the Wildlife and Countryside Act which had resulted in JNCC being reassured with regard to these species and BASC challenging the RSPB's assertions in relation to the number of birds being released.

B.11 Natural England Report on Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife

Tim Russell presented his report noting that it was being presented for information only. Council noted that the assessments contained within the report originate from climate change models that examined how species reacted to climate change between 1960 and 1990 and forecasting how they may react during the next 80-100 years. The importance of BASC being involved in the areas where the debates take place was stressed and it was acknowledged that BASC is already engaged in a number of forums mentioned within the report. The meeting's attention was also drawn to the management options identified at the end of the report all of which are currently being undertaken.

**B.12 Land Acquisition Working Party Report
(Confidential)**

The Chairman presented his report together with a document which provided background information on Council's land acquisition strategy.

C.1 Executive & Finance Committee meeting minutes

Council noted and approved the minutes Executive & Finance Committee meeting held on 8 July 2015.

C.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was accepted.

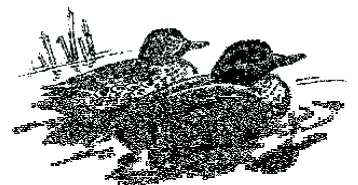
C.3 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive referred to his report and brought Council up to date.

With regard to 10 year certificates, discussions and progress continue.

Achieving agreement on international humane trapping standards on stoat control continues to be extremely difficult work.

BASC's work in response to RSPB claims that 50million game birds are released each year had been completed and the document would be circulated, in confidence, to Council members; the final headline figure is just over 34million with a range estimate of 29 to 41 million; significantly lower than the RSPB's claimed 50million



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which is an extrapolation using figures from large shooting estates that had seen high rates of growth. Being referable to stocking densities not total numbers, the issue was RSPB's credibility.

C.4 Director of Communications Report

The Director of Communications presented his report and confirmed that the first party conference reception with the Liberal Democrats had been a success. The turnout had been good and the environment spokesman for the party had confirmed its support for shooting.

In considering the make-up of the new Labour Party shadow team, BASC had expressed the hope that the new Defra shadow minister would be pragmatic and that policy would be evidence-based.

**C.5 Director of Business Management's Report
(Confidential)**

The Director of Business Management presented her report adding that no response had been received from the person who had expressed concern regarding compliance with the FCA requirements in relation to an article in *Shooting and Conservation*.

C.6 Director of HR & Operations' Report

In presenting his report, the Director of HR and Operations opened by thanking the Council Champions for their positive engagement with and support of his teams.

Council noted that Tommy Mayne was on a phased return to work. It also noted that HR was very busy and Debbie Owen's particular contribution following Joanne Ford's leaving was noted with thanks.

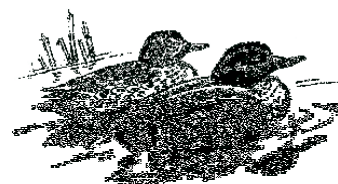
Peter Glenser pointed out that the Law Commission consultation on firearms law was shortly due to close and, noting that they had also attended the Law Commission's symposium on the matter, thanked Bill Harriman and Mike Eveleigh for their work drafting BASC's response. Peter's significant contribution was also noted with thanks.

C.7 To Consider Requests for Advice from Country and Advisory Committees

While it was noted that most committee chairmen circulate Council members in advance of committee meetings, Council members were encouraged to give this agenda item some thought before each meeting.

D.1 Any Other Business

D.1.1 Council agenda



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The meeting was asked to consider what opportunities might exist for revising the agenda to allow more time for key issues to be discussed. It was accepted that a number of the reports were effectively being issued for information purposes only so the Chairman and Chief Executive would consider what opportunity existed for them to be more effectively grouped.

D.1.2 Committee member engagement

The meeting was asked to consider whether some form of general update circulation might be issued to all committee members to better engage them and inform their contributions, noting that issues often affect the work of more than one committee. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would take this forward with the Policy Manager.

D.1.3 CLA Game Fair

The meeting noted the decision by the Country Land and Business Association to cancel the Game Fair; a number of organisations were understood to have expressed an interest in filling the resultant vacuum. Having regard to the level of investment and expertise required to run such an event it was not something that BASC could contemplate taking-on; its wider programme of event attendance would continue, enabling it to engage with large numbers of people throughout the country, and a budget bid was before E&F for funds to attend the BBC's Countryfile Live event. It was further agreed that BASC should prepare an appropriate statement for the media.

D.2 Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place at Marford Mill on 22 October 2015 commencing at 08.30hrs

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

