

Association of Deer Management Groups

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie Thursday 23 February, 2012

PRESENT:

Richard Cooke	Chairman
Col H F O Bewsher	Vice Chairman
Finlay Clark	Secretary
Dick Playfair	Executive Committee
Jamie Williamson	Executive Committee
Colin McClean	Executive Committee
George Macdonald	Executive Committee
Andrew Gordon	Executive Committee
Glen Heggs	Executive Committee
Stephen Gibbs	Executive Committee
Peter Voy	Executive Committee
James Duncan-Millar	Executive Committee
Richard MacNicol	Executive Committee
Douglas McAdam	Executive Committee
Peter Keyser	Associate Member
Ron Smith	Associate Member – Dunira Estate
Hugh Rose	Associate Member
Rod Andean	Black Mount/Glenelg/Monadhliaths/ Strutt & Parker
Davy Thomas	Black Mount DMG / Black Corries Estate
David Campbell	Black Mount DMG / Strutt & Parker
Stuart Cumming	Breadalbane DMG (North Chesthill)
Richard Barclay	Breadalbane DMG / Innerhadden
Victor Clements	Breadalbane DMG
Donald Broad	Breadalbane DMG / Pitcastle Estate
Mike Cottam	Cairngorm & Speyside DMG
Lucy St Johnston	Cairngorm & Strathspey /Glenavon DMG
Michael Hone	Cairngorm & Strathspey DMG Glentromie
Mark Nicolson	East Grampian DMG
James Adamson	East Loch Ericht DMG
Kevin Grant	East Loch Ericht DMG / Craiganour
Ewen Ballantyne	Glenelg DMG/Arnisdale Estate
Michael Aldridge	Glenartney DMG/South Perthshire DMG
Frank Spencer Nairn	Glen Strathfarrar DMG
David Gillies	Islay DMG
John Morrison	Knoydart DMG / Achnacarry Estate

Alex MacDonald	Knoydart DMG / Achnacarry Estate
Chris Stewart	MWAHE DMG / Ardverikie Estate
Dougie Langlands	MWAHE DMG / Ardverikie Estate
Rob Whitson	MWAHE DMG / Ardverikie Estate
Ryan Cumming	MWAHE DMG / Ardverikie Estate
Andrew Gilchrist	MWAHE DMG / Ardverikie Estate
George Loudon	MWAHE DMG / RTA Mamore Estate
Cameron Loudon	MWAHE DMG / RTA Mamore Estate
Sandy Walker	MWAHE DMG / RTA Killiechonate Estate
Jamie Hendry	MWAHE DMG / RTA Killiechonate Estate
Jim Beattie	MWAHE DMG / RTA
Lyndsay Sharp	MWAHE DMG / RTA / Bidwells
Donald Rowantree	MWAHE DMG /Corrour Estate
Allan Macleod	MWAHE DMG /Corrour Estate
Philip Dean	MWAHE DMG /Corrour Estate
John Stevenson	MWAHE DMG /Corrour Estate
Patrick Thompson	MWAHE DMG /Ben Alder Estate
Bruce Hendry	Monadhliaths DMG / Glenshero Estate
I Christie	Monadhliaths DMG / Glenshero Estate
David Kinnear	Monadhliaths DMG / Alvie Estate
Jim Corbett	Mull DMG / Lochbuie Estate
Patience Corbett	Mull DMG / Lochbuie Estate
Gordon MacPherson	South Ross DMG
Martin Girvan	South Ross DMG / Ceannacroc Estate
Tom Girvan	South Ross DMG / Tomcrasky
Mark Pattinson	South Ross DMG / Lochcarron Estate
Jean Balfour	West Sutherland DMG
Jim Payne	West Sutherland DMG
Heather Gow	North West Sutherland DMG
Colin Campbell	Altnahara Estate
Pieter Bakker	Altnahara Estate
Simon Boulton	Ardtornish Estate
Michael Ross	Ardvar Estate
Ronnie Hepburn	Atholl Estates
Benjamin Rhodes	Atholl Estates
Tom Dodd	Atholl Estates
David Greer	Atholl Estates
Philip Robinson	Atholl Estates
Robert Gordon	Barrisdale Estate
John Bruce	BDS
Brian Lyall	Badanloch Estate (NDMG)
David Rankin	Benmore Assynt Estate
Tim Frost	Boreland Estate (retired)
Michael Wigan	Borrobol Estate
James Goodwin	Cawdor Estate
Darren Macleod	Clune Estate

Jamie Farquhar	Confor
Martin Morrison	Conaglen Estate
David MacKenzie	Conaglen Estate
Ross Maclean	Conaglen Estate
Neil Morrison	Coulin Estate
Frank Spencer-Nairn	Culligran Estate
Andrew Mackay	Dalnessie Estate, East Sutherland DMG
Colin Johnston	Dunira Estate
Craig MacNicol	Dunmaglass Estate
Philip Mackenzie	Farr Estate/Monadhliath DMG
Duncan Kerr	Farr Estate
Colin Lavin	FCS / MWAHE
William Lamont	FCS
Dean Baillie	Fannich Estate
Ruari Matheson	Fannich
Josh Walker	Gaick Estate
Davie McGibbon	Gaick Estate
Harry Donachie	Gaick Estate
Jim Grant	Glenbanchor Estate
Jane Gray Cheape	Glenaladale Estate
Mark White	Glencassilly Estate
Falcon Frost	Glenfalloch Estate
David Lowes	Glenfalloch Estate
Thomas MacDonell	Glenfeshie Estate/Cairngorm Speyside DMG
Alistair H Gibson	Glenfinnan Estate
Jimmy Irvine	Glenmazeran Estate
Michael Bruce	Glen Tanar Estate
Robbie Rowantree	Gordonbush Estate
Neil Morrison	Gruinard Estate
Duncan Shaw	Grualin Estate
Norman Recman	Heights of Kinlochewe Estate
Lord Dalhousie	Invermark Estate
Justin Irvine	James Hutton Institute
Robin McLaren	Kinrara Estate
Stuart Allison	Ledmore Estate
Arran Matheson	Lochluichart Estate
Glyn Robson	Lochluichart Estate
Jamie Stewart	Lochluichart Estate
Archie Gillies	Lochailort Estate
Gordon Shankland	Lochshiel Estate
Kenny Ross	Lochrosque/Kinlochewe Estate
Iain Thornber	Morvern Area
Marcus Munro	Muncrop Ltd
David Walker Smith	Middle Inver, Sutherland
Mary Reid	Middle Inver, Sutherland
Jimmy Barrie	Pitcastle Estate
Jamie Bain	Letterewe Estate
Barbara MacDonald	Letterewe Estate
Stephen Miller	Letterewe Estate
Seamus Nairn	Reay Forest
Stephen March	Reay Forest
David Allison	Reay Forest

Wayne Whitcher
Andrew Taylor
Douglas MacDonald
Sarah Holman
Caitlin Shardlow
Robbie Kernahan
Eileen Stuart
Linzi Seivwright
Donald Fraser
Pete Mayhew
Chris Donald
Ron Rose
Douglas McAdam
Neil Mackay
Dean Locan
Tom Turnbull
John Morison
Jean Sneddon

Seafieid Estates
Scottish Government
Shielbridge Estate
Shielbridge Estate
Smiths Gore
SNH
SNH
SNH
SNH
SNH
SNH
SNH
SRPBA
SSE Renewables
Strathconnon Estate
Strone Estate
SQWV
Bidwells

1 Apologies for Absence

Donald Cameron, Yr of Lochiel
Keith Falconer
Leo Barclay
Bruce Sewell
Robert Balfour
Ewen MacPherson
Maitland Rankin

Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee

Patrick Gordon Duff-Pennington
Derek Stead
Coignafearn Estate
Joe Mallinson

John Fletcher
Anthony Waterson
James Ruggles-Brise

Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member

Richard Wills
Graeme Ferguson
Richard Schuster
Richard Greenlaw
Simon Laird
Seamus MacNally
Henry Birkbeck
R Kwint
Tim Atkinson
Timothy Laing
Derek Kneller
Frits van Dedem

Applecross Estate
Black Mount DMG/Black Corries
Black Mount DMG/Black Mount
Cairngorms/Speyside/Glenavon
Knoydart DMG/Achnacarry
Gairloch Conservation Unit
Glenelg DMG/Kinloch Hourn Estate
Glenmoriston DMG/Wester Guisachan
Islay DMG
Mull DMG
North Lanarkshire DMG
West Ross DMG/Fannich

Albert van Dedem
Maurits van Dedem
Iain Wotherspoon
Barry Dunne

Donald MacRae
Duncan Gordon
Charles Connell
Angus McPherson
Lady Macpherson
Hamish I Macrae
Andrew McKelvey
Sarah Troughton
John Macdonald
Simon Clowes
Rory Richardson
Mark Brown
Wattie Barbour
John Christie
Julian Richmond-Watson
Roddy Willis
Donald Cameron
Stuart Brooks

West Ross DMG/Fannich
West Ross DMG/Fannich
Scottish Native Woodlands
Ops Officer - Southern Scotland /Caledon
Property Group
Strathvaich Estate
Glen Quoich Estate
Monadhliaths DMG
Craig Dhu
Craig Dhu
Druidraig Estate
Knockie Estate, Whitebridge
SCSTG

Davis and Bowring
SNH
GlenStrae Estate
C K D Galbraith
Lochdochart
Arnisdale estate/Glenelg DMG
Savills
Kinlochhourn Estate
JMT

2 Minutes of AGM on 20 April 2010 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the AGM on 24 February 2011 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. These were signed by the Chairman, proposed by George Macdonald and seconded by John Bruce. There were no matters arising which would not be covered later in the meeting.

3 Chairman's Statement

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2012 AGM and in particular the 13 students from The North Highland College. The Chairman had enjoyed his first year of being Chairman and has managed to attend 20 DMG meetings. He took up his position towards the end of the Wildlife and Natural Environment legislative process. The new Code of Deer Management sets out the importance of deer to the economy, employment and the environment. The topic of deer continues to attract public and media interest. Public education is more important than ever and directed everyone to visit and use the web based resource at www.education.scottish-venison.info.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act supports the voluntary system of deer management but the Chairman stressed that the industry will be under close scrutiny from Government. All Deer Management Groups should aim to have sustainable Deer Management Plans in place. He understands that there are Groups which have conflicts to resolve and said that members of these Groups must work together. ADMG meets regularly with SNH.

The Lowland Deer Network is an independent organisation. ADMG made a financial

contribution towards the initial start up costs. The organisation will be financially independent and separate from ADMG and will focus solely on relating to the lowland deer issues.

A review was carried out by the Executive Committee of ADMG's status and Constitution. It was concluded that current unassociated body is most suitable and that the ADMG will remain non-VAT registered. No major change was therefore made to the Constitution which is available on the website.

The Chairman introduced Victoria Brooks from Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group who was in attendance and available should anyone have any queries about advertising sporting lets.

ADMG has carried out a Stalking Survey for the first time and the results have been presented in the Newsletter. It was observed that stag and hind rents vary widely and that there is a need to take a quality rather than quantity approach when deciding on charges.

A copy of the Chairman's Report is to be found on the website www.deer-management.co.uk

4 Executive Committee and Area Representative Elections

Executive Committee

Bill Bewsher is the current Vice Chair and wished to stand down. Andrew Gordon was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by James Duncan-Millar, and there being no other proposals, he was elected unanimously.

Area Representative Elections

Scotland is split into 8 areas, each with a main representative and deputy representative. The following changes were put forward by the Chairman and elected en bloc on the proposal of Sarah Holman, seconded by Jamie Williamson;

Area 1 – Caithness & Sutherland

Jim Payne and Richard McNicol stood down. The new representative will be Anson MacAuslan with David Allison as deputy.

Area 2 – Ross-shire

Peter Voy remains as the representative and Willie Fraser had agreed to be his deputy.

Area 3 – Monadhliaths

Jamie Williamson will remain as the main representative. There is currently no deputy.

Area 4 – Cairngorm and Grampians

Andrew Gordon stood down and Colin McClean replaces him. David Greer will remain as deputy.

Area 5 – West Inverness

Lynda Campbell was proposed as the new area representative. Keith Falconer will stand down as main representative and become deputy.

Area 6 – South Perthshire

James Duncan-Miller and Alistair Riddell remain as representative and deputy respectively.

Area 7 – South Scotland

Glenn Heggs and Maitland Rankin remain as representative and deputy.

Area 8 – The Islands

Bill Brewsher and Jim Payne stood down. The new representative will be Willy Inglis from Islay with David Gillies as deputy.

Previous Executive Committee Members

The Chairman suggested that the ADMG does not want to lose contact with longstanding members standing down and the Committee would like to create a new category of Advisory Members to include at this time Jim Payne, Bill Bewsher, Leo Barclay, Sarah Holman and Ewan McPherson.

5 Financial Report

Finlay Clark thanked everyone for prompt payment of their subscriptions and commented that this financial year may be the first year in which all subscriptions are paid in the year they are due.

Audited Accounts for Year Ending 30 June 2011

The year end accounts show a loss of £2,767.16 against a budgeted surplus of approx. £1K. Income was under budget by £3.5K whilst expenditure was within £100 of budget.

The subscription income was below budget by £2.5K. This was due to underestimating the decline in the number of deer being shot when planning the budget. The overall expenditure was in line with budget though sundries were more than previous years and were over budget due to the dinner for the retiring Chairman and travel costs for the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has reviewed the issue of VAT and confirmed that it is irrecoverable unless VAT is changed on subscriptions.

Management Accounts for month ending 31 January 2012

There is a budgeted income of £69,590 for the current year. The Year to Date (YTD) column shows that income is currently at £63,242 and this is ahead of budget. The expenses are currently running slightly behind the YTD budget of £44,332. Actual expenditure to date stands at £36,444. A loss of £4,280 has been budgeted for the year. ADMG has purposely been drawing down its reserves over the last few years. Finlay Clark commented that he is confident that ADMG will come in on budget this year.

6 Subscriptions

The Chairman had circulated a letter on 25th January to all Deer Management Groups regarding a proposal by the Executive Committee to increase to the subscriptions. Although expenditure had remained constant over recent years, the five year average cull has been decreasing. Over the last few years the ADMG has covered the resultant deficit by allowing reserves to run down to a minimum safe level of £10,000. Current rates were set in 2007.

The new rates proposed by the Executive were as follows:-

£3 per Stag

£1.50 per Hind or Calf

75p for all other species

The Chairman said that while these rates were for 2012/13 his hope was that these rates would be held for three years. He requested comments on the proposed increase.

Mark Nicolson asked how many roe deer were declared by DMGs. Finlay Clark replied less than 1000. Robbie Kernahan said that 30,000 roe were returned to SNH as shot annually. It was concluded that they are underreported to ADMG. It was also suggested that alternative options for raising funds be considered. The Chairman pointed out that events such as auctions take a lot of time to organise but he would be pleased to receive any workable suggestions.

The Chairman formally proposed the new subscription rates. Andrew Gordon seconded the proposal and, there being no objections or counter proposals, the new rates were adopted.

The Chairman also undertook that ADMG would do all it could to encourage accurate reporting of culls of roe and other species.

7 PR Report

Dick Playfair provided a PR report (copy on the website). The WANE Act has been passed and the voluntary principle must be shown to work. This will mean change for some DMGs but business as usual for others.

He drew people's attention to Ron Rose's article in the Newsletter "SCOPE"; and asked everyone to take note of any required actions. If DMGs cannot make progress the industry will find itself being scrutinised again by the Scottish Government when the legislation is reviewed in 2014.

2011 saw the first stalking benchmark survey being carried out by ADMG. It aims to provide a guide as to what could realistically be charging for stalking. Rates charged should reflect the quality of the offer on each estate.

The headline results were that stag lets were being charged at between £240 to £600 inc VAT per stag. Hind lets varied between £50 and £360. Repeat business was the main marketing tool and word of mouth was also important for both stag and hind lets.

42% of respondents cited the rest of the UK (ie not Scotland) as the most important source. Dick Playfair commented that there is an opportunity to increase income from stalking lets and thanked the eighty Estates which took part in the survey. The final report has been published in SCOPE.

Dick Playfair added that Knight Frank continues to sponsor the Annual Review. 150 Estates responded to this year's survey and he hopes to have the forms out earlier for the 2012 reports.

8 Committee Reports

Scottish Venison Partnership

Stephen Gibbs said it has been another busy year for the Scottish Venison Partnership. Demand is increasing steadily with more than 2/3 of venison coming from wild deer. The

increasing prices have been welcome. As well as New Zealand, Northern Europe is contributing towards meeting the increasing demand.

Stephen Gibbs confirmed that 4th September will be Eat Venison Day as in previous years. Venison continues to establish itself as a popular meat and Quality Assurance is a vital aspect of this. Leading processors are playing their part but there are still smaller processors who need to realise its importance. Non QA Producers will find it increasingly difficult to sell venison, and they will be likely to get a lower price.

3,500 tones of venison is produced from Scotland annually with 1/3 coming from roe and sika and with 50 tons from farmed venison. The rest comes from wild red deer. The market has grown by 34% between 2006 & 2010. Cull numbers are static and may decrease which could result in an increased reliance on imported venison to meet the expanding demand. There is an opportunity for domestically produced farmed venison and this is under consideration by SVP.

The increasing popularity of venison has been picked up by the Media and venison now enjoys a high public profile which is generally very positive.

Deer in Scotland Education Zone

This is a web based teaching programme funded by SNH and developed between SNH and the Scottish Venison Partnership. A similar programme has been developed for fish but this is the first programme of this kind for a wild mammal. The programme is now ready to introduce to schools. Dick Playfair asked that members direct their children and their children's teachers to look at the website.

The Scottish Venison Partnership is keen to find estates able to assist in the education programme. Dick Playfair is the point of contact.

Jean Balfour questioned whether deer farming could fill the gap of reducing wild venison. Dick Playfair responded that the time could be right for an increase in deer farming as a lot of sheep have been removed from the hills. In the 70/80s deer farming was tried and found to be uncompetitive but deer farmers could now qualify for Single Farm Payment.

Competence

Colin McClean said that the competence element in the WANE Act will challenge the industry to significantly increase the number of those who hold competence certificates.

The Government will review the voluntary system in 2014 and, if it determines that the voluntary approach has not been to its satisfaction may impose a compulsory system on the industry.

The debate in the Working Group has been whether DMQ Level 1 is sufficient to prove competence or if a test with a practical element is required. The key message is that this part of the WANE Act will affect everyone who shoots deer unsupervised in Scotland. It will be up to the industry to ensure that all those that shoot deer undertake a form of competence test and it may be challenging to increase the uptake among the crofters and farmers if the bar is set too high.

George Macdonald agreed that that the main sticking point is getting enough uptake among crofters and farmers as they currently see a general licence as an exemption from the need to do a competence test.

Robbie Kernahan said that the challenge for ADMG is to promote the fact that proof of competence is a requirement of the WANE Act. Though there is no legal requirement at the moment the Scottish Government could go down this avenue if they are not satisfied that the voluntary approach has worked.

Jean Balfour asked what provision can be made for those who live long distances away from the areas offering the courses. Colin McClean confirmed that training organisations have said they are willing to travel to remote areas to run courses.

Doug McAdam asked if we know what a sufficient level of uptake will be. Colin McClean responded saying that the Government has not yet set any targets.

Michael Bruce said that ADMG needs to be aware that a range of qualifications could comply with the standards required, not just DSC 1. Colin McClean confirmed that DMQ Level 1 or equivalent certificate is valid as proof of competence.

Heading To The Scottish Hills

Frank Spencer Nairn reported that at the last review meeting it was observed by some that there was less disturbance during the 2011 season than in previous seasons. It is thought that this was partly due to the wet summer. The website continues to get positive feedback though it was commented that it won't fulfil its potential until the system applies everywhere..

The SNH and deerline websites are being replaced and won't be fully running till 2013. The hill phones system is slowly being replaced by HFTSH. He was of the opinion that every deer forest should be on the website. Basic contact details should be available for every estate and an option would be available to increase information on each estate. He asked for a show of hands as to whether any deer forests would object to their basic information being displayed on the site. There were no objectors.

In 2010, the first year of trials saw Black Mount DMG using the website and this year Cairngorms and Speyside DMG was added. Next year, it is planned to add the Breadalbane Group and hopefully everyone else will be included thereafter.

The Chairman add that this is an excellent mechanism to improve contact between the public and Estates.

Robbie Kernahan said that initial feedback from the public has been positive but people have said they would like to see a more comprehensive system. Also managers experienced teething difficulties in entering data to the system.

Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group

The Chairman said that the Scottish Country Sport Tourism Group is available to help estates with advertising stalking of both stags and hinds.

9 **SNH Update**

Eileen Stuart said her role within SNH is to develop policy and guidance and she believes communication and discussion are important improving relations between SNH and the deer industry.

Over the last year her workload has been dominated by WANE Act. This has been important but there is now a need to think further ahead. t SNH is committed to continuing its work with the Scottish Venison Partnership and the education programme.

She then shared some of the findings from a survey carried out by SNH last year to investigate what the public think about wildlife.

Deer were found to be among the most iconic species of those members of the public, surveyed in Scotland, with 70% stating that deer were the most important. The second ranking was the golden eagle with 30%. The next question in the survey was to ask what the public considered to be the animal they are most concerned about. At the top of the results were red squirrels and then red deer. More than 50% who cited red deer said this was because deer are hunted and killed. A wide range of respondents took part in the survey. The result of the survey showed that there is still much work to do by SNH and the deer sector in explaining to the public why deer are managed. She said that SNH are always open to suggestions about how to do things better.

The Chairman commented that it is reassuring to be dealing with the same people on deer management as before the merger of DCS and SNH and to note that deer are now being thought about by SNH in economic as well as environmental terms.

Robbie Kernahan commented that the industry recognises that there is work to do on what the Code of Practice means to people and that DMGs will be a key target. He advised that people should read and think about how the Code applies to them

As of 1st April the changes to close seasons comes into force and there will be a requirement for occupiers of land to apply for a general licence to take deer out of season.

10 CSDMG/JHI Map based Deer Management Plans

As Secretary of CSDMG Mike Cottam gave a presentation on how mapping has been used in the Cairngorms Speyside Deer Management Group to review their Deer Management Plan. The Group covers an area of 105,000 ha and contains a mixture of landowner types. There are 16 SSSI's, a National Scenic Area designation and the area is contained within the National Park. The previous Deer Management Plan ran from 2005 to 2010 and was found to be a document that nobody used after its production. It was only by good fortune that the objectives of the plan had been met.

The Group had decided to try using a map based system to develop the next Deer Management Plan. Mike Cottam showed the Cairngorms map deer densities. He commented that the Group no longer has a written DMP as such but engages in a dynamic process. Mapping is a great tool for generating dialogue within a Group but it should be kept simple. Supporting text is still required but it should be limited. The main constraint is the technology and being able to access the mapping skills required.

Ron Rose added that it is an important tool but maps can't be the whole of the Deer Management Plan process and a relatively simple written plan combined with the mapping, should meet the requirements of a Deer Management Plan.

Jamie Williamson asked if Mike Cottam came across any difficulties with confidentiality and individual landholdings not wanting information published. Mike said there was one

landowner who didn't want to share in the process and that area shows as white on the map.

11 Questions and Discussion

- Q Tim Frost asked if there were any thoughts on qualifications and a link to firearms licensing. Colin McClean responded saying that there are currently no plans to link firearms licensing and competence.
- Q Gordon Shankland asked a question on the consultation carried out by SNH. Eileen Stuart said that the survey was to look at whether the merger had had any effect on perceptions about the management of deer.
- Q Mark Nicolson, British Deer Society, commented that he was delighted to see a survey on the impact of the Merger and noted the need for change in public perceptions. He would be than happy to work with Eileen Stuart and SNH in getting across to the public why deer are managed.
- Q James Duncan-Miller said he was disappointed to see that the Heading for Scottish Hills website is still at trial stage; also that there have been no developments in technology to allow people with smart phones to access the information. He asked if there is any possibility that things can be moved on quicker. The Chairman said he understands the frustration but SNH are limited in terms of technology and funds and there was a point when the whole project was in danger of being dropped. We should be thankful that we have the backing of SNH to keep going with development of the new system. Jamie Williamson commented that we are relying entirely on SNH to get the Heading to the Hills up and running. Robbie Kernahan added that like other public sector bodies it is getting harder and harder to get a share of the public money and that it is not a top priority within SNH.
- Q Donnie Broad said that it was important to get the educational message across, by getting in touch with local schools, councillors etc. The Chairman added that everyone should make an effort to do a bit more, whether it is through using the new web based education tool or otherwise.
- Q Jim Corbett asked what the uptake so far was for DMQ level 1. John Bruce said that data is collected in terms of number of people who take the qualification but no analysis is done on when they stalk, In Scotland or otherwise, and the current data collected would not allow for this.
- Q Bill Bewsher asked Colin McClean if the Scottish Government has approved the system of competence which we are proposing to use. Colin said the Government have not yet laid down the terms which they will use to review the system in 2014 and this is a disadvantage. All we can do is focus on increasing the uptake of people undertaking a competence course equivalent to DMQ level 1. If we manage this, then it would be difficult for the Government to say that we have not met their requirements.

12 AOCB

The Chairman, in paying tribute to Bill Bewsher on his retirement at Vice Chairman, commented that he has been a most active and effective Vice-Chair for 10 years. He thanked Bill and presented him with a painting on behalf of ADMG and the DMG members. Colonel Bewsher then made a few departing comments as to the future outlook for the deer sector and expressed his thanks and appreciation of the gift.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1pm

UNAPPROVED