

**ASSOCIATION OF DEER MANAGEMENT GROUPS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie
Thursday, 20 February 2014

Present:

Richard Cooke	Chairman
Andrew Gordon	Vice-Chairman
Finlay Clark	Secretary
Col HFO Bewsher	Executive Committee
Lynda Campbell	Executive Committee
Victor Clements	Executive Committee
James Duncan Millar	Executive Committee
Stephen Gibbs	Executive Committee
Glen Heggs	Executive Committee
Willy Inglis	Executive Committee
George Macdonald	Executive Committee
Colin McClean	Executive Committee
John Morison	Executive Committee
Dick Playfair	Executive Committee
Jamie Williamson	Executive Committee
Randal Wilson	Executive Committee
James Adamson	East Loch Ericht DMG
Michael Aldridge	Glenartney & South Perthshire DMGs
David Allison	Reay Forest
Peter Allison	Corrour Estate
Dean Baillie	Fannich Estate
Ewen Ballantyne	Arnisdlæ/Glenelg DMG
Richard Barclay	Innerhadden Estate
Bill Barnett	Aberchalder Estate
James Barrie	Glenloch & Pitcastle Estates
Jim Beattie	Alcan Highland Estates
Simon Blackett	Invercauld
Bradley Bourne	Forestry Commission
Ken Bowlt	West Ross DMG
Scott Bremner	Culachy Estate
Victoria Brookes	Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group
John Bruce	British Deer Society
Angus Cameron	Strathconon
Colin Campbell	Altnaharra Estate
Rhuaridh Campbell	Cluanie/Glenelg DMG
Jonathan Carslaw	Glendoe Estate
Sinclair Coghill	SNH
Jane Cheape	Glenaladale/Moidart DMG
Tom Chetwynd	Loch Choire Estate/Bowls
Blair Colvin	Kintradwell Estate, East Sutherland DMG
Crispian Cook	North Ross DMG
Bruce Cooper	Glen Prosen Estate
Jim Corbett	Lochbuie Estate/Mull DMG
Patience Corbett	Lochbuie Estate/Mull DMG
Mike Cottam	Cairngorm & Speyside DMG
Gary Coutts	Balmoral Estate

Lord Dalhousie
Angus Davidson
Philip Dean
Ian Dingwall
George Eveleigh
Andrew Feilden
Arthur Fernie
John Forbes-Leith
David Fotheringham
Donald Fraser
Donald Fraser
Steven Fraser
William Fraser
David Frew
Falcon Frost
Morven Frost
Alistair Gibson
Charlotte Gilfillan
Archie Gillies
Martin Girvan
Jeremy Gow
Heather Gow
Jim Grant
Kevin Grant
Andrew Hamilton
John Hay
Bruce Hendry
Colin Hendry
Jamie Hendry
Ronnie Hepburn
Craig Higgins
Fraser Hill
Will Holt
Michael Home
Iain Hope
Justin Irvine
William Jackson
Colin Johnston
Alan Kennedy
David Kinnear
Ian La Terriere
William Lamont
Timothy Laing
Dougie Langlands
Colin Lavin
Roddy Legge
Sam Livings
David Lowes
Brian Lyall
Derick MacAskill
Roddy Macaskill
Alex MacDonald
Barbara MacDonald
D MacDonald

Invermark
Angus Davidson Ltd
Corrour Estate
Auchlyne
Mid West DMG
Ardverikie Estate
Balmoral Estate
Dunachton
Coul
Glencannich
SNH
Glentromie
Affric & Kintail DMG
Mar Lodge Estate
Glenfalloch Estate, Balquhidder DMG
Boreland Estate, Breadalbane DMG
Glenfinnan Estate
Bell Ingram
Lochailort Estate
Glenmoriston DMG
Strathmore
Strathmore
Glenbanchor
Craigannour/East Loch Ericht DMG
Strutt & Parker
Mullardoch
Glenshero
Strathconon Estate
Killiechonate
Atholl Estate
Glenfinnan Estate
Loch Luichart
Straloch Estate
Lymabordek Estate
SNH
JHI
Strathtay DMG
Dunira Woodlands
Morvern DMG
Alvie & Dalraddy Estate
Breadalbane DMG
Forestry Commission
Mull DMG
Ardverikie Estate
FCS
Letterewe Estate
Lochluichart Estate
Inverary/Tyndrum DMG
Badanloch/Northern DMG
FCS
Highland Deer & Wildlife Solutions
Achnacarry Sporting & Country Pursuits
Letterewe Estate
Shielbridge Estate

Thomas MacDonell
Drew MacFarlane-Slack
Andrew MacKay
Chris MacKenzie
David MacKenzie
Philip Mackenzie
Steven MacKenzie
Hugh MacLaren
Pete MacLaren
Ewen MacLean
Murdo MacLean
Ross MacLean
Allan MacLeod
Donald MacLeod
Lea MacNally
Seamus MacNally
Richard MacNicol
Joanna Macpherson
James MacPherson-Fletcher
Colin MacRae
Stewart Marshall
Ruari Matheson
Peter Mayhew
Andrew McDonell
B McFarlane
David McGibbon
Bob McIntosh
Neil McKay
John McMorran
Steve Morris
Neil Morrison
Sandy Morrison
Mark Nicolson
Christian Nissen
Lord Pearson of Rannoch
Peter Ord
Duncan Orr-Ewing
Finlay Owen
Emma Paterson
Gillian Pattinson
Graeme Prest
Calum Proctor
David Rankin
Maitland Rankin
David Recchia
Mary Reid
Tom Richmond
Alastair Riddell
Megan Robertson
Hazel Robertson
Alex Robinson
Glyn Robson
Bill Rosier
Craig Ross
Wildland Limited
Scottish Land & Estates
Dalnessie/East Sutherland DMG
Achnashellach Estate
Conaglen
Farr Estate
Aberchalder Estate
Inverailort Estate
Inverailort Estate
Ardgour Estate/East Loch Shiel DMG
Strathconon Estate
Conaglen Estate/East Loch Sheil DMG
Corrour Estate
Ralia Estate/North Highland College
Glenquoich/Glenelg DMG
Torridon/Gairloch Conservation Unit
North Highland College
Attadale
Strutt & Parker
SNH
Caledonian Wildlife Management
Fannich Estate
Speyside DMG
Glen Mazeran Estate
Highland Hill Associates
Wildland
Scottish Government
SSE Renewables
Balnacoil Estate
RDIA/WT
Coulin Estate/South West Ross DMG
Reay Forest Estate
Mar Estate/East Grampian DMG
Highland Game
Mid West DMG
NTS
RSPB/Link Deer Task Forum
Amhuinnsuidhe Castle/N Highland College
Auchlyne
South West Ross DMG
Forestry Commission
Black Mount Estate
Benmore, Assynt
South West Scotland DMG
Atholl Estates
Middle Inver
Smiths Gore/North Ross DMG
North Chesthill Estate
FCS
FCS
Scottish Woodlands
Lochluichart Estate
Morvern DMG
Inchnadamph/West Sutherland DMG

Kenny Ross
Ronnie Ross
Donald Rowantree
R Rowantree
James Scott
John Salisbury
Richard Seaman
Linzi Seivwright
Peter Selman
Chris Shankland
Gordon Shankland
Colin Shedden
Mark Shone
A G Simpson
R Simpson
Kevin Smith
Ron Smith
Andrew Souter
Lachie Spearman
Susan Steven

Ian Stewart
Jamie Stewart
Grant Symmers
Andrew Taylor
Graeme Taylor
Patrick Thompson
Susanna Thomson
Iain Thornber
Sarah Troughton
Richard Vernon
Peter Voy
David Walker-Smith
Rob Whitson
Marc Willis
Patrick Wilson
Nathan Windle
Peter Keyser
Mrs W F Lee Lander
Jimmy Ruggles-Brise
A Walker

Apologies:

Leo Barclay
Sarah Holman
Bruce Sewell
Jean Balfour
William Boyd-Wallis
Donald Broad
John Christie
Roddy d'Anyers Willis
Ian Duncan Millar
Rory Galloway
Brian Kaye

Wester Ross DMG
Wester Ross DMG
Corrour Estate
East Sutherland DMG
SNH
Auchlyne
Goldsmith & Co
SNH
National Trust for Scotland
Braulen
Lochshiel Estate
BASC Scotland
Glen Etive Estate
Ledgowan
Ledgowan
Dalnacardoch Estate
Dunira Woodlands
Dunira Woodlands
Fealar
Affric & Kintail/Glenmoriston & Strathconon
DMGs
Braeroy
Lochluichart
Balnacoil Estate
SG, Environment & Forestry Directorate
SNH
Ben Alder Estate
Black Mount DMG
Morvern DMG
Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group
Glendoe Estate/Monadhliath DMG
Sutherland Estate/East Sutherland DMG
Middle Inver
Ardverikie Estate
Lochluichart Estate
Braemore Estate
Ardverikie Estate
Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member

Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Scourie Estate
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Pitcastle and Glenlochay Estates
Lochdochart
Savills
Tirinie, Aberfeldy
Savills
Culfargie Estates

George Leggat
Anson MacAuslan
Johnny MacDonald
Archie MacLellan
Allan Macpherson-Fletcher
Angus Macpherson
Douglas McAdam
Andrew R. McKelvey
Clive Meikle
Malcolm Nicol
Mark Pattinson
Julian Richmond-Watson
Richard Schuster
Philip Smith
Frank Spencer-Nairn
Harry Teacher
Emily S Telford
Tom Turnbull
Maurits van Dedem
George Vestey
Jack Whitaker
PC Mike Whyte
N Willis
Roddy Willis
Iain Wotherspoon
John Fletcher
Kenny MacLeod
Joe Mallinson
Martin Murphy
Col. Rupert Nicholson
Hugh O'Neill
Hugh Rose
Sandy Roy
Derek Stead
Tony Waterson
Peter Anderson
Richard Curzon
Richard Gledson
Robin Leslie Melville
Jane Whitteridge

Bidwells
Northern DMG
Glencoe Visitor Centre
South West Ross DMG
Balavil Estate Office
Craig Dhu & Biallid Farm
Scottish Land & Estates
Knockie Estate
Glen Strathfarrar DMG
Ballogie Estate
North West Highlands DMG
Wakefield Estate
Black Mount DMG
South West Ross DMG
Glen Strathfarrar DMG
West Grampian DMG
Dunecht
Inverary & Tyndrum DMG
Fannich Estate
Inchnadamph Estate
Tiln Farms
Police Service of Scotland
Achnashellach Estate
Savills
Strathtay DMG
Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member
Associate Member
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Associate Member
Associate Member

- 1. Minutes of the AGM on 21 February 2013 and Matters Arising**
The minutes of the AGM on Thursday 21 February 2013 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. These were proposed by Col HFO Bewsher, seconded by George MacDonald and duly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising that would not be covered later in the meeting.
- 2. Election of Vice Chairman**
Andrew Gordon was proposed for re-election to Vice Chairman by Richard Cooke, seconded by James Duncan Millar. There being no other proposals Andrew Gordon was duly elected.

3. **Elections from the Regions to the Executive Committee**
Area 2: Randal Wilson as representative, with Deputy vacant
Area 4: Colin McClean as representative, Julian Clark as deputy
Area 6: James Duncan Millar as representative Victor Clements as deputy
Islands: Willy Inglis as representative, David Gillies as deputy

Other Regions:

Area 1: With Anson McAuslan stepping down, David Allison was proposed as representative, with Brian Lyall as deputy.
Area 5: Lynda Campbell as representative, Alistair Gibson as deputy

The proposed changes were taken en bloc. Proposed by Lynda Campbell, and seconded by Stephen Gibbs, with all representatives and deputies proposed duly elected.

4. **Financial report**

Finlay Clark thanked the DMG Regional Chairs and Secretaries for their hard work, and reported that subscriptions were mainly up to date for 2013.

He said that there were two extraordinary items that would affect finance for the coming year. Firstly, the last PACEC study had been undertaken in 2006, and this had provided considerable useful information, not least that the value of deer management was estimated at £105million annually to the Scottish economy. This study had been extended and would be repeated this year. The cost, around £10,000, will be shared with LDNS and SGA.

Secondly, the system of payments to DMGs from Forest Enterprise had changed. Currently, FES was rebating ADMG with a one off payment, with DMGs then drawing down FES payments from ADMG. This system was to change from the next subscription year 2014/15 and would revert to DMGs drawing down funds direct from FES.

Highlights from the Annual Accounts drawn to the attention of the meeting were as follows:

Management Accounts to 31st January 2014

The Budget for the Financial Year 2013/2014 for The Association of Deer Management Groups was set to record a surplus of £2,062 at the end of the year. The Management Accounts to 31st January 2014 indicated that £87,590 of Membership Subscriptions along with £1,125 of Associate Membership Subscriptions had been collected, resulting in an income of £88,717 versus a budget, as at 31st January, of £63,877. This resulted in a positive variance of £24,840 which was mainly as a result of invoicing Membership Subscriptions earlier than budgeted. Total expenditure amounted to £44,125 versus a budget of £52,470. This reflected a positive variance of £8,345 on expenditure and a combined positive variance of £33,185. The Secretary felt the budget for 2013/2014 would be achieved.

The Secretary confirmed that there was a sum of £50,993 held as cash in the bank as at the date of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

The ADMG Audited Accounts to the Year Ending 30 June 2013

The annual accounts for the ADMG to 30th June 2013 showed a net surplus of £34,002.35 had been recorded for the year 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013. Total income amounting to £105,228.18 had been raised by subscriptions through membership and associate membership along with lunch and dinner recoveries. Total expenditure of £71,225.83 made up of administrative costs, chairman's honorarium, travel expenses and regional and committee meeting costs along with PR and consultant fees and expenses, newsletter, website, contribution to CSTG, non-recoverable VAT and reimbursement to Deer Groups relating to Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise Scotland recoveries. The Secretary also pointed out that a reimbursement of £1,065.60 had been received from the Scone Game Fair as the Scone Game Fair had been cancelled.

There were no questions from the audience in relation to the Management Accounts to 31st January 2014 or the Audited Annual Accounts to 30th June 2013.

Finlay Clark said that generally subscriptions were being collected faster than budget, that expenditure was running in line with budget, and that the Association would be on budget at the end of the year.

The accounts were proposed by John Bruce and seconded by James Duncan Miller.

5. **Chairman's address**

Richard Cooke reported on the activity of the previous year. He said that the Executive Committee had met three times with Regional Meetings also in Perth and Inverness, and an additional meeting in London in July 2013 attended by some 50 London and south England based deer forest owners.

A seminar for DMG Office Bearers, Chairs and Secretaries had been held at Birnam in July with the theme 'effective leadership', and with case studies and workshop sessions.

ADMG was represented on numerous committees: SVP, SQWV, SCSTG, Deer Management Round Table, the Industry Competence Group, Best Practice Group, National Access Forum and Moorland Forum. There had been a useful meeting with the Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP, and ADMG had responded to various consultations with a submission on the SRDP to be made by 28 February.

A new PACEC study had been commissioned jointly with LDNS and SGA. This study will not be limited to deer stalking only but will cover the whole deer sector. All present were urged to participate in completing the questionnaire in order to add strength, particularly at political level, to the economic arguments for deer management.

There had been a number of difficult issues to contend with at individual DMG level during the year.

The ADMG Principles of Collaboration had been launched.

The ADMG submissions to the Rural Affairs Committee Review on 'Deer management and the Environment' were on the ADMG website with appropriate links. The two hearings were fair and balanced with arguments for the voluntary principle and a more statutory approach well aired. A positive outcome had been the opportunity to explain to MSPs the complexities of deer management. The recommendations from the Committee were generally balanced and sensible – and similar to ADMG's own action plan.

The Committee's recommendations were that:

- Progress of DMGs towards having effective and environmentally responsible Deer Management Plans (DMPs) is slow - but some progress is being made.
- The RACCE Committee has recommended a further review at the end of 2016. At that time the sector will be expected to demonstrate that all DMGs are effective and have deliverable DMPs that take account of the public interest. DMPs should be publicly available.
- DMGs should be transparent and should include all relevant interests, including community interests.
- The RACCE Committee will keep the progress of DMGs under review.

The FCS Native Woodlands Survey had also been published, although there was evidence that some conclusions were based on questionable analysis. Alex Hogg's reference to fencing in response to the Native Woodland Survey was commended.

Collaboration is essential, and DMGs need to become a lot better at it – this is not easy at a time when the difficulties to achieve collaboration are increasing as are public interest expectations. It is important that ADMG leads this change.

Much more emphasis is being placed on the 'public interest'. With regard to the deer sector this comprises human safety (principally DVCs), food safety, and deer welfare.

In terms of the Code, public interest also covers positive and negative impacts on the environment, on the rural economy, people, and employment.

Following the RACCE review, meetings had taken place with SNH to develop thinking on 'effective DMGs', to raise the standard, and to set out how to measure progress.

One major component is the DMG Benchmark, which is at consultation draft stage. This sets the criteria to define an effective DMG, and provides a checklist against which every DMG should be able to assess itself. Many DMGs already ticked most, if not all, of the boxes. The Benchmark covers, among other points, leadership, representation, inclusivity and transparency.

ADMG's belief is that the common sense criteria set out in the Benchmark can be achieved and delivered voluntarily without need for regulation but, if they cannot, then regulation is inevitable. There is a

consultation period for the draft DMG Benchmark which is to be finalised for the Scottish Game Fair.

The Birnam seminar is to be repeated in 2014 with a change of emphasis. SNH will be playing a wider role in promoting and supporting collaborative deer management. The ADMG regional representatives will also have a more active role in attending Group meetings, supporting DMG Chairs and working closely with SNH WLMOs.

More objective discussion is needed with NGOs. Working together is vital, and NGOs must be equal and active players within DMGs. They have been asked to support deer management under the voluntary principle for as long as that remains the 'ground rule' and to endorse the Principles of Collaboration, and all had signed up to this.

A copy of the Chairman's Address can be downloaded from www.deer-management.co.uk

There were a number of comments and observations from the floor: David Allison said he supported the proposals.

Robbie Rowantree said that training should be included in the Benchmark.

Justin Irvine said that it was important to recognise that deer were just a part of the whole, and an integrated approach to land management was required.

In response to a question on 'excessive culling', Robbie Kernahan, SNH, said that the legislation could allow statutory measures to be used to control overculling if detrimental to economic interest as is the case for underculling if detrimental to environmental interests. Lord Pearson said that the greatest issue lay with those owners and stalkers who did not collaborate, and that some remained 'gloriously arrogant'. Collective pressure might help. In response, Richard Cooke said that ADMG would do what it could to help to bring recalcitrant owners to the table.

6. **SNH Report – Robbie Kernahan**

In his report Robbie Kernahan said that WANE Act in 2011 had established that deer management would continue under the voluntary principle. The SNH interpretation of this is represented in the Policy document "Wild Deer – A National Approach" (to be reviewed in 2014), The Code of Practice for Deer Management, and Best Practice. SNH intervention was only necessary where the voluntary approach was not working, and currently there were nine Control Agreements in place to secure environmental gains.

Basically however the sector has not yet done enough, and other factors also now require to be addressed – public interest, carbon emissions, water strategy etc. More action is required to reduce deer impacts and to deliver wider public benefits.

Significant challenges were evident from the RACCE Committee sessions and report. These included balancing land management objectives (woodland, nature conservation, grouse, deer for example) and increasing effectiveness of DMGs particularly where there was lack of capacity or poor membership representation. To be an effective DMG was not just a case of having a DMP.

Robbie Kernahan said that SNH was committed to making the system work whether through advice, guidance, or 'knocking heads together', and further consideration would need to be given once the Minister's response to the RACCE Committee report was available. More support and mediation by SNH and ADMG would be required where the system failed.

DMGs need to be absolutely clear of purpose – to deliver sustainable deer management as outlined in the Code. Roles of SNH support staff were changing to help this to happen, and also to assess where DMGs are now so that support can be directed to those DMGs that need help most. He said that some were there in terms of delivery, but many were not.

David Walker Smith said that he had invited Rob Gibson MSP to his Group, an offer that had not been accepted, and questioned whether he should be chairing the RACCE Committee.

Robbie Kernahan said SNH was not taking sides, but that in some areas it was hard to make progress voluntarily. At Assynt for example he said that if the situation could not be resolved then a S8 could be used for the first time.

Richard Cooke said that Rob Gibson in his view had conducted the RACCE Committee enquiry "in an exemplary manner."

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Scottish Venison Partnership (SVP) – John Morison

John Morison said that SVP had undertaken a self-examination exercise at the start of the year, reassessing its aims, purpose and priorities. These it had decided were to promote the product (from all sectors of the industry, wild and farmed), to encourage market demand for Scottish product, and to develop Scottish Venison as a 'core brand'.

Another important task was to safeguard future supply – there was good news in terms of retailers and supermarkets stocking venison, and demand was outstripping supply. SVP had therefore been instrumental in setting up the Deer Farm and Park Demonstration Project that had been granted £96,000 funding through the Scottish Government SRDP. A further research project was also underway with The Hutton Research Institute and Aberdeen University to assess Barriers to Deer Farming.

Scottish Venison Day 2013 had been a joint initiative centred in Fife with Scottish Land & Estates, the BDFPA and other partners with activities including a morning conference and afternoon farm visits.

A number of well-attended evenings for butchers had been held in Glasgow, Ayr, Inverness and Perth, resulting in identification of a future need for more information about venison and training for butchers.

SVP had also participated in several Food and Farming events with SNH and RHET.

Financially SVP was just surviving; however the proposal was that the venison levy collected currently by the three SQWV assured game dealers should increase from 1p to 2p/kilo from July 2014. Also John Morison said that it was in the interests of all for more producers and processors to join the SQWV quality assurance scheme, and that SQWV assured venison earned a 10p/kilo premium. Currently in excess of 70 per cent of wild venison is quality assured but that should increase. Also, under the relevant food charters, only SQWV assured venison would be sourced and available for the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup.

It was agreed to raise the levy from 1p to 2p/kilo from summer 2014 – the motion was proposed by Colin McClean, seconded by David Lowes.

Mark Nicolson enquired whether the levy applied to red, roe and sika and was advised that it did.

Robbie Rowantree asked at what point should we cease to encourage an already expanding market.

Richard Cooke said that currently we were in a situation in the UK of reducing supply and rapidly rising demand.

7.2 Competence – Best Practice – Colin McClean

Colin McClean said that the drive to broaden uptake of Competence emanated from the WANE Act, and that Competence was ongoing. DSC 1 had been agreed as the appropriate level. Competence was important for those who want to shoot deer for reasons of deer welfare, firearms and public safety, and food hygiene.

Progress on Competence would be reviewed by SNH through 2014 with a report to Government in 2015.

Considerable effort had been made to communicate the Competence message, and it was evident that the private estate and forestry sectors had taken heed and were well qualified, although uptake was less good across farming and crofting.

The review would assess how many now have DSC 1 or equivalent, and also the effect of increased Competence on deer welfare.

Colin McClean said that the credibility of the deer management sector had also increased with a higher uptake of Competence, and that the Competence Working Group would continue to meet.

7.3 Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group

Richard Cooke reported briefly on the work of SCSTG, saying that its new web portal was proving very successful with 30,000 page views in the last year, and a 25 per cent increase in visitors to it over the same period.

He said that the SCSTG website was an excellent channel to assist with letting sport, and that there was currently a 30 per cent discount for any new providers joining in the next 3 months.

Victoria Brooks, Project Manager, was leaving SCSTG after 7 years, and she had done an outstanding job.

7.4 Access

Robert Balfour reported on the National Access Forum (NAF). He said that NAF had made a submission to the Land Reform Review Group saying that current legislation was adequate although it did need 'tweaking' in parts.

Heading for the Scottish Hills (HFTSH), the computer based pilot, has only partial coverage and the future of the project is not good in that SNH will manage it through 2014 but thereafter will not provide the service given pressure on budgets and staff time. There was a proposal that ADMG might be able to take it over in some form albeit some technical improvements to the website were required.

Andrew Simpson (Ledgowan) said that he had had some issues over access and had been the target for an access protest albeit no one had ever been denied access. In the event, only 30 or so turned up for the protest.

Simon Blackett said that there should be a solution to give out information to walkers about stalking that was both easy and cheap, whether it was telephone or online based.

David Lowes said that it was important not to lose Heading for the Scottish Hills, and that ADMG needed to 'keep all the tools in the toolkit.'

Richard Cooke said he would take the comments away and see what could be done to keep HFTSH going.

7.5 SRDP

Victor Clements gave a short update on the SRDP consultation which closes on 28 February, saying that DMGs should be able to benefit from the new rules as a single organisation, ie a DMG, should be able to apply for support on behalf of a number of landholdings, or that ADMG could possibly also apply.

He highlighted the main aspects of the proposals – facilitation, new advisory service, funding for peatland restoration, and a 'knowledge transfer fund' that might provide a suitable route for finance for HFTSH.

Bill Bewsher asked whether there was likely to be any funding available for deer fencing.

8. **Breadalbane Deer Management Group** – Victor Clements
Victor Clements, gave an interesting and insightful presentation into the set-up, workings, progress and priorities of the Breadalbane Deer Management Group. A pdf of his Powerpoint is available.
9. **The National Trust for Scotland, Mar Lodge Estate and Deer Management** – Pete Selman, Director of Strategic Development, NTS
Pete Selman gave a thorough presentation on the current NTS approach to deer management, an update on progress at Mar Lodge and the NTS position on the voluntary principle. A review of his presentation can be found in the ADMG Newsletter SCOPE, issue Summer 2014.
10. **General questions**
Simon Blackett congratulated Victor Clements on his presentation, asked a question on the tenant farmers right to buy, and reminded ADMG that the Wildlife Estates Scotland initiative could form an important part of future plans for deer forests.

Mark Nicolson thanked Pete Selman for his review of the NTS position and remarked that there had been considerable improvement following the Calman Review.

There being no further questions or remarks Richard Cooke, Chairman, closed the meeting.