ADMG REGIONAL MEETING

**at Mar Lodge, Braemar,**

Wednesday 29 July 2015

**Attending**

Executive Committee

Richard Cooke (RC) Chairman

Finlay Clark (FC) Secretary

Victor Clements (VC)

Alastair Gibson (AG)

Robbie Kernahan (RK)

Doug McAdam (DM)

Colin McClean (CM)

Bob McIntosh (BM)

John Morison (JM)

Dick Playfair (DP)

Linzi Seivwright (LS)

Randal Wilson (RW)

Holly Deary (HD)

Members and others

Annabel Blackett Tillypronie Estate

Simon Blackett Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group

Mike Cottam Cairngorm & Speyside DMG

Patrick Creasey North Ross & West Ross DMGs

David Frew Mar Lodge

Charlotte Gilfillan East Grampian DMG

John Hay Mullardoch / Affric & Kintail DMG

Willie Lamont FES

Dan Newcombe Archuncart and Glenbervie Estates

Andrew Taylor Scottish Government

Tom Turnbull Inveraray & Tyndrum DMG

**Apologies**

Executive Committee

Andrew Gordon (AG) Vice Chairman

James Adamson (JA)

Col Bewsher (HFOB)

John Bruce (JB)

Lynda Campbell (LC)

Julian Clarke (JC)

James Duncan Millar (JDM)

Willie Fraser (WF)

Stephen Gibbs (SCG)

Willy Inglis (WI)

Justin Irvine (JI)

George Macdonald (GM)

Ewen Macpherson (EM)

Members and others

Mark Adams Kinlochdamph Estate

David Allison West Sutherland DMG

Charlie Anderson North Strome

Lord Aylesford Strathconon DMG

Jean Balfour Scourie

Richard Barclay Breadalbane DMG

Charles Butter Strathtay DMG

Evelyn Cameron East Sutherland DMG

Jim Corbett Mull DMG

Hon. Richard Curzon Tullich Estate

Falcon Frost Balquhidder DMG

Martin Girvan Ceannacroc

Richard Gledson East Grampian DMG

Piotr Godziszewski South West Ross DMG

Duncan Gray Ben Damph Estate

Charlie Hill Ben Damph Estate

Archie MacLellan Applecross Estate

Seamus MacNally Gairloch Conservation Unit

Pete Mayhew Cairngorms & Speyside DMG

Hamish McCorquodale Mid West DMG

Drew McFarlane-Slack Monadhliaths DMG

Colin Murdoch North Strome

Mark Nicolson East Grampian DMG

Martin Robb South Perthshire DMG

Philip Smith Coulin Estate

Frank Spencer-Nairn Glen Strathfarrar DMG

Susan Steven Affric & Kintail & Glenmoriston DMGs

Robert Stuart Inver & Kirkaig

Susanna Thomson Black Mount DMG

Hugh Tollmache Ben Sheildaig Estate

George Vestey Inchnadamph

Peter Voy East Sutherland DMG

Richard Wills Applecross Estate

Robin Leslie-Melville

James Bewsher Associate Member

Donald Angus Cameron Associate Member

William Crawford Associate Member

Martin Johnson Associate Member

Peter Keyser Associate Member

Blair McFarlane Highland Hill Associates

Col. Nicholas Associate Member

Alexander Roy Associate Member

Derek Stead Associate Member

Ian Thornber Associate Member

Tony Waterson Associate Member

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| 1. | **Items 1 – 7 Regional Meeting Agenda**  SeeExecutive Committee minutes. |  |
| 2. | **DMG Reports**  2.1 Cairngorm and Speyside DMG  All data required for revised DMP is almost collected. The draft Plan is expected by October and will be finalised by February 2016.  2.2 Breadalbane DMG  The DMP will be ready for the Group’s Autumn meeting. The Section 7 under which the Group was operating has ended and ‘in limbo’ as to what happens next. Some members would like it to be renewed. A number of Group members are putting sheep back on the hill.  2.3 West Lochaber DMG  A consultant has been appointed to produce the DMP. A new owner of estate at Loch Morar needs to be engaged in process. There had been a successful conviction for poaching in the Group area.  2.4 East Grampian (sub group 2)  Bell Ingram has been appointed to produce the DMP.  2.5 Donside  An increasing number of roe deer being noted in the area. Area needs a DMG to assert some level of collaborative deer management (CDM). Forest Enterprise prepared to take a lead. Noticed that increasing damage is bringing people to meetings, plus 5 sika had been shot. To the east dung counts had been done which gave evidence of 300 roe and 50 red, and there was a large area of forest that was not deer fenced. The area is a ‘black hole’ in terms of CDM.  2.6 Inverary and Tyndrum DMG  DMP is in place but is being updated to match the Benchmark and assessment. Questionnaire had been circulated to members to access data. Noted that the Group had an area on either side, Cowal and Kintyre, where there were deer populations but no CDM. It was noted that SNH is holding a meeting for Cowal area on 25 September. Also the Group was employing and paying a part time Secretary; quite high winter mortality had been noted. There were good relations with the National Park.  2.7 North Ross DMG  The parachuting in of an interim Chairman had got things moving. The DMP was virtually done, but some work still needed on access, the DMG constitution and communications. The Section 7 is coming to an end in November, and unsure about what happens next.  2.8 East Grampian DMG  There are now 5 active sub groups with East Grampian as the umbrella DMG. Some question over what the Group centrally should do in terms of providing support to the sub groups.  2.9 East Grampian sub area 5  The Mar Lodge Section 7 has ended. DMP is being written for the sub group by a consultant.  2.10 East Ross DMG  DMP for the Group ongoing. Habitat monitoring likewise, and Group is a pilot for the SWARD project where it is important that feedback goes back to members to keep them engaged.  2.11 Affric and Kintail DMG  DMP work is commencing with a consultant in the Autumn. Remarked that the Glen Strathfarrar DMP was ‘very impressive’. |  |
| 3. | **Other issues and points to note**  3.1 Northern College Larder Project  Groups were encouraged to write in support of what would be an extremely useful facility, both for education, demonstration, and commercial use. Opportunities for sponsorship of areas within the new complex.  3.2 Highland Pony display at Scottish Game Fair  It was asked whether there was a possibility this could be moved to the Friday of the Fair.  3.3 Birnam seminar for DMG Office Bearers  Another Birnam seminar was planned for November with updates on the Land Reform Bill, Deer Management Planning, PACEC, DMG websites and communication etc. **Date subject to confirmation.**  3.4 Date of next meeting  Date of Inverness meeting is subject to possible attendance of the Minister.  **Now organised for Monday 9 November, Inverness.** |  |