



The Association of Deer Management Groups
 Regional Meeting - 5th May 2016
 Birmam Arts & Conference Centre

Present	
Richard Cooke	Chairman
Finlay Clark	Secretary
Leo Barclay	Executive Committee
Col. Bewsher	Executive Committee
John Bruce	Executive Committee
Lynda Campbell	Executive Committee
Victor Clements	Executive Committee
Holly Deary	Executive Committee
Willie Fraser	Executive Committee
Alistair Gibson	Executive Committee
Justin Irvine	Executive Committee
George Macdonald	Executive Committee
Colin Maclean	Executive Committee
Douglas McAdam	Executive Committee
Bob McIntosh	Executive Committee
John Morison	Executive Committee
Dick Playfair	Executive Committee
Linzi Selwright	Executive Committee
Tom Turnbull	Executive Committee
Randal Wilson	Executive Committee
Michael Aldridge	Glenartney DMG
Leif Brag	Tilhill
Angus Chespe	Mull DMG
Patrick Creasey	North Ross DMG
Richard Curzon	Tullich, SWRDMG
Jane Hammond	SNH
William Jackson	Strathtay DMG
Joanna Macpherson	Lochalsh DMG
Martin Robb	Carroglen, SPDMG
Robbie Rowantree	ESDMG
Roddie Feilden	Ardeer Estate
Hugh Rose	Associate Member

	<p>Apologies</p> <p>James Duncan Millar Stephen Gibbs Andrew Gordon Willy Inglis Bruce Sewell</p> <p>James Adamson Alex Bailie-Hamilton Peiter Bakker Richard Barclay Alistair Bruce Bebe Corbett Ian Duncan-Millar Willie Fraser Martin Girvan Andrew MacKelvey Helen MacIntyre Ewen Maclean Seamus MacNally Malcolm McPhail Claire Munday Richard Munday Mark Nicolson Gordon Ross Mattias Scholer Pederson Stephen Smith Frank Spencer-Nairn Gavin Strathdee Sarah Troughton George Woods</p> <p>Donald Cameron Bill Cowie Ollie Hill Derek Stead Gilmour Strang Iain Thomber</p>	<p>Executive Committee Executive Committee Executive Committee Executive Committee Executive Committee</p> <p>Scottish Woodlands Kinnell NW Sutherland DMG Breadalbane DMG Glen Spean Estate Black Mount DMG Tirnie Afric & Kintail DMG Glenmoriston DMG Knockie Estate Inveraray & Tyndrum DMG East Loch Shiel Gairloch Conservation Unit Harris & Lewis DMG Kinloch Estate Kinloch Estate East Grampian DMG Easter Ross DMG Dalchornzie / Glenbeich Estate Glen Spean Estate Glen Strathfarrar DMG Strathdee Properties Black Mount DMG NW Sutherland DMG</p> <p>Associate Member Associate Member Associate Member Associate Member Associate Member Associate Member</p>
1.	<p>Minutes from meeting held Tuesday 26th January 2016 Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Chairman's Update The Chairman reported having attended a substantial number of meetings since the AGM on 26th February 2016. These included a joint meeting with SNH on 11th April; West Ross DMG on 16th April; Scottish Gamekeepers Association on 20th April; SCTG on 28th April; West Grampian DMG on 1st May and East Grampian DMG on 4th May 2016.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman reported that the Land Reform Bill has now received Royal Assent and is now an Act. Those areas most relevant to deer management relate to parts 6 and 8. Part 6 reintroduces Sporting Rates with a view to rates re-evaluation taking place by 2017. Regional Assessors estimate that they will have 55,000 landholdings to assess and a great many will qualify for the Small Business Bonus Scheme which offers from 100% discount on a sliding scale. An amendment proposed by ADMG and introduced by Mike Russell MSP was adopted. This may provide a basis for a discounts for members of active and effective DMGs Part 8 introduces additional powers to SNH and allows SNH to require an individual property or group of properties to prepare a DMP. ADMG did not oppose this amendment and is confident that these new powers are unlikely to be used where there is an effective DMG.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the reassessment process was now on-going and confirmed that SNH had to be in a position to report back to the Rural Affairs Climate Change & Environment Committee at Scottish Government by the end of October. The Chairman expressed satisfaction that excellent progress had been made within the sector. ADMG has had assurances from the outgoing Environment Minister and SNH of a fair and objective review. ADMG will continue to work on progressive projects beyond the current review process to demonstrate that the sector is actively engaged in continuous improvement and meeting public objectives.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that there would be many new faces following the Holyrood elections and it is important that members of the ADMG and / or DMGs take the opportunity to bring any newly elected members up to speed in relation to the deer sector. He reported that it was likely there would be a Bimam Seminar for ADMG Chairs and Secretaries towards the end of this year or early next following the Parliamentary review. He advised all DMGs to ensure that their Regional ADMG Member and/or the DMP Consultant was present for the reassessment process SNH will have reassessed the Plans in advance and therefore preparation in advance of the assessment review is essential to ensure that the Group is in a position to ensure a fair outcome. VC commented that the assessments which he had been involved in had been constructive and positive.</p>
3.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>FC presented the management accounts of the ADMG to the 30th April 2016. The financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June and we are therefore into the final quarter of the 2015/16 financial year. He reported membership subscription income running at £104,137 and total income of £111,418 which includes Associate Member subscriptions; lunch recoveries and expenses recovered relating to the PACEC report. Membership subscriptions is comfortably ahead of budget and there is an element of recovery relating to earlier financial years owing to the change in payment mechanism by FES. The positive variance on income is £19,408. Expenses are currently running at £67,384, some £14,761 ahead of budget due to timing.</p> <p>he significant expenditure overruns in relation to budget are website maintenance which relates to the setup cost of the DMGs websites facility and purchase of</p>

	<p>domain names. ADMG had committed to cover this set up cost in relation on the basis that the DMGs would thereafter meet the running expenses. The future annual website cost per DMG was estimated at £120. FC highlighted a number of expenses that are still to come in relation to the operation of the business including the Chairman's honorarium. The management accounts were currently at some £34,169 ahead of budget, although this positive variance will reduce towards the year end. The budget projected out turn was for a break even position and it is likely that this position will be achieved or slightly improved upon.</p> <p>FC reported that there was £60,477 cash in hand on the ADMG bank account.</p>
4.	<p>DMG Reports The Chairman invited all of the DMG representatives present to update the Regional Meeting as to the progress of their particular DMG.</p> <p>Alistair Gibson – West Lochaber DMG: Plan is complete and assessment timetabled for 6th May 2016.</p> <p>Joanna Macpherson – Lochalsh DMG: Plan is being publicly circulated with a scheduled meeting on 1st June to progress.</p> <p>Richard Curzon – South West Ross DMG: Plan almost finalised and in final draft format and circulated to the wider South West Ross DMG.</p> <p>Robbie Rowantree – East Sutherland DMG: Draft circulated and positive feedback from the group. The group has extended its boundaries. Robbie Rowantree expects a first draft to be approved by 13th May.</p> <p>Roddie Feilden – Mid-West DMG: Plan complete and approved by SNH and reassessment scheduled for 17th May.</p> <p>Victor Clements (Consultant representing 6 DMGs: South Perthshire, Knoydart, Arran, NW Sutherland, Breadalbane) Reported that all Plans were at a very advanced stage with NW Sutherland complete and already assessed.</p> <p>Tom Turnbull – Inveraray and Tyndrum DMG: Plan complete and funding approved and received and the DMP is expected to be uploaded on to the DMG website within the next few days.</p> <p>William Jackson – Strathtay DMG: Some changes to the DMP are being progressed following SNH change of staff, albeit the group is confident of receiving SNH sign off in the near future.</p> <p>Angus Cheape – Mull DMG: DMP complete and assessment scheduled for 20th May.</p> <p>Martin Robb – South Perthshire DMG: Plan complete and cull modelling on-going. South Perthshire DMG are due to meet at their AGM next week and sign off the plan in its final format. Thereafter the plan will be uploaded to the website.</p>

	<p>Michael Aldridge – Glenartney DMG: Plan complete, approved by SNH and grant paid. Glenartney DMP is live on the website.</p> <p>Willie Fraser – Affric & Kintail DMG: The plan is complete with a final review delayed until June following conclusion of the South Ross deer management court. The umbrella South Ross group meets on 7th May at Affric Lodge.</p> <p>Patrick Creasey – North Ross DMG: Drafting of plan finalised but requires some work relating to community engagement and population modelling. Section 7 Agreement has been extended for one further year following habitat monitoring results.</p> <p>Randal Wilson – Wester Ross DMG: Plan complete and live on the website by end of May.</p> <p>Finlay Clark – Black Mount DMG: DMP is almost complete with one minor amendment relating to increasing the pressure by domestic livestock on the Glencoe SSSI. It is expected that the plan will be completed and appraised by the end of May.</p> <p>Willie Lamont – FES: commented that FES are involved in 24 groups including the newly formed Sleat DMG. There were also plans to form a Skye DMG and Willie Lamont asked for ADMG assistance to help move towards the formation of a DMG in the Donside/Cabrach area. He added that consideration is also being given to setting up a Group in the Stonehaven area where FES had shot over 1,000 deer in the current season within the Stonehaven area.</p>
5.	<p>PACEC</p> <p>PACEC Report: This new Report, commissioned by ADMG assesses the contribution of deer management to the Scottish Economy and can be downloaded from the undernoted link: http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Final-25FEB.pdf</p> <p>An Executive Summary of the Report is attached to these Minutes.</p>
6.	<p>AOCB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Victor Clements commented that Knoydart DMG were including cull records of wild boar shot in the Knoydart area. Jamie Hammond, SNH, commented that SNH were also monitoring the spread of wild boar both in the Invergarry and SW Scotland areas. Robbie Rowantree commented that 110,000 wild boar were shot in Scandinavia last season, following the release of only 300 animals in the 1990s. b. Justin Irvine (James Hutton Institute) raised the subject of deer counting and asked if ADMG could help provide a national picture. JHI is assisting SNH in analysing past cull data to provide as complete a national picture as possible. He also commented that the SWARD project was important and would have the ability to link habitat monitoring and count data. c. Doug McAdam (Scottish Land & Estates) advised that the Land Commission appointment process would commence shortly and urged those within the deer sector to consider putting their names forward.

- d. John Morison commented that, whilst the Scottish Venison Partnership was working well, that there was still much venison coming through non-SQWV dealers. He made a plea to all to use SQWV game dealers and to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the SQWV scheme. The Chairman paid tribute to Stephen Gibbs who has recently stood down after 12 years of Chairing the Scottish Venison Partnership. He also highlighted the critical role that Stephen Gibbs had played in Chairing ADMG for 14 years. Bill Bewsher would be acting Chair of Scottish Venison Partnership meantime. All acknowledged the debt owed to Stephen Gibbs for all that he had done for the sector over many years and for his personal contribution to the deer industry.
- e. Peter Ord commented that SLE had set up a working party looking at rating assessment advice. The Chairman commented that it was hoped that the amendment to section 6 of the Land Reform Bill would allow for constructive dialogue with the Assessors for the 2017 business rates reassessment.

The Chairman closed the meeting following a vote of thanks to the Chair by Leo Barclay.

The Contribution of Deer Management to the Scottish Economy

Summary of report prepared by
PACEC
on behalf of
The Association of Deer Management
Groups

PACEC
Public and Corporate
Economic consultants
www.pacec.co.uk

- This study was commissioned by the Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) with support from the Lowland Deer Network Scotland (LDNS) and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) in order to assess the current contribution of deer management to the Scottish economy.
- This report builds on work carried out for a 2006 survey on deer stalking. The 2006 study was also compared with work carried out in 2013/14 for BASC which suggests that the total level of stalking activity in Scotland is comparable with the 2006 estimate and that expenditure is likely to have risen in line with inflation since that point.
- The total coverage of the survey is 1,830,000 ha, approximately 25% of the total area of Scotland's land mass. The average size of landholding is 6,800 ha, with the median 4,600 ha.
- The main reasons given for deer management are to control the population so it does not exceed the carrying capacity of the land, to protect woodland, and to provide shooting sports opportunities.
- Two thirds were members of deer management groups with formal written management plans in place.
- A clear majority of respondents (83%) said that monitoring and assessment of the deer habitat is undertaken within the area of their DMG.
- 86% of the landholdings participate in counting the deer population in their area.
- Red deer populations were thought to be falling, whereas roe and sika deer populations were thought to be rising.
- Deer management practices include shooting, fencing, and supplementary feeding.
- Reasons given for shooting include sport, conservation, agricultural protection of crops/woodland, and public safety.
- Landholdings reported that herbivore impacts by animals other than deer had decreased over the last decade.
- The main economic and environmental effects, if deer management were to cease, were thought to be job losses and damage to woodland and commercial forestry plantations.

- 80% of the respondents were members of the ADMG.
 - Most of the landholdings said they managed the deer population so that it would not exceed the carrying capacity of the land (88%). Woodland protection (77%) was also a key reason.
 - Virtually all landholdings (99%) said they used shooting as a form of deer management. 70% used fencing, and 31% used supplementary feeding.
 - At least 90% of primary suppliers of equipment, rifles, vehicles, etc to the deer management sector were located in Scotland.
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Summary of economic impacts:

- We have used results from PACEC's research on the economic impact of shooting in the UK and the volume and value of country sports tourism to Scotland to estimate the total economic impact of deer management in Scotland, including supply chain effects and expenditure by stalking participants on other attractions while visiting Scotland

From respondents to survey

- The total expenditure on deer management in Scotland in 2013/14, according to the survey respondents, was £43.1m; £7.7m capital expenditure, £15.2m on staff, and £20.2m other operational expenditure (rounded to nearest £100k). This was partially offset by £12.5m in income from deer management.
- There were a total of 2,532 jobs in deer management in Scotland, of which 1,372 were known to be paid and 968 unpaid. As many of these jobs are part-time and/or seasonal, the full-time equivalent of this employment is 845 FTEs (722 paid, 124 unpaid).

From wider research

- PACEC's other research on shooting sports and Scottish country sports tourism suggests that the total impact of deer management on the Scottish economy, including associated hospitality, and the supply chain within Scotland, is £140.8m of total expenditure, supporting 2,520 FTE paid jobs in Scotland. These figures are consistent with the results of this deer sector research.

The bottom line:

- £140.8m of expenditure in Scotland is reliant upon Deer Management
- Of which, £43.1m is **directly** due to Deer Management activities as reported by the new survey
- £97.7m results from associated expenditure, largely by participants away from the stalking site (£55.6m)

This summary is available to download from the ADMG website: <http://www.deer-management.co.uk/>