



ASSOCIATION OF DEER MANAGEMENT GROUPS

Regional Meeting

21 November 2019, Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Richard Cooke
Tom Turnbull
Finlay Clark

Chairman
Vice-Chair
Secretary

Tom Chetwynd
Victor Clements
Holly Deary
Ian Fergusson
Donald Fraser
William Fraser
Falcon Frost
Alistair Gibson
Ewen Macpherson
Robin Pakeman
Dick Playfair
Robbie Rowantree
Megan Rowland
Linzi Seivwright

Executive Committee
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Rod Andean
James Baillie
Alan Balfour
Troels Bavnhøj
Luca Bellini
Sinclair Coghill
Mike Cottam
Bill Cowie
Martin Girvan
Wayne Grant
John Hay

Glen Strathfarrar DMG
Glenshiel Estate / Glenelg DMG
WSDMG
Strathconon Estate
Glenfinnan Estate
Nature Scot
C&SDMG / SDNADMG
Isle of Rona
Glenmoriston DMG
Braemore Estate
South Mullardoch

Calum Hogg
Fiona Holmes
Rhys Llewellyn
Shaun MacDonald
Helen MacIntyre
Seamus MacNally
Gordon Robertson
Raymond Simpson
Richard Smith
Bruce Taylor
Thomas Watson

Angus Davidson
Kirsty MacDonald

Apologies:

Col. Bewsher
Lynda Campbell
James Duncan Millar
Andrew Gordon
Colin McClean
Bob McIntosh

Ewen Ballantyne
Henry Birkbecks
Patrick Creasey
Roddie Feilden
Michael Laing
Barbara MacDonald
Ewen Macpherson
Joanna Macpherson
Hugh Nicol
Iain Robertson
Susanna Thomson
Sir Michael Wigan
Iain Wotherspoon

Col. Nicholas
Bill Rosier
Christian Nissen

Gillian Pattinson
Robin Poore

Mid West DMG
Dundreggan Estate / Glenmoriston DMG
Scottish Woodlands
SWDMG
I&TDMG / NDMG
Torridon, Gairloch Conservation Unit
Easter Ross DMG
Dunkeld DMF
Braulen Estate
West Lochaber DMG
Attadale Estate

Angus Davidson Ltd
Highland Game

Executive Committee
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Executive Committee

Arnisdale
Kinlochhour
NR DMG
Mid West DMG
Glenelg DMG
Letterewe
Lochalsh DMG
Lochalsh DMG
Inveraray & Tyndrum DMG
MoD
Blackmount DMG
East Sutherland DMG
Glen Lyon Estate

Associate Member
Associate Member
Highland Game Ltd

1.	Apologies Recorded above.	
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2.	Minutes from Regional Meeting held at Alladale on 7th August 2019	
3.	<p>Chairman’s Report</p> <p>Deer Sector Review 2019: report awaited.</p> <p>SNH Report to Scottish Government awaited and expected any day.</p> <p>Deer Working Group – on the Scottish system of deer management. Potential for more legislation.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that ADMG was pleased with the progress which DMGs had made. The Health Checks had put DMGs into a good position in preparation for SNH Reviews. DMGs had risen to the challenge and performed well. ADMG continues to represent all deer managers across the DMGs area.</p> <p>The climate emergency will inevitably put pressure on deer numbers and promote woodland expansion. Climatic change will dominate the discussion and drivers going forward and DMGs will be expected to play their part in delivery.</p> <p>Deer remain an iconic species in the public view and should remain an important part of the environmental fabric of Scotland. The deer sector is a minority sector but needs to remain focussed on our ability to deliver in the public interest.</p> <p>Deer numbers now just under 10 per square km. DMGs must ensure that cull levels are in balance and deliver objectives.</p> <p>ADMG research –DMG attitudinal survey</p> <p>Presentation from LS who made a plea for more responses to the ADMG questionnaire. The aim was for all 45 DMGs to respond.</p> <p>Best Practice</p> <p>Scottish Government Best Practice Guides including advice concerning Dogs and Deer; Habitat Impact Guides and Welfare can be accessed via: https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/people-resources/assessment-support/</p> <p>DMGs to hold individual Best Practice Events.</p> <p>PR Scotland’s upland deer management. The voluntary approach: Rising to the challenge to be circulated in December 2019. The document is also available online at http://www.deer-management.co.uk/general-info/publications/</p> <p>Venison DP reported that no public funding had been forthcoming from Scottish Government to date but £20K had been pledged for market research. April 2020 deadline to publish research.</p> <p>Scotland Food & Drink: "Beyond the Glen: a strategy for the Scottish Venison Sector to 2030" can be downloaded at: https://www.foodanddrink.scot/resources/sector-strategies/beyond-the-glen-a-strategy-for-the-scottish-venison-sector-to-2030/</p> <p>Tom Turnbull and Richard Barclay are the Upland representatives on the Scottish Venison Association.</p> <p>Scottish Deer Health Survey: Results Part 1 reported that 3 samples / 1,000 random samples tested positive for EColi O157. Part 2 will report on testing of swabs from carcasses. Results are due in early 2020. Early feedback is that presence of EColi O157 is very low.</p> <p>Skills and Training: Two farm deer health and handling courses delivered in the year. Both courses were self-funding.</p>	

	<p>PGI – Protective Geographical Indicator – application and consultation had been undertaken. Held up by European Commission and was now unlikely to be resubmitted. Post Europe DEFRA scheme available.</p> <p>Venison Dealer Network – Licencing and where licences exist – see E-SCOPE. SAOS – venison supply chain.</p> <p>Lead Ammunition: There is a general push for change from lead ammunition to copper. Waitrose has already confirmed that lead contamination is unacceptable. Working Group to follow up and report back.</p> <p>Venison prices: Remain static and in real terms is comparatively very low.</p> <p>The ADMG Event has been rescheduled for Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at Holyrood.</p> <p>E-SCOPE DP asked for additional e-based membership. E-SCOPE is also available on the ADMG website. Politicians and the public access the ADMG website for information. DP requested that DMGs ensure that webpages are kept up-to-date with relevant information.</p> <p>Sporting Rates: Most appeals had been decided.</p>	
4.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>The Secretary reported on the Management Accounts to 31 October 2019. Against a budgeted income of £45,125 ADMG had invoiced £49,287, the vast majority being £44,843 of Membership Subscription. Against a budgeted spend £36,760 ADMG has spent £22,523. There were no major over-runs.</p> <p>A year to date positive variance of £18,158 is more down to income coming in faster than budgeted and cost profile slower than budgeted. The Secretary thanked all DMG's for prompt reporting which allows ADMG to function efficiently. The Secretary also stated that he felt there was no major concern around delivery of budget for 2019/20.</p> <p>Cash in bank was £157,122. This was felt to be a prudent level of liquid funds and represented just over one year running costs.</p> <p>Gordon Robertson asked the Secretary if it was possible to source a higher interest account to yield interest on the funds held. It was acknowledged that bank interest rates were staggeringly low and the Secretary undertook the look into the matter.</p>	FCC
6.	<p>SNH Update</p> <p>SNH is to be renamed "NatureScot"</p> <p>Section 7 Fannich Hills</p> <p>SNH's Review of DMGs will be published next week. There is a generally improving picture and the ADMG report reflects the flavour of SNH's report.</p> <p>Deer Working Group is due in late November / early December and to follow from Scottish Government.</p> <p>Message from DF was to keep momentum up and to keep delivering on DMPs.</p> <p>DVC – report to follow.</p> <p>Deer Trends – Changes to follow.</p> <p>Lowland Report / Tom Chetwynd – Link to report.</p> <p>Drivers for SNH include climate change and loss of bio-diversity.</p>	

	<p>ADMG / LINK meeting planned for 18th November 2019.</p> <p>Resources and Priorities – There are five active Section 7s and there are on-going discussions surrounding Fannich Hills.</p> <p>Native woodlands and Peat Restoration remain priorities. Land use planning partnerships.</p> <p>Funding: Assessment process to be discussed with ADMG.</p> <p>Deer Counts: planned for Monadhliaths, NW Sutherland, Grampians and NW Ross.</p> <p>SWARD - SWARD on Best Practice Steering Group Agenda. SWARD will not emerge from concept to working model in near future.</p> <p>Ian Fergusson FLS – Reported 18/19: 35,000 cull with 21% browse damage; 19/20 37,000 target cull and 20/21 cull 40,000 with 10% browse damage target.</p> <p>A 10% net reduction in spend on deer management was targeted in the overall FLS Business Plan. 6% to be saved in 2019/20 and 4% in 20/21. Deer Management has to take its share of the reduction. £0.9M fencing cost requested in business plan. This is currently under review. Future fencing will be approved on an individual business case basis for each site.</p> <p>FLS is awaiting the SG position following the DWG report. The outcome of this will influence future FLS Deer Management policy.FLS Organogram to be circulated.</p>	
7.	<p>DMG Reports</p> <p>West Sutherland AB reported business as usual. ADMG Questionnaire to be completed.</p> <p>Easter Ross GR confirmed that Natural Capital and Peat Questionnaire to be completed.</p> <p>C&S and SDNA DMGs MC confirmed focus on habitat and peatland restoration. Business as usual.</p> <p>North Sutherland and Inveraray & Tyndrum DMGs HM reported business as usual.</p> <p>Breadalbane VC reported that the Group had undertaken a foot count indicating a stable population but distribution had changed. Second round of HIA was due shortly. VC also spoke briefly on East Loch Ericht, Strathtay, East Loch Shiel DMGs.</p> <p>Mid West DMG CH reported challenges surrounding differing objectives. DF of SNH was providing support. Progress on Ben Alder SAC and Ben Nevis SAC. Helicopter count due in Spring 2020. Questionnaire to be completed.</p> <p>Rona – BC reported business as usual on Rona.</p> <p>SW Ross & East Ross – TC reported on Network Rail mortality. FOI request. Fencing is trapping calves. DMGs to speak to SNH on helicopter counts and VAT issues. Wildfires would be a big issue going forward. Asset register and fire planning was important. The area Fire Office was happy to attend DMG meetings.</p> <p>Gairloch Conservation Unit – SM reported business as usual.</p> <p>Affric & Kintail – WF reported on collaborative woodland grant and discussions on culling proposals in South Affric were on-going.</p> <p>Dunkeld DMG – RS reported on the AGM. The organisational structure was now developed and culls increasing.</p>	

	<p>Balquhiddier DMG – FF confirmed that HIA would be on-going in 2020. The DMG was working well. Goat cull collaboration was needed.</p> <p>Lochalsh DMG – EM reported that a winter count had found that deer had largely migrated west. The Group had completed the questionnaire.</p> <p>West Lochaber DMG – AG reported that the Group was collaborating with Moidart DMG. There was a discussion document on oak regeneration.</p> <p>Black Mount – FC reported the Group’s I good progress on various dmg objectives.</p> <p>Strathconon - TB reported poaching on the north side of Strathconon.</p> <p>Inveraray and Cowal: TT reported business as usual. East Loch Lomond – land management forum.</p> <p>Glenelg – JB confirmed a Working Group had been created for the DMG. HIA objectives to be set and evidence would be welcomed.</p> <p>Flanders Moss – VC confirmed that of 40 members, 39 desired no deer. Section 10 in place – 500 deer shot in 2019.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>RR asked that DMGs review the DEFRA Consultation and spoke of the potential ban on all venison products and trophies. RR will draft a response to ADMG.</p> <p>Climate change and associated commercial plantation expansion and challenges surrounding carbon capture was discussed. Also Carbon Audits which will measure potential of forests / carbon capture. Posts and strainers are no longer lasting. Wildfires would also be an issue going forward.</p> <p>SM spoke of Carbon Audit</p>	