



**ASSOCIATION OF DEER MANAGEMENT GROUPS**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 28 February 2019**

**At Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort**

**MINUTES**

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**In Attendance:**

Richard Cooke  
Tom Turnbull  
Finlay Clark  
Victor Clements  
Col. Bewsher  
Dick Playfair

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee

Tom Chetwynd  
Alistair Gibson  
Andrew Gordon  
Ewen Macpherson  
Randal Wilson

Executive Committee / East Sutherland DMG  
Executive Committee / West Lochaber DMG  
Executive Committee / West Grampian & Glenelg DMGs  
Executive Committee / Lochalsh DMG  
Executive Committee / West Ross DMG

Matthew Allan  
Rod Andean  
Alan Balfour  
Richard Barclay  
James Barrie  
Stewart Blair  
Kathryn Bontoft  
Marcus Braithwaite-Exley  
George Brown  
John Cameron  
Angus Campbell  
David Campbell  
Hugh Cheape  
Jane Cheape  
Nicola Colquhoun  
Alan Cory-Wright  
Ian Christie  
Julian Clarke

Corrour  
Braulen / Bidwells  
Scourie Estate  
Innerhadden Estate  
Glenloch & Pitcastle  
North Highland College  
Goldsmith & Co  
RK Harrison  
Trees for Life Woodland Services  
Kingie  
SNH  
NRDMG, ERDMG, Land Consultancy Services Ltd  
Moidart DMG  
Moidart DMG  
Balquidder DMG  
Auchessan  
Glenshero  
Atholl

Mike Cottam	CS & SDNA DMGs
Bill Cowie	Isle of Rona
Hamish Cruickshank	Dunmaglass Estate
Ross Dakers	Ben Alder Estate
Jamie Dalhousie	Invermark
Holly Deary	SNH
Ian Dingwall	Auchlyne & Suie
Chris Donald	SNH
Andrew Duncan Millar	Remony Estate
C Ellice	Aberchalder
J Ellice	Aberchalder
Roddie Feilden	Ardverkie, Mid-West DMG
Mark Foxwell	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Donald Fraser	SNH
Willie Fraser	Affric & Kintail DMG
Falcon Frost	Glenfalloch Estate, BQDMG & ITDMGs
Olivia Gemmill	Jahama Estates
Martin Girvan	Glenmoriston DMG
Martin Girvan Jnr	Ceannacroc Estate
Wayne Grant	Braemore Estate
David Greer	Seafield & Strathspey
Jamie Hammond	SNH
John Hay	Mullardoch
Bruce Hendry	Glenshero
Calum Hogg	Mid West DMG
Fiona Holmes	Trees for Life
James Holland	University of Aberdeen
Colin Johnston	Dunira Forest
Angus Kelly	Bidwells / SDMG
Robbie Kernahan	SNH
David Kinnear	Alvie & Salraddy Estate
Tiffany Laing	Mull DMG
Ian Leith	Glenfinnan Estate
Cameron Loudon	Mamore Estate
David Loudon	Mamore Estate
David Lowes	Glenfalloch
Brian Lyall	Badanloch, ESDMG & NDMG
Alex MacDonald	Achnacarry Sporting
Barbara MacDonald	Letterewe Estate
Shaun MacDonald	Conon Brae Farms, New Kelso
Thomas MacDonell	Wildland Limited
Helen MacIntyre	Inveraray & Tyndrum & Northern DMGs
Neil MacKay	Loch Choire Estate
David MacKenzie	Conaglen Estate
Jamie MacKenzie	Lochluichart Estate
S MacKenzie	Aberchalder & Glengarry Estate
Pete MacLaren	Inverailort Estate
Robin MacLean	Ardgour Estate
Ross MacLean	Conaglen Estate
Archie MacLellan	Applecross Trust
Alan MacLeod	Corroul

Lea MacNally	Glen Quoich / SGA
Seamus MacNally	Torrison / Gairloch Conservation Unit
Innes MacNeill	Alladale
Angus MacPherson	Craig Dhu & Biallid Farm
Joanna Macpherson	Lochalsh DMG
Hamish MacRae	Letterfearn
Colin McClean	South Deeside & North Angus DMG
Alan McDonnell	Trees for Life
Drew McFarlane-Slack	MDMG
Cathy Mayne	Ardnamurchan & West Knoydart DMGs
Laura Mitchell	RK Harrison
John Morrison	Achnacarry Sporting
Neil Morrison	South West Ross DMG
David Olds	North Highland College UHI
Andrew Oliver	Letterewe
Emma Paterson	Auchlyne & Suie Estate
Josephine Pemberton	University of Edinburgh
Alex Plommer	Badanloch Estate
Karen Ramoo	Scottish Land & Estates
Mary Reid	WSDMG
Tom Richmond	Savills
Donald Rowantree	Corrour
Niall Rowantree	Ardnamurchan / West Highland Hunting
R Rowantree	Gordon Bush
Megan Rowland	SLE (Highland)
Richard Seaman	Goldsmith & Co
GR Shankland	Loch Shiel Estate
Raymond Simpson	Dunkeld
Ron Smith	Dunira Forest
Andrew Souter	Dunira Forest
Frank Spencer-Nairn	Culligran / Glen Strathfarrar DMG
Deirdre Stewart	South Grampian
Ian Stewart	Braeroy
Jamie Stewart	SQWV
John Sugden	Campbells of Beauly
John Sutherland	Corrour
Graeme Taylor	SNH
Andrew Thomson	Achnacarry Sporting
Iain Thomson	Sallachy, WSDMG
Iain Thornber	Morvern DMG
Sarah Troughton	Atholl Estates
David Wallace	Drummond Estate
Fraser Warwick	University of Aberdeen
T Watson	Attadale Estate
Mark White	WSDMG
Rob Whitson	Bell Ingram / NRDMG
Michael Wigan	Borrobol
Jamie Williamson	Alvie & Dalmaddy Estates
Tom Willis	Upper Deeside & Donside DMG
Bradley Bournier	Professional Sporting Solutions

Malcolm Bourner  
Peter Keyser  
Roddy Macaskill  
Kirsty MacDonald  
Blair McFarlane  
Christian Nissen  
Hugh Rose  
A Walker

Professional Sporting Solutions  
Associate Member  
Highland Deer & Habitat Solutions Ltd  
Highland Game Ltd  
Highland Hill Associates  
Highland Game Ltd  
Associate Member  
Associate Member

### Apologies

James Adamson  
Lynda Campbell  
David Gillies

Executive Committee  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee

David Allison  
Tim Atkinson  
James Baillie  
Alex Baillie-Hamilton  
Ken Bowlt  
Mark Brown  
David Campbell  
Ian Carmichael  
Angus Cheape  
Edward Crookes  
Ian Duncan Millar  
Jamie Farquhar  
John Forbes-Leith  
Duncan Gordon  
Simon Laird  
Douglas McDade  
Lee McManamon  
John Morison  
Hugh O'Donnell  
Gordon Robertson  
Mattias Scholer Pederson  
Gavin Strathdee  
David Sumsion  
Richard Vernon

Reay Forest Estate  
Ben Alder Estate  
Kinsalie  
South Perthshire DMG  
West Ross DMG  
Glenstrae Estate  
West Glenalmond  
Dunkeld DMG  
Mull DMG  
Englefield Estate  
Wester Tullich  
Confor  
Dunachton Estate  
Lude  
Knoydart DMG  
Woodland Trust Scotland  
Garrows  
SQWV  
Wyvis Estate  
Easter Ross DMG  
Dalchonzie and GlenBeich Estate  
Mull DMG  
Ardkinglass  
Glendoe

Will Galbraith  
James Govan  
Owen Mailer  
Hugh Morrison  
Rupert Nicholas  
Derek Stead  
Lesley Steptoe  
Gilmour Strang

Associate Member  
Associate Member  
EPC Sporting t/a Pro Shot Sporting  
Associate Member  
Associate Member  
Associate Member  
EPC Sporting t/a Pro Shot Sporting  
Associate Member

J Fenning-Welstead  
Norman Murray  
Alexander Roy

1.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Recorded above.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Welcome</b> The Chairman welcomed all those present to the MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort Hotel.</p> <p><b>Minutes of AGM 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b> The Minutes were proposed by Falcon Frost and seconded by Randal Wilson as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b> The Chairman's Report is available to view at: <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ADMG-AGM-Chairmans-Speech.docxRC.pdf">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ADMG-AGM-Chairmans-Speech.docxRC.pdf</a></p>	
4.	<p><b>Financial Report</b> <b>Year-end Accounts</b></p> <p>Before reporting on the audited 2018 accounts and the management accounts to end January 2019 the Secretary thanked all the DMG Chairs, Secretaries, office bearers and members for their support of ADMG and for the positive engagement and efficient processing of information and data back to ADMG. Without this interaction the day to day operation of ADMG would be very much more difficult.</p> <p>The Secretary Reported on the audited year end accounts to 30 June 2018. The Association had recovered income of £126,082.56 during the financial year with the vast majority of the income coming from membership subscriptions. This was very much in line with budget. The Association had incurred costs of £93,336.04, again in line with budget which resulted in a net surplus of £32,746.52.</p> <p>Current Assets (Debtors and Cash at Bank) amounted to £184,151.83 and Current Liabilities (Creditors) amounted to £24,827.00. Net Surplus at 30 June 2018 £159,324.83.</p> <p>There were no questions on the audited accounts to 30 June 2018.</p> <p><b>Management Accounts</b></p> <p>The Secretary reported on the management accounts of the Association to 31 January 2019. The annual income budget for 2018/19 amounted to £116,550 and against a budget of £73,938 the Association had billed £118,334. This represented Membership Subscriptions, Donations, Associate membership Subscriptions, bank interest and Miscellaneous income. The positive variance against budget was down to faster than budgeted invoicing rather than a departure from the yearly budget.</p> <p>The Secretary reported expenditure of £65,212 against a budget of £106,703. Again the positive variance of £41,491 was due to timing of spend rather than cost savings. Game Fair costs were running ahead of budget and the association had invested in some new display materials. Marketing and PR was also running very slightly over budget.</p> <p>The Secretary anticipated that the 2018/19 budget would be achieved. Cash in bank was £101,580.</p>	

**5. Chairman and Executive Committee Elections**

In terms of the Constitution the position of Chairman fell due for re-election in 2019. Richard Cooke confirmed his willingness to serve for another two years and there being no further nominations, Tom Turnbull proposed his re-election, seconded by Falcon Frost.

Executive Committee representatives are appointed for two years and Areas 1, 3, 5 and 7 became due for re-election at the 2019 AGM. No new nominations were put forward and the current representatives were re-elected *en-block*. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by David Lowes.

The Area Representatives and their Deputies are therefore as follows:

	<b>Area Representative</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
Area 1:	Tom Chetwynd	Vacant
Area 2:	Randal Wilson	Willie Fraser
Area 3:	James Adamson	Drew McFarlane-Slack
Area 4	Colin McClean	Julian Clark
Area 5	Alistair Gibson	Lynda Campbell
Area 6:	Tom Turnbull	Victor Clements
Area 7:	David Gillies	Vacant

**6. Committees & Venison Report**

Dick Playfair, Secretary of the Scottish Venison Partnership updated the meeting. SVP is involved with the on-going application for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status for SQWV in order to protect the industry and will remain relevant whatever the UK's status after Brexit.

A lower volume of SQWV is anticipated in 2018/2019 following record cull numbers in 2017/2018.

It is intended that the Scottish Venison Partnership will become the Scottish Venison Association following their AGM in April 2019. The new structure will include chair, secretary and advisors and a six strong industry leadership group and a six strong committee. The new SVA will take on administration of the Scottish Venison Hub.

SVP had supported the Wild Deer Health Project carried out by the Moredun Research Institute and Edinburgh University. The first phase had reported that E Coli O157 was present in Scotland's wild deer herd but at a low prevalence of less than 0.3 percent. The second phase of the study will be reported in Summer 2019 and will focus on risk areas in the transfer of carcasses from source to processor.

Dick Playfair's report can be viewed / downloaded at: <http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SVP-Brief-report-to-ADMG-AGM-2019.pdf>

**Sporting Rates Survey 2019**

Responses from the Knight Frank / ADMG survey on sporting rates were being collated by Helen McIntyre.

**Reports**

The Summer 2019 edition of SCOPE will include an interim report on the Sporting Rates Survey and will be available for circulation at the Game Fair.

7.	<p><b>SNH Update</b></p> <p>Donald Fraser reported on the 2019 Deer Management Reassessment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNH would report on the progress of DMGs to Scottish Government in Autumn 2019 and this would form part of Scottish Government's review of the voluntary deer management system.</li> <li>• The reassessment process of DMGs was to be open and transparent with no surprises. Progress would be measured against assessments made in 2014 and 2016 with a focus on delivery.</li> <li>• SNH's regulatory powers and their use to underpin and support deer management would be examined.</li> <li>• The Lowland Deer Panel would report to Scottish Government in Spring 2019 with recommendations to form part of SNH's review of the deer sector.</li> <li>• SNH also have a statutory duty to review compliance under the Deer Code.</li> </ul> <p>The DWG would independently report on the system of deer management in Spring 2019.</p> <p>DMG reassessments would take place between 01 April and 15 May 2019. WMOs will contact DMGs. The process will be evidence driven, with draft assessments to be provided and open to discussion with DMGs. SNH will ensure consistency through internal Quality Assurance. ADMG health checks should assist with the process. The timetable for production of the report was short and It was hoped that appeals could be avoided.</p> <p>SNH Report presented by DF to the meeting can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SNH-report.pdf">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SNH-report.pdf</a></p>	
8.	<p><b>“The cost of building DMG capacity”:</b> Tom Chetwynd</p> <p>TC delivered a presentation on how those involved in the deer sector secure and expend resources to improve and deliver sound collaborative deer management.</p> <p>The presentation can be downloaded / viewed at: <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/The-Cost-of-Building-DMG-Capacity-Feb-19.pdf">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/The-Cost-of-Building-DMG-Capacity-Feb-19.pdf</a></p>	
9.	<p><b>Discussion Panel Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><b>With Willie Fraser, AKDMG; Robbie Kernahan, SNH; John Risby FCS; Linzi Seivwright, Caorann; and chaired by Finlay Clark, ADMG Secretary;</b></p> <p>Q: In light of SNH's positive response to progress, do they acknowledge that the voluntary system of deer management is fit for purpose?</p> <p>A: It was agreed that the voluntary principal was working well in many instances. The importance of regular communications on relevant topics to promote involvement was discussed as well as the importance of quality leadership of DMGs.</p> <p>Q: It was requested that TC's presentation “The cost of building DMG capacity” be made available.</p> <p>Discussion followed on the variable demands on members of DMGs according to membership numbers and complexity of DMGs. It was acknowledged that increasing Scottish Government requirements and scrutiny was inflating demands on DMGs and resource capacity was a growing problem. The burden of cost for</p>	

	<p>initiatives such as population modelling; density performance models and Habitat Assessments was being placed on private sector.</p> <p><i>** See additional notes</i></p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>There being no other business the Chairman thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	

DRAFT