

ASSOCIATION OF DEER MANAGEMENT GROUPS

CONSTITUTION

1. FORMATION

Notwithstanding the date of this Constitution, the Association of Deer Management Groups, hereinafter referred to as The Association, was formed by decision of Deer Management Group representatives at a meeting at Drumossie Hotel, Inverness on 15th January 1992.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association will be open to Deer Management Groups in Scotland. Deer Management Groups are defined as Groups of Deer Forest proprietors or owners or occupiers of Sporting Rights on land inhabited by wild deer within a clearly defined area who have agreed to act together as a voluntary group in the management of wild deer.

For the avoidance of doubt, individual deer forest proprietors or other individual parties, may not be Members of the Association.

A category of Associate Membership will be open to individuals with a personal interest in deer management who wish to associate themselves with the objectives of the Association, whether or not they may be Members of a Deer Management Group. The Association may set a level of annual subscription appropriate to Associate Membership which will be payable by those who wish to join the Association within this category of Membership. Associate Members who attend any meetings of the Association will not be entitled to exercise a vote.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The general objective of the Association shall be to represent the interests of Deer Management Groups in promoting the welfare and sound management of wild deer and their habitat. In

pursuing this objective, the role of the Association is defined as follows:

(a) Representation

- (i) Representation at UK Government, Scottish Government and Regional level on all matters relating to the management of wild deer.
- (ii) Regular liaison with appropriate Government and other agencies.
- (iii) Communication with relevant private interest bodies.
- (iv) Media communication.

(b) Research and Training

To contribute to and co-ordinate research in all matters relating to wild deer and to promote training aimed at setting best practice standards of deer management.

(c) Venison Marketing

To promote a coordinated approach to the marketing of wild venison.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman will be elected for a period of two years, the Election to be held biannually at the Annual General Meeting.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

A Vice-Chairman will be elected for one year initially and thereafter biannually at the Annual General Meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An Executive Committee shall be elected to conduct the affairs of the Association. Membership of the Executive Committee will be limited to twelve elected members in addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association.

Representatives of Government Agencies and other relevant Organisations may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be co-opted or invited to attend meetings of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Members will be elected for two years and will be entitled to stand for re-election. In order to ensure continuity on the Executive Committee, half the Committee will retire annually.

In order that the Executive Committee should be fully representative of the geographical distribution of the Membership, the wild deer range covered by Deer Management Groups has been divided into seven areas as follows:

Area 1	Caithness and Sutherland
Area2	Ross-shire
Area3	Monadhliaths
Area4	Grampians and Cairngorms
Areas	South Inverness and North Argyll
Area6	Perthshire and South Argyll
Area 7	The Islands

Each Area will elect one Representative to the Executive Committee and a Deputy to stand in for the elected Member at Committee Meetings in the event of his absence.

The Members for Areas 1, 3, 5 and 7 shall be elected for one year initially and thereafter biannually. The Members for Areas 2, 4 and 6 will be elected for two years initially and biannually thereafter.

Additional Executive Committee Members may be co-opted by the Committee.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting will be held annually at a date and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will provide not less than 28 days prior notice of the Meeting and shall circulate in advance an Agenda and draft Minutes of the preceding AGM. A Statement of Annual Accounts will be tabled for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

8. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

A Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, which appointment will be reviewed annually. The Executive Committee shall draw up Terms of Reference for the Secretary and set an appropriate remuneration to be reviewed at the Committee's discretion from time to time.

The duties of the Secretary will be as follows:

- a) Attendance and Minute taking at Annual General Meetings and other General Meetings of the Association and at Meetings of the Executive Committee.
- b) To take responsibility for the day to day administration of the affairs of the Association including the maintenance of detailed accounts of all Income and Expenditure, the management of a Bank Account on behalf of the Association, the raising and collection of Subscriptions and the circulation of papers to Member Groups.
- c) To act as Spokesman and Representative for the Association when appropriate in dealing with Government Agencies, relevant private interests and the Media.

- d) To pursue suitable opportunities of obtaining Grant assistance with the administrative costs of the Association and towards the costs of any projects in which the Association may from time to time become involved.

The Secretary shall have a duty to liaise with the Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee and to obtain their authority and support where appropriate in representing the position of the Association in all relevant matters.

9. REMUNERATION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Executive Committee may set from time to time such remunerations for the Office Bearers of the Association as may be appropriate. Such remunerations will be subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting and will be noted in the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Association.

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Executive Committee shall appoint an Auditor, which appointment will be reviewed annually and who shall be a suitably qualified and competent independent person to audit and certify the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Association.

11. SUBSCRIPTIONS

An Annual Subscription shall be levied on Member Groups which Subscription will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

12. REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP

A Register of Membership shall be compiled and maintained by the Secretary.