

**SOUTH PERTSHIRE DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018  
At Abercairny Venue, Crieff**

<b>Present</b>	James Duncan Millar ( <b>JDM</b> ) Alix Whitaker ( <b>AW</b> ) Michael Aldridge ( <b>MA</b> ) Ron Smith ( <b>RS</b> ) Andrew Templeton Martin Robb Daniel Parker Phil Robinson Jocelyn Carnegie Robert O'Neil James Anderson Ronnie Kippen Colin Dey David Mills Leif Brag Andrew Duncan Millar	Chairman, Remony Secretary, Auchnafree Drummond Estate Dunira Woodlands Carroglen Carroglen Abercairny Invergeldie, Glenturret, Tullybeagles, Glenogle Ardtalnaig Dunira Lochearnside Garrows Auchnafree Invergeldie Griffin-Tilhill Remony
----------------	--	--

**Open            10.30 am**

**Closed          12.15 pm**

**Copied to**

item	Notes	Action by
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
1.1	JDM welcomed the members to the meeting	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
2.1	The following apologies were received  Ian Duncan Millar                      Wester Tullich Jack Whitaker                              Auchnafree Miles Montgomerie                      West Glenalmond Donald Ogilvy Watson                      Urlar Estate Vincent Brigode                              Fordie/Eighton Estate Gary Walker                                  Fordie/Eighton Estate Guy Hopson                                  Logiealmond Stewart McIntosh                              Logiealmond Roger Simpson                                  Dall Barry Smith                                      Glade Deer Management/Grandtully Colin Nisbet                                      Meikle Findowie John Kemp Welch                              Garrows Malcolm Taylor                                  Garrows Crawford Gillies                                  Kinnaird Chris Dalton                                      Kinnaird	

item	Notes	Action by
	Norman Murray                      Kepranich Mattias Schøler Pedersen        Dalchonzie/Glenbeich Bill Drummond Moray              Abercairny Peregrine Moncrieff                Ardtalnaig	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meetings</b>	
3.1	Minutes of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting – It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
3.2	Minutes of the mid-session meeting – 6 <sup>th</sup> November – It was noted that Charlie Robb should instead be Martin Robb, otherwise it was agreed that they were a true and accurate record.  <u>5 ADMG – Moredun Research – Scottish Deer Health Survey</u>  RS reported that the Scottish Deer Health Survey is still on going with further samples been sought (not South Perthshire). Results received are currently being analysed.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and budget for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	
4.1	<u>Accounts to the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</u> JDM reported and thanked MA for preparing the 2017/18 Accounts.  MA circulated the statement of income expenditure with the following noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Net profit is £3,011.98 for 2017/18 versus -£4,458.15 for 2016/17</li> <li>· Major variance due to timing of subs.</li> <li>· Bank Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 is £3,613.30</li> </ul>	
4.2	<u>2018/19 Draft Budget</u>	
	MA circulated the draft budget and noted that there is budget deficit of £650. MA proposed that SPDGM subscription rates remain at same level given the current funds in place. This was agreed.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Election of office bearers</b>	
	<u><b>Chairman</b></u> JDM has agreed to remain chairman until the next AGM when he would be replaced by RS  <u><b>Vice-Chairman</b></u> JDM proposed that Ron Smith became vice-chairman. This was seconded by Martin Robb and Daniel Parker.  <u><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b></u> AW to remain secretary	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>ADMG update</b>	
	MA attended the ADMG March Meeting and reported the following:	

item	Notes	Action by
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· SNH will be undertaking a reassessment of all the DMGs in 2019. In 2018 DMGs will be carrying out a health check in preparation for this. This health check will be funded by the ADMG.</li> <li>· SNH are providing guidelines and training on the reassessment.</li> <li>· Habitat Impact Assessments will need to form an important part of setting cull targets.</li> <li>· Sporting Rates – small business bonus relief scheme – it was noted that this relief scheme may not always be in place.</li> </ul> <p>A general discussion was had on sporting rates and the empty business property relief – it was noted that if eligible you need to apply for the relief. You should also appeal the RV if there is any doubt in the accuracy of the calculation, whether you are likely to be liable for payment of rates now or not.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>SNH update</b>	
	Iain Hope was due to attend the meeting however unfortunately was not made aware of the change of venue. JDM and AW to meet with Iain shortly and will circulate a note of the meeting. He will arrange the helicopter count maps to be distributed asap	<b>JDM/AW/Iain Hope</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Deer Management Plan – Update and review of action points</b>	
	The chairman reviewed the action plan and the following notes summarise progress made, and changes required. JDM requested that any issues with plan should be reported to JDM	
8.1	<u>Contact Details:</u> Members requested that checked that their contact details were correct and notify AW of any amendments.	<b>ALL</b>
8.2	<u>Public Interest</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· SSSIs – no new designations were reported</li> <li>· Kinnaird SSSI – JDM will be discussing with the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum</li> <li>· Dunira SSSI – the cull has increased on the SSSI</li> <li>· Monzie SSSI – Roe deer have been an issue in the past. AW to investigate whether still an issue</li> </ul>	<b>JDM</b>  <b>AW</b>
8.3	<u>Native Woodlands</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· New plantations on Murthly - AW to request an update.</li> <li>· Glenbeich have planted a considerable area of native woodlands in the region of 1,000 acres</li> <li>· Remony has enclosed and planted 40 ha</li> <li>· Griffin (Tilhill) – more fallow deer than usual are being culled within the woodlands.</li> </ul>	<b>AW</b>
8.4	<u>Habitat Impact Assessments</u> It was noted that data from habitat impact assessments should be provided to the group to assist in setting culls. Land holdings were encouraged to attend habitat assessment training on Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> May. Those unable to attend were referred to the Best Practice Guide at <a href="http://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk">www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk</a>	<b>ALL</b>

item	Notes	Action by
8.5	<p><u>Peatland Restoration</u> JDM reported that Remony has applied for a peatland restoration funding through the Peatland Action Fund. AW reported that Auchnafree have completed works through the Peatland Action Fund.</p> <p>Invergeldie and Auchnafree will be undertaking ditch blocking through the Agri-environmental climatic scheme (AECS) and Ardtalnaig have applied for funding through AECS to undertake ditch blocking.</p>	
8.6	<p><u>Non-Native Species</u> It was noted that in the past that Hybrid Sika have been spotted. Jocelyn Carnegie and reported that one suspected hybrid has been shot.</p> <p>RS reported that a paper has being produced on hybridisation. Leif Bragg noted that without DNA testing it was difficult to identify whether deer is a hybrid.</p> <p>It was agreed that any Sika or suspected Sika/Red hybrids would be culled on sight.</p>	ALL
8.7	<p><u>Historic Sites</u> Members of the group reported that there were not aware of any deer issues. AW to enquire with local councils to ascertain if any concerns.</p>	AW
8.8	<p><u>Training</u> JDM stressed the importance of stalkers having DSC1 as a minimum. AW to send out training register. Training requirements as well as existing qualifications should be listed. It was noted that a first aid course had been run last year.</p> <p>RS noted that BDS will be delivering training on DSC1 and any interested parties should get in touch with RS.</p>	AW  ALL
8.9	<p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u> Deer Vehicle Collisions – it was noted that they did not seem to be a significant issue however JDM requested that any known collisions are reported to <a href="http://www.deercollisions.co.uk">www.deercollisions.co.uk</a> Chronic Wasting Disease – it was noted that any visitors from America/Norway should completely clean all equipment and clothing prior to going out on the hill. Ticks – it was noted that the louping-ill vaccine was no longer available</p>	ALL  ALL
8.10	<p><u>Larders/Meat Quality</u> There were no issues reported with larders. It was noted that the SQVA were providing free assessments and while it was noted that there is limited financial benefit of been a member however MA noted that if there is a food standards issue, being a member may be useful.</p> <p>JDM recommended that any gut shot deer carcasses be condemned rather that go into the food chain to reduce e-coli risks.</p>	
8.11	<p><u>Best Practice</u> It was agreed that the eastern sub group should liaise more closely with the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum – JDM to make contact. Afternote: Meeting arranged 26<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>The cull and count data will be reviewed circulated to the group.</p>	JDM  AW

item	Notes	Action by AW
	<p>Updates/minutes to be uploaded onto the SPDMG webpage.</p> <p>Data and evidence gathering: It was agreed that a recruitment count will be undertaken by members on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and provide results to AW</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Helicopter Count 2018</b>	
9.1	<p>JDM reported that the Helicopter count was undertaken in February 2018 with following numbers counted (previous years included for reference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. 2018 – 5,606</li> <li>. 2010 – 4,858</li> <li>. 2000 – 5,359</li> <li>. 1994 – 3,687</li> </ul> <p>The sex differences were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Stags – 1,410</li> <li>. Hinds – 3,070</li> <li>. Calves – 1,126</li> <li>.</li> </ul> <p>The ground count for 2017 2,046.</p> <p>JDM noted that while there were additional areas included in the 2018 count, including Kinnaird and Aberuchill, deer numbers have increased by 700 in 8 years and that the stag to hind ratio is above 1:2 which is concerning.</p> <p>AW reported that the maps showing count distribution have now being prepared by SNH and will be circulated shortly.</p>	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>2018-19 Deer Culls</b>	
10.1	<p>The 2017-18 culls achieved was circulated with the following noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Carroglen – mainly mature stags culled</li> <li>. Dunira Woodlands – predominately young stags culled however focus is on protecting woodlands.</li> <li>. Ardtalnaig/Abercairny – policy of reducing deer and thus any that came onto property were culled</li> <li>. Lochearnside – available stags generally quite young</li> <li>. Invergeldie – available stags generally quite young</li> </ul> <p>It was generally agreed that there was a shortage of mature sporting stags, and hind numbers were higher than desirable. However, it was also noted that there had been significant winter mortality, especially amongst the calves. The following estimates of deaths have been recorded so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Glenquaich – 30</li> <li>. Dunira Woodlands – 1</li> <li>. Carroglen – 3</li> <li>. Ardtalnaig – 14</li> <li>. Dunira – 20</li> <li>. Invergeldie – 15</li> <li>. Lochearnside – 30</li> <li>. Remony – 15</li> <li>. Auchnafree – 17</li> </ul>	

item	Notes	Action by
	<p>Given the above, JDM recommended that the hind cull is increased by 20% and the stag cull is reduced by 5-10%. Phil Robinson noted that many of the stag lets are already in place and thus may be difficult to reduce.</p> <p>It was agreed that AW to send members a request of proposed culls.</p> <p>It was further agreed that AW will be requesting cull returns as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 1<sup>st</sup> October – stags</li> <li>· 1<sup>st</sup> December – stags and hinds</li> <li>· 1<sup>st</sup> January – hinds</li> <li>· 16<sup>th</sup> February – final cull returns</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b> <b>AW</b> <b>AW</b> <b>AW</b></p>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Habitat Impact Assessment Training – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018</b>	
11.1	AW reported that the habitat impact assessment training will be delivered at Auchnafree on the 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2018. All members welcome to attend.	
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Land Management Issues</b>	
12.1	JDM noted that sheep densities will be updated in 2020. It was noted that there is generally fewer sheep than when the plan first prepared.	
<b>13.0</b>	<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>	
13.1	<p>AW reported that members information was been held on a “legimate interest” basis and thus permission to hold is not required. However, if anyone wishes to remove their details please contact AW.</p> <p>AW reported that the SPDMG GDPR policy will be emailed to members and uploaded onto the group’s webpage.</p> <p>It was noted that community councils are contacted prior to the SPDMG AGM to discuss any deer issues. The councils are noted below with the following to provide contact information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· East Strathearn – JDM/MA</li> <li>· Aberfeldy</li> <li>· Dunkeld and Birnam – Ronnie Kippen</li> <li>· Kenmore - JDM</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JDM/MA</b> <b>Ronnie Kippen</b></p>
<b>14.0</b>	<b>Fire Operations Groups</b>	
14.1	<p>JDM reported that on Fire Operation groups.</p> <p>It was discussed whether there was an effective group in Perthshire. AW to investigate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b></p>
<b>15.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	None	
<b>16.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	
	<p>SPDMG 25<sup>th</sup> AGM – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – Location to be confirmed</p> <p>Mid Term Review – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Location to be confirmed</p> <p>Sub group meetings – dates to be arranged</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All</b></p>

