

SOUTH PERTSHIRE DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

**Minutes of the Mid Season Meeting
Held on 7th November 2018
At Connachan Bothy, Abercairny**

Present	James Duncan Millar (JDM)	Chairman, Remony
	Alix Whitaker (AW)	Secretary, Auchnafree
	Andrew Templeton	Carroglen
	Martin Robb	Carroglen
	Daniel Parker	Abercairny
	Josh Burton	Abercairny
	Phil Robinson	Invergeldie, Glenturret, Tullybeagles, Glenogle
	Jocelyn Carnegie	Ardalnaig
	Ronnie Kippen	Garrows
	Leif Brag	Griffin-Tilhill
	Andrew Vaughan	Griffin-Tilhill
	Mike Reddington	Glenturret

Open 2.00 pm

Closed 4.00 pm

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item	Notes	Action by																																						
1.0	Welcome																																							
1.1	JDM welcomed the members to the meeting																																							
2.0	Apologies																																							
2.1	The following apologies were received: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Ian Duncan Millar</td> <td>Wester Tullich</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jack Whitaker</td> <td>Auchnafree</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vincent Brigode</td> <td>Fordie/Eighton Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guy Hopson</td> <td>Logiealmond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roger Simpson</td> <td>Dall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sandy Taylor</td> <td>Dall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Nisbet</td> <td>Meikle Findowie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Kemp Welch</td> <td>Garrows</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Dalton</td> <td>Kinnaird</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norman Murray</td> <td>Kepranich</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ron Smith</td> <td>Dunira Woodlands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alex Baillie-Hamilton</td> <td>Acharn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iain Hope</td> <td>SNH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Turnbull</td> <td>Griffin SSE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neil Campbell</td> <td>Ardreonaig</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fraser Smith</td> <td>Murthly and Strathbraan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Doug Stewart</td> <td>Dunira</td> </tr> <tr> <td>William Anderson</td> <td>Tullybeagles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Thompson</td> <td>Bolfracks</td> </tr> </table>	Ian Duncan Millar	Wester Tullich	Jack Whitaker	Auchnafree	Vincent Brigode	Fordie/Eighton Estate	Guy Hopson	Logiealmond	Roger Simpson	Dall	Sandy Taylor	Dall	Colin Nisbet	Meikle Findowie	John Kemp Welch	Garrows	Chris Dalton	Kinnaird	Norman Murray	Kepranich	Ron Smith	Dunira Woodlands	Alex Baillie-Hamilton	Acharn	Iain Hope	SNH	Louise Turnbull	Griffin SSE	Neil Campbell	Ardreonaig	Fraser Smith	Murthly and Strathbraan	Doug Stewart	Dunira	William Anderson	Tullybeagles	Mike Thompson	Bolfracks	
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	Michael Aldridge Lochearnside Victor Clements ADMG Tom Turnbull ADMG	
3.0	Minutes of the last meetings	
3.1	Minutes of the 24 th Annual Meeting – It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
4.0	Stag Cull	
4.1	A discussion on the 2018 stag season was held with the following noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The rut was quite late (around 10th - 17th October) · Very few mature stags, and heads are poor quality apart from Carroglen. · Despite quality is poor, condition of stags was generally good. · It was agreed in principle that the stag cull target for 2019 should remain at the 2018 budget. 	
5.0	Hind Culls to Date	
	The following was agreed regarding hind culls: Remony – 8 shot to date, will aim for 60 Invergeldie – aim for 63 Carroglen – aim for 4 Auchnafree – aim for 80 Abercairny – aim for 35 Garrows – aim for 6 (if appear) Glenturret – aim for 19 Griffin – aim for 83 Ardtalnaig – aim for 24 (new fence with Kepranich should help) Glenquaich – JDM reported that he thinks that Glenquaich will aim for 60 It was generally noted that hinds need to be culled hard; despite the hard winter Hind returns: AW to request hind culls on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 15th December · 15th January 	AW
6.0	ADMG update	
	Tom Turnbull sent an email regarding the ADMG with the following noted: ADMG Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · We currently await the report from the Deer Working Group which should come out in the Spring in conjunction with the SNH report on the DMG assessment process. · A Lowland Deer Panel is due to report in the spring, this will have implications for lowland deer management. · We currently await the Spring DMG assessments which will be on the same basis as those in 2014 and 2016. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Most DMGs will have undertaken the health checks offered by ADMG and should be well aware of any areas in which they are lacking and need to improve. <p>Review of Compliance with the Code of Practice on Deer Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As part of the 2019 Deer Sector Review, SNH is required to report to the Government on delivery of the Deer Code. A questionnaire was asked to be filled in by those interested. The closing date for this was 25 October. <p>Public consultation on a Forestry Strategy for Scotland 2019 - 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · This closes on 29 November and if you are interested in the future of Scotland's woodlands then you should respond. <p>ADMG survey of Sporting rents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ADMG is currently still open to responses to their survey of stalking rents and is available for comment. This has been sent out in e-scope. <p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There will be a regional meeting of ADMG in Inverness at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness on Wednesday 21 November. <p>Venison Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A strategy has been announced by Scottish Government and The Scottish Venison Partnership for maximising venison sales, both wild and farmed. Nine key areas are to be looked at include: developing new supply chains, skills-building, tailored support for deer farming, developing a scheme for co-op owned chills and larders, consumer promotion, education, building Scotland as a centre for world-class expertise, and further research and development including market insight. <p>Carcass Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · It is advised by SQWV that any gut contaminated deer are not entered into the food chain. Any deer that are contaminated by poor shot placement are left on the hill. · A new guide on contamination in venison has also been made available by The Scottish Venison Partnership and SQWV. This has been circulated by ADMG under the e-scope newsletter. <p>Sporting Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · For anyone undergoing an appeal to their sporting rates, Scottish Land and Estates have published guidance for those 281 appeal cases for highland deer forests awaiting a hearing on 4th December 2018. · Initial negotiations with the assessor should have been completed by 20 October. · 30th October is the deadline for valuation appeal grounds. · By 13th November an appellant must have submitted comparable evidence that they wish to use. <p>Ongoing work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There will soon be a youtube online tutorial for HIA based on the best practice guides and there is also currently a tutorial on carcass handling provided by the Scottish Venison Partnership 	

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	<p>that provides up to date best practice guidance. There is also a youtube video on field dressing or Roe Deer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ADMG is participating in a steering group for Wild Deer Best Practice which will be presented online this time rather than in the old folders. · ADMG is collaborating with ADMG on new geographical areas for DMGs with potentially 6 new groups being created. 	
7.0	SNH update	
	<p>JDM reported the following, having discussed with Iain Hope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There is a new chief executive of SNH, Francesca Onosca in post early 2018 · There is currently 5 section 7s in place across Scotland · 2019 Deer Management Review – SNH is going to grade in a different format to previous years. JDM to raise with ADMG · Compliance with code of best practice very important. 	JDM
8.0	Deer Management Plan – Update and review of action points	
8.1	<p>JDM is working on updating the action plan and the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · AW will provide the cull and count data to JDM · AW to update estate objectives · It was noted that there had been no Sika sitings however Fallow are increasing in the East. · AW to provide JDM with report on training once questionnaires are returned. · JDM reported that Raymond Simpson and Graeme Bell are accessors for DMQ2 · Designated features – AW to check with in good condition on SNH website · SQVWA – JDM re-iterated the importance of this scheme and encouraged members to join. · Deer Welfare – Glenturret reported high tick numbers on deer, Carroglen reported high warble fly than usual. · Although Louping ill (LIV) does not affect deer, it has a bearing on tick numbers. The vaccination for LIV has been withdrawn and JDM to discuss with the Chairman of Moredun. After note: Live vaccine was too dangerous, but Moredun are working on a new safe version. <p>AW to circulate the link to the updated report to members once completed.</p>	<p>AW AW</p> <p>AW</p> <p>AW</p> <p>JDM</p>
8.2	<p><u>Health Check</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · JDM reported that the pre-health check had proceeded relatively well. · However, a key weakness was the poor participation of some members particularly in the east of the group. 	
8.3	<p><u>Sub Groups</u></p> <p>JDM discussed the current sub group layout and noted that they are not working effectively. It was agreed at the AGM the following should be discussed:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A number of eastern members moving to the Dunkeld Deer Mangement Forum which more focussed on Fallow and Roe deer and woodland management. · Western Subgroup – split into two more manageable areas possibly in line with old subgroup. <p>AW to circulate a draft map of proposed amendments to subgroup.</p>	AW
9.0	Other Land Management Issues Including Grouse Group Reports	
	<p>The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The 2018 grouse season has been very poor · Mike Reddington noted the at there has been poor heather growth this year on Glenturret. · JDM noted that heather growth on northern slopes at Remony was awful and the worst he had known. · Ronnie Kippen noted that there has been a significant improvement of the moorland since removing the deer and the sheep (in the winter). · Daniel Parker noted that since Fendoch has been deer fenced the moorland is improving. 	
10.0	Any Other Business	
10.1	<u>Griffin</u> Andrew Vaughan reported that Griffin will be doubling the cull from the 1 st April to protect the forestry. Andrew also reported that Griffin is installing a new game larder.	
10.2	<u>Ground Count</u> The ground count will be undertaken on the 12 th March.	ALL
11.0	Date of Next Meetings	
	SPDMG 25 th AGM – 22 nd May 2019 – 2pm at Abercairny	ALL