

**SOUTH PERTSHIRE DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM  
Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019  
At Connachan Bothy, Abercairny**

<b>Present</b>	James Duncan Millar ( <b>JDM</b> )	Chairman, Remony
	Ron Smith ( <b>RS</b> )	Vice-Chairman, Dunira Woodlands
	Alix Whitaker ( <b>AW</b> )	Secretary, Auchnafree
	Andrew Templeton	Carroglen
	Martin Robb	Carroglen
	Daniel Parker	Abercairny
	Michael Aldridge	Drummond Estates
	James Low	Remony
	John Morrison	SQWV
	John Mitchell	Lechkin
	Iain Hope	SNH
	Scott Fergusson	Forest and Land Scotland
	Josh Burton	Abercairny
	Phil Robinson	Invergeldie, Glenturret, Tullybeagles, Glenogle
	Lee McManamon	Garrows
	Jack Whitaker	Auchnafree
	Fraser Smith	Murthly and Strathbraan
	Guy Hopson	North Logiealmond
	Stewart McIntosh	North Logiealmond
	Colin Dey	Auchnafree
	Jimmy Anderson	Drummond Estates
	Robert O'Neil	Dunira Estate
	Tom Turnbull	ADMG
	Leif Brag	Griffin-Tilhill
	Mike Reddington	Glenturret

**Open            2.00 pm**

**Closed         5.00 pm**

**Copied to**

item	Notes	Action by
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome</b>  JDM welcomed the members to the meeting	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  The following apologies were received:  Ian Duncan Millar                      Wester Tullich John Kemp Welch                        Garrows Ronnie Kippen                             Garrows Miles Montgomerie                       West Glenalmond Alex Baillie-Hamilton                    Acharn Brain Kaye                                 Lochan Bob Smith                                  Balmuick Neil Campbell                              Ardreonaig Kevin Peters                                FES Victor Clements                            ADMG	

item	Notes	Action by
3.0	<p><b>Minutes of the last meetings</b></p> <p>Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> AGM and Mid-season November Meetings – It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>JDM delivered the Chairman's report with the following noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A training session on Habitat Impact Assessment was held at Auchnafree in 2018 versus sessions planned in 2019. JDM requested that plot information is made available to the group at the November meeting. AW to request information prior to meeting.</li> <li>· SNH Assessment has been completed with the key areas where improvement is required are participation and habitat impact assessments.</li> <li>· JDM has met with the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum to discuss the boundaries between the two groups.</li> <li>· The working plan is in the process of being updated. AW to upload once updated.</li> <li>· Peatland – a number of holdings have received through the Agri-environmental climatic scheme. Remony is undertaking peatland restoration through the Peatland Action Fund.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AW</b></p>
5.0	<p><b>Accounts for the year ending 31/3/19 and Budget for the year ending 31/03/20</b></p>	
5.1	<p><u>Account to year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</u></p> <p>AW presented the accounts to the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The surplus is £1,241.83. This surplus is predominately due to habitat impact assessment funding which will be spent in 2019/20.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Budget for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</u></p> <p>AW presented the budget to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. AW noted that at current subscription rates, there will be a deficit of £1,570. It was agreed that the subscription rates for the 2018/19 season onwards would be increased to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Stags - £6/hd</li> <li>· Hinds - £3.50/hd</li> <li>· Calves - £3/hd</li> <li>· Other Species - £1.50/hd</li> </ul>	
6.0	<p><b>Election of office bearers</b></p> <p><u>Chairman</u> JDM reported that he was stepping down as Chairman. JDM proposed that Ron Smith became chairman. This was seconded by Martin Robb.</p> <p><u>Vice-Chairman</u> JDM enquired if anyone would be interested in becoming vice-chair. Andrew Templeton noted that he was interested. JDM/RS to discuss in more detail with Andrew.</p> <p><u>Secretary/Treasurer</u> JDM proposed that AW remain secretary and treasurer. RS seconded. AW to remain as secretary/treasurer.</p>	

item	Notes	Action by
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Deer Cull/Count</b>	
	<p><u>2018/19 Deer Culls</u>  The 2017/18 cull report was circulated. To note, 133 more stags than budgeted were culled while hind culls were 162 below the cull target.</p> <p>Stag cull:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 49 stags were removed via a deer catcher at Meikle Findowie (budget was 2). It was reported that Meikle Findowie is catching deer off the open hill using feeding. It was agreed that RS/JDM will meet with Colin Nisbet in regard to releasing stags back to the open hill.</li> <li>· 40 stags more than budgeted culled at Craigvinean.</li> <li>· 45 stags more than budgeted culled at Griffin Estate (Tilhill). Leif Brag reported that the higher stag cull is due to restocking and the majority came from woodland areas rather than the open hill.</li> <li>· Andrew Templeton and Vincent Brigode reported that the resident stags were of good quality however Vincent noted that transient stags are of poor quality and very young.</li> </ul> <p>Hind cull:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· It was noted that some holdings found it difficult to achieve the cull due to the lack of presence of hinds during the season.</li> <li>· James Duncan Millar comment as follows on the counts – While the count returns were missing quite a few returns, it is possible to make the following conclusions from analysis of the returns submitted by the main estates were a good number of deer were counted and reported upon. Compared with the Spring count of 2018 this years count of stags was only 58% of that, ie 719 in 2018 and 423 in 2019; The hind count only 46% of last year and the calf count was only 23% of the previous year. A very considerable drop. However there was an exception in Logiealmond where this year's count was very similar to that of last year. Comment - less effect from the 'Beast from the East' of 2018?</li> <li>· It was noted that the cull was an underachievement and additional effort is required next year.</li> </ul>	<b>RS/JDM</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b><u>Projected Deer Cull</u></b></p> <p>Stags – It was agreed that JDM will circulate a draft proposal which will be in line with last year's budget with a 10% reduction.</p> <p>Hinds- JDM to circulate draft proposal which will be the same as last year's budget.</p> <p>The hind cull will be reviewed at 1<sup>st</sup> December. AW to request cull returns.</p> <p>Roe Deer – it was agreed that target should be to match last year's cull and cull more if possible, particularly in the east.</p> <p>Fallow Deer – noted that mainly an issue in the east. JDM noted that the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum will be undertaking a high cull this year. Agreed that in SPDM that they should be shot on site.</p>	<b>JDM</b>  <b>JDM</b>  <b>AW</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b><u>SNH Assessment</u></b></p> <p>JDM reported that SPDMG had scored around the middle of the group and have improved since last assessment. Good points were membership and training. Poor areas were population modelling, subgroup participation, habitat impact assessments and SQWVA accreditation.</p>	

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	<p>Iain Hope noted that SNH will report the results in August.</p> <p>Jack Whitaker enquired whether there was a target and timescale for improving the ambers. RS/JDM/AW to produce. AW to circulate.</p> <p>Michael Aldridge noted that SNH needs to take into account that participation is difficult to achieve with some many different objectives.</p> <p>Iain Hope noted that understanding and reacting to culls and counts is very important.</p>	<p><b>RS/JDM/ AW</b></p>
<p><b>10.0</b></p>	<p><b>ADMG Update</b></p> <p>Tom Turnbull reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The lowland deer panel has reported</li> <li>2. ADMG Communications – ADMG produces an annual review which is available on the website and reports what ADMG has been doing for its members.</li> <li>3. There has been a record deer cull across Scotland last season – circa 75,000</li> <li>4. ADMG is undertaking a review of sporting rents</li> <li>5. Sporting Rates – appeals are ongoing</li> </ol>	
<p><b>11.0</b></p>	<p><b>Membership and Boundaries</b></p> <p>AW produced a draft reversion to subgroups. Orange holdings to move to the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum – this has been discussed and agreed with the Forum and relevant members.</p> <p>Daniel Parker noted that the majority of the deer at West Glenalmond impact the southern group. AW to adjust map to reflect this and circulate with minutes.</p> <p>It was agreed that the new subgroups should each have a coordinator who will be responsible for gathering cull data and count data, coordinating counts and arranging annual meeting to discuss proposed culls and any local issues. The coordinators are as follows:</p> <p>North East – RS/JDM to approach Kevin Peters  Central – JDM  Western – Andrew Templeton  Southern – Daniel Parker</p> <p>AW to provide contact information to subgroups coordinators.</p>	<p><b>AW</b></p> <p><b>AW</b></p>
<p><b>12.0</b></p>	<p><b>Habitat Assessments</b></p> <p>JDM strongly encouraged members to undertake habitat impact plots. AW noted that there is funds available for training. AW to arrange training within each subgroup.</p>	<p><b>AW</b></p>
<p><b>13.0</b></p>	<p><b>Deer Management Plan – Update and Review Action Points</b></p> <p>JDM noted that working plan is in process of being updated with a more detail reviewed at the mid-season meeting. A full update to the plan will be undertaken in 2020.</p> <p>New Plantations:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that South Logiealmond are proposing to plant 900h. Tilhill are currently consulting on this proposal. The new plantation will be deer fenced.</li> </ul>	
<b>14.0</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><u>14.1 Deer on low ground at Comrie</u> John Mitchell from Learkin reported that red deer are a significant issue on the low ground at Learkin Farm, Comrie. Bob Smith from Balmuick also reported similar issues. It was agreed that JDM will look into deer culls in Comrie area. Iain Hope noted that deer vehicle collisions are an issue between Crieff and Comrie and he will be organising a meeting.</p> <p><u>14.2 Ticks</u> JDM requested that members report tick numbers on deer at the November meeting. Members should note whether the deer have come from open hill or woodland.</p> <p><u>14.3 Deer Counts</u> AW reported that Alex Ballie Hamilton enquired whether the spring count should be later in the year to reduce likelihood of rearrangement due to weather conditions. However, it was noted that current timing fits in well as it is pre lambing and while there should be high proportion of white ground which is beneficial for counting.</p> <p><u>14.4 Date of Next Deer Count</u> The date of the recruitment deer count is 9<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p><u>14.5 Chairman</u> RS noted his thanks to JDM for his huge amount of work as the chairman.</p> <p><u>14.6 Scottish Quality Wild Venison Assurance Scheme</u> James Morrison from SQWV attended the meeting. He spoke about the history of QA then informed us that 4 of the main dealers were QA and that about 70 others were Assured. He said inspections took place every 12 - 18 months and were aimed at ensuring that all met the required standard to be dealing in foodstuff. To this end he encouraged all stalkers to attend the food hygiene course, Mainly set up by the Local Authority. AT wished to know the contact address. Yes, it was about record keeping also, but we need to remember that Scot Gov attach high importance to this. Also we were reminded about the breakdown in 2017 of Christian Nissan's operation which so very nearly closed down all venison sales.</p>	<p><b>JDM</b></p> <p><b>Iain Hope</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>AW</b></p>
<b>15.0</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meetings</b></p> <p>SPDMG mid-season meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 2pm SPDMG 26<sup>th</sup> AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 2pm</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>