

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting

EAST SUTHERLAND DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP held at BEN BHRAGGIE HOTEL, GOLSPIE on FRIDAY  
9<sup>TH</sup> November at 2.15 pm

## Present:

Mr A Mackay	Dalnessie	Mr M Dudgeon	Craikaig
Mr I Smith	Dunrobin	Sir Michael Wigan	Borrobol
Ms R Stickland	Clebrig	Mr J McMorran	Balnacoil
Lord Joicey	Loch choire	Mr N Mackay	Loch Choire
Mr T Chetwynd	Loch Choire	Mr J Cruickshanks	Ben Armine
Mr B Lyall	Badanloch	Mr R Rowantree	Gordonbush
Mr A Grant	Kildonan	Mr R Bain	Torrish
Mr J C Billett	Kintradwell	Mr J A Billett	Kintradwell
Mr H Stuart	Kintradwell	Mr B Colvin	Kintradwell
Mr R Milne	West Garty	Mr P Voy	Bell Ingram
Mr P Bakker	Vagastie	Mr D MacAskill	FCS

In Attendance:	Mr S Coghill	SNH
	Mr R Cooke	ADMG
	Mr A McAuslan	ADMG
	Mr N Mackay	SSE

## 1. WELCOME

Peter Voy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Evelyn Cameron, Sutherland Estates, as secretary to the ESDMG.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr J Nicholson, Clebrig; Mr & Mrs V Ryan, Dalnessie W Lamont, FCS

## 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved as an accurate record.

## 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Peter Voy summarised the financial statement. Closing balance £399.13.

## 5. CULLS AND COUNT 2011/2012

2012 count was well co-ordinated and considered to be a good count.  
2011/12 cull figures; each Estate to check the figures as stated.

SNH can now give figures for the numbers of deer that are shot by "others"  
Rallan figures to be removed as a double count  
Remove Badnellan and Rallan in future.  
Sciberscross is no longer open area so cull is correct

2011/12 Cull  
Stag figures are less than previously agreed

## 6. HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Ron Rose had started the Habitat Surveys but was no longer with SNH.

It was felt that the Estates should be carrying out the Habitat Surveys themselves rather than SNH. Some Estates are doing surveys and Sinclair Coghill offered to progress this work as part of the Code of Practice for Deer Management.

**7. WINDFARM**

Various windfarms proposed in the ESDMG area: Dalnessie, Gordonbush, Balnacoil, Kilbruar some still at the consultation stage.

It was felt that the wind turbines did not affect the deer and R Rowantree suggested that the surveyors caused more disruption to the deer than the turbines.

**8. WOODLAND EXPANSION SCHEME**

FCS have authorised the new woodland plantation at Ben Armine of 93ha  
200ha forestry scheme is proposed at Craikaig and they are in discussion to reduce the deer numbers.

**9. ADMG**

Richard Cooke spoke of the required competence standard for deer culling. The minimum should be a DCS Level 1 which crofters etc should also have. Self-regulation until 2015. A tag system has been suggested for FCS land to ensure quality assurance.

Scottish Venison Partnership

– demand exceeds supply of venison. May be time to take a new look at Deer Farms, subsidy position more favourable than previously.

**10. SNH**

Access

Right of Responsible Access, instances of conflict between recreation and land uses.

Road Traffic Accidents- deer

There seems to be an increasing number of RTAs with deer being reported.

Out of Season Authorisation Changes

Stags covered by general authorisation. Out of season authorisations for hinds are rarely granted.

Please report any deer shot without authorisation to Sinclair Coghill

**11. AOCB**

Reports of a new chronic wasting disease in foxes (Triconlea) in the USA, but there have been no cases reported here. Use same precautions as with Foot and Mouth if you have visitors from the USA.

Date of next meeting - TBA