

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of The Lowland Deer Network Scotland

At: Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, Glasgow
On: Sunday 9 December 2012

Present: Executive Committee
Richard Cooke (RC), Acting Chairman
Dick Playfair (DP), Secretary
Ian Fergusson (IF), Forest Enterprise Scotland
Glenn Heggs (GH), SW Scotland DMG/UPM
Jamie Hammond (JH), SNH
Ian Talboys (IT), Aberdeen Council
Ron Smith (RS), Fife
Daye Tucker (DT), NFUS
David Fyffe (DF), Scottish Land & Estates
Alex Hogg (AH), SGA
Jane Begg (JB), West Lothian Council
Alex Paul (AP), WLDMG
Robert Sharp (RS), Stalker (Renfrewshire)
Alisdair Colyton (AC), Farmer (Angus)
George Ritchie (GR), Banff & Buchan DMG
Ian Laing (Fife Police)
James Bell (SLDG – deputy for David Quarrell)

Members and others attending (subject to amendment)

Colin McClean
John Campbell-Smith
Greg Login
Ryan Walrath
Adam Strange
David Ferguson
Robert Smith
Ken Thomson
PC Rhuaridh Hamilton
John Jack
Colin Young
W Haddow
M Love
John Thomson
David Leith
David Muir
John Frew
Gary Frew

Apologies: Kenny Wilmitt (KW), BASC Scotland
Mike Flynn (MF), SSPCA
James Govan (JG) (Stalker, Ayrshire)
Angus Corby (ACor), Transport Scotland
David Quarrell (DQ) (SLDG)
Derek Kneller (DK) (NLDG)
Malcolm Muir (MM), South Lanarkshire Council, COSLA
John Bruce (JB), BDS
Gordon Paterson (Forestry Commission Scotland)

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| 1. | <p><u>Acting Chairman's Report</u> Acting Chairman Richard Cooke gave his annual report of the activities of LDNS since launch in November 2011, including background to the formation of the Network. More detail shown in the attached Powerpoint presentation.</p> |
| 2. | <p><u>Constitution</u> The LDNS Constitution was presented, and a vote taken for its ratification. Proposed by William Haddow; seconded by Robert Sharp, subject to a change at Section 7 re the election of the Chairman, which should be changed from 'biannually' to 'every two years'.</p> |
| 3. | <p><u>Financial Report</u> RC explained that the financial report (appended to the minutes) takes the form of a financial statement rather than an annual report as the LDNS year ends on 31 March, at which point full Accounts for the 19 months since the launch of LDNS would be drafted for presentation at the 2013 AGM.</p> <p>There were a number of points to note on the Financial Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Secretarial and Admin expenses included a small charge from Dalhousie Estates to use their office and staff to administer the finances and membership of LDNS. • That Newsletter costs also included the cost of the LDNS leaflet. • That RC has served in the joint role of both Acting Chairman and Treasurer. <p>RC also reported that the Agencies had indicated that they would extend funding for a second year to enable LDNS to develop and move forward.</p> |
| 4. | <p><u>Election of office bearers</u> As a candidate, RC stepped down from the Chair for the election of a Chairman.</p> <p>Dick Playfair, Secretary, asked if there were any further nominations for Chairman to that already received for Richard Cooke. There being none, DP then asked for a proposer and seconder for the election of Richard Cooke as Chairman.</p> <p>RC was proposed by Robert Sharp, seconded by Colin Young, and duly elected as Chairman of LDNS for a period of two years.</p> <p>RC resumed the Chair, and asked for nominations for the office of Vice Chairman and, himself proposed Ron Smith. There being none, RC asked for a proposer and seconder for the election of Ron Smith as Vice Chairman.</p> <p>Ron Smith was proposed by Richard Cooke, seconded by Alex Hogg and duly elected as Vice Chairman.</p> <p>In line with the Constitution, Executive Committee members were nominated for election as follows:</p> |

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| | <p>SW Scotland – James Govan Borders – Alex Hogg Central – David Quarrell Tayside & Fife – Ron Smith NE Scotland – George Ritchie Caithness and Sutherland – vacant pro tem.</p> <p>Deer Management: Rob Sharp, Alex Paul, Derek Kneller Farming: Daye Tucker, Alistair Colyton Forestry: Glen Heggs Estates: David Fyffe</p> <p>There being no further nominations, these were proposed by Richard Cooke, seconded by John Campbell Smith and elected ‘en bloc’.</p> <p>The following representatives of public bodies were appointed to the Executive Committee: Jamie Hammond, SNH; Ian Fergusson, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Gordon Paterson, Forestry Commission Scotland, Angus Corby, Transport Scotland; Jane Begg, Malcolm Muir, Ian Talboys, Local Authorities; Iain Laing, Scottish Police.</p> <p>The following representatives of NGOs were appointed to the Executive Committee: John Bruce, BDS; Kenny Willmitt, BASC, Alex Hogg, SGA; David Fyffe, SL&E; Daye Tucker, NFUS; Mike Flynn, SSPCA.</p> |
| 5. | <p><u>Presentations</u> Following the formal business of the AGM, presentations were given by: Colin McClean on Competence; Robert Sharp on Deer Management; and Ian Laing on Low Ground Deer Issues.</p> <p>In addition, RC asked Ryan Walrath of NLDMG to speak briefly on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).</p> |
| 6. | <p><u>Q and A</u> The concluding panel Q and A session covered a range of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether a DSC Level 1 or 2 qualification could be withdrawn for incompetence or malpractice. • How education about deer for youngsters and in general could be developed. • The number of successful prosecutions for poaching and whether crimes involving deer were more prevalent where deer were not being effectively managed. • The number of practitioners currently qualified under DMQ/DSC. • The role of DMGs in encouraging their members to achieve ‘fit and competent’ status and particularly to work towards Level 2. • Whether the now amalgamated Rural Colleges could offer deer management courses for young farmers and other students, and whether |

grants were available (Barony?).

- The BDS distance learning DVD would be helpful for those who cannot commit to a 3 – 4 day training course.

Summing up, IF (for FCS/FE) said that the formation of LDNS had been a huge challenge and that communication was a crucial part of the process, that they would continue to support LDNS through 2013/14, and that there would be a further Best Practice day in March 2013.

JH (for SNH) said that a huge cross section of people were involved, and one year on, it was satisfying that everyone across that spectrum was talking. It was encouraging to see 'buy-in' from Local Authorities, but there were also others with responsibility that were still slow to commit.

He said there remained some reservations about how individual membership would work, and collectively the Network needed to deliver real benefits. However, LDNS had also to do its best to offer something for everyone.

SNH had to be cautious about how its funds were spent, but LDNS had made great progress in a year in an area where previously there was no formal collaboration or cohesion.

In bringing the meeting to a close, RC expressed gratitude on behalf of the Network for the continuing support from the public agencies, to the speakers, and for those attending the AGM.