

## Meeting of Lowland Deer Network Scotland Executive Committee

**At:** The Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld  
**On:** Sunday 22 February 2015  
**Present:** Richard Cooke (RC), Chairman  
 Ron Smith (RS), Vice Chairman  
 Dick Playfair (DP), Secretary  
 John Bruce (JB), BDS  
 Donald Fraser (DF), SNH  
 Jim Govan (JG)  
 Jamie Hammond (JH), SNH  
 David Quarrell (DQ), SLDG  
 Rob Sharp (RS)  
 Alex Stoddart (AS), SACS  
 Ian Talboys (IT), Aberdeen City Council  
 Andrew Treadaway, (AT)  
 Anton Watson (AW), SNH

### Apologies or not present:

David Bruce (DB), Commercial forestry  
 Angus Corby (AC), Transport Scotland  
 Ian Fergusson (IF), Forest Enterprise  
 Mike Flynn (MF), SSPCA  
 David Fyffe (DF), SL&E  
 Alex Hogg (AH), SGA  
 Maggie Keegan (MK), SWT  
 Andy Mavin (AM) Police Scotland  
 Alex Paul (AP), (WLDG)  
 George Ritchie (GR), Banff & Buchan DG  
 Helen Sellars (HS), FCS  
 Peter Semple (PS), Inverclyde and Dunbartonshire DMG  
 Daye Tucker (DT), NFUS  
 Kenny Willmitt (KW), BASC

1.	<b>Apologies</b> The meeting was advised of those who had given apologies. DT apologised for not attending the Executive Committee but hoped to be able to attend the AGM.	
2.	<b>Minutes – 4 December 2014 and matters arising</b> The minutes were proposed by JB, seconded by IT.  <u>2.1 Engagement with schools</u> RC said that engagement with schools and a possible paper from MK would be carried forward to the next meeting.  <u>2.2 Authorisations</u> 2.2.1 SNH is to establish a Panel which will provide them with advice on how the agency is discharging its licensing functions. It will be established using the provisions in the Deer (Scotland) Act and is subject to	MK

<p>Ministerial approval. SNH has a provisional green light to progress with this from Scottish Government.</p> <p>2.2.2 The LDNS sub-group to comprise DQ, RS and SACS with first meeting at 12.30pm on Friday 27 March at SNH Stirling, with RC to chair. FES also to be invited although understood that they would probably wish to input to the review independently from LDNS.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note</i>  <i>It was subsequently decided to form a joint LDNS/ADMG sub group with broadly representative membership, RC to convene and Chair.</i></p> <p>2.2.3 DQ was asked to circulate his important points to sub-group in advance.</p> <p><u>2.3 Land Reform consultation – LDNS response</u>  RC said that the LDNS response was on the website.</p> <p><u>2.4 Draft LDG Constitution</u>  2.4.1 RC asked DP to check that the draft Constitution was on the website. RC also said that he was now substituting the abbreviation LDG for lowland deer groups and suggested all do likewise. He said that the connotations of remaining a DMG would be confusing with the review of upland DMGs now underway, and it was important to have a clear distinction between those that were lowland and upland based to ensure they are not treated in the same way, being very different from DMGs.</p> <p>2.4.2 RC said that an amended draft of the Constitution had been circulated. This was not set in stone and new LDGs could use as they wished in whole or part.</p> <p><u>2.5 Photography Competition</u>  AW said that so far there had been a satisfactory response.</p> <p><u>2.6 Awareness day for private forestry companies</u>  JH is organizing this for May. Details and speakers will be circulated in due course.</p> <p><u>2.7 PACEC study</u>  RC said that more than 130 responses had been received to date which was good, but only 14 from lowland deer interests, and in order to provide a truly comprehensive overview more responses were being sought. He said that there was nothing sinister about seeking this information although he acknowledged that parts of the form would be difficult to complete for some vocational stalkers.</p>	<p>DQ, RS, AS, IF RC</p> <p>DQ</p> <p>DP</p> <p>JH</p>
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<p>He emphasized the great importance of this survey and asked all to do it and pass it to others. Partial completion better than none.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>2.8 Venison dealer licensing</u>  2.8.1 DP said that a more accurate picture about barriers in the low ground supply chain was required – venison dealer licensing being just one part – and further work should be done before writing to the Cabinet Secretary. This was referred back to the Scottish Venison Partnership for action.</p> <p>2.8.2 JB said that the National Wildlife Crime Unit was intending to revisit Operation Moon, to check on Venison Dealers Licensing and to also promote caution within venison dealing trades to advise on the necessity of one trader in the transaction being a registered VDL.</p>	<p>DP</p>
<p><u>2.9 Borders Stalking Fair</u>  2.9.1 There was discussion about a presence at the Borders Stalking Fair at Kelso on w/e 28/29 March and it was agreed that LDNS should be there.</p> <p>2.9.2 DQ will contact organiser Brian Lyall to arrange space, Invoice to go to LDNS in Brechin.</p> <p>2.9.3 DP said that whilst he could do the set up on Friday 27 March he was not able to attend over the weekend. DQ and RC agreed to be there on Saturday with JG and AT on Sunday. JG said that he could also take the stand and banners away on Sunday to avoid DP making an additional trip to uplift display.</p>	<p>DQ</p> <p>DP</p> <p>DQ, RC JG, AT</p>
<p><u>2.10 Deer Dogs event</u>  RC said that there was an ongoing discussion with SLDG regarding a 'Deer Dogs' event to be organised by Banff &amp; Buchan DG but to be held in the central belt.</p>	<p>GR, DQ</p>
<p><u>2.11 Attendance at regional events</u>  A number of regional events had been identified where it might be suitable to have an LDNS presence, where possible sharing. These were:  Fife Show (23 May) to discuss in more detail with RS  Haddington Show (27 June), DP to investigate.  Turrieff Show (2 and 3 August), to be discussed with GR.</p>	<p>RS DP GR</p>
<p><u>2.12 PAW, Poaching &amp; Coursing Priority Group</u>  JB undertook to 1-produce a short paper for discussion for a future meeting, and possibly also, 2- an article on current land tenure and hunting legislation in Germany</p>	

	for a future newsletter.	JB
3.	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>3.1 RC said that LDNS was approaching the end of its financial year at 31.03.15 with income of £27,497 against expenditure of £23,548.</p> <p>3.2 The £10,000 funding from FCS had been received.</p> <p>3.3 The SNH Memorandum of Agreement for funding had been forwarded to AC.</p>	
4.	<p><b>AGM arrangements</b></p> <p>4.1 RC said that there were a number of matters requiring attention at the AGM. The Constitution requires the Chairman to stand down but he could be re-elected. RS would take over the chair at this point. RC said that he would be prepared to serve for another two-year term if nominated.</p> <p>4.2 Regional representatives on the Committee were required from Inverclyde &amp; Dunbartonshire and SW Scotland. RC said that he intended to propose PS and AT respectively.</p> <p>4.3 JH and DF would jointly give the SNH report (Andrew Batchell not attending).</p> <p>4.4 Guest speakers were Charlie Everitt, Linzi Seiveright (in place of David Bruce who was unable to attend) and sporting photographer Linda Mellor.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>These were agreed for: 15 April, 15 July, 14 October and 16 December 2015</p>	All