

CONSTITUTION (Adopted 2013, Updated 2015)

1. Name

The Group shall be called the “The Inveraray & Tyndrum Deer Management Group”.

2. Objectives

The purpose of the Group is the collaborative management of the populations of all deer species in the Group’s area at levels and in ways that will enable the achievement of sustainable land use objectives set by individual deer and land managers within the Group. This will include, at least, the following:

- a) To safeguard and promote deer welfare;
- b) To achieve a balance between the deer and their habitat with reference to land use objectives; and
- c) To fulfill the sporting, venison production and other land use requirements of land managers within the Group’s area.
- d) To encourage and promote Best Practice in all aspects of deer management
- e) To strive to ensure that the management of deer within the range is undertaken in the public interest.

The working of the Group will be guided by the following principles:

- We acknowledge what we have in common, namely a shared commitment to a sustainable and economically viable Scottish countryside.
- We make a commitment to work together to achieve that.
- We accept that we have a diversity of management objectives and respect each other’s objectives.
- We undertake to communicate openly with all relevant parties.
- We commit to negotiate and, where necessary, compromise, in order to accommodate the reasonable land management requirements of neighbours.
- Where there are areas of disagreement we undertake to work together to resolve them.

3. Composition

Membership shall consist of one voting representative from each landholder in the Group’s area; for this purpose, “landholder” shall be interpreted as land managed as a single unit. Such representatives shall be nominated by the owner. An alternate may be nominated by the member to attend and vote at any meeting. Participation and attendance at meetings from additional representatives of each land holding and other interested parties will be encouraged. In these circumstances attendance will be by invitation of the Chairman.

Group discussions will be conducted in such a manner that votes on issues should rarely be required. In all circumstances, an effort will be pursued to achieve agreement by consensus. However, this constitution lays out the process by which votes are conducted, should they be required.

4. Meetings

The Group shall hold an annual general meeting, at which a receipts and payments account to 31st March each year and a budget for the forthcoming year shall be presented. The Group shall meet at such other times as the Chairman may determine.

The Group shall, at least once a year, hold an open meeting to which all concerned with the management of deer in the Group's area shall be invited. At such meetings all matters pertaining to the objective of the Group may be discussed, but all decisions shall be taken by the Group members as defined in 3 above.

Notice of all meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least twenty-one days prior to a meeting. Such notice shall state the time and place of the meeting and list the business to be discussed.

5. Administration

- a) The Office-Bearers shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman (who shall both be members of the Group as defined in 3 above) and a Secretary who may also act as Treasurer. The Chairman shall be appointed bi-annually. The Vice-Chairman shall, at the first meeting of the Group, be appointed for one year and bi-annually thereafter. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed annually.
- b) The Secretary or Treasurer shall be empowered to operate a Bank Account on behalf of the Group.
- c) Each member of the Group (as defined in 3) above shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting (as defined in d, below) shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her own vote. All decisions shall be by a majority of those present and voting and shall be binding on all members of the Group.
- d) In the event that the Chairman is absent from any meeting, the Vice-Chairman shall take the Chair, whom failing such member as those present may elect for that meeting only.
- e) A representative of:
 - i) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - ii) the Association of Deer Management Groups; and
 - iii) The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority(and their successors) shall be invited to attend meetings of the Group but shall not have a vote. The Group may co-opt representatives of other interests or invite such to attend meetings of the Group; such representatives shall not have a vote.
- f) Subscriptions will be agreed in general meeting to cover the administrative costs of the Group, the Group's annual payment to the ADMG and such other matters as the Group may decide.

- g) The group will maintain membership of the ADMG and pay an annual levy as required.
- h) The Group shall endeavor to encourage the participation of representatives of the wider population within the Group. For example Community Councils and the Police.

6. Alterations to the Constitution

Alterations to this Constitution shall be made only at a General Meeting of the members of the Group. The notice calling such a meeting shall state the alterations proposed. Such alterations shall only come into effect by a majority of two-thirds of those members of the Group present and voting.

The Constitution may evolve through recommendations or suggestions made by the Association of Deer Management Groups, group members or government agency staff, ratified in the above manner.