



Inveraray & Tyndrum Deer Management Group

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 12pm at Glenfalloch

Present

David Sumsion – Ardkinglas (Chair) (DS)
David Lowes – Glenfalloch (Vice Chair) (DL)
Deanne Hagan (Secretary) (DH)
Tom Turnbull – Strone & ADMG Rep (TT)
Julian Clarke – Glenfalloch (JC)
Falcon Frost – Glenfalloch (FF)
Jimmy Irvine – NatureScot
Peter Kelly – NatureScot (PK)
Jason Ferguson – Ardkinglas (JF)
John Duncan – Inveruglas (JD)
Hugh Nicol – Argyll Estates (HN)
Tom Kirsop – Argyll Estates (TK)
Jayne Young – Argyll Estates (JY)
Martin O’Keeffe – Blarghour (MOK)
George MacPherson – Brackley (GM)
John Burton – Cononish (JB)
Rebekah Mayhew - LLNP

Apologies

Ian Robinson – Scottish Woodlands (IR)
Lucy Sumsion - Ardkinglas
Virginia Sumsion – Ardkinglas (VS)
John MacPherson – Balliemanoach
Diane Davidson-Kinghorn – Glencroe Farm
Matthys Jooste – FLS
Fiona Roebuck – Scottish Woodlands
Samuel Bristow – Tilhill (SB)
Alan Cory-Wright – Auchreoch/ Strathfillan/ Auchessan
Alex McGrigor - Ardchonnell
David McPhie (FLS)

1. Welcome and apologies.

Chairman welcomed everyone present. Apologies noted.

2. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 27^h March 2024

Nothing noted for discussion.

3. Chairman’s Report – DS/ DL

DL – Meeting at Strathearn organised by the CGF/ADMG & Centre for Good Relations was very well attended by over 30 groups. An extremely useful, well organised event which should hopefully lead to better communication with Government bodies. Noted that there was/is very poor representation from these Govt. bodies who are trying to interact with the existing very professionally managed & well led DMGs.

4. Secretary and Treasurer Reports

Accounts up to date with one outstanding HIA invoice, and one subscription invoice.

Communication from FLS requesting removal of Cobbler & Cruach Tairbet from the ITDMG, as they will be part of the new Cowal DMG. No representation at meeting. They would still supply cull figures but would not pay a subscription invoice. TT will speak to FLS before final decision.

5. Venison Collection Issues

TT – SVA & SQWV – now combined and streamlined, which makes organisational sense and provides risk prevention. Now funded through ADGM and members, increased from £20k to £50-£60k annually, with hopefully more from Scottish Govt. The increased funding pays for more expert, professional and admin staff with a more focussed approach & increased marketing.

JI – 3 new pilot schemes which are per headage/ bounty schemes – over base rates. So far there has been a poor uptake, even though the incentives are good.

Discussion re Scottish Quality Venison v Non-Quality Venison and overall benefits – general agreement that it will be a long-term benefit and will eventually be a necessity.

6. Culls & Counts

a. **Stag Cull Results 2024** - Cull figures not far off forecasts and show importance of accurate counts.

b. **Proposed Hind Cull 2024/25** – some figures still to be submitted.

c. **Sika deer** – Couple of stags, very few hinds seen.

d. **Future Count Dates** – 3rd/4th March 2025 with back up dates 10th/11th March 2025.

Likelihood of NS helicopter count discussed. After an animated discussion regarding budgets, funding, practicalities etc. it was decided that, as a group, our accurate foot counts would be adequate for now and any group expenditure would be better spent elsewhere. We will still be on the NS list if funding is available.

NS agreed to assist with any non-participating groups – either to contact or help with counts.

Also discussed (lack of) FLS participation in foot counts/ thermal drone counts.

e. **Population model** – target ahead of projected 250 stags.

7. Mapping Exercise

Emails with Victor Clements of Native Woodland Advice were shared with the group. He has quoted £600 for initial mapping work & £40/hr thereafter.

After discussion it was agreed that any existing (paper or USB) information would initially be passed to a 'sub-committee' with some experience of the software etc. (Jayne Young, Argyll Estates & Julian Clarke, Glenfalloch).

Further input is required regarding the purpose of this mapping exercise – what information will be included/ required etc?

8. ADMG report – Tom Turnbull

Please see attached report – overwhelming outcome seems to be continuing contact and communication/interaction with government bodies.

9. NatureScot report – Jimmy Irvine

Mostly covered already.

PK – Is Habitat monitoring continuing – it would look good?

10. Wild Strathfillan update

No representation or apologies. Last Newsletter dated 3rd Sept 2024 circulated to members.

11. LLTNP – Rebekah Mayhew

Herbivore Action Plan – working group including NS, FLS & SW, and a steering group including DMGs will be drafted in the New Year.

Summary report of the Venison Advisory service is attached.

Supporting the CGF.

DL – Regional Land Use Plans – Harriet will be involved over the next 18 months.

12. ITDMG Annual Questionnaire

Purpose is to update the Deer Management Plan and only collated information will be published/ shared.

Two returns received already, and questionnaire will be sent again with minutes, with a deadline of 20th December for further returns.

13. Any other business

FF - Stalkers Events – look out for email invites and please attend if possible.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th March 2025 at Argyll Estates – site visit followed by meeting, timings & details tbc.

