

**Strathconon Deer Management Group  
Meeting**

27/06/2017

at

Little Scatwell

**Minutes**

1. Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Estate / Organisation</b>
Charles Aylesford	Chairman - Little Scatwell
Troels Bavnhøj	Secretary
Linzi Seivwright	Caorann (DMP consultant)
Mike Watt	Little Scatwell
Glyn Robson	Lochluichart
Jamie Stewart	Lochluichart
Murdoch MacLean	Strathconon
Colin Hendry	Strathconon
Callum Stewart	Strathconon
Eric Downie	Glencarron
Frank Spencer Nairn	Culligran

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies from Angus Kelly, Finlay Clark, Douglas Orr & Colin Blyth, Derick MacAskill, Alasdair Douglas and Peter Hingston.

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on

3.1. Minutes were approved and no comments from attendees.

#### 4. Cull Update

	<b>Stags</b>	<b>Hinds</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Strathconon & Scardroy	104	412	186	Looking to achieve 400 hinds.
Ledgowan	10	15	3	
Little Scatwell	24	46	21	2 sika hinds. Looking to achieve a hind cull of 50 however not seeing the hinds on open ground
Lochluichart (Glenmarkie)	23	40	20	Very tough stag season. Hind numbers to increase
Glencarron	40	50	18	
Fairburn	75	109	34	Target of 100 set.

- 4.1. The Group discussed next year's cull, which was agreed to be same numbers as the previous season. Stalkers did not see many calves on the hill. Everybody would keep an eye on the recruitment of calves.
- 4.2. Linzi was happy with the efforts reaching the cull targets and added that the reduction cull carried out on both Strathfarrar DMG and Strathconon DMG would give a mutual benefit for both groups.
- 4.3. Linzi informed that calving rates around 50% was counted on a few west coast estates Mike Watt commented that there have always been big variations in both calving rates and winter mortality across Scotland.

#### 5. Deer Management Plan

- 5.1. The Group was happy with the plan and confirmed that Linzi could finalise.
- 5.2. Linzi mentioned that to be able to show progress each group member should highlight some goals to show progress year by year.

#### 6. Designated sites

- 6.1. Linzi informed that the designated sites within the group did not have great impact on the DMG plan

#### 7. Woodland Plans/Development

- 7.1. As grants have increased to create woodlands a few members are starting new woodland schemes
- 7.2. Frank added that it was important to think about corridors for deer movement and compensation culls in areas with large woodland schemes
- 7.3. Linzi added that it would be positive info to add to the DMG information and website to show the positive improvements within the group area.

#### 8. Peatland Action and Other schemes

- 8.1. Loch Lochluichart has applied for peatland restoration funding, but have had no response from SNH
- 8.2. Strathconon is carrying out surveys to show potential areas for peatland restoration areas.
- 8.3. Linzi commented that it would be beneficial to go by the same approach as for woodlands again showing the positive impact from the members.

## 9. Training

- 9.1. It was reiterated that all DMG members can apply for 50% refunding of training in habitat monitoring.
- 9.2. Linzi to enquire and confirm if funding is also available to cover management cost involved with habitat monitoring, such as gathering data etc.

## 10. Public Consultation

- 10.1. It was agreed that a Public Consultation should be arranged for middle of August with an invitation made to local MSP Gail Ross and MSP Edward Mountain, along with other stakeholders and community Groups.
- 10.2. LS to provide a positive presentation of the work carried out by the group
- 10.3. Angus Kelly to invite Gail Ross and MSP Edward Mountain
- 10.4. Troels to attend Community Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September to inform about SDMGs plan etc.

## 11. Other matters

- 11.1. Frank Spencer ask to participate in Local Access Forum helping out solving problems with access within DMG.

## 10. Next meeting

- 10.3. Next meeting to be confirmed but in November