



Falconry – Inscribed by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind

Minutes of the Meeting of the Hawk Board held on 19th October 2017
London Zoo, Regents Park, London, NW1 4RY

The Chairman opened the meeting at 12:30.

Present:

Gordon Mellor (GM); Graham Bennett (GB); Jim Collins (JC); Nick Havermann-Mart (NHM); Graham Irving (GI); Terry Large (TL); Martyn Standley; Derek Stotton (DS); Mark Upton (MU); Rachele Upton (RU); Dean White (DW)

Apologies:

Gary Biddiss; Steve Eastwood; Mark Habben; Andrew Knowles-Brown; Paul Manning; Jemima Parry-Jones; Don Ryan

Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising:

None

Chairman's Report:

I wish to raise and begin again a serious conversation about our future. I think that it is clear to us all that the Hawk Board as currently constituted, is facing some existential challenges. We have lost the Yorkshire Falconry Club. They withdrew their membership in the summer. The smaller clubs have a history of coming and going regarding membership, however beyond that a larger issue looms: the BFC, the largest club in the UK and one without whose financial contribution we cannot exist, is restructuring their membership. It is quite feasible that they might reduce in size by upwards of 40%. Such a reduction will cut our capitation considerably. Furthermore in undertaking this change the BFC is reviewing their commitments and there will be voices seeking withdrawal from the HB. I make no prediction here but change is certainly afoot.

For the duration of this Hawk Board our capacity has been shown to be limited. It is no longer possible to pull together enough of us to effectively man our stands at the Falconry and Country Fairs. As you know I believe that we should only do these if offered a free pitch and are able to put in a professional appearance - currently we cannot.

This lack of visibility is a circular problem:- falconers don't see us at events and therefore believe that we are not representing them, thus they do not wish to contribute to our upkeep. Furthermore the clubs themselves are facing membership crises with far more falconers doing their own thing outside a club structure – effectively we are financially supported by fewer falconers.

It is also true that the terrain upon which we work is a very different one from that which existed for the previous HB. We struggle to get traction with DEFRA or Natural England, with the Police, the CLA, and whilst the Countryside Alliance still support us, they are a much leaner organization.

The avian influenza of last winter has doubtless damaged our standing amongst falconers, whilst I maintain that we had little option to act in the way we did, I know that it was deeply unpopular. I am content to take responsibility for that.

There is some good news however; the Sustainable Users Network goes from strength to strength (and does

some of the work we would have had to undertake previously), Raptor Awards are making good progress in pulling professionals together, and IAF are increasingly active and effective on the international scene. We continue to fulfill our remit – I have responded to the Welsh Assembly Mobile Animal Exhibit consultation, and we continue to work with the Countryside Alliance in Wales on this matter. We respond to the media and recently put out a Press release about ‘dangerous’ lost Harris Hawks, However our sport is looking at an uncertain future: the rise of Jeremy Corbyn and his brand of Labour will if elected, be very bad news for field sports and all animal activities; BREXIT may produce benefits but could just as likely bring problems for us, we are likely to have to fight our corner whatever.

Since its’ inception the Hawk Board has stepped up when falconry is threatened or in need of representation. I believe firmly that our sport needs us but I feel that we must address our structure, operation, finances, and aspirations if we are to continue to be relevant to falconers now and into the future.

TL: The clubs are turning towards the IAF.

GI: The IAF can’t represent British falconers in the UK government.

GM: If you don’t have the HB you would have to invent something similar.

DS: More people not interested in the HB than are.

GM: As things get tighter there will be a major push for clubs to leave the HB.

TL: BFC and British Field Sports brought the HB into being.

DS: Put o the clubs that we have problems, they might offer more money.

MS: If all clubs stayed in, but membership falls we will eventually run out of money.

TL: Falconry is reducing in numbers.

MS: Club members are getting older, no young ones coming through.

NHM: We have more customers than ever before; people are coming to falconry older. If Jeremy Corbyn gets in then falconry will be closed down with other sports and zoos.

GB: It gives us something to fight for.

GM: How do we represent those who aren’t in the clubs?

GM: Nick Fox got my response to the Mobile Animal consultation, he stands with the CA that there should be no legislation for mobile zoos; I think there should be action and some licensing. Where BoPs are handled properly they give a good understanding of wildlife and conservation. NF wants to crack the distinction between wild and domestic and this would help.

DS: We need more representation with the governing bodies.

MS: How do we get domestic status?

DW: Common law, but need legal basis to take that course of action. Legal definitions of wild animal and domestic animal.

GI: We submitted during the law review and definitions were taken on board but since been removed. The Welsh may look at definitions, but Scotland won’t. The next door to open will be the English consultation, this could be our start to get wording in if they don’t just cut and paste from Scotland and Wales.

TL: I am worried that this will affect my business of falconry experience.

GM: There is a difference between a mobile animal exhibit and an experience – there is no quarter and we will probably lose. Work with and show.

Treasurers Report:

At present the HB has a reasonably healthy amount in it. The CFF account is a holding account for a few direct debits that come in.

We need to look into generating more revenue, especially with the next election coming up in 2018.

Home Counties Hawking Club still hasn’t paid their subs – they have until the end of October and the Yorkshire Falconry Club have resigned from the Hawk Board.

TL: CFF have donation money from various collections to pay into the HB account, I will ask Doreen to pay it in.

DS: Is HB information emailed out to clubs?

RU: Any information is sent to the club reps who then send it on to their members.

MU: We could look into doing an electronic newsletter.

RU: No articles mean no newsletter, I have enough trouble trying to get members to give me stuff for the website and Facebook page.

MU: We could just start with a newsletter version of the minutes.

DW: DS you are very insightful on legal issues, you could contribute an article from a breeders perspective.

GM: I will create a newsletter from the minutes of this meeting and then send out to members for review and contributions.

MS: TL could do an article on implications, from his point of view, of the Welsh consultation.

NHM: Honeybrook can publish the newsletter and deliver it to our customers.

GM: We gratefully accept your generous offer Nick.

SUN Update:

See Appendix 1

MU: With regard to the captive bred part of your report I can go back to the IAF and ask if they are doing anything about this as I feel they should be.

Legal/Guidelines Update:

GI: The next CITES meeting is next week, they have done away with the A10 for the peregrine I am going to ask about scrapping it for the Gos.

DS: Yes, as there are loads of Goshawks.

GI: Probably more being bred than pure peregrines.

GM: Symbolic for the peregrine, so be symbolic to Gos.

GI: Brexit – asking for ideas

Cotes review – chasing for last few months, told it's coming, main thing is down to 2 export airports.

Passports – not gone anywhere yet.

NHM: Latest news from the Tories is they are preparing for a no deal, so will depend on the value of trade as to whether they will look at passports.

MU: IAF are looking into passports across the world.

GM: How about a freedom of information request to DEFRA for the information on value?

GI: DTI and CITES management aren't talking.

MU: Not a bad idea to push because the more the govt know about value the more they would protect falconry.

GM: Will call Tom H-M and pick his brains about info he has and might be able to find out.

GI: Eurotunnel – you register with Eurotunnel, on the website there is a drop down specific to BoPs.

2018 Election:

GI: Can't this be done by email?

RU: No as there are club members who either don't have email or won't give it to their club.

GM: We have to do it the way we do as the election has to be run under electoral rules.

Game Fair:

RU: We have been invited by Charlotte Hill to attend the Game Fair next year.

NHM: They are trying to increase the Falconry area as this was one of the most visited areas at Hatfield.

GM: Do we have anyone prepared to help man the stand?

RU: I can do a day or 2 so long as I can get childcare as it is the start of the school holidays !!

TL: I have people who can help especially if we can make some money for the HB.

MU: I can organise some new pop-ups.

RU: They will have a seminar tent and have asked if Gordon would do a talk on the Hawk Board.

DS: By popular demand I will do my falconry food demonstration with NHM's help – unless it's raining !!

GM: RU to go back to Charlotte and accept.

Individual Membership:

DS: We could hand out individual membership forms at the Game Fair.

GM & RU to sort out membership forms

GM: Annual "donation" £10

GI: Need to get a PayPal account up and running.

RU to investigate PayPal account

Raptor Awards Affiliation:

GM: I have spoken to Derek and Julie, who acknowledge they are not a perfect fit. They have suggested, based on the outcome of our last HB Meeting, that they pay a membership of £100 per year and have

someone on the board. This would be on a trial and the fee may increase as they have a growing reputation, (at the moment they wont disclose how many people they have signed up).

MS: If it involves professionals it could be good going forwards.

NHM: IF HB become a professional body then all sorts could join because the HB would become a political lobbyist.

GM: If Raptor Awards become as successful as they think then we can increase their fee. Who agrees to allowing them to join on a two year trial?

Unanimous agreement

IAF Update:

See Appendix 2

MU: The Japanese have had the Gos downgraded

MU: IAF president election next year

CA Update:

See Appendix 3

A.O.B:

TL: At the Midland Game Fair people were asking about whereto get information on bird flu from.

RU: Hawk Board website and Facebook page, I keep them updated with the GOV.UK updates.

DW: Maybe the HB could look into getting a Patron or Patrons, the right one could open doors.

GM: Anyone with an idea about a Patron then let us know.

MU: I think we should look into having some pre crisis statements done for situations such as Bird Flu, etc.

GM: Good Idea.

RU: Next years meetings are scheduled for 22 February; 14 June; 18 October (provisionally).

NHM: We could look into SKYPE for future meetings.

GM: Can do at Milton Keynes.

The meeting closed at 16:40

Next Meeting: 12.30pm Thursday, 22nd February 2017

Location: UCMK, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 3HS

Rachelle Upton, Co-coordinator – 1st November 2017

Sun Report from Jim Collins

As always, the summer period has been relatively quiet on the legislative front with Parliamentary Recess, the European Commission taking a six-week break and being a general vacation period in any case. The Sustainable Users Network's regular meeting with the UK authorities occurred in June and was reported upon for the previous HB meeting.

Nevertheless, there are a few substantive issues to report upon, most notable being the outcome of the CITES Animals Committee meeting held in Geneva and attended by the SUN Coordinator. I'll provide quite a detailed synopsis since the move to review captive-bred trade as well as wild-taken may well prove problematic to bird of prey keepers in the years to come.

I would say that this Animals Committee meeting was probably the most successful in the past twenty years for animal keepers and traders in terms of throwing-out a high percentage of the original proposals and demands of those country representatives and protectionist non-governmental organisations that want to seriously limit and/or prohibit keeping and trade in non-domesticated animal species.

As I believe is almost always the case, the most effective work is lobbying country representatives outside of the formal meetings and asking them to intervene in the formal debates – giving them the scientific arguments to make and, on occasions, the actual wording they should use. This was done to good effect at this Animals Committee meeting.

The largest and most time consuming agenda item at CITES Animals Committee meetings is that on the Review of Significant Trade. I have been an active Member of this working group for 20 years and its conclusions frequently have a major impact (quite often stopping altogether) trade in a species. Species selected for review go through a four stage process during which and at any time a zero quota can be imposed or a series of other restrictions put against Range States with the particular species. It is important, therefore, to do as much as possible to prevent species going in to the Review in the first instance and then for species that do commence the review to work to either have them removed and/or no setting of zero quotas. Of course, our opponents in the protectionist and animal rights organisations (that greatly outnumber us at these meetings) are fighting for exactly the opposite outcomes i.e. as many species as possible in the Review and with as many zero quotas and restrictions as they can get imposed.

The Significant Trade Review for species traded from the wild as part of CITES has been in existence as a process for very many years but at last year's CITES Conference of the Parties it was decided that there would also now be a Significant Trade Review for CITES species bred in captivity. I was also able to become a working group member for this second review and will now report on these two reviews in turn.

There were a potentially massive number of species suggested for further inclusion or retention into the Significant Trade Review on **wild-taken species** but good argument saw this number dramatically reduced by the end of the meeting. Particularly pleasing to witness was the rejection of the request by our opponents and countries supporting them to put into the Stage 2 – which involves a list of recommendations and can impose set quotas including zero quotas - sent to identified countries trading the species almost all the CITES-listed species endemic to Madagascar. Our opponents fought especially hard to include them en bloc but fortunately they lost these arguments and the species were not kept in the Significant Trade process. Our opponents also pushed hard to include the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) even though it had only recently been removed from the review process but their arguments were countered and the meeting agreed that Mongolia's supply programme was in fact an exemplary example of sustainable utilisation of wildlife.

The Review into Significantly Traded **Captive-bred Species** had its first sessions at this Animals Committee meeting. Again, success was had in keeping several species away from entering the review process but some species which are traded and kept in captivity – some very commonly – were added. As we would expect, the opposition organisations often argued about the legality of founder stock for captive breeding operations and sought to have as many species enter the review process as possible. The first stage was agreement on a list of questions to ask countries trading in large numbers of captive-bred specimens. Answers will be considered at the 2018 Animals Committee meeting and it is then that action could be taken, including the potential for bans or restrictions on quota numbers. On this occasion the birds chosen were both parrots but I suspect it likely that birds of prey will feature at future reviews within CITES Animals Committee meetings.

Debate on the transportation of CITES-listed species was relatively limited at this meeting with the report

passed to the Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties and the focus on being the need for CITES and IATA (International Air Transport Association) to work closely together through the Lices Animals & Perishable Goods Board that will meet again in September 2017. Nevertheless, the Animals Committee meeting in 2018 is likely to see our opponents again try to increase the remit of CITES to cover domestic transportation as well as that for air transportation.

Attention was also placed on the provisions requiring CITES members to ensure that only 'appropriate and acceptable' facilities/individuals can receive CITES I (Annex A) specimens. Our opponents would obviously like to make these requirements as near impossible to satisfy as they can whilst we need to ensure requirements are proportionate and fair. Only a couple of examples were pulled-out for review but this is an issue we will undoubtedly face as greater threat in the coming Animals Committee and Conference of the Parties meetings. This was a strong debate and could well impact seriously on keepers/traders especially considering the number of bird of prey, parrot and reptile species on CITES Appendix I (Annex A).

The Animals Committee of CITES undertakes a Periodic Review of the species appendices in order to determine whether a species is still in the 'correct' appendix considering current conservation and trade data. The species can then be suggested to be moved from Appendix I to Appendix II, from Appendix II to Appendix I, removed entirely from the CITES Appendices (usually the case with species that have been declared extinct) or remain on the same appendix. The species chosen for review between now and 2022 together with the country(ies) undertaking the review are: *Terrapene coahuila* (Mexico), *Podarcis lilfordi* (Spain), *Aphonopelma pallidum* (Mexico), *Cynomys mexicanus* (Mexico), *Chinchilla Spp.* (Chile/Argentina/Bolivia), *Branta canadensis leucopareia* (U.s., Canada, Mexico) but on this occasion no birds of prey.

Furthermore, I was able to speak with senior representatives of the European Commission with agreement of bi-lateral meetings in Brussels in the Autumn and with members of the EU's Scientific Review Group urging them to lift the Negative Opinions they have placed previously on a host of species that the global CITES community have now chosen to remove from the Significant Trade Review.

As indicated above, I've been able to secure a meeting (last week of October) in Brussels not only with the head of the EU CITES Team but also with those heading-up the Invasive Alien Species legislation for the European Commission so this should prove an invaluable opportunity for me to put across face-to-face the needs and concerns of keepers, growers and traders.

In the last report to the HB I indicated that the Dutch Government suffered several defeats in the Courts in their attempts to impose a Positive List for the keeping of mammal species (with the stated intent of then moving on to Positive Lists for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish). However, it is clear that Dutch politicians intend to have yet another bite of this particular cherry - they have been delayed in such intent since Holland has been without a Government for several months as they seek to negotiate a 'stable' coalition - so further fights can be guaranteed through 2018.

In regard to the EU's Invasive Alien Species Directive, we are at the stage where the internal scientists and bureaucrats are reviewing the proposals for species put-forward to go on the third list of banned species - rumour has it that the European Commission agrees with several of our submissions - namely that a number of the proposals simply fail to match a single one of the listing criteria - and so hopefully will be removed from the list prior to Member State voting and adoption in 2018 (I should be in a better position to know whether this is correct or not after my October meeting with the European Commission).

Appendix 2

IAF Report from Mark Upton

I was unable to attend the IAF Meeting of Delegates and AGM in Kyrgyzstan due to its timing and expense. I haven't received the minutes yet so don't have a lot of information about the meeting to pass on. There were no major votes planned as there were no positions up for renewal.

At the moment the European Delegates Meeting is being held in conjunction with Czech Hawking Club at Opočno. I had hoped to attend this meeting on behalf of the BFC but unfortunately had to cancel at the last moment because of family matters.

Countryside Alliance Update from James Legge

POLITICAL AND LEGAL UPDATE ENGLAND AND WALES 19 October 2017

People Moves

- David Drew MP and Holly Lynch MP have been appointed by Jeremy Corbyn as Shadow Defra Ministers
- Neil Parish MP has been re-elected Chairman of the EFRA Select Committee
- Vince Cable MP was the only candidate in the Liberal Democrat leadership contest and became party leader on 20 July
- Henry Bolton has been elected UKIP leader

Parliamentary Briefings

Parliament returned from summer recess on 5 September. The following briefing notes were sent out to parliamentarians before summer recess began on 20 July:

- House of Commons and House of Lords Queen's Speech Debate
- Westminster Hall Debate on a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme
- Westminster Hall Debate on Affordable Housing
- House of Commons General Debate on Exiting the EU and International Trade
- Background Note on Grouse Shooting

Select Committees

The House of Lords European Union Committee published a report on 'Brexit and Farm Animal Welfare' on 25 July which reflected many of our policies, as set out in our Brexit policy document.

Countryside Alliance Rural Charter

This has been sent to all MPs and a select group of Peers.

Conferences

Our conference events this year focused on the impact of Brexit on the countryside, and the future of wildlife law. All our events were extremely well attended and the Brexit Breakfast with Defra Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP, received widespread media coverage. Sarah Lee, Head of Policy, represented the Alliance at the Centre for Policy Studies fringe meeting at the Conservative conference on broadband policy.

Policing and Crime Act 2017

Letters were sent to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales, making them aware of the new powers to remove face coverings from protestors and encouraging their officers to make full use of these powers.

CAMPAIGNS

Countryside Alliance Awards

The Countryside Alliance Awards remain open for nominations until 13 November. There are five categories: village shop, local food, butcher, rural enterprise and, new to this year, a pub category to enable people to celebrate their favourite rural local.

Rural Crime

The Countryside Alliance took part in the National Police Engagement Stakeholder meeting. The event was led by North Yorkshire police who hold the NPCC national portfolio for Wildlife Crime and Rural Affairs. We made the point that national priorities do not always reflect local issues and that it was very important to engage with rural communities, and feed back to them, to ensure everyone is working together.

Broadband/Mobile phone coverage

The Countryside Alliance has continued to bang the drum for the rollout of broadband in rural communities since the Digital Economy Act became law earlier this year. We remain concerned that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) will not deliver broadband to remote rural communities and we will continue to hold the Government to account. We spoke at the BBC Countryfile Live event on the importance of mobile phone coverage in the countryside, alongside O2 and chaired by Charlotte Smith from Farming Today. It was clear

that rural connectivity is a big issue for a lot of people, which was important with the presence of representatives from O2.

Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland

The fourth retreat of the year was held at Forbes of Kingennie near Dundee from 22-24 September. The final retreat of the year will take place from 20-22 October at the Arundell Arms Hotel in Devon. The 2018 retreat schedule will be published in due course and will open to registrations on a rolling basis from January.

Castaway

Castaway, a new fishing therapy project created by Jill Grieve and Charles Jardine, in conjunction with oncology nurse and Casting for Recovery volunteer Charlotte Weston, will hold its inaugural event on Friday 13 October. Castaway will mirror the benefits of Casting for Recovery and Fishing 4 Schools in that it will offer fishing therapy, fun, friendship and a new skill. The project is aimed at teens and young adults with cancer and has already drawn attention and support from Macmillan and the Royal Marsden Hospital.

HUNTING

National Trust

Following the Trust's release of a review of their trail-hunting licensing procedure which raised two main points of concern, we met their Rural Enterprise Manager and their Head of Estate Management to express our dismay at their lack of consultation and explain why these changes would be unworkable for the 67 hunts that are granted licences. We also coordinated a letter to be sent to the NT from a number of NT tenant farmers. The MFHA & AMHB subsequently met with the NT and we have sent a coordinated response suggesting some amendments. In addition, a members' resolution to ban trail-hunting on NT land will take place at the NT AGM on 21 October where we will have a strong presence. We have launched a campaign to reach out to as many NT members as possible to encourage them to use their vote to oppose the motion. We have also highlighted the position of the candidates to members and supporters and on our website.

Bovine TB in hounds

Following an extensive testing regime, the Kimblewick hounds were deemed clear of bTB by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at the beginning of August and will have commenced autumn hunting by the time of this meeting.

Newcomers' Week

Our annual newcomers' week will take place from 21-28 October with all packs encouraged to host a meet or other hunt event. A variety of CA leaflets and posters have been distributed to hunts.

SHOOTING CAMPAIGN AND MOORLANDS

Hen Harrier Breeding Survey

The 2016 Hen Harrier Breeding Survey showed a decline of 13% in territorial pairs since 2010. We have challenged the RSPB's claims that this is due to illegal persecution by producing a table for hen harrier breeding success in England over the last 30 years, the peaks and lows of which show a distinct cyclical pattern. A statement was placed on the website, and published in The Times, and sporting press.

Moorland Visits for MPs

A letter has been sent to the seven new MPs with moorland in their constituency, inviting them to visit a grouse moor in their constituency so that they can see the conservation work that is being undertaken, and hear about the economic and social importance of grouse shooting. John Grogan, MP for Keighley, who has told Bradford Council that they should not renew the shooting lease on Ilkley Moor when it comes up for renewal in 2018, has accepted our invitation.

Anti-Shooting Activists

Following the damage by vandals claiming affiliation to an animal rights group to a small pheasant shoot in Kent, and subsequent disturbance to two shoots on grouse moors in the Peak District, we have advised all shoot managers and game shooters to be aware of the risk posed by anti-shooting activists this season, and have asked that all incidents are reported to us.

WALES

Taking Forward Wales Consultation

The Welsh Government has released a substantial consultation covering a multitude of topics, the major concern being Chapter 4 on Access to land and water. Proposals include extending the right for horse riders and cyclists to have use of all footpaths, extending the CRoW Act to all inland water, and removing existing restrictions. An online campaign by the Alliance has seen over 1,100 people support the Alliance's response to Welsh Government. The Alliance is briefing all Assembly Members and working with angling clubs to ensure a well-managed and coordinated response.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

The Alliance attended the recent NRW Board meeting to question the Board on its internal review on the value of shooting to the NRW estate as well as the current state of play for the Firearms Review. It became obvious that the Board were unaware that an internal review of the potential value of shooting on their estate had been conducted previously, which demonstrated a potential increase of £500,000 from shooting activities. There are no fewer than 20 paid NRW employees engaged in the review of evidence for the current Firearms Review. This will go out to public consultation.

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

The Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has published a report on the use of snares in Wales which suggests that whilst the code of practice for the use of snares in fox control needs time to become established, the Welsh Government should prepare draft legislation on the regulation of fox snares should the code not be adhered to.

The Alliance gave both written and oral evidence to the committee's inquiry into Woodland Management in Wales and highlighted the value of shooting and the missed opportunities by Welsh Government in not encouraging further shooting activities on land it owns or manages. This is evidenced in the final report.

Grey Squirrel Action Plan

The Alliance has been part of the working group putting together an action plan for grey squirrel management in Wales. The document is due to go out to public consultation.

Mobile Animal Exhibits

The consultation document on the future of mobile animal exhibits was launched at the Royal Welsh Show. The Alliance has highlighted our concern that the document encompasses every sort of mobile animal exhibit from birds of prey to livestock and even one-off school events whereby a pet is taken into the classroom. The consultation closed on 8 October.

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses

The Welsh Government has launched a draft code of practice for the welfare of horses. The document seems quite balanced and the Alliance will respond with some minor suggestions. We await the code of practice for the welfare of dogs, which will cover hunt kennels.

Tourism

The Alliance has responded to the National Assembly inquiry "Selling Wales to the World" and has highlighted the lack of support from Visit Wales for country sports tourism. A recent meeting with Visit Wales at the request of the Minister was disappointing in that they feared a public outcry should they support shooting. The Alliance will write to the Minister and work with officials hopefully to reach a suitable resolution.