

Minutes of the 24th Lead Ammunition Group Meeting 17th March 2020

11.00am – 2.00pm

Teleconference

Attendees

Mr John Swift (JS) (Chair)

Prof Rhys Green (RG) (University of Cambridge)

Prof Debbie Pain (DP) (University of Cambridge)

Dr Ruth Cromie (RC) (WWT)

Prof Len Levy (LL) (University of Cranfield)

Mr David Stroud (DS)

In attendance

Ms Emily Strong (ES) (Secretariat)

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Dr Huw Golledge, Prof Ian Newton, Mr Simon Roch and Mr Jeff Knott.
- 1.2. The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr David Stroud MBE.

2. Confirmation of agenda

- 2.1. The draft agenda was confirmed.

3. Chairman's report

- 3.1. The Chair (JS) noted that it had been a busy year with significant and positive developments since the 23rd LAG meeting in February 2019, in particular:
 - a) In March 2019, JS made first contact with Lord Browne concerning catering in the House of Lords, specifically the provision of lead-shot game for their catering needs. This led to a meeting in May with Lord Browne of Ladyton, the Earl of Shrewsbury, John Batley, Lord Laming and the House of Lords catering staff. Following from that meeting the removal of game meat shot using lead ammunition from catering outlets throughout the House of Lords was raised by Lords Browne and Shrewsbury in October during the Lords' Debate of the Queen's Speech.
 - b) In May 2019, JS addressed a SNH round table meeting on deer management at Battleby, where there had been strong support for change. In February 2020, the [final report of the Deer Working Group](#) on the management of wild deer in Scotland was published, which formally addressed the technical and regulatory aspects of moving to non-lead rifle ammunition for deer management in Scotland.

- c) In June 2019, [Dr Julia Newth et al.'s paper](#) on the perspectives of lead ammunition users was published in People & Nature. JS noted that this was the first instance where the social aspects of hunter attitudes 'in their own voice' had been published in the literature. He felt the paper was both ground-breaking and enlightening.
- d) In June 2019, RG and IN held a meeting with GWCT to discuss the human health guidance on their website concerning the consumption of lead-shot game, which had been discussed extensively at the 23rd LAG meeting in February 2019. This led to the information being removed from the GWCT website in July 2019, and improved guidance being published on their website in August 2019.
- e) In July 2019, significant progress was recorded with supermarkets regarding the sale of lead-shot game products. DP and RG assisted senior staff at Waitrose in holding a one-day technical workshop for their staff and suppliers on practical methods to obtain game killed without the use of lead ammunition. Waitrose made a [lead shot pledge](#) to source game shot with non-lead alternatives only, stating that "By season 2020-21 all Waitrose & Partners game will be brought to bag without the use of lead ammunition."
- f) In August 2019, JS contacted the British Game Alliance (BGA) and subsequently met with a BGA director Simon Chandler in January 2020. Mr Chandler undertook to find out more about scanning methodology being used to determine lead shot presence in game.
- g) September 2019 saw the emergence of constructive articles in the shooting media on the alternatives to lead ammunition and the likelihood of change. At the same time Eley Hawk Ltd. released a new range of steel shot cartridges with biodegradable wadding.
- h) In September 2019, a Special Issue of the journal Ambio was published on the topic of [Lead in Hunting Ammunition: Persistent Problems and Solutions](#). This significant development contained valuable papers on risks and mitigation as well as the economics of lead ammunition replacement and social science aspects.
- i) Towards the end of the year JS was made aware of the discussions between shooting organisations to issue a joint statement for phasing out the use of lead ammunition for live quarry shooting. This [joint statement](#) was subsequently published in February 2020.
- j) In October 2019, RG proposed to use "citizen science" to conduct a study on game marketing in British supermarkets. JS felt that it might be timely, now that shooting organisations had decided to transition to lead-free ammunition.
- k) JS informed the Group that, in a recent trip in November to address the South African Conservation Symposium in KwaZulu Natal, he had linked up with the South African Lead Task Team, which had been established to help ensure that South African wildlife is not harmed by avoidable exposure to lead. It was agreed to keep in touch with the group.
- l) In February 2020, RC and JS attended the ECHA workshop in Helsinki to discuss the wider REACH restriction on the use of lead ammunition in all habitats in the EU (see Section 7.1b for more information).
- m) In February 2020, an article was published in British Birds with DP as the lead author, entitled ['The tide is turning for lead ammunition'](#).

- n) In February 2020, the second global [Lead in Wildlife Symposium](#) was announced, to be held in Boise, Idaho, in October 2020. It is jointly organised by the Raptor Research Foundation, Neotropical Raptor Network, and Peregrine Fund, among others.
 - o) In February 2020, following the announcement by shooting organisations that they would be transitioning to lead-free shot within a 5-year timespan, JS observed that it was yet to be seen how shooting organisations planned to bring this about and monitor progress. He suggested, for later discussion, how LAG expertise might help this process.
 - p) JS had been in correspondence with Dr Simon Penson from ADM Milling UK, with regard to the reported incidence of lead in grain stores and mills and the consequences for bread-making.
 - q) JS had also been in touch with Prof Chris Perrins, of Oxford University, regarding the continued use of lead ammunition for shooting grey squirrels in the University-owned Wytham Woods – a 1,000 acre ancient semi-natural woodland SSSI, which is one the most researched woodlands in the world.
- 3.2. JS reflected on all these developments, noting they had been significant in many respects, while cautioning that there was still much to be done to bring the now-agreed changes about.
- 3.3. JS concluded by noting various changes in the LAG membership. He expressed thanks to Robert Hubrecht who was retiring from IFAW and welcomed Huw Golledge his successor, thus maintaining LAG's animal welfare expertise. He noted that RC would be officially leaving WWT, but would continue to work with WWT on lead and remain an active member of LAG. He wished ES well as she would also be leaving WWT to undertake a PhD study at Exeter University. He welcomed David Stroud as an active member of the Group, and noted that further organisational issues would be discussed later in the agenda (see Section 5 for further details).

4. Matters arising from 23rd LAG meeting

- 4.1. No comments were made on the minutes of the 23rd Lead Ammunition Group meeting held on 12th February 2019.
- 4.2. The following action points were reviewed:

Action Point 23.1 JS to summarise the main developments arising over the past 12 months.
Completed.

Action Point 23.2 RG to request a published version of SNH's policy on the use of non-toxic ammunition for deer management.
Completed.

Action Point 23.3. RG to follow up on SNH position on use of non-toxic shot and for RSPB position for grouse shooting on SSSIs and RSPB reserves.
Completed.

Action Point 23.4. RC to compile a list of organisations committed to using non-toxic ammunition, to be published on the LAG website.
Not completed – to be carried forward.

A discussion followed on the best way to compile this list.

- RG suggested members of the LAG contribute to the list of organisations that have or ought to have policies on lead ammunition, e.g. John Muir Trust and Scottish Wildlife Trust. He noted that organisations that didn't have policies would likely be more inclined to share a position if people enquired on the topic.
- DP suggested that a brief summary of the issue would be useful to share when approaching organisations on the topic.
- DS agreed, and noted a summary of the sort would also be helpful when communicating with supermarkets.

Action Point 24.1. DP to write a brief summary of the issue to send to organisations that may be using lead ammunition.

Action Point 24.2. RC, DP, DS and RG to compile a list of organisations already committed to using non-toxic ammunition, to be published on the LAG website.

- RG also informed the Group of a task he had set students the previous year, which involved finding organisations in the UK with clear policies on lead ammunition use. They had found that only GWCT had a clear and easily available policy.

Action Point 23.5. IN to write a letter to FES to commend their transition to non-toxic ammunition.

Not completed – not carried forward.

Action Point 23.6. JS to contact Dr Peter Fox when further information on the European Commission REACH process is available.

Not completed – JS felt the Environment Agency had other priorities and he didn't have enough substance to engage him at present.

Action Point 23.7. Consideration by all regarding recipients most interested in being made aware of the Ambio Special Edition.

Completed – widely circulated as a resource.

Action Point 23.8. RC/ES to cross-reference the resources on the LAG website with those in the Ambio paper wildlife health review.

Completed.

Action Point 23.9. RC/ES to follow up these suggestions and RH to send RC/ES a brief methodology for possible use on the LAG website.

Not completed – all agreed on reflection that establishing a thorough methodology was not necessary. DP confirmed that the website resources seemed to be up to date for LAG purposes.

Action Point 23.10. RC/ES to establish criteria for the selection of primary and grey literature (including search terms, rationale for inclusion and omission, and periodicity) and update the LAG website on a quarterly basis.

Not undertaken – see above.

Action Point 23.11. RC/ES to ensure the LAG website is equipped with a submission form to allow visitors to submit suggestions of relevant literature.

Completed.

Action Point 23.12. JS to check that this is acceptable and RC to add the letter and its response to the LAG website in the form of an Appendix to the 23rd LAG meeting minutes.

Completed.

Action Point 23.13. RC/ES to add the Scientists' Consensus Statements (European and American) and the recent European Scientists' open letter to the European Commission, plus conference proceedings to the LAG website.

Not completed – to be carried forward.

Action Point 24.3. RC/ES to add the Scientists' Consensus Statements (European and American) and the relatively recent European Scientists' open letter to the European Commission, plus conference proceedings to the LAG website.

Action Point 23.14. LAG members to review and comment on the advice provided on the GWCT guidance concerning the consumption of game meat, in order to determine whether it is fair, reasonable and accurate

Completed.

Action Point 23.15. When Action point 23.14 has been completed RG and IN to write a letter to Teresa Dent addressing the concerns raised.

Completed.

Action Point 23.16. DP to send RG a compiled list of advice provided by other European health agencies on the consumption of game.

Completed.

Action Point 23.17. RG to draft a letter to the FSA bringing to their attention the misinterpretation of their advice by Waitrose, the advice provided by other European health agencies, and noting that there are initiatives aiming to get young people to eat more game.

Completed – JS wrote to the FSA about misrepresentation of the GWCT advice.

Action Point 23.18. JS to forward a copy of the FSA letter to the Taste of Game and Food Teachers Centre.

Not completed.

A discussion followed regarding whether and how this should be carried forward.

- RC felt it would be valuable to write following open acknowledgement from shooting organisations that there are risks from eating lead-shot game. JS agreed, and asked RC to send him the contact details for both organisations.
- RG noted that Country Foods Trust (CFT) was another organisations that is encouraging people to eat more game. According to their website, they have supplied approximately half a million game meat meals, and moreover they formerly stated that they analysed samples of their meat and found lead levels below EU recommended levels – which RG found hard to believe as they primarily supply pheasant meat. RG had been in contact with Tim Woodward (CEO of Country Foods Trust) requesting to see the lead-level data, but although he received a response he didn't receive the data. CFT have removed these claims from their website and now provide advice for at-risk consumers to avoid game meat. RG suggested the LAG, and possibly JS specifically, could keep CFT informed – specifically with regards to the

recent position of shooting organisations, changes in supermarkets and FSA guidance. RG also suggested the LAG could encourage CFT to ask the estates that supply their wild-shot pheasants to switch to non-lead ammunition.

- DP suggested keeping various restaurant and food associations informed, perhaps putting together a fact sheet.
- RC noted that, given the current COVID-19 outbreak, it may be prudent to hold off on sending letters until the situation has calmed down, particularly for restaurants that will be concerned about business. All agreed.

Action Point 24.4. RC to send JS contact details for Taste of Game and Food Teachers Centre.

Action Point 24.5. DP to send JS contact details for relevant restaurant and food associations.

Action Point 24.6. JS to write letter to Taste of Game, Food Teachers Centre, Country Food Trusts (Tim Woodward), and other relevant restaurant and food associations with regards to risk of consuming lead-shot game meat and the desirability of requesting suppliers to switch to non-lead ammunition.

Action Point 23.19. DP to consider writing a letter to Vet Record on lead poisoning.

To be considered for future.

5. Review of future function and funding

5.1. A discussion was held on the topic of the future function and funding of the LAG:

- JS informed the group that he had been considering his position as Chair for a variety of personal reasons, although he was happy to continue being involved and corresponding with colleagues.
- JS also stated that he was happy RC was staying on the LAG despite her upcoming departure from WWT, and hoped that Julia Newth would also join as a member.
- Given the cost of members of the Group attending meetings in the past year, he enquired if anyone knew of possible funding to support their contributions.
- The meeting agreed unanimously that JS should continue as Chair, which he accepted to do for the time being.
- DP said she would explore possible sources of modest funding support to help cover members' personal travel and meeting expenses.
- JS stressed that it would be best, if such funding were available, to have funding to call on if needed, but to ensure that any such funding must not compromise the independence or integrity of LAG.
- It was suggested that the LAG might require some £2000 a year. RC also noted that WWT had provided various support for LAG to date, and could assist in seeking funding and the administration of such future funding.

Action Point 24.7. JS to invite Julia Newth to join the LAG.

Action Point 24.8. DP to investigate funding avenues to cover expenses for LAG members.

6. Review new evidence received since LAG 23 and its inclusion on website, including progress on work studies, papers and articles in press

6.1. Risks to wildlife

JS noted there had been numerous recent publications on the impact of lead poisoning on raptors and scavengers. However, there had been relatively little published evidence from the UK. A discussion followed on data from the UK, specifically on Golden Eagles in Scotland. A discussion followed on the topic.

- RG agreed that studies on lead poisoning in eagles were largely from outside the UK. However, he noted that Gaby Peniche was doing a study on raptor health in the UK, with a joint Edinburgh University and SNH project on Golden Eagles in Scotland.
- RG informed the group that he and IN had been in touch with laboratories in Scotland and found that pathologists didn't routinely do analyses for lead concentrations or retain tissue samples from Golden Eagles. Although Richard Shore's group have been collecting tissue samples from buzzards and kites, which are the subject of a paper RG is in the process of writing, these are not routinely being taken from Golden Eagles.
- DS enquired as to whether the LAG could urge relevant parties for this data to be collected. RC had a contact in the Scottish Agricultural College, and RG suggested that, failing that, Des Thompson from SNH had responsibility for eagle conservation, which could be another avenue of contact.
- DP suggested sending a more formal letter from the LAG to SNH to highlight the dearth of information on lead poisoning in Golden Eagles in Scotland. RG agreed, and also noted that the use of lead ammunition could be regarded as a damaging operation or Operation Requiring Consent (ORC) on SSSIs due to the risk of environmental contamination and risks to wildlife. While RG has drawn their attention to this in the past, he suggested the LAG could also raise this issue with SNH. JS agreed, noting that there was an opportunity to link the request for doing more effective and systematic monitoring of raptor health with SNH's responsibility for the protection of SSSIs.
- JS concluded that it was particularly important to have this data for statutory conservation agencies to be able to make informed decisions regarding protected sites. DS agreed, highlighting the importance of evidence based policy in Scottish Government, with surveillance being clearly needed to provide the evidence.

Action Point 24.9. RC to get in touch with contact at Scottish Agricultural College to discuss golden eagle tissue sample collection and lead analysis.

Action Point 24.10. JS to write to SNH/Des Thompson to enquire about collection of data on lead levels in Scottish Golden Eagles, and SNH's responsibility for SSSI protection.

6.2. Public and consumer health

RG and DP informed the group of two publications.

- Firstly, an article (Risks from lead ammunition, Deborah Pain & Rhys Green Nature Sustainability 2:1066 (2019)) on the global scope of impacts on human health of game killed using lead ammunition. It draws attention to a study on elevated blood lead levels (BLL) in Peruvian Amerindians in the Amazon, who eat wild animals shot using lead ammunition.

- Secondly, a paper now in press recommending the setting of Maximum Levels for lead under EU regulation, to be published in Ambio with Vernon Thomas as first author and DP as corresponding author.

6.3. Economic and social considerations

JS commented on Simon Roche's observations regarding DP *et al.*'s [economic review of the costs of lead ammunition use](#) published in Ambio. JS noted that DP had responded appropriately while noting that there was always scope for debate of economic papers and the estimates used. LL agreed that the use of estimates was commonplace and necessary.

RC noted that following the recent ECHA workshop in Helsinki, it was clear that additional economic assessments would likely be necessary to support required cost-benefit analysis.

6.4. Efficacy of mitigation

RC commented that amongst others, the publication by Niels Kanstrup with reflections on [lessons learned from 33 years of lead shot regulation in Denmark](#) was particularly valuable.

JS agreed, and also suggested adding information from the GWCT survey of views on use of lead ammunition. Results had suggested that a voluntary transition alone is unlikely to convince everyone to move to non-lead alternatives. RG suggested archiving the results of the recent GWCT survey, as once it is removed from the website it will be difficult to access.

Action Point 24.11. RG to archive results of the GWCT survey.

Action Point 24.12. ES to add information from GWCT survey to LAG website.

7. Review relevant international and UK processes

7.1. European Commission, ECHA and REACH

RC updated the LAG members on recent REACH restriction developments.

a) REACH wetlands only restriction

RC informed the group that the REACH committee vote had been pushed back, primarily due to lobbying from the hunting community and ammunition industry. The vote was rescheduled to the April 2020 meeting, potentially with amendments such as a smaller buffer zone. As the restriction was for wetlands only, the EU not accepting the restriction would be in violation of obligations under AEWA which may have consequences.

LL also informed the group that the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) were in the process of assessing a new occupational exposure limit for lead to protect workers (under the Chemical Agents Directive). Under this new restriction, workers would need to monitor BLL on a regular basis. LL noted that this could place additional pressure on manufacturers to limit lead exposure for downstream users, and monitoring of that would incur additional costs.

Action Point 24.13. LL to share RAC documentation on new occupation exposure limits for lead with the LAG.

DP noted that there were published studies on BLLs in workers at target shoots, both indoor and outdoor. She noted that, while BLLs in outdoor shoots were generally lower

than in indoor shoots, these new standards may necessitate monitoring and further measures for certain indoor and outdoor shoots.

RC agreed that this would reframe where the controls on lead might come from. She commented that at the ECHA workshop in February 2020, the Agency was clearly trying to find the boundaries for the restriction e.g. should it include sports/target shooting or not. However, occupational exposures during ammunition manufacturer could support a wider restriction regardless of shooting type.

LL agreed and noted that addressing various pressure points along the lead ammunition pathway would be beneficial.

b) REACH wider restriction

For the wider restriction, RC noted that ECHA was still at the information gathering stage. She thanked everyone who contributed to the Call for Evidence in December 2019. Although the main bulk of the evidence was submitted in December, she noted that ECHA are keen to receive more information whilst they develop their report. She therefore asked the group to continue to send relevant information via email prior to their October deadline.

RC and JS proceeded to reflect on the workshop in February 2020 at more length. JS felt the first day was not very constructive, but improved on the second day after the chair focussed the meeting on evidence. There had been a fair amount of resistance from the competitive target and sports shooting spheres, potentially as they had not been engaged in the issue previously and were therefore not up to date with risks presented by lead ammunition use. JS felt that, if the wider restriction was to progress, it might need to allow target shooting to progress at a slower pace.

RC agreed with JS that the first day had not been optimistic with many opinions stated which conflicted with evidence. Despite this resistance she felt the perspectives and evidence presented from shooting stakeholders who had already transitioned to non-toxic ammunition allowed the workshop to focus more on evidence and practicalities. She also reiterated the importance of providing socio-economic evidence.

7.2. Convention on Migratory Species Intergovernmental Lead Task Force and AEWA

RC updated the group on progress at CMS, noting that the poisoning resolution had been updated at the recent CMS COP in India in February 2020. She also highlighted the replacement of the Lead Task Group within the Preventing Poisoning Working Group with an Intergovernmental Lead Task Force, which operates at a higher level. She noted that although the group does not begin its formal work until sign off at the CMS Standing Committee, there is an opportunity to plan. She also noted that the recent AEWA Standing Committee meeting generally viewed the banning of lead ammunition as necessary and inevitable.

RC also informed the group that Sacha Dench had been nominated as CMS Ambassador for Migratory Species, and represented a 'celebrity' regularly raising awareness of lead ammunition during her public speeches.

7.3. FACE Ammunition Working Group and World Forum for Sport Shooting Activities

JS noted that opinions differed significantly between member countries, with Ireland in particular being very resistant to consideration of restrictions on lead.

7.4. UK Government and Agencies

a) Environmental Standards following Brexit

LL noted that, from a chemicals point of view, the government was still trying to decide what to do post-Brexit. Although he suspected that the UK would go their own way, he noted that the UK would have to mirror the EU for some time. He explained that if there were restrictions in the EU, the UK would have to set up a committee to create a parallel activity. It is possible that the UK government may have a stronger voice. He also reminded LAG members that the UK government had already pledged that environmental standards would not be lower than those set by the EU. He therefore suggested it may be worth drawing the attention of the UK government and its associated bodies (Defra, EA, FSC etc.) to the status of lead.

DS agreed that the UK were at a stage of mirroring regulatory processes from the EU. He noted that it would be beneficial to determine to whom commitments to not lowering environmental standards had been made.

Action Point 24.14. RC to collate statements to Parliament (or otherwise) which commit the UK to environmental standards no lower than those of the EU.

b) Environment Bill

DP informed the group regarding the Environment Bill, and the Group agreed to keep this under review and to brief MPs and Peers as appropriate.

8. Review other contacts and processes ensuring that evidence is properly considered for the good of wildlife, health and the environment

8.1. Supermarket labelling of game meat products/discontinuing sale of game shot with lead ammunition

DS updated the group on recent communications with supermarket over lead-shot game products:

- Morrisons claimed to be lead free, but source venison from Highland Game which uses lead ammunition
- M&S was currently selling lead-shot game but had committed to mirror Waitrose
- Harrods indicated that their suppliers were currently trialling non-lead ammunition, and were planning to move away from lead from the 2020/21 season
- Booths had been in contact with DS and would follow up
- Sainsbury were considering the issue
- Asda and Tesco were not able to give a clear response

JS thanked DS for the update.

RG noted that although supermarkets were beginning to transition or consider transitioning, he felt that it was important to monitor progress. For example, even though Waitrose had committed to going lead-free, he found that one game product still had incorrect online health advice, which was rectified when pointed out. He suggested that citizen science would be an effective way to collect data on current labelling and products sold in supermarkets.

DP also suggested contacting John Gregson at Waitrose to see what methods they will use to monitor compliance.

Action Point 24.15. DP to email John Gregson at Waitrose to enquire about plans for checking lead levels in game meat.

JS enquired as to whether there was a method for checking lead levels in meat already on the market. DP noted that the costs of chemical testing for lead were reasonable, but additional costs were involved in terms of human resources for protocol design, sample collection etc.

LL also noted that some supermarkets, such as M&S, carried out other forms of routine testing for contaminants such as pesticides. He therefore thought supermarkets were likely to already have contact with laboratories which may facilitate carrying out testing for lead in tissue.

8.2. British Game Alliance and GWCT Brief on Lead

JS will keep in touch with Simon Chandler (see Section 3.1f).

8.3. UK Shooting organisations' statement on the voluntary phasing out of lead ammunition for use in shotguns

JS felt that an important question with regards to the voluntary phasing out of lead shot use was how to monitor progress within the shooting organisations and their memberships.

DS noted that there were two issues tied up in the phase out (1) the use of lead shot and (2) the use of plastic wadding. He felt it would be beneficial to handle them as two different processes, so that lead can be fast-tracked even if plastic is slower on the up-take.

RC suggested monitoring progress by purchasing gamebirds including wildfowl and screening them for lead shot content. Recognising that this carries costs, she also suggested carrying out surveys e.g. in partnership with BASC to get a gauge of how many people are using non-toxic ammunition. RC felt WWT would be well placed to carry out monitoring given previous work on hunter compliance and attitudes to lead ammunition.

DS suggested adding a question to existing surveys e.g. the GWCT survey and bag census, in order to determine which types of shot were being used. He felt this would be beneficial as it would be coming from the shooting organisations themselves.

RG observed that purchasing game birds would be limited as a monitoring method as not all game birds go through game dealers – a substantial amount are for personal consumption. However, he felt the shooting organisations could play an important role in asking their members what types of shot they were using.

DP suggested approaching the shooting organisations to ask what their plans are for monitoring the transition, and also offering LAG's expertise to help develop monitoring techniques if needed.

JS agreed that offering support would be the way to approach the issue. He noted that it was important to gather data now in order to establish a baseline at the beginning of the 5-year transition period. He also suggested to monitor, if possible, the manufacture and sales of non-lead and biodegradable wad cartridges.

LL agreed, but felt that manufacturing and sales information may be commercially sensitive. He suggested instead going through trade organisations rather than specific companies or

manufacturers. He reiterated that it was important to monitor throughout the supply chain in order to fully understand progress on the issue.

DS suggested merging this with RG's citizen science sampling of supermarkets i.e. mobilise people to ask local retail outlets whether demand for non-lead ammunition was increasing.

RG agreed with this suggestion, and added that it would also be good to include questions on ammunition use in the GWCT National Game Survey and other existing surveys, as DS had suggested.

Action Point 24.16. RG to draft letter to GWCT requesting that a question on shot type be added to existing surveys, to be circulated with LAG members for approval.

Action Point 24.17. JS to get in touch with BASC and BGA regarding adding shot type question onto their surveys.

Action Point 24.18. RG to design monitoring programme for supermarkets, manufacturers and retailers to measure progress.

RG also felt that the LAG should email shooting organisations to applaud them on the change, while also asking whether they have any plans to monitor change and suggest adding questions to existing surveys.

9. Forthcoming meetings and events

DP noted again the Peregrine Fund conference in October 2020 (see Section 3.1n). However, her attendance would be dependent on funding and the coronavirus situation.

JS noted that the COVID-19 outbreak would likely lead to numerous conferences and events being cancelled, so this would have to be revisited.

10. Keeping Defra and FSA appraised

JS noted that the COVID-19 pandemic was likely occupying most of Defra's time, so felt it was not the best time to communicate. LL noted that most government agencies would be occupied in the coming months, so contact would be best deferred until the situation is clearer.

11. LAG website update

ES and RC updated the group on the most recent analytics for the LAG website. Traffic was largely steady with notable peaks when updates occurred and people were directed to the site.

12. Any other business

JS asked if DS was happy to carry on as a member of the LAG group, to which DS agreed.

Action Points carried forward

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