

BRANCH NEWS

North Eastern England Branch

In this issue:

- New Committee
- New Start
- Our plans for you
- Your plans for us
- What happens now
- What happens later

The New Deal...

I am the new Chairman. I have a new Committee to help me. The Branch is in a bad way but we are going to turn it around. We want your help to do it. Old members might wish to come back. Lend us your skills and we will help you get new skills in return. We want younger people to join us too. So we plan to give field experience to young people who want to work with Deer. *We want to know what the members want from their Branch.* So we will soon ask you for your opinion. And we will be communicating with you in new ways. We think that there will be big changes coming for everyone who works with Deer. We will try to provide the skills and information that you need to be ready for this. We will encourage members to get thinking and talking about the future shape of Deer Conservation and Management, how it is going to be regulated, how it is going to be organized, and who should be doing it. We look forward to working with you again on interesting and useful projects. *Get involved!*

Christopher Roy-Toole, Chairman

What we are doing now...

- Organising a Best Practice Day at Kielder in partnership with *The Deer Initiative*
- Lobbying BDS Training for a Regional Mentor Scheme for Young Stalkers
- Arranging Emergency First Aid at Work + F training
- Exploring access to a Full Bore Rifle Range via affiliated clubs
- Securing a presence at the SNH Sharing Good Practice event in *Drafting Deer Management Plans for Upland Deer* in April 2017
- Setting up a ***Members' Survey*** to find out what you want from the Branch

What we want to do next...

- Look at ways to build and support local supply chains for venison
- Examine feasibility and funding for local deer management groups
- Examine ways to promote Deer Conservation through new grant schemes
- Feed into consultations on Firearms Licensing Reform and Stalker Accreditation
- Run one Country Fair and one Trade Event in the course of 2017-2018

Email the Committee: c.roy-toole@bdsbranches.org.uk