

# NEWS UPDATE

## North Eastern England Branch

### In this Update:

- Rifle Ranges
- Range requirements
- "Use it or lose it"
- News from the Frontier

Our first Newsletter produced a positive result that we need to tell you about. Two members of the Branch contacted me straight away to say that the rifle clubs to which they belong are willing to extend access to other members of this Branch. Details are set out below. Those two gentlemen know who they are and I thank them personally for this most timely offer of support. On a separate note, events are occurring in the Scottish Parliament that we need to keep an eye on. A short briefing follows and you need to keep yourselves briefed as the situation develops.

**Christopher Roy-Toole, Chairman**

### Range Days

- Your hosts are Bishop Auckland and District Gun Club and Teesside Rifle and Pistol Club
- TRPC must be contacted 10 days in advance of the range day, check for BADGC
- Approach your BDS Branch Chairman for BADGC contact details if these are not online
- Both Clubs use MOD Ranges within the Catterick Garrison Training Area
- BADGC will hold a range day on 15th April 2017. There will be other ones.

### Some Essential Requirements (the list is not exhaustive)

- You should hold a current NRA-approved range competency certificate. If you do not then you will become a burden to your host.
- Be prepared to pay a gentlemanly contribution to costs of between £15 to £20
- *You must only shoot within the terms of your Firearms Licence.* For stalkers, this means shooting to zero with expanding ammunition for intended use on live quarry of a species appropriate to the calibre. This means that you should not participate in target shooting over longer ranges with expanding ammunition, even if the opportunity is offered to you (which it most likely won't be).
- Remember: **Use it or lose it.** Imagine a situation in which the local Police required you to state the last time that you practiced humane dispatch marksmanship at 100m. And then suspended your FAC because you hadn't. **So attend the range days provided to you.**

### Scottish Parliament: Report on Deer Management in Scotland (5th Report, Session 5, 3rd April 2017)

This deals with the Scottish Natural Heritage report of 2016 on the same topic, the report that was criticised by several stakeholders. The Scottish Parliament believes that voluntary Scottish Deer Management Groups must improve their performance, that there is a lack of data sharing and coordination between them, and that SNH should make the decisions on cull figures. Larder schemes are insufficient to deal with anticipated demand from culling. Therefore, their Parliament states that added legal powers must be used to compel DMGs to produce deer management plans. We can see in this the idea of *a new legal duty to manage Deer*. Lowland DMGs can expect to be brought into this too.

BDS HQ have their own synopsis: <https://www.bds.org.uk/index.php/documents/145-deer-mgt-synopsis-6417/file>

So ask yourself: *what if the English Borders go the same way? Are you prepared? What organisation and skills are needed to deal with a situation like it in this country? Could the English find a better set of solutions?*