

# NEWS UPDATE

## North Eastern England Branch

### Thermal Imaging Special:

- TI for Deer Surveys
- TI and Wounded Deer
- Group and Bulk Purchase
- Tracker Dogs
- Appeal for Training Aids

*This is a special news bulletin to update you on our plans to equip the Branch with a Thermal Imaging scope for use in deer surveys. Further evaluation will be made in the field before final selection. We need Branch Members to get involved in the evaluation. We also need your cooperation in a Group Purchase if we are to have this. We shall agree terms for purchase, insurance and use for this. We also want to evaluate the use of TI to assist the individual stalker in his duty to locate a wounded beast. If successful, that could lead to a Bulk Purchase opportunity for Branch members. But remember: TI should only be used in a way compatible with the current Best Practice Guidelines on Follow Up of Shot Deer and Dogs for Deer. TI cannot do away with the need for a tracking dog or a stalker's good judgement.*

**Christopher Roy-Toole** Branch Chairman

### News from the Thermal Imaging Demonstration of 20th June 2017

*Twenty Six members and guests attended the event at Kirkley Hall, a record turnout for recent years and proof of the new energy in the Branch. **Scott Country International** gave us a great evening. Kirkley Hall were gracious hosts with first rate facilities. The range of equipment on display was impressive and will inform any future purchase. Equally impressive were the Branch members who worked their dogs to give us that dynamic practical display in the woods. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen, not least to Stephen Hyde who established this most important link for us with Northumberland College. Members should contact me if they want to get involved in further field testing with a view to group purchase from **Scott Country** of a TI scope for deer counts.*

### Thermal Imaging as a Locating Aid for Wounded Deer

***Scott Country International** are also pleased to offer an opportunity to test smaller TI and FLIR devices for use in locating deer wounded after the shot. We want this to be a technical evaluation of these devices for this purpose. We will need to produce realistic heat signatures by some means. Members should contact me if they have advice to give or are willing to assist on the day or days. Dogs may be needed. The results will feed into any decision that we make on a bulk purchase deal with **Scott Country** for these potential locating aids.*

### Dogs for Locating Wounded Deer

*We want to set up our own register of trackers and dogs. But remember that UK Scent Hound Association and UK Deer Track and Recovery already operate a register of volunteers. Branch members with a dog or an emerging interest are encouraged to contact each or either organisation to see how they might progress their skills and assist in this vital work. Do not let lack of experience put you off. The above organisations can help you with what is needed. Keep me informed on your progress with UKSHA and UKDTR, if you can. I am not aware of a local contact in UKSHA or UKDTR for our area. We need to help fill any gap. Branch Member Derek Dixon has already expressed an interest in lending us a hand and a dog. I thank him again for that. We need more members to do as he has done.*

### Appeal for the benefit of the Bavarian Mountain Hound Society of Great Britain

*Branch Member Derek Dixon has asked me to publish an appeal to our members to supply Deer Blood and Feet to assist the BMHS with the training and demonstration of their tracking dogs. Members assisting should store the blood in a bottle or bag, retain the feet and freeze these samples. They should then contact the Branch on the contact email below. Derek will come to collect the samples from the location in which they are stored. These materials are very much required by the BMHS in our area, and we must help where we can to promote well-trained tracking dogs. Thanks to all in anticipation of your assistance. We and they appreciate that it is one more task for the busy stalker to accomplish from the field to the larder.*



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Contact the Branch Committee:

[c.roy-toole@bdsbranches.org.uk](mailto:c.roy-toole@bdsbranches.org.uk)