

BRANCH NEWS

North Eastern England Branch

In this issue:

- Chairman's message
- Kielder Event
- EFAW + F
- Deer Lecture
- Shows and Shoots

*The Branch has enjoyed a busy Summer. We have been successful too. Special praise goes to the members attending the Wolsingham Show and to those who made up the combined team at the Border Shoot. **We have made a valuable connection with East Durham College at Houghall that points to future collaboration between us to encourage the next generation of deer managers through education and practical site visits.** The Chairman attended the Joint Deer Management Conference at Leamington Spa and met contacts from both sides of The Border. You are likely to hear from the Lowland Deer Network for Scotland in early 2018. We are strengthening communication with our colleagues in BDS South Eastern Scotland Branch. We will conduct a survey of Branch members designed to give a better idea of how we can engage with you. That was one of several good ideas to come out of the Branch Committee. But at this mid-point in our annual cycle, too much of the work is being done by too few of the Branch membership. So get involved. I can find ways to accommodate the busy person who wants to help where they can but who cannot commit to regular committee meetings. We shall take a hard look at the state of the Branch at its next AGM and human resources will be high on the list.*

Christopher Roy-Toole Branch Chairman

REMINDER: Larders and Forest Design Best Practice event at Kielder

Saturday 14th October 2017

Knowing how to talk to a forester about the design of a forest for deer management could help you retain your stalking lease. This event still has places remaining. Book via the link:

<https://data.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=54>

EFAW +F Training event at Kirkley Hall

Tuesday 31st October 2017

Back due to popular demand. Cost is now £75 per person. One full day event. Contact:

Philippa Seccombe, NPTC Administrator. Email: Rural.Skills@northland.ac.uk or Mobile: 07747 345381

Deformed Heads in Deer: a lecture at Kirkley Hall

Tuesday 28th November 2017

*Our resident Veterinarian, Peter Gray, will deliver a lecture on deformations in antlers and heads of Deer. Start time 7.30pm. **Please bring your own heads of any deer species to the event, whether they be 'medal', cull, or abnormal.** Members of the public and students of the College are welcome to attend.*

Report on the Wolsingham Show

*This was the best attended show in its history and it was the best stand that the Branch has had in years. Factors combined to make it so: we had a prime pitch, we had able assistance from Steve Hyde and Son, Derek Dixon, Tommy Dyson and his collection of antlered heads. We also talked the right talk for the event. We focussed on stalking and skills training and nothing else. This hit the mark with a variety of people. We had a regular stream of inquirers over the two days. A winning formula for future years? **Please loan or donate heads and antlers from all species of deer that you can find for use in future events. These are 'crowd pullers'.***

Report on the Inter-Branch Border Shoot

*Planning for this event started in good time. We arranged a practice session at Gardner Guns. They looked after us well. Despite efforts, we still found ourselves short of a full team for the competition. Luckily, South East Scotland Branch were short-handed too. So we formed a Combined Team of Derek Dixon [NE], David Boyson [NE], Richard Hall [NE], Paul Calvert [NE], Sandy [SES] and Cameron [SES]. Thanks to Stuart Jones [NE] for attending as a reserve. **Our Combined Team came in Second place and Paul Calvert was judged to be Second in the overall rankings.** An excellent result. South West Scotland won the day but there was not much separation between theirs and ours. Congratulations to all Branch members attending on the day and special praise for Paul Calvert who shot like a near-professional. Many Thanks must go to the North West England Branch who hosted and managed the event and for all their hospitality on the day.*

Contact the Branch Committee:

c.roy-toole@bdsbranches.org.uk