

# BRANCH NEWS

## North Eastern England Branch

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*I return as your Chairman in 2018 and I have useful colleagues to help me. This year will be a crucial year for the BDS and for this Branch. The BDS Strategic Plan will shortly be signed off. A new national Chairperson must be appointed to lead it. We in the Branch must be able to adapt to whatever circumstances are presented to us by the changes likely to occur at BDS Centre. Those of you who attended our Branch AGM will have heard my views on this. I repeat them here. We must work for greater collaboration between the BDS Branches in the North and on both sides of the Border, so that we can share resources and skills in order to adapt. This Branch is working towards a regional conference in 2018 to provide a forum for this purpose. We are developing our links to agricultural colleges and other stakeholders through various initiatives. Your support is vital at this time. If that help is not forthcoming, then you should not be surprised at the outcome for this Branch. So I invite you to come forward to assist us in whatever way you can manage.*

**Christopher Roy-Toole** Branch Chairman

### News from the Branch AGM

*The Chairman and the Committee were re-elected without opposition. We are very pleased to welcome David Stewart OBE to the Committee. With his long experience in this field, I am confident that he will be a real asset to the Branch. David has hit the ground running and is preparing a training event at Houghall on the objectives of the deer manager. Separately, The Lord Ridley Award goes to Stuart Jones in recognition of his long service to the Branch. The award for best head, best cull head and best photograph of deer goes to Tim Swaddle-Scott, Steve Hyde and Peter Gray respectively. Our thanks go to all the members who braved the bad weather to attend and to contribute. The AGM was an enjoyable one.*

### An evening with Lowland Deer Network Scotland

**Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7pm**

*It is very important that we monitor the implementation of the Scottish Government's National Approach to the management of Wild Deer. LDNS are a key player in this, both in terms of advice to central government and delivery on the ground. Please give your fullest support and attend this speaker event at the Kirkley Hall Campus near Ponteland.*

### Northern Conference on Muntjac in 2018

*The Branch is planning to host a regional conference on Muntjac deer in the Autumn of 2018. BDS Deer Survey data shows possible migratory spread up the east coast of Durham. We are working on the venue, format, speakers and stands. Please contact the Committee if you have ideas to offer or want to help.*

### Range Access

*One of our members is making efforts to source land for occasional use as a rifle range. Those of you who have prior experience of setting up occasional ranges or private rifle clubs are invited to contact the Chairman to pass on the benefit of your experience. Those wishing to train as RCOs should come forward ASAP so that we can arrange a training package.*

### TB in Deer Best Practice event

**Wednesday 28th February 2018**

*There was a recent outbreak in the Shap area. So this Deer Initiative event is very topical. Follow the link to register:*

<https://data.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/civicrm/event/info?id=69&reset=1>