

*Members evening 16<sup>th</sup> October 6pm Raby Estate – for details see below*

## **British Deer Society North East Branch E-News Autumn 2019**

### **Firstly thank you members.....**

Thank you all for making your membership renewals; membership of the branch continues to stand at just a few less than 200. And thank you to those who have signed up for the branch **Facebook page** that Al Gabriel leads on. Al has been able to keep the page topical and up to date but conversation and exchange between members on this medium hasn't really taken off yet.

### **And thank you BDS Headquarters team.....**

The national BDS **Deer Management course** held at Kirkley Hall where BDS member David Adams provided a great venue to welcome the BDS training team and participants from all over the country. There were 15 attendees with three branch members, Phil Smith, David Boyson and Jamie Tranter. The experts Dominic Griffiths, Glyn Ingram, and Dominic Strutt were entertaining and informative. Everyone speaks highly of the course with its focus on evidence-based planning of deer management. We would encourage members to attend when the chance comes around again.

### **And thank you to the branch committee.....**

The summer is the time the society meets the public at the local shows and Messrs, Adams, Boyson, Collingwood, Gabriel, Hyde, and Tranter have done a great job of organising our series of public events and, with the help of dozen members over the summer we have put deer issues and the BDS in front of thousands of people, including helping out at Yorkshire branch stall at Countryfile Live.

**Wolsingham Show** - Was the last event of the season for us, plenty of people came through in good weather on this two-day show where we have been in previous years. We were well represented by Peter Grey, Stuart Jones, Robin Ludlow, Jamie Tranter, and Stephen Hyde.

**Cross Borders BDS Branch Shoot** - It was our turn to host the event this year, a bit of a challenge for team captain David Boyson since we don't have our own range. North west branch kindly hosted us and the teams were reduced from the normal 6 to 4 members. Luck simply wasn't with us this time though. David travelled to the event with Archie Courage whilst Richard Hall, Stuart Jones, and "reserve" Jamie Tranter got half-way before the clutch went on their car. Our captain wisely combined with south east Scotland when two of their team failed to show. Believe it or not just like last year it rained, but only as our detail was performing, despite that we managed second place! The BBQ became a consolation. Work to find a range goes on, it is hard one - any ideas anyone?

### **Upcoming events.....**

**Members evening 16<sup>th</sup> October 6pm Raby Estate** – We'll meet at the visitor car park which is just through the main gates to Raby Castle (postcode is DL23AH). We can walk from there into the deer park to observe the deer. We'll talk about the park management and history as we go. It's an informal walk and talk. We then go on to the new game larder for a quick visit there.

**BASC Taste of Venison evening** with a BDS speaker – **30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, Clennel Hall near Rothbury. See Facebook and more info from Al Gabriel.

**Members evening Xmas Butchery Demo** – a December evening has been offered with a professional expert – details to follow

**Muntjac Symposium – Great North Museum, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – details to follow

**Branch AGM 21 January 2020 Kirkley Hall** – details to follow