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#british. eer society

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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registered no. SCO37817

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The British Deer Society was founded in 1963 to protect the species of wild deer within the UK.

Front cover photograph: Red stag by Gary Cox

The year's events, like our work, is varied taking in many local initiatives and national events alongside the business of managing the charity and fundraising.

A sample of our 2022 events were:

JANUARY

- Stock Audit
- A clutch of Branch AGMs
- ▶ BDS Management planning meetings

FEBRUARY

- End of year accounts work
- Deer Initiative Zoom
- Meeting for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

MARCH

- ▶ London Board **Governance Day**
- ▶ Deer Management Course (DMC), Hants
- ▶ Tick Aware Campaign

APRIL

- **Members Photographer** of the Year Competition
- Members (and non-members) Survey
- **DSC1** Petersfield

MAY

- Society AGM and Research discussions
- ▶ Highclere Show
- Steer Clear of Baby Deer Campaign

JUNE

- Science & Research group meeting
- **BDS Online Auction**
- Skinning, Butchery & Barbeque, Clabby

JULY

- Scottish Game Fair, Scone
- The Game Fair at Ragley
- **DSC1 Shrewsbury**

AUGUST

- Defra Deer Management consultation
- ➤ DMC for Forest & Land Scotland
- Moy Country Fair

SEPTEMBER

- ► Weston Park Country Fair
- DMC York
- ► Humane Animal Despatch Course, Hertfordshire
- Best Practice Day, Millbank

OCTOBER

- NRA Range safety officer course, Altyre
- ► Gralloch and Carcase inspection day
- ► Forestry Commission **Best Practice Event**

NOVEMBER

- Habitat Impact & Forestry Design course Darnoway
- Finance Team meeting
- **DSC1 Cornwall**
- **HAD Cirencester**

DECEMBER

- Webinar deer talk for **Mammal Society**
- ▶ BSRC Bisley Shoot
- Staff pre-Christmas gathering

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I approach my second year as your chairman, I have to acknowledge the excellent work the trustee directors, staff and volunteers have completed throughout the year to ensure the governance and financial resilience of the Society withstands the requirements of the Charity Commission and the scrutiny of the public. A huge thanks from me to all who have played such an important part in doing so, from trustee directors and our HQ team to our many volunteers at a Branch level who give tirelessly to support the Society.



'Two brothers' by Dovydas Vicius

We began 2022 with some reservations around Covid-19, but we could never have imagined a war in Europe and the cost of living crisis that followed due to the rapidly spiking inflation rates in this country. Thankfully, we ended 2021 in surplus which put us in a strong financial position and well placed to adapt and navigate our way through the difficult economic environment we found ourselves in. Throughout the year the Board continued to meet bi-monthly on Zoom. We have found this new format of holding short regular Zoom meetings a great way to manage business while still applying good governance and direction to the Society. I believe this is the future for most Board meetings, as it is a very cost effective and efficient way to meet up and discuss the relevant issues alongside the challenges and successes of the Society.

In early Spring 2022, we held a governance review day. Although this raised many questions, it assisted me with a board and governance review and help to set clearly defined outcomes for the Board and CEO. This work will continue into 2023 and should put the BDS on a good footing for the future, supported by strong leadership and good governance.

Deer and deer habitat were very definitely in the public and political eye throughout 2022. The DEFRA/FC consultation gave the Society an opportunity to make its position known and together with our partners we will continue to speak out, especially to those who continually see deer through a negative lens. We believe deer and deer management must be carried out, but it must be achieved in line with local environmental goals and in a humane way. The BDS technical and policy team are well positioned to respond to government, nongovernment and individuals about deer in their environment and they worked hard to answer this consultation on our behalf. I would like to thank the branches and members who fed into this response as we know it was important that your voice was heard. James Scott, our new Policy Officer in Scotland has also added to this team and we intend to grow this area of work over the coming years. John Bruce held the Scottish Secretary post for many years and stepped back in May 2022. I would like to thank John for his dedication and commitment to both the BDS and the welfare of deer across the Highlands, Islands and Lowlands of Scotland.



Our training team continued to deliver another successful year. The feedback we receive from course participants continues to rate the BDS training programmes as outstanding, which is a huge credit to the team. In their endeavour to continually improve and deliver excellence they ended the year by launching our first online course which places the Society in a great place to offer training to a wider number of people.

As I said last year, it is abundantly clear that whilst we have an active and participating membership, the age profile of our members is not getting younger. We absolutely need to position ourselves to ensure we are attracting a wider, younger and more diverse membership. This responsibility falls on all of us. We have a good story to tell, and we've worked hard over many years to tell it. We all have a responsibility to speak about our work and attract new members. We will continue to develop our story and make it accessible and available to everyone. I would be very grateful for your continued input into this important area of work.

Charlotte Corcoran was appointed to our membership department in December and is beginning to drive up our engagement and communications. We continued to update our marketing and PR and intend to develop this area of the Charity, to ensure it is informative, educational and inspiring for all our visitors.

Finally, as I look ahead to 2023, I see so many opportunities for the Society. We have already taken steps to ensure we have the correct staff to assist us as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. My primary goal is to attract new members by inspiring and educating everyone about deer. We all have a passion for deer, their welfare, and their humane and considerate management, to ensure we have a healthy and sustainable wild deer population. Whilst it's obvious to us, it seems that it needs explaining to many others. If we do this well, we will attract new supporters.

Hugh van Cutsem

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Engagement and Outreach

The Charity continued to carry out work to improve our website. Part of this work was the seamless integration of all our IT systems. In August, we began the final part of this programme of improvement; the installation of a new customer relations management system (CRM). Once completed this will allow the staff to work and communicate more efficiently.

Our marketing team utilised social media, regular emails and bi-weekly electronic news email Deerbytes and we sent updates and information to our branches, members and the general public. Our quarterly journal *Deer* continued to deliver a good mix of editorials, science and research alongside regular branch and members' feedback.

The decision to focus on raising the BDS online profile saw our website visited in 2022 by over 302,000 people, an increase of 4.4% on 2021.

Visitors spanned across genders and ages, with the highest number of visits (21%) from 25 to 34 year-olds with the next biggest group 35 to 44 year-old (over 19%).

Accessing the website via mobile devices increased from the previous year from 58% in 2021 to 62.5% in 2022.

Our top web pages remain our deer species pages which make up over 40% of our website page views. People do want to understand more about deer across the UK.

Our social media saw phenomenal growth in 2022. BDS has active and well supported accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Last year our posts reached over 5 million people across these three channels. Our online community showed great support commenting, liking and sharing our posts which all helped raise the profile of the charity and its work. In addition, over 4,000 new followers joined our online community which is continuing to grow.

Our Technical Advisor and external affairs team worked throughout the year to answer hundreds of enquiries from the media, notfor-profits, businesses, government bodies and the general public. Part of this work was responding to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs / Forestry Commission consultation document on the future English Deer Strategy.

The English Deer Strategy DEFRA/FC consultation was released at the start of the summer at a time of political and economic uncertainty and with a short response timeframe. The Society was able to engage with our branches and our partner organisations and respond to this important consultation.

The continuing surge of online promotional activity by BDS resulted in interviews and information being provided to many media sources including BBC Autumn- and Winterwatch, BBC R4 Farming Today, multiple BBC local radio slots, Channel 4, Channel 5's Escape to the Farm, Croatian TV, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Mail and The Sun.

Subject matter included:

- ▶ Defra English Tree Strategy consultation
- Requests for image identification and species
- Rareness (or not) of white deer
- Deer numbers and distribution
- Concerns around effect of housing developments, new roads, solar farms
- Dog attacks on wild deer lack of control by owners
- Injured or trapped deer
- Deer darting & rescue issues
- Local authority enquiries about deer presence and road signage



- Rail companies advice for prevention of collisions
- Increase of urban deer
- Public concerns about Deer Vehicle
 Collisions
- Deer damage prevention, garden & agricultural
- Deer and livestock interactions
- Feeding of deer in parks
- Excluding and deterring deer from gardens
- What to feed deer in gardens
- Deer health & diseases
- Concern over (legal) hunting & culling activity

We received a grant from The Lonsdale Trust to help us improve our data collection and recording systems. This funding was gratefully received and has allowed the Charity to update and improve how we collect and record deer and deer habitat data.

Branch and Volunteer Effort

Our sixteen regional branches were once again able to function fully after the relatively disjointed Covid years. Between branches, they were able to provide a varied programme for members and the public which included educational events, rut walks, range days, butchery and venison days, student mentoring, practical courses, practice shoots, presence at shows, talks to groups and much more. Branch members also contributed knowledge and expertise to consultations, distribution surveys, questionnaires and local deer matters.

We are extremely grateful to our loyal volunteers and the massive effort that they contribute to the BDS.



Suffolk Scouts

Askham Bryan students and deer dog Molly

Promotional Campaigns

DeerAware 2022

BDS continued its Deer Awareness and Road Safety campaigns in Spring 2022. Deer Vehicle Collision data collation continued in early 2022 with the production of UK hot spot maps flagging high risk areas.

BDS continues to maintain the DeerAware website with downloadable hotspot maps. Data collected for 2020 and 2021 was analysed and mapped early in 2022.

Dog attacks

BDS produced educational leaflets, posters and social media in response to the proliferation of media reports of dogs chasing and attacking deer. It seems probable that the rising ownership of dogs during the Covid era exposed an insufficient knowledge by some new owners of dog behaviour or a need to curb their dog's natural instincts.

Deer of the World / Deer Trivia

A series of educational nuggets were supplied by the technical team throughout the year to feed our social media pages and create fresh interest from a new audience.



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL



The Charity's membership and training income remains strong, and our quality training programmes allowed over 687 people to be trained throughout the year, with some candidates attending multiple courses. We continued to develop and update our training programmes throughout the year, and our training team remain committed to delivering training excellence.

Building on the excellent work of the previous year, 2022 was another very active one for Nick Rout, Head of Training and Education and for his team, determined to retain momentum and meet training course targets. 380 candidates were put through DSC1 with a full complement of courses and assessment days provided to enable this. Ultimate Deer Data (UDD) continued in its role as a popular self-paced online revision

tool. Recommended by Deer Management Qualifications, UDD is now taken up by an increasing number of candidates preparing for their DSC1 Assessment. 250 candidates also took the Lantra Game Meat Hygiene Assessment, to gain Trained Hunter Status. 140 candidates registered for DSC2. BDS ran three Deer Management Courses and a further bespoke Deer Management Course for Forestry and Land Scotland. In addition, a one-day Introduction to DSC1/Deer Stalking course was developed, providing participants with information to help prepare for their DSC1 course and assessment. For BDS members, we continued to offer the popular Training & Mentoring Scheme in Swinley Forest and the Shooters Competency Certificate in association with the NRA.

In the quest to continually improve standards, one trainer undertook Internal Quality Assurance training and meetings were run to ensure Assessor Standardisation.

BDS Training developed its own YouTube Channel and Facebook page to appeal to specialist audiences and increase information availability. Additionally, BDS training personnel provided talks, webinars and online events for various organisations and the public.

On other fronts, work continued with the Wild Venison Working Group to help in the development of the British Quality Wild Venison standard. We also helped develop a standardised Game Meat Hygiene question bank for the Food Standards Agency.

Finally at the end of 2022, following continued expressions of interest, the training team developed an online wild boar course. This was specifically designed for members generally, to expand their knowledge of wild boar in the UK and particularly, to assist deer managers with aspects of other wildlife management that they may be called upon to undertake. Following a pilot course, the product will be launched fully in 2023.

We are extremely grateful to our staff, trainers and volunteers who help make BDS training the very best available.

Excellent course – really knowledgeable and great teaching. Very enjoyable, thank you.

It was everything I was hoping for regarding content, delivery and enjoyment. I found the course very interesting and informative. The staff teaching were all very interesting and good at delivering the presentations.

Very professional, concise and engaging.

Excellent throughout.
All three trainers /
assessors were engaging
and all subjects were
delivered with clarity.

RESEARCH

BDS continued to contribute financially and/or give practical support to several projects. The disruption from the 2020/2021 Covid period did ultimately have a knock-on effect, particularly as some researchers had university teaching and/or other work commitments to undertake in addition to their research work. In a couple of cases, project extensions were requested and granted to enable researchers to complete their work.

The use of genomics to inform management of woodland roe deer populations in Scotland

PhD student Christopher Hirst, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, The University of Edinburgh

- NERC E4 DTP CASE PhD studentship partnering with BDS and Forest Research.
- Aim to assess diet composition, gut microbiota, and secretion of tannin-binding salivary proteins in woodland roe deer populations in Scotland as a tool for informing forest management strategies.
- Sampling sites included Wildland Glenfeshie and RSPB Abernethy in the Cairngorms Connect area of the Cairngorms National Park, Woodland Trust Glen Finglas, Forest and Land Scotland Aberfoyle in Trossachs, and Forest and Land Scotland Glentress and Craick Forest in Borders.
- Sampling was hindered by Covid restrictions, staff changes and bad weather necessitating extension to Jan 2023 to enable collection of more doe samples.
- Genomic DNA has been extracted from 248 individuals. PCR products of three genetic markers for a total of 185 individuals were sent for next-generation sequencing.
- During year one, an internship was completed with ClimatexChange, an organisation providing research, advice and analysis service to Scottish Government policy teams.
- Attended and presented work at several conferences throughout the project.

Development of a costeffective protocol for MHC genotyping in red deer

Dr Sílvia Pérez-Espona, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, The University of Edinburgh

- Laboratory work continued through 2022 with several interesting results.
- Delay on completion due to several external factors.
- Manuscript completion of the work conducted is anticipated for Spring 2023 pending a couple of further experiments, to be followed by submission and a subsequent article for *Deer*.

Assessing habitat connectivity and patterns of resource-use at the landscape scale: a case study on fallow deer (Dama dama) in North Wales

PhD Student Owain Barton, Bangor University

- Literature review was completed, accepted for publication in *PLOS ONE*.
- Daily activity patterns analysis was completed.
- Drivers of woodland-use analysis was completed.
- Survey optimisation analysis was completed.
- Thesis deadline was extended to the end of November 2022 due to a switch by the researcher to part time working – successfully completed.
- Article planned for *Deer* in 2023.

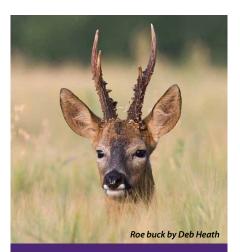


Using camera traps to quantify the effect of deer on woodland restoration

Dr Elisa Fuentes-Montemayor, University of Stirling

Camera-trapping surveys were conducted in an existing network of woodland sites (a chrono-sequence of 106 woodland patches planted between 10-150 years ago across England and Scotland, forming part of the WrEN project) and utilising extensive existing datasets from the WrEN project to:

- 1. Assess how local- and landscape-level attributes influence patterns of woodland use by deer.
- ${\bf 2.} \ \ {\bf Quantify} \ the \ impact \ of \ deer \ on \ woodland \ vegetation \ characteristics.$
- 3. Assess potential cascading effects on woodland biodiversity.
- All camera trapping work scheduled for the project was completed as planned.
- An article Caught on Camera was included in the Summer 2022 edition of Deer.
- Final report anticipated first half of 2023.



Holocene record of deforestation using collagen isotope ratios in roe deer from the UK

Dr Darren Gröcke, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Durham

- Archaeological deer samples from previous research by Dr Karis Baker were processed for collagen extraction and then isotopic analysis.
- Requests for samples were made to BDS members during 2022, in order to generate a greater understanding of modern roe deer isotopes in the UK.
- The data is currently being written up and a paper produced.
- Article to be submitted to *Deer* during 2023.

Artificial feeding of wild fallow deer (Dama dama) in Phoenix Park: causes, effects, and solutions

Dr Simone Cuiti, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology, University College Dublin with PhD student Laura Griffin

- The study explored how cortisol levels, which represent stress in an individual, vary with select physiological and behavioural parameters using the resident fallow deer herd in Phoenix Park, Dublin as the model population.
- Primarily, the ultimate goal was to see if or how this human contact impacts stress, and other aspects of health and fitness, within this population.
- Article included in Spring 2022 Deer 'Do We See the Signs'.
- Second article for inclusion in Spring 2023 Deer 'Managing human-deer interactions in the wake of Covid-19'.

Assessing the scale of the impacts of disturbance on red deer

Professor Phil Stephens, Durham University – PhD student Eilidh Smith

- Building on two previous pieces of BDS supported work in collaboration with The James Hutton Institute and University of St. Andrews, it will allow improved understanding of fine-scale movements, activity, and daily patterns. This will enable a fuller assessment of deer habitat use and distribution, as well as the scale and temporal duration of their responses to disturbance events.
- This will provide quantitative data to inform discussion around deer and recreation in Scotland, and any subsequent management priorities.
- An update on the Glen Lyon Red Deer project was submitted for publication in Spring 2023 *Deer*.



Rewilding Scotland: Dilemmas for wild deer management and the rural economy

Professor Terence Dawson, King's College, London – PhD student Connor Lovell

This current research will aim to improve knowledge and understanding of:

- 1. The dynamics of Scottish ungulate communities, including habitat selection and interspecific relationships.
- 2. The biodiversity and carbon storage synergies and/or trade-offs in rewilding, and how they correlate with ungulate activity and communities.
- 3. If ungulate management strategies on Scottish rewilding initiatives can provide 'win-win' benefits for both ecological and socio-economic factors.

The Bunloit rewilding project is being used as a case study site, to achieve this (www.highlandsrewilding.co.uk/) recording an ungulate assemblage of four species to date: sika deer (Cervus nippon), red deer (Cervus elaphus), roe deer (Capreolus capreolus), and wild boar (Sus scrofa).



- Camera trap data was collected during 2022 fieldwork and analysed. The results have been written up for publication and are currently under review with a scientific journal.
- Currently working on the second chapter of the thesis concerning the synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity and carbon storage and investigating how ungulates could influence this.
- This will entail a second round of fieldwork at Bunloit, this time measuring plant diversity and carbon storage across the estate.

Assistance with sample collection

BDS members again assisted researchers with their requests for help. The importance of this was highlighted by Dr Maya Holding Senior Research Scientist, Virology and Pathogenesis Group, UK Health Security Agency, Porton Down. She enlightened us about a paper she and colleagues had recently published: Screening of wild deer populations for exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in the United Kingdom, 2020–2021. This was enabled by testing the deer serum samples that BDS volunteers had originally collected for a TBEV study during the pandemic, for serological evidence of SARS-CoV-2. Maya cited this as an excellent example of the multi-use of deer samples as a resource zoonoses surveillance. As a result of BDS recruitment of volunteers for the original study, the researchers had been able to rapidly perform another piece of important research.

ORGANISATION AND PEOPLE

Patron:

King Charles III

Trustee/Directors:

President Lord Andrew Hay Chairman **Hugh van Cutsem** Vice Chairman Dominic Griffith Sarah Gubbins Treasurer

English/Welsh Area

Dr Morris Charlton Area Chair

Scottish Area Chair John Bruce Professor Simon Gibson CBE, DSc

Dorothy Ireland

Alistair Monkman CBE, DL

Leigh Welch

Honorary Advisors:

Veterinary Peter Green BVSc, Cert EO, MRCVS Scientific Dr Alastair Ward

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer David McAuley **Operations & Support Manager** Sarah Stride **Admin & Sales Support** Helen Sims **Head of Education & Training** Nick Rout **Deer Officer** Glyn Ingram (until July 2022)

Training Coordinator Dawn Cope Marketing & IT Manager Laura McMahon **Membership Coordinator** Annie Nadin

> (until December 2022) Charlotte Corcoran (from December 2022)

Technical Advisor (Consultant) **Charles Smith-Jones**

Scottish Policy Officer James Scott

(from September 2022)

Fellows:

Raymond Chaplin BSc, MIBiol, FZS Norma Chapman Mark Hatt-Cook, OBE, RD Dorothy Ireland John Johnson Jeanette Lawton VJA Manton MRCVS, FIBiol

Mark Nicolson

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, FRAgS Professor Rory Putman Sir Michael Strang Steel Bt, CBE John Thomas MBA, TD

Tony Waterson

Branches:

England

South East England | South West England | East Anglia | Wessex | West | East Mercia | Midlands, Wales and the Marches | Yorkshire | North East England | North West England

Scotland

South East Scotland | Central | Highlands | North East Scotland | South West Scotland

Northern Ireland

Special Interest Group:

Defence Deer Management

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board meets on a regular basis, primarily bi-monthly online meetings and has at least one annual face to face meeting whenever possible. The Board is supported by a number of sub-board groups with responsibilities for Finance, Policy, Science &

Research, Education, Training, Marketing and Communications. Additional work continues between online meeting and email.

The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing business plans and budgets,

> overseeing sub-boards, publishing an annual report and accounts, managing risks, directing and overseeing the work of the CEO and Management Team.

> The CEO and Management Team are responsible for implementing policy and delivering the charity's objectives, financial management, developing new initiatives, setting targets and monitoring progress, making and maintaining links with partner organisations and supporting research. They contribute to regional

and national developments and respond to deer-related issues, promoting the Society's activities while protecting and enhancing its reputation.

Priorities in 2022

The Board of Trustees set clear priorities for the CEO which are aligned to the charity's objectives. The CEO was tasked with improving monthly and quarterly financial reporting, strengthening the core executive team, improving the training and educational programmes and raising the charity's profile.

Plans for future periods

In 2023, we plan to launch new online training, install a new CRM system, establish new membership categories and introduce monthly payment options. The charity will also meet and establish a new or more succinct purpose.

The Board will continue to review the strategy and set new objectives for the Charity.



'River crossing' by Jochen Langbein

FUNDRAISING AND MORE

In order for BDS to continue the ambitious programme set by the Board, fundraising is crucial.

BDS was able to run a successful online auction in June 2022 and is extremely grateful to all contributors, whether they were donors of lots or those purchasing them. We are also thankful to have received a number of donations via our online portal, all of which help contribute towards our project work.

Furthermore, the simple act by donors of signing Gift Aid forms (where appropriate and eligible) enables BDS to claim back tax from the Treasury on subscriptions and monetary donations, so increasing the contribution to our funds. In 2022 this amounted to £53,576 in Gift Aid donations

Legacies and Trusts

The simple and generous act of remembering BDS in a will enables us to engage in more research, more training and to increase our educational reach.

During 2022 we received grants from The V & E Fleming Trust, The Stonewall Park Charitable Trust, Mr & Mrs TCS Haywood Charitable Trust, Mrs Mary Symon Charitable Trust and The Lonsdale Trust

BDS is unbelievably grateful to all its generous members and supporters who donated in whatever way to the Society, so helping us to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for our deer population.



'Did I oversleep the winter' by Dovydas Vicius, BDS Photographer of the Year



Lord Andrew Hay awarding The Jim Taylor Page Trophy to Sally Barrell

2022 Awards

Awards were made during the year to the following:

- ► Fellowship of the BDS awarded to John Johnson
- The Jim Taylor Page Trophy awarded to Sally Barrell, Midlands, Wales & Marches
- BDS Photographer of the Year awarded to Dovydas Vicius



James Scott

Hellos and Goodbyes

In 2022 we said goodbye to John Bruce, in his role of Scottish Secretary, where he had worked ceaselessly for 15 years to raise our profile in Scotland and influence government bodies. We also said farewell to Glyn Ingram who worked in our training department for 8 years, latterly as our Deer Officer. Administration staff member Annie Nadin also retired after looking after our members for some 16 years.

In the autumn we welcomed James Scott, as our Policy Officer in Scotland and Charlotte Corcoran as our new Membership Coordinator.



Charlotte Corcoran

KEY SPONSORSHIP

Blaser

BLASER

The Blaser group is providing Mauser, Sauer and Blaser rifles along with optics and trail cameras for use within the BDS training programme. They have also generously provided a range of sporting clothes for use by the BDS training team.



SWAROVSKI OPTIK

Swarovski Optik have been key sponsors for many years. Swarovski scopes on loan are used for practical field purposes by training team staff. Swarovski have also generously donated binoculars for our competitions and contribute sponsorship for educational material.



CELTIC MANOR RESORT

Celtic Manor Resort (CMR) have generously sponsored the BDS membership cards for several years. CMR also kindly contribute a number of auction prizes to our fundraising events.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Review for the Year ended 31 December 2022

The financial performance of the Society for 2022, as detailed in the attached pages, comprises the consolidated financial statements of The British Deer Society including all branches and the wholly owned subsidiary Sales and Services Ltd. The financial results are presented in the same general format as in previous years. The support costs have been reallocated over the direct charitable and other expenditure in accordance with the current best practice for Charities and the FRS 102 SORP, and on a consistent basis to previous years.

The post COVID-19 effects, combined with the war in Ukraine and the current economic climate have impacted the financial outcomes of the Society throughout 2022. Huge efforts from our small staff team, coupled with the generous support of our branches, members, donors and partners has enabled us to cope with many of the challenges these financial pressures presented. Our strong reserves position has enabled us to maintain our financial stability for the future however we are making some changes to improve our outcomes.

Subsidiary – The British Deer Society (Sales and Services) Ltd.

Sales and Services recorded a very poor result and breakeven was difficult. As a result, we took the decision to close down our subsidiary as of 31st December 2022, and move the assets into the main charity.

The Charity Commission's rules on primary purpose trading permit us to trade providing the items and services we sell relate to our primary purpose. I would like to thank all members and others who buy goods from the Society through our website. We have a programme to update our online shop in 2023, expanding our product range, reflecting both the living animal and branded Society merchandise. Please do continue to use this resource for gifts, training, and other related purchases as we believe it is crucial, we offer this facility to our members.

Charity - The British Deer Society

The economic climate made life harder for all charities and this has again been a tough year for the Society, with these measures having an impact on our income generating activities. Due to the hugely appreciated continued support from our members, our Membership income was substantially maintained and our quality training programme, allowed over 687 people to be trained throughout the year, with some candidates attending multiple courses. We were also extremely grateful to receive a Lonsdale grant which added £18,750 to assist us develop our mobile app.

Overall, our total income for 2022 was £783,400 (2021 £737,776).

The Board and staff have been working extremely hard to minimise the impact of these exceptional challenges on the Society and we continue to be confident that we will be able to overcome the short-term operational difficulties that these challenges



'Little and large on Exmoor' by Jochen Langbein

present and move forward as a more financially sustainable operation.

We continue to recognise that administration costs generally, as well of those of membership, are a significant element of the Society's outgoings. We continually strive to contain and reduce costs where possible whilst also improving financial information for efficient and effective management of the Society. This includes additional non-financial information such as regular reporting on membership and training numbers.

Our funds are held in Investment accounts with a certain level remaining in bank deposit accounts to ensure we have adequate liquidity for our operations. In response to changes in global markets we repositioned our investment portfolio, generating realised losses of £25,338. Our remaining portfolio generated unrealised gains of £24,662 in the year.

Our investments are monitored regularly, and the relevant risks considered by the Board as and when necessary. We continue to make improvements to our working practices, enhancing our financial and non-financial processes and systems, and enabling the Society to be more effective and have more impact. I would like to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the Society's staff and volunteers who have significantly contributed to maintain our position throughout 2022 and towards our future.



'Sika' by Charlotte Stride

Sarah Gubbins, Treasurer

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

| | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Income and Endowments from: | £ | £ |
| Donations and legacies | 372,432 | 454,540 |
| Charitable activities | 330,489 | 204,570 |
| Other trading activities | 62,843 | 65,091 |
| Investment income | 17,636 | 13,575 |
| Total income | 783,400 | 737,776 |
| Expenditure on: | | |
| Raising funds | (321,691) | (223,467) |
| Charitable activities | (482,405) | (480,646) |
| Total expenditure | (804,096) | (704,113) |
| Net gains/(losses) on investment assets | (676) | 70,289 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | (21,372) | 103,952 |
| Net movement in funds | (21,372) | 103,952 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | |
| | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 875,840 | 771,888 |
| Total funds carried forward | 854,468 | 875,840 |

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|-----------|---|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Intangible assets | 3,149 | 12,608 |
| Tangible assets | 21,420 | 16,700 |
| Investments | 511,259 | 633,135 |
| | 535,828 | 662,443 |
| Current assets | | |
| Stocks | 4,327 | 15,921 |
| Debtors | 16,699 | 21,509 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 392,982 | 355,226 |
| | 414,008 | 392,656 |
| Cuaditana Amanusta fallina dua within | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | (93,471) | (174,094) |
| • | · · · · | <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u> |
| Net current assets | 320,537 | 218,562 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 856,365 | 881,005 |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due after | | |
| more than one year | (1,897) | (5,165) |
| Net assets | 854,468 | 875,840 |
| Funds of the group: | | |
| Designated funds | 21,627 | 43,497 |
| Restricted income funds | | |
| Restricted funds | 89,588 | 89,588 |
| Unrestricted income funds | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 743,253 | 742,755 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 854,468 | 875,840 |

Financial Report 2022

These Summarised Accounts are an extract from, and are consistent with, the Statutory Accounts but may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society.

Geoffrey Thomas, FCA, has given an unqualified Independent Examiner's Report on the full Statutory Accounts, which were approved by the Directors (who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of the British Deer Society) on 24 March 2023. They will be presented for approval of the members at the AGM on 14 May 2023. The full Statutory Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

Copies of the full Statutory Accounts will be lodged with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission. The full accounts may be inspected at the Society's offices at The Walled Garden, Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 1EF, and copies are available to members on request.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Sarah Gubbins, Treasurer

24 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Statement to the Trustees and Members of The British Deer Society

I have examined the summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised accounts in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summarised accounts with the full annual consolidated accounts and the compliance with the relevant requirements of section 426 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations thereunder.

I also read the other information contained in the summarised financial report and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of an apparent misstatement or inconsistencies with the summary financial statement. The other information comprises only the review of financial performance.

Opinion

In my opinion the summarised accounts are consistent with the full annual consolidated accounts of the British Deer Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 and comply with the applicable requirements of section 426 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

Geoffrey Thomas, FCA, Fletcher & Partners, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Salisbury, 24 March 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BDS is unbelievably grateful to all its generous members and supporters who donated in whatever way to the Society, so helping us to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for our deer population. We would particularly like to thank the following and all others not specifically mentioned here who supported us during 2022:

Auction Donors

Alan Marshall Alan Shannahan Alex Bingley

Alistair Monkman Altyre Estate

Andrew Souter – BDS Central

Scotland Branch

Andy Pearce

Argyll Estates Inveraray

Arnoud Roele - Midland, Wales &

Marches Branch

Atholl Estates

Chalk Stream Fishing Ltd **Charles Smith-Jones**

Chewton Glen Hotel and Spa

D Boulton & Son

David Parry

Derek Stead

Executor of the late 7th Marquess

of Aberdeen Faccombe Estate Ltd Fairfax & Favor

G D Morgan Fabrication

Graeme Dalby of Beechgrove Trees

and Hedging

Hal Salvesen

J Boult Designs

Jahama Highland Estates

John Bruce

John Campbell-Smith

John Thornley OBE

JoJo Designs

Justin Hillgarth

Lord Andrew Hay

Mark Nicolson

Mark Toft

Michael Sworder

Mike Bagnowiec

Alastair Riddell Jan Robinson

Mrs Kerrie Jackson in Memory of

Mark Jackson

Newbridge Charitable Trust

Nicholas Wills Opticron

Outside Aldeburgh

Paul Sim Napier of London

Philip Gordon Wilkinson

Philip Mackenzie

Professor Simon Gibson

Richard Holman-Baird

Richard Vipond

Richard Wills

Ron Smith

Rupert Shaw MBE

Sally Barrell

Sir Edward Dashwood Bt

Sir Michael Strang Steel

Sir Michael Wigan

The Earl of Leicester Watunga Wildlife Reserve

William Mathews Taxidermy