

Raffle Winner's First Stalk (2008 Raffle)



Mr. Tony Thompson was the winner of the stalking outing donated by S.C Coles & P.C Garraway. Tony is not directly involved in any fieldsports whatsoever, but he bought a handful of tickets to support the society. I arranged with Tony to come out on the 9th of September to hopefully get him a chance of a roe buck. He arrived at my house at approximately 1p.m. He had never shot a rifle before so he would be using my rifle.

We had a cup of tea & they made our way to a local farm, where I went through the safety element of handling a rifle, anything he was unsure about he was told to ask. A target was placed at 100 yards; I then let Tony have three shots at the target. All three shots were in a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch group an inch high; this is where I have my zero. I told Tony that this was excellent shooting, considering he had never shot a rifle beforehand, also it was helped by having decent rounds which are made up for me by a fellow BMH Soc. member, Martin Kitchen (Kit) a associate of Hockham Deer Management.

We made our way back to my house for a bite to eat & some coffee. I then had to sort out some suitable attire for Tony, which isn't easy when I'm a short ass & he's six foot something. I went through bullet placement, by showing Tony pictures of roe & also to Wallace's utter dismay, asking Tony to point out where he would like to place a bullet if Wallace was a deer.

At around 7p.m we arrived at the farm we were to stalk, a quick run through the safety elements & the lay of the land & the many footpaths & Tony, Wallace & I were off. We carefully made our way around the farm, we saw plenty of trade but no deer, but a lot of the farm was covered by maize, so I knew where they would be. I explained to Tony we will make our way across the railway to a couple of fields that have just been cut & there were round bales awaiting picking up & as there is a small woodland at the one end which harbours a buck. We spotted a doe; I think Tony was enjoying himself just to be out in nature like this. We spotted another doe, but no bucks showing. I decided it was getting on in time, the light was going fast that if we get back across the railway line we may get a chance of spotting a buck before it is just too dark to see anything. On getting to the stile that takes us across the railway line, I just caught a glimpse of a deer about 200yds away between the bales. I signalled to Tony I think it's a buck; our view was obscured by the bales. I dropped Wallace & told him to stay. Tony & I made our way across the stubble using the bales to conceal ourselves. When we were in a suitable range, we used a bale to conceal us that would also make a steady rest for Tony. The buck was still there, a mature looking four pointer, I whispered to Tony to get the rifle up on the bale, to do it slowly as the buck wasn't aware of our presence there's no rush. The buck was now face on to us approximately 80yds out. Tony then told me he would wait until it was side on, so he did listen. The buck turned side on & I told Tony to take the shot when he was ready, I also told Tony, as he hadn't shot a living creature before if he didn't feel comfortable, don't do it, but he wouldn't be getting any venison unless he did. Tony took the shot & the buck dropped on the spot. Tony chambered another round & kept the rifle on the buck until I told him to make the rifle safe. We had a cigarette, called Wallace over then made into the buck. The shot placement was perfect, Tony was happy; Wallace was looking forward to having the pluck to eat. So a successful first outing for Tony made possible by the BMH Soc. of GB.

I prepared the trophy for Tony, & he wants' to go stalking again.

“Deertracker”