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A round up of News and Events – January 2010

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1. HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE

Brian Friend's appeal to the European Court of Human Rights has been declared inadmissible, following consideration by the Court on 24 November 2009. Brian was not allowed to attend the hearing or give evidence.

Brian says, "Seven judges in Strasbourg 1 Pole, 1 Maltese, 1 Bosnian, 1 Icelander, 1 Albanian, 1 Moldavian and 1 Englishman have unanimously decided that our Hunting way of life, with its history dating back to the Iron Age, is not a culture. This is despite its timeless traditions, customs and practices and being followed by an identifiable minority within our indigenous British population. They ruled that it is a **social activity** that does not merit the protection of human rights given so freely to others like murderers, criminals, Gypsies, KGB officers' *et al.*"

Brian said, "When I submitted my application to Strasbourg I formally informed the Court, as I had done the Law Lords, that it was not Hunting on trial but the Convention itself, and the Convention has failed."

Brian Friend, an Associate member of the Union of Country Sports Workers had appealed against the Scottish Hunting Act and the English Hunting Act, which were conjoined to case Number 16072/06 in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Brian is considering his next move and anyone wishing to speak to him can call him on 01404 881357 or email: bkldfc@aol.com.

The UCSW has supported Brian Friend throughout the cases and would like thank him for all that he has done and all those supporters who have given financially towards the expenses incurred.

2. CONSULTATION – Welfare of Gamebirds reared for Sporting Purposes

The UCSW has submitted its response to the Defra Consultation on a 'Draft Code of Practice on the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes' which can be viewed on the UCSW website: www.ucsw.org For information on this consultation please visit the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/gamebirds/index.htm>

3. UCSW AUCTION – November 2009

We would like to thank all those who participated in the UCSW Sporting Auction. We are most grateful to those who donated lots and equally to those who bid for them. All funds raised will go to the UCSW 'Fighting Fund' and a donation will be made to Help for Heroes.

4. ADVICE

The UCSW is here to help those employed in country sports with their employment, housing or other job related problems. If you need help or would just like to talk through a work issue, please call the office on: Tel: 01295 712719.

5. EMAIL ADDRESSES

Do we have your correct email address? If you want to make sure we have your correct details, please email us with your name and membership number and we will check our system: office@ucsw.org

6. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – Members can pay online...

If you have access to the internet, you can visit our website and pay your membership subscription online using the secure Paypal system. This means you can now pay by credit card (online only) if you wish. Please remember to quote your member ID Number on all payments. The UCSW will continue to send out manual renewals to those who do not pay by standing order so that you know when your subscription is due.

7. TRADE MEMBERSHIP

Why not become a Trade Member? If you run a business, small or large, this may be of interest. All Trade members receive a listing in our membership magazine *Livin' Country* (this includes all the essential contact details including description of your product/s) and a link from our website. Please contact the office for more details – subscriptions per annum are only £40.

8. UCSW MERCHANDISE



Car stickers available now at £1 each plus p&p.

The UCSW holds various items of UCSW branded stock including: ties, baseball caps, polo shirts, sweatshirts and enamel membership badges which can be viewed by looking on the website under Merchandise: <http://www.ucsw.org/Merchandise.htm>. There are also a number of fun/gift items such as sporting notelets, badges and car stickers, key fobs, 'hunting' mouse mats, jute bags, etc.

Merchandise can be purchased through our website with a credit card using the secure Paypal system or send in your request noting which item/s you require together with a cheque (made payable to "UCSW") to the office including a donation for p&p or enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for all orders. Thank you.

We would like to thank all our members for their support through their membership, fundraising and donations, without which the UCSW would not be here. Please encourage your friends who are involved in country sports, whether workers or supporters, to join us – together we can be stronger...