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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NORMALITY BECKONS

By Sir Johnny Scott Bt MFH

For the first time since Nu Labour came to power in 1997, I have been able to enjoy Harrogate, Peterborough and Rydal, and all the puppy shows I have been to, with the comforting feeling that all will ultimately be well. True, dealing with the consequences of Nu Labour's appalling financial incompetence is a matter of priority for the Coalition, but there are already significant moves within Government for the benefit of rural Britain in general and for field sports in particular. We are not there quite yet, but normality seems not far off.

For a start, we now have a Prime Minister who is a member of the Countryside Alliance and a Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who is not only a meat eater, but is actually a farmer. John Gardiner, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, has been elevated to the peerage and has taken a seat on the Government benches in the House of Lords.

Simon Hart, the ex Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance is now an MP and sits on the Constitutional Affairs Committee which will address, among other matters, the vexed West Lothian Question, a much abused constitutional disaster, which allows Scottish and Welsh MP's to vote on matters which only affect people living in England. The MP for Arundel and Southdown, Nick Herbert, a staunch supporter of Repeal, is currently Minister of State for Police and Justice.

The Labour MP, Kate Hoey, remains as the Chairman of the Countryside Alliance and the Labour peer, Lord Donoghue, has agreed to be Chairman of the Hunting Regulatory Authority, appealing to Labour MPs and Peers to back the plan and to abandon their ideological opposition to hunting. Donoghue famously observed recently, that: "I'm not keen on interfering nannies from Hampstead telling people in the countryside how to live their lives. Do they really believe in animal welfare or do they just have chips on their shoulders?" In other words, we now have the right people in the right place.

Whilst writing, on behalf of the Union of Country Sports Workers, I would like to extend warm congratulations to Alice Barnard, the former Countryside Alliance Regional Director covering the East Midlands, on her appointment as the new Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance and The Countryside Alliance Foundation. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Alice every success and good fortune in taking up her new role and the exciting challenges that lie ahead. I suppose it would be churlish not to mention Mr Miliband's success in his election to the leadership of the Labour Party. Let us hope he bears in mind and takes heed that his mentor, ex Prime Minister Blair, confessed in his recent biography, that allowing the Commons to vote on the ban on hunting with hounds was the biggest mistake of a spectacularly ignoble political career.

WHO'S WHO IN UCSW

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Summer is over, the show and game fair season is behind us, and the hunting and shooting seasons lie ahead. In some ways we can expect smoother waters. A government is in power with members who indulge in country sports. This is an advantage for us in that we have ears into which we can speak, and will understand what we are saying.

If nothing more, it makes us feel that those who govern us are sportsmen and not glowering unsympathetic enemies. Hopefully a repeal of the Hunting Act will come in due course but we must ensure the time is right and a repeal will go through. I would urge all who worked for Vote-OK to make sure that those they helped elect are kept up to the mark and use their influence on waverers to ensure we get a majority when the vote comes.

The downside is financial. Many people will feel the pinch as more and more people are chasing the same pound. I found this particularly noticeable at country fairs where entry fees are kept low, like the Hereford Fair at £8. This vastly increased attendance and gave visitors a bit of spending money. Should we have a reduction in the numbers of those hunting and shooting, we can anticipate hardships for staff. Some layoffs and the unlikelihood of increased pay packets, coupled with higher costs and increased taxation, the price of hay has already gone mad, and the crunch will come as the quantity and quality of grazing continues to drop and the cold weather draws in.

I hope everyone has been busy recruiting new members. Our add-on C³ membership with integral insurance has certainly helped and this needs really pushing in future before people take out more expensive options elsewhere.

A great winter season to you all.

Rob Lowe, Chairman, Union of Country Sports Workers

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HUNTING PROSECUTIONS

Staff from three hunts face prosecution under the Hunting Act 2004 for incidents that allegedly took place last season. The trials are likely to be held before Christmas.

Sinnington huntsman Tony Winter and whippers-in Caroline Scott and Wilf Gamble pleaded not guilty at Scarborough Magistrates Court on 23 July to a charge of unlawful hunting.

Quantock Staghounds' huntsman and UCSW member Richard Down faces charges of unlawful hunting, which relate to an incident at Dens Coombe on the Quantocks on 21 September 2009.

Fernie huntsman Derek Hopkins and terrierman Kevin Allen, both members, pleaded not guilty at Market Harborough Magistrates Court to charges under the Hunting Act 2004 and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

The charges relate to alleged offences on 27 January at Thorpe Langton and the trial is due to begin on 13 December 2010 at Leicester Magistrates Court.



Member Roger Helmer MEP (right) with his UCSW auction lot winners, Mr and Mrs Fencott, during their visit to the European Parliament in Brussels

SEA LICE POLICY

The Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) has published a new policy on sea lice that can be summed up as local solutions to local problems.

It says that the impact of salmon cages on lice loadings for wild salmon and sea trout differs from one bay/sea loch/fjord to another.

It is dependant not only on how well salmon farmers control lice on their stock, but also on the migration routes and feeding patterns of wild salmon, and crucially, factors such as prevailing currents and winds, the morphology of the bay/loch, weather patterns, etc.

BADGER PLANS

In September 2010 proposals to help control bovine tuberculosis in cattle were published for public consultation by Agriculture Minister Jim Paice.

DEFRA is consulting on a proposal to issue licences to farmers and landowners who wish to cull and/or vaccinate badgers at their own expense. These licences would be subject to strict criteria to ensure badger control is done effectively, humanely and with high regard for animal welfare.

Jim Paice said: "No single measure will be enough to tackle the disease on its own. But the science is clear: there is no doubt that badgers are a significant reservoir for the disease and, without taking action to control the disease in them, it will continue to spread. No country in the world has eradicated bovine TB without dealing with the reservoir in wildlife.

"A decision on our approach will be taken following the consultation. I intend to publish a comprehensive and balanced bovine TB eradication programme early in 2011."

The consultation closes on 8 December 2010 and can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/

HUNTING UP-DATE

The Coalition Government has confirmed its intention to allow Parliament the chance to repeal the 2004 Hunting Act.

A statement on the Number 10 website said: "The Act has not been a demonstrable success. It is an unnecessary drain on police resources and there have been few prosecutions.

"We will put forward a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Act should be repealed and, if the motion is carried, bring forward legislation in due course."

Labour Peer, Lord Donoughue is to head the proposed Hunting Regulatory Authority (HRA), which will oversee the sport, if the Hunting Act is repealed.

Lord Donoughue led a 2007 review of greyhound racing and has worked to improve the horse racing industry. Lord Donoughue said: "We need to achieve a proper balance between the needs of animal welfare, the need to avoid deliberate cruelty and the rights of the countryside to pursue its sports such as hunting."

The HRA will apply a strict code of practice and those who break its rules could face prosecution in court. It is intended to ensure that hunts respect animals, property, land and crops, and that hunting is only carried out on land with the permission of the owner and that no-one brings the sport into disrepute.

Farming Minister, Jim Paice attended the Annual General Meeting of the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) - the first time a DEFRA Minister has done so in living memory.

The Minister reiterated the commitment to giving MPs a free vote on the repeal of the 2004

Hunting Act, although he gave no indication of timescale. He also emphasised that if repeal is achieved, it must not mean "the turning back of the clock" to pre-ban hunting.

The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) plans to sell off some of the 2,000 acres that it owns or manages in the West Country, to help fund a £1m campaign to protect the 2004 Hunting Act from repeal.

LACS Chief Executive, Douglas Batchelor said: "Our investment in this campaign recognises the massive public support and strength of feeling that there must be no return to bloodsports. We will not lie down and allow the views of a small minority to undo years of hardwork in bringing about a ban."

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NEW GAMEBIRD CODE

Gamefarmers and shooting groups have welcomed the revised DEFRA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes.

As reported in the last issue of *Living Country*, Farming Minister, Jim Paice withdrew the earlier code on the grounds that it was not based on "sound evidence".

Key amendments to the Code now include: the removal of the prohibition on mixing laying birds; reducing the inspection regime for birds kept outside the breeding and rearing period from twice a day to once a day; allowing the use of enriched laying units without specifying actual sizes; and clarifying that the location of release pens should aim to "minimise" losses to predators and from traffic, rather than "eliminate" them.

Gamebird rearing codes for Wales and Scotland are in preparation (the drafts of which closely follow the text now agreed for England) and final decisions are expected later this year. To view the new English Code, visit www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/other/index.htm.

GUN LICENCE CHANGES

Following talks between the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the British Medical Association (BMA), doctors have agreed to tell police if they believe that a gun-owner's mental health has deteriorated to the extent that they have become a danger to themselves or the public.

In a statement, the BMA said: "Where doctors know that a patient has a firearm and, in their view, presents a risk of harm to themselves or others, this information can be disclosed without consent."

In another controversial move, all medical records of patients holding firearms licences could be "flagged" as part of the agreement. The BMA indicated that it did not want doctors to be made responsible for revoking firearms certificates. However, firearms guidance advises police to revoke a licence if a doctor declares the holder unsafe.

Photo: www.ruralshots.com

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EU DANGER

The public consultation 'Evaluation of the EU Policy on Animal Welfare' is intended to test opinion on EU legislation relating to farm animals, pets and animal testing, but it also includes a question on whether laws protecting wild animals should come under EU control.

The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE) is concerned that such a move could lead to restrictions on shooting and wildlife management, which individual member states would be powerless to prevent.

FACE has also expressed a fear that, should the welfare of wild animals come

under EU control, powerful international animal rights' groups would take advantage of the move by focusing their lobbying on the European Parliament in their fight for worldwide bans on hunting, shooting and fishing.

As a member, UCSW has added its support to the FACE position.

Tim Hoggarth, FACE-UK Executive Officer, said: "The ideal time to influence European legislation is before a draft passes into the political arena. This survey is just such a chance. UK shooters have the opportunity to say that they wish responsibility for wild animal welfare policy to be retained by individual member states, not by the wider European community."

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EMPLOYMENT LAW

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Debra Wetters, Solicitor in the Employment Law Department of Spratt Endicott Solicitors

National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates and age bands changed on 1 October 2010 as follows:

- £5.93 for workers aged 21 and over (up from £5.80);
- £4.92 for workers aged 18-20; (up from £4.83) and
- £3.64 for workers aged 16-17 (up from £3.57).

There is also a new minimum wage rate of £2.50 per hour for apprentices who are either under 19 or in their first year of apprenticeship. Further details about the National Minimum Wage are available from www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees

Where the NMW applies to your employment, you are entitled to receive that amount, even if you have signed a contract to state that you will be paid less than this. The contract will have no force. Employers are required to keep detailed records to prove that they have been paying NMW. Workers are entitled to make a request to see these records at any time, and can complain to either an Employment Tribunal or HMRC for any failure by the employer to produce the records within 14 days of the request. Failures by the employer to pay the NMW can result in automatic penalties ranging from £100 to £5,000 depending on the scale of the offence.

Where your employer provides accommodation with your employment, an accommodation offset can be applied to your wage. This rate will apply, even if you are charged a different amount by your employer as rent. Full details about this, and how

to calculate the offset, are set out at http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees/TheNationalMinimumWage/DG_175108

Other important changes to employment law include the Equality Act 2010, which came into force 1 October 2010. This Act consolidates the law on discrimination in a number of respects. It also extends discrimination law to cover perception discrimination (where for example, it is assumed that someone is gay, when they are not, but suffer discrimination in the workplace on the basis of the assumption) and discrimination by association. This will mean that it will become unlawful to discriminate against someone for example because they care for someone who would be covered by discrimination laws. This will cover the example of someone who looks after a disabled person, but suffers discrimination because of that. It outlaws pre-employment questions about health issues, in most circumstances. Further details about the Equality Act are available from <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3017>

Lastly, the Government is consulting about whether or not to remove the Default Retirement Age, which would mean that it would no longer be possible to make employees retire at aged 65. It is anticipated that, if adopted, the change will take effect from 1 April 2011.

If you require more information on this or other aspects of Employment Law, please contact Debra on 01295 204000, email dwetters@se-law.co.uk or visit our website at www.se-law.co.uk

FUN FAIR

The UCSW stand at this year's CLA Game Fair, at the new venue of Ragley Hall, had something for everyone – from ferrets, gundogs, and farriery displays, to gun-smithing and molecatchers, as well as special membership offers and merchandise.



The British Traditional Molecatchers Register (BTMR) added its support to proceedings by answering any mole related questions and dispelling a few myths surrounding this traditional skill. On display was a diverse collection of mole traps and mole related items both old and new.

On the site plan it looked as though UCSW had a brilliant spot, but sadly it was on a side row (squashed between RSPB and DEFRA again!) looking out onto the back of all the stands! This had a dramatic effect on visitor numbers and as a result we only sold about 10% of the usual number of draw tickets.



Game Fair photographs by Simon Bollons, Ady Bull and Phillippa White

Chairman Rob Lowe and Committee member Matt Allen organised a static farriery display with original specimens. Ian Summerell, attended by his gundogs, was at his gun-smithing bench to answer questions on all gun related matters, while ferrets were on hand to highlight a display on pest control.

The future is bright...

By Pat Summerell, UCSW Committee Member

When you help on the UCSW stand you never know who you might meet – from celebrities (Countryfile's Adam Henson for example) to members of the public, many of whom have spent their lives involved in country sports and have interesting stories to tell.

While I was helping on the merchandise section, a lady asked to buy a Union tie. Nothing unusual about that, but she went on to explain it was for her six year-old son. Now being a grandmother with two grandsons, I know how hard it can be to get small boys to wear ties, so I must have looked surprised.



She went on to explain that the boy was desperate for one of our ties because their huntsman wore one, and he wanted to be dressed just like the huntsman – he wants to be a huntsman when he is bigger.

The future is in safe hands...



OUT AND ABOUT

With reports and photographs from John Carter, Lindsay Hill, Tony Huggett, Rob Lowe, Ian and Pat Summerell and Phillippa White

West Country Game Fair

Spring has arrived, and for Ian and Pat Summerell, the first show of the season (13-14 March) is held at the Bath and West Show Ground at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Although most of the show, including the UCSW stand, is undercover everyone was lucky this year because the weather was good, dry and fine, although still very cold.

The Fair is a time for greeting old friends and new, exchanging news and discussing the events of the winter.

A couple of gamekeepers met on the UCSW stand, one had read about Ian's campaign to stop the lamping of deer in this area. Both have had the same problem and all three named the same group of people who were thought to be responsible.

Welsh Game Fair

The Welsh Game Fair is held in the picturesque valley near Llandeilo in South Wales, on the banks of the river Towey. The UCSW stand overlooked the rings, with hound judging on Saturday and terriers and lurchers on Sunday. Alex Ford, former UCSW Chairman (pictured), was showing hounds on Saturday.

Ian Summerell was making ferret and fox nets on the stand and giving lessons on net making. The UCSW stand was next to Bridport Nets, so Ian's pupils were able to buy supplies to try out this old craft for themselves. How good to



South of England Show

UCSW launched its new membership benefits, including C³ which offers insurance for field sports participants. Attendance was noticeably down this year perhaps due to the threat of bad weather and it was fortunate that Phillippa White bought a new pair of gumboots on the first day! Our thanks go to Vicki Ellinger, who retired after 10 years as hound show secretary, for all her help over the years. We look forward to working with her successor, UCSW member Sophie Hill.



see youngsters, who had recently taken up ferreting, wanting to learn how to make their own nets.

The stand was busy on Sunday when Alex joined the UCSW team. Many of his friends stopped by for a chat, and were not allowed to leave until they had spent some money on merchandise or bought a raffle ticket. Clearly, Alex was a successful salesman in another life!

EVENTS



Great Yorkshire Show

The UCSW stand moved this year to a new position overlooking the Country Pursuits Arena. This proved to be very busy, being alongside the popular static hound display, and was the most profitable for many years. No doubt our takings were boosted by a raffle for two pictures, donated by supporters, the draw for which took place at the CLA Game Fair. The winners were Betty Fry from Cheltenham and Robin Ludlow from Carmarthen.

Festival of Hunting, Peterborough



Still the best show of the season, although takings were down on previous years. The UCSW stand was again indoors but this year there were far more stands outside, where there were also more show rings and the ever-popular inter-hunt relays.

UCSW was extremely grateful for the help of members Annie Devitt and John Carter. John's beautiful framed photographs created great interest and raised useful income. General sales of the Christmas cards, etc went well as did the sale of Tony Huggett's horns and whips. The social atmosphere of the Festival was probably the best so far.

Herefordshire Country Fair

This year's Fair was held at Hampton Court beside the River Lugg under Dinmore Hill. Rob Lowe and Matt Allen manned the stand and there was much interest in their shoe making demonstrations from a mobile forge. Visits to other stands spread the UCSW word and many new contacts were made. A very good attendance for a small show – indicating the value of keeping admission prices below £10.

West of England Hound Show

The weather threatened while setting up the previous evening but blew over by the time of opening and turned into a lovely day. Always a popular show, and one of the largest one-day agricultural events, the Honiton Agricultural Show was celebrating 120 years. The hound show itself attracted packs from all over the west country and it was good to catch up with many friends.

Midland Game Fair

Wildlife artist Brian Hood (pictured at work) joined Ian Summerell with his gun-smithing bench. Brian always paints while on the stand which is a great crowd puller and he gets people to have a go themselves, particularly the children – something of a show stopper!



YOU NEVER KNOW YOUR LUCK...

A visitor came on to the stand and asked Brian Hood which painting he had donated to the UCSW raffle at the CLA Game Fair. The gentleman shook his hand warmly and said he must tell Brian this story...

While at the Game Fair, he met an elderly lady who was quite distressed because she couldn't find her husband. He lent her his phone (the battery on hers was flat) and she made contact with hubby. She insisted on giving him £1 for the use of his phone, which he said he didn't want but she was very persistent. So he took the £1 and spent it on a raffle ticket on the UCSW Stand and won the picture! Every time he looks at it on the wall it reminds him of his chance meeting and the £1 coin!



EVENTS

Frampton Country Fair

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the show was larger than in previous years and extremely well attended. UCSW was joined by 'Linee' with a selection of her hand painted china.



Wales & Border Counties Hound Show

A busy show with the weather quite kind to all concerned. The UCSW 'Pound a Hound' was very popular raising well over £100 and was won by John Robins.

Winners of the UCSW Summer Prize Draw were:

- 1st prize Mrs B Slater from Nottingham;
- 2nd prize Mrs S Lambourne from Northants;
- 3rd prize Brian & Joyce Hood from Berwickshire.

MEMBER PROFILE

David (Slim) Symons, FWCF Hons, describes his profession simply as Farrier. This is factually correct, but hardly gives the reader a true picture of a lifetime (51 years to be exact) devoted to the skill.

To summarise, he qualified as a butcher/slaughter man but soon joined the army and took up farriery in the Queens Life Guards. Then followed the Royal Army Veterinary Corps as Head of the School of Farriery at Melton Mowbray. A brief spell teaching in Ireland was followed by running his own business for a few years, then a senior tutor's post at Hereford School of Farriery until recently retiring.

Slim is now self employed and semi-retired and is the proud father of "two great sons and three fabulous daughters".

Who has influenced you in your profession?

My first boss in the army Bill Green (FSM) and EE Morris (Teddy), a wonderful mentor.

If you hadn't followed your present profession what would you be?

Probably continued as a butcher.

What is your proudest moment?

The birth of my children and, professionally, becoming a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and a Freeman of the City of London.

What is your most interesting/challenging job?

Repairing a serious crack in the toenail of a 3½ tonne white rhinoceros!

What do you still wish to achieve?

Keep striving to learn something new each day.

Of all the others in your profession, dead or alive, who would you like to spend a day with and why?

Dr William Russell who was ahead of his time in his knowledge and approach to the training of young apprentice farriers.



Why did you become a farrier?

To escape the day-to-day work in the stables and State duties in the Queens Life Guards.

What are your top tips for being a success?

Patience, tenacity, observe and practice.

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

Eradicate the illness and diseases that rob our young people from having a life.

What are your other interests?

Most field sports especially falconry and more recently photography – anything to do with wildlife.

Favourite food and drink:

A nice steak with a good red wine. Single malt whisky plus the occasional glass of Rob Lowe's Damson or Sloe Gin!

Favourite holiday:

Visiting friends and family.

Editors Note: Thanks to Slim for bringing his display of morbid farriery specimens to various shows for all our stand visitors to puzzle over.

GUN DOG CHARGES

Gundog owners in Northern Ireland could be hit by a new tax if plans to introduce compulsory micro-chipping of dogs and an increase in the standard dog licence fee go ahead.

The planned Dogs (Amendment) Bill would see the cost of the dog licence fee increase from £5 to £12.50 and make it compulsory for owners to have their dogs micro-chipped. It would also see the price of an annual block licence, for owners of three or more dogs, go up from £12.50 to £32.

Meanwhile, pressure is growing for working dogs to be

made exempt from a proposed ban on tail docking in the Province. The ban is contained in a draft Welfare of Animals Bill.

The Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will publish its recommendations on changes to the Bill in December. The recommendations will influence decisions made on the final content of the Bill by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

And in Scotland, Richard Lochead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, is looking at overturning the ban on tail docking for working dogs.

GROUSE ECONOMY

A survey, commissioned by The Moorland Association to mark its 25th anniversary, has revealed that the annual cost of managing grouse moors in England and Wales injects £52.5million into the economy.

In the past decade, members have returned heather to 89 square miles of English moorland (an area the size of Birmingham). The number of gamekeepers employed is now 350, up 25 per cent on the year 2000.

The survey reveals that grouse shooting creates 42,500 days of work a year for contractors and local people and 6,500 nights are booked in rural hotels by people who come from all over the world to shoot grouse.

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ENGLISH VOTES FOR ENGLISH LAWS

By UCSW Member Brian Friend

Repeal of the Hunting Act is currently on the back burner – the numbers at Westminster just don't add up. But, is this really the case?

Here are the numbers: The House of Commons has 650 MPs representing every United Kingdom constituency made up as follows: English constituencies 529, Scottish 59, Welsh 40 and Northern Irish 18 with the Speaker and his 3 Deputies who are deemed to be neutral. If we allocate his/her political party to each MP then legislation on English only matters can be easily blocked or enacted by the devolved MPs using, or should it be misusing, their Westminster vote.

Therefore, by doing so, they enact or block legislation that does not effect their own constituents without fear of any electoral backlash from the voters who elect them. Why? Because, whereas they continue to have a universal vote on English matters at Westminster, their English counterparts do not enjoy the same privilege on matters devolved to the three national assemblies. This is known as the West Lothian Question but is more accurately described as the English Question. There can be no legal or moral justification for this constitutional anomaly and it would be so simple to



correct – if a matter before the House is also devolved to one or all of the national assemblies then the national MPs of the involved assembly can take no part in its' passage through the Commons.

If this was so, and we look at the numbers again using the English and Welsh MPs only, then the total number of MPs from England and Wales is 569, made up of 304 Conservative; 215 Labour; 46 Lib Dem; 3 Plaid Cymru and 1 Green, then simplistically assuming that the Conservatives would be a favourable pro-countryside vote in a free vote on a countryside issue we get a result of 304 against 265 ie: a useful majority of 39.

Now, the consequences of the English Question do not stop with countryside issues – the populations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have received, and continue to receive, considerably more funding per head of population than England from general taxation by way of the discredited Barnett Formula, thus enabling largesse to be spread in those lands in the form of free prescriptions, free care of the elderly, no tuition fees et al – but that is another story.

So UCSW Members if you want fair votes in England please get in touch with your English MP and demand English votes for English laws.

DID YOU KNOW?

- General Licence provisions, which cover the **control of pest birds in Northern Ireland**, are to remain unchanged for the next 12 months. Revisions to the **Welsh General Licences** take effect on 1 January 2011. Visit www.wales.gov.uk for more information.
- **The Law of Field Sports**, written by specialist lawyers Tim Russ and Jamie Foster, is the first single-source reference book covering civil and criminal law relating to country pursuits, including shooting and hunting. The book, which costs £35, is published by Wildy, Simmonds and Hill Publishing and is available from www.wildy.com
- A new NFU Mutual insurance survey reveals that 70 per cent of its 300 branch offices reported an increase in **rural crime**, compared with the same period in 2009. The most commonly stolen items are quad bikes but livestock, including pedigree dogs, are in the top 10. According to the survey, rural crime is shifting from sporadic, opportunist thefts to highly organised operations relying on detailed surveillance and planning.
- The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) is calling on shooters to report **sightings of woodcock**. A recent British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) newsletter revealed that this year far fewer records of breeding woodcock have been submitted by the general public, particularly in Wales and Scotland.
- The Deer Initiative's **Wild Boar Best Practice** website is now up and running. The website and best practice guides can be found at: <http://www.wild-boar.org.uk/>
- On 28 July 2010 the age at which youngsters in the UK can **purchase or hire firearms or ammunition** was raised from 17 to 18.



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Annual membership fees for UCSW are as follows:

Full Membership (for those employed in country sports or ancillary trades)	£15.00
Supporter Membership (for those who support the work of UCSW)	£20.00
Trade Membership (a category that includes a listing in <i>Living' Country</i> and a link from the UCSW website)	£40.00
Affiliated Membership (for supportive organisations)	£25.00 (min)

Hunts who wish to affiliate will pay a subscription based on the number of days they hunt. For example, a two-day pack would pay £50 and a three-day pack £75.

Hunt Affiliations: Quantock Staghounds, Quorn, Thurlow, Stowe Beagles Supporters Club, Cottesmore, Ashford Valley Tally Ho Club, De Burgh & North Essex Harehounds, Eastern Counties Mink Hounds, Jorrocks Hunt Club, Cambridge Hunt with Enfield Chace, Dummer Beagles, Ilminster Beagles, Essex Hunt Supporters Club, Hursley Hambledon, York & Ainsty North, Warwickshire, Grafton, Tav Vale Beagles, Dunston Harriers Hunt Supporters Club, Essex and Suffolk, Puckeridge, Granta Harriers, Tedworth Hunt Supporters, Grove & Rufford, Pytchley, Atherstone, Essex Farmers and Union Hunt Supporters and the Teme Valley Minkhounds.

Other Affiliations: North West Saluki Conservation Club, National Shooting Association, Woodspring Pigeon Shooting & Wildfowling Club, Gamekeeper Welfare Network, The Fell & Moorland Working Terrier Club, Lambourn Trainers Association, Hereford Farriers Club, Jack Russell Terrier Club of Great Britain, National Working Terrier Federation, Wessex Ferret Club, East of England Lurcher Club, Burnham Over Norton Wildfowling Association and the Newmarket racing yard of Sir Mark Prescott Bt at Heath House.

Membership Benefits

Help And Advice

UCSW is proud of the help and advice that it is able to offer. Members do not need to feel that they are totally on their own. Just talking through a problem can ease some situations. If the Office cannot help, it will try to find someone who can.

Jobs

Anyone whose job is under threat should remember that they have statutory rights in relation to redundancy payments and housing. It is also worthwhile seeking legal advice through our panel of solicitors. Please call the Office.

UCSW can advise on contracts of employment, working hours, the minimum wage, tied accommodation, holiday entitlement and pay or perhaps difficulties with employers over working conditions, clash of personalities or a particular issue that has arisen during day-to-day work. Other advice topics include game laws, Health & Safety and insurance.

UCSW also holds information about training and further education opportunities in country sports.

Personal Injury Claims

UCSW offers its members a free personal injury claim service. If you have been injured in an accident at work within the last three years, and it was someone else's fault, we may be able to claim compensation on your behalf.

Please notify us as soon as possible after the accident in order to increase the chances of a successful outcome to your claim. All you need do is contact the UCSW Office.

Need To Talk?

Some of us can cope better than others at times of uncertainty or stress. The UCSW Office keeps a list of organisations that can offer help. Alternatively, visit the UCSW website and hit the 'Link' button for Help Organisations.

UCSW Magazine

Members are entitled to a free subscription for *Living' Country*, produced three times a year. This aims to keep members up to date with issues affecting country sports, membership information, membership feedback, fundraising events and shows. All members are encouraged to contribute and make it 'their' magazine.

Discounts

UCSW can now offer all members and supporter members reduced rate membership to C³. For just £16.95 per person (normally £19.95) you can join C³ which includes insurance as one of the benefits. The principal benefits of adding C³ membership to your UCSW subscription are:

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For more information we recommend you view the 'instant cover' insurance policy wording on our website, to see if it suits your needs: www.ucsw.org If this is of interest to you, please either contact the Office or complete the registration form on the website and return it to us.

UCSW members can save 10% at the country shopping emporium, webury.com. For information on how to redeem the 10% call the Office on: 01295 712719.

CONTACT US

The UCSW office main telephone number is
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Our e-mail is office@ucsw.org

Our website, which is regularly up-dated,
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UCSW CHRISTMAS SHOP

There is a wide range of UCSW merchandise from membership ties, badges and sweatshirts, to car stickers and mouse mats, all at affordable prices.

For more details contact the Office on 01295 712719 or e-mail office@ucsw.org Alternatively, visit www.ucsw.org to view and purchase the merchandise.

All visitors to the UCSW website can select and pay for merchandise, or pay their membership fee, on pages securely hosted by PayPal using a credit card or their own PayPal account.

TRADE DIRECTORY

UCSW Trade Membership is a category that gives enterprises a listing in this Magazine.

Why don't you join them and get you or your company listed for FREE in Living' Country and linked from the UCSW website for just £40 pa.

MEMBERS: Please mention UCSW when you contact a trader listed here.

The appearance of a Trade Directory listing in this publication does not necessarily imply UCSW approval of the product or service in question.

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Cartoon Capers



To complement the UCSW Christmas card (featured in the last issue of *Living Country*) cartoon illustrator and Trade Member Caroline Hill from *One Only by Linee* has now generously created and donated original watercolour designs for a new range of country sports notelets which are reproduced here.

To order, please use the separate form.





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