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A round up of News and Events – December 2008

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1. **INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER**

The UCSW is delighted to be able to announce that they can put members in touch, for free, with an independent Financial Adviser (IFA). If you would like to use this service, please call the office for more information.

2. **CALLING ALL RACE RIDERS....**

Have you ever wanted to ride in a race on a racecourse? Well now is your big opportunity....

Following our successful charity race at Hereford two years ago we are organising another race, this time at Southwell Racecourse, nr Newark, Nottinghamshire as part of their Air Ambulance Rural Support Day. The race will be in aid of the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Air Ambulance and the UCSW and will be run after the final race on Sunday 15 March, 2009.

The theme of the National Hunt race day will be “all things rural” with a farmers market, displays and trade stands. If you would like to take part in the Charity Race (or know of anyone else who might be interested), take hospitality or buy your entrance tickets at a reduced price for members for the day, please contact the UCSW office on: 01295 712719 or email: office@ucsw.org We look forward to hearing from you....

3. **LIONEL EDWARDS EXHIBITION – Tryon Galleries London**

The Lionel Edwards Exhibition was well supported in London on 30 September to 2 October when over 40 pictures (oils, watercolours, line drawings and guache) were on display at the Tryon Galleries in London. The pictures were on loan from private owners making a unique display, which was enjoyed by all who visited the gallery.

Catalogues are available for £12 each (including p&p) from the UCSW office.

The exhibition has raised just under £4,000 which has been split between the UCSW and the Hunt Staff Benefit Society.

4. **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – Members can now 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.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE

Brian Friend, an Associate member of the Union of Country Sports Workers has heard that his claim against the Scottish Hunting Act has been lodged in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and *joined* with his claim against the English Hunting Act which was sent to Strasbourg in December 2006. His new application has been assigned the same case number 16072/06 and both applications will be dealt with as one.

Brian Friend says: “Although I have two appeals on the legality of the UK anti-hunt legislation, we must all continue to lobby our MPs and everyone else that we want the same protection to our way of life as given to other minority groups. The Government and any future Government must accept and ensure that Human Rights are for everyone”.

The UCSW will continue to support Brian with his expenses.

Anyone wishing to speak to Brian Friend can call him on 01404 881357 or email: bkldfc@aol.com

6. EMAIL ADDRESSES

Do we have your correct email address? If you have changed your address, please email us with your new details: office@ucsw.org

7. SHOWS

The 2008 Show season has now come to an end for the UCSW. We would like to thank all those who helped on the stand and to all members who came and visited us. Show dates for 2009 are on our website beginning with the West Country Game Fair on 14 & 15 March.

8. ADVICE

Every week UCSW helps someone employed in country sports with an employment, housing or some other job related problem. If you need help, please call the office on: Tel: 01295 712719.

9. 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 *Living Country* (this includes all the essential contact details including description of your products) and a link from our website. Please contact the office for more details – subscriptions per annum are only £40.

10. UCSW MERCHANDISE Thinking of Christmas presents – look on our website...

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, NEW jute bags, etc. A larger selection of stock, including various books, are available on the show stand.

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 involved in country sports, whether workers or participators, to join us – together we can be stronger...

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.