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A round up of News and Events – January 2008

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1. LEGAL CHALLENGES – HUNTING ACT 2004 & WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) PROTECTION ACT 2002 & FIGHTING FUND

Brian Friend, an Associate member of the Union of Country Sports Workers, has learnt that his appeal for a judicial review against the Scottish Hunting Act has been dismissed by the Law Lords.

However, Brian had raised important issues regarding the rights of minorities within the majority of the indigenous British population for their Lordships to suggest that the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg should examine the issues. The Committee expressed considerable sympathy for his views, directing him to Strasbourg – therefore he will take his appeal to Europe.

Brian has fought a five-year “David and Goliath” battle as a Litigant in Person leading up to this appeal. The Union of Country Sports Workers is fund raising to support Brian with his travel, court, research and administration expenses. There are no fees for lawyers or barristers in these cases as Brian continues to represent himself. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please send your donation, payable to the “UCSW Fighting Fund” to: UCSW, PO Box 129, Banbury, OX17 2HX.

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

2. HARASSMENT OUT HUNTING

Brian Friend, UCSW Legal Advisor, having got fed up with the way the so-called Hunt Monitors were harassing his own hunt, pursued complaints about incidents on Boxing Day and New Year’s Day last year with the Police. He finally got them to accept that they had a duty to protect hunt members, particularly minors, from behaviour *likely to cause distress*, such conduct being a breach of s5 of the 1986 Public Order Act.

With their help, he has produced a briefing sheet on this issue, which is available from the Office.

3. DIARY DATES

A few dates for your diary for the early part of the year...

March 15th – 16th the UCSW will be present at the West Country Game Fair at the Bath and West Show Ground. Stand No 175.

May 5th Somerset Show, North Somerset Agricultural Society

Do come and visit us on our stand or if you would like to help out please call the UCSW office.

May 11th – UCSW AGM followed by buffet lunch. This will begin at 12 noon at the Worcestershire Hunt Kennels (WR3 7UT). Further details will be available in the Spring issue of *Living Country*.

More details on these and future events can be found on our website www.ucsw.org

4. **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.

5. **TRADE MEMBERSHIP**

We are now able to offer all Trade Members a web-link from our website. Please make sure you take up this offer. If you are interested in upgrading to a Trade Member, please contact the office for more details – subscriptions per annum are only £40.

6. **TUNE IN TO UCSW COUNTRY SPORTS RADIO – plus - down load your FREE ring tone...**

UCSW Press Officer, Ian Summerell has set up Country Sports Radio and has produced a number of interesting Podcasts, which you can hear by visiting the UCSW website www.ucsw.org and clicking on **Country Sports Radio** on the Home Page.

The topics covered on the fifth Podcast include Michael White, Proof Master of the London Proof House. Ian Summerell spent a day in London following the House of Lords Appeal and speaks to Lembit Opik MP - co-chair of the all party Middle Way Group, Tim Bonner - Countryside Alliance and Brian Friend - UCSW member.

Other Podcasts include interviews with:

- Alastair Jackson from the MFHA on hunting
- Sally Merison on coursing
- Clarissa Dickson Wright on a range of her books including her latest – “Spilling the Beans”
- Philip White on fly tying
- Charles Smith-Jones (BDS) on muncjak
- Colin Currie on the history of air guns
- Patrick Hemming on fly fishing

And articles on:

- the House of Lords Appeal
- the new Highway Code
- many of the 2007 summer country shows.

Download your FREE hunting horn ringtone too... (under Archives March 2007 or <http://ucsw.podbean.com/2007/03/>)

7. **UCSW MERCHANDISE**

- A fun mouse mat – a single fox walking with a pack of hounds - £5 each
 - Small red enamelled lapel badges with gold letters “B2B” – suitable for the office, the field or in the Houses of Parliament – when you visit to lobby your MP to repeal the Hunting Act - £2 each. These are also now available in black and silver.
 - Battle of Westminster dvd – a documentary about rural Britain’s struggle to preserve its wildlife, environments and traditions directed by Kevin Keating. £14 each plus donation to p&p.
 - Peacock hand warmers – Giant £26.96, Standard £19.95, Mini £16.95 (p&p £2.95).
- These and all other items can be purchased from the office: UCSW enamel badges £2, UCSW ties £8, navy baseball caps £10, sweatshirts £17, polo shirts £13.50 all with Union logo.

We also have the following car stickers and badges:

- “More than a Job, a Way of Life” membership car sticker – 50p
- Green “A Hunting We Will Go!” – badge & car sticker £1 each
- Maroon “Full Cry for Hunting – Fighting the Ban” badge £1.

REDUCED: B*ll*cks to Blair dog collars and leads now both £6 each and red “B*ll*cks to Blair” car stickers – Half Price at £1.

Please send your cheque, made payable to “UCSW”, with a note of which item/s you require, to the UCSW office including a donation for p&p or enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for all orders. Thank you. Most of the merchandise can be viewed on our website: www.ucsw.org