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### A round up of News and Events – November 2006

1. Hugh Thomas
2. Legal Challenge Updates and Fighting Fund
3. UCSW Raceday – Hereford – 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2006
4. UCSW Merchandise
5. Advice
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#### 1. HUGH THOMAS

It is with great sadness that we announce the death on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006 of committee member Hugh Thomas.

Hugh had served on the committee of the UCSW since 2000 and was Chairman of the South West region since 1998. He was our representative on various committees, including the Deer Initiative and the Independent Working Group on Snares and Traps. He also helped put together many submissions to the Government on shooting and deer related topics. His dedication and knowledge has been of great value to the Union and he will be sadly missed.

Hugh was a Co-signatory with Brian Friend on the legal challenge to overturn the hunting ban in England and Wales and he helped Brian with his Scottish Appeal in the House of Lords. During the week before his death, Hugh went with Brian to the House of Lords to hand in the papers for the Scottish court case to Black Rod's office.

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

UCSW member Brian Friend is taking his Scottish Hunting Act case to the House of Lords despite an unsuccessful attempt by the Scottish Ministers to stop him. He lodged the case papers (all 139 volumes) in the Lords Judicial Office on Tuesday 10 October, 2006.

In the English courts UCSW member Brian Friend's application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal was refused, so his next step is to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Union of Country Sports Workers launched a **major fund raising initiative** at the CLA Game Fair to raise £100,000 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 who wishes to speak with Brian Friend can call him on 01404 881357 or contact him by email: [bkldfc@aol.com](mailto:bkldfc@aol.com)

### **3. UCSW FUND RAISING – RACE DAY AT HEREFORD RACECOURSE**

The UCSW would like to thank all those who contributed to the UCSW Race Day at Hereford Racecourse on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. We had a very successful Charity Race with the 11 riders raising over £11,000 and the Silent Auction raising over £4,000. More details and photographs will be published in the next issue of *Livin' Country*.

All proceeds from the day will be distributed between the Air Ambulance, Hunt Staff Benefit Society and the UCSW Fighting Fund.

### **4. UCSW MERCHANDISE – Start your Christmas Shopping now!**

**\*\*New merchandise on sale\*\***

- A fun mouse mat that every countryman should have – 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 and all other items can be purchased from the office: UCSW enamel badges £2, UCSW ties £8, navy baseball caps £7, 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; Red “B\*ll\*cks to Blair” car stickers - £2; Green “A Hunting We Will Go!” – badge & car sticker £1 each; Maroon “Full Cry for Hunting – Fighting the Ban” badge £1. Other stock includes B\*ll\*cks to Blair dog collars £8.95 and leads £9.95, Peacock hand warmers – Giant £26.96, Standard £19.95 (p&p £2.95).

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](http://www.ucsw.org)

### **5. 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.

### **6. TRADE MEMBERSHIP**

We are now able to offer all Trade Members a web-link from our new 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.

### **7. UCSW WEBSITE**

The UCSW has revamped its website which can be found at: [www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org) We hope the new website is more ‘user friendly’ and more informative than the old one and hopefully it will continue to improve. As we are the only trade union representing those employed in field sports we feel it is important that our members make use of the website whether they want to find out information or have their own input into their organisation.