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## A round up of News and Events – October 2005

1. Hunting/shooting Update
2. Hunting Act and Watson Bill Update
3. Fighting Fund
4. Wild Boar Consultation
5. Shooting Survey
6. Permission Cards
7. UCSW Merchandise

### STOP PRESS....

Sadly the House of Lords unanimously rejected the Parliament Act Challenge, 13 October, 2005. Not unexpected. The Human Rights case will continue next Spring.

### 1. HUNTING/SHOOTING UPDATE - Message from the Chairman

I hope you have summered well. I am sure everybody has made great efforts to ensure animal husbandry and cleanliness has been upper most in your minds. Apart from a scare mid-way through the rearing season regarding Newcastle disease, it would appear that most of you have had a healthy and successful rearing programme. Another shooting season is now upon us and I for one am looking forward to it with great enthusiasm. Some stock from last year has been successful in rearing their own broods and I, in my 31 years as a keeper, can say it is the most successful season yet.

On another note, please may I ask you all to adhere to the Good Code of Shooting Practices and have safety paramount at all times. Could I also take this opportunity to ask you to make sure that all transportation for beaters and guns comply with the law; to make very sure that you are covered by insurances and that all vehicles are safe. Have a good season and remember professional practitioners can and will keep shooting together for future generations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all those who hunt a good season as they embark on their first season under the 2004 Hunting Act indicating that by testing and ridiculing this unjust law we can defeat this temporary ban.

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

Having had their application in the High Court in London for a judicial review refused last July, Brian Friend and Hugh Thomas lodged an application for leave to appeal Lord Justice May and Mr. Justice Moses decision on 14/9/05. Brian assures all UCSW members that he will continue the fight: "There is a long way to go, but soon these judges are actually going to have to answer the questions I put to them".

At last, 368 days after his hearing, UCSW member Brian Friend has a judgement from the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The Inner House of the Court of Session (the Court of Appeal in Scotland) dismissed Brian's appeal. He says that "The court has upheld, in the most explicit terms, that I and others of the Scottish Hunting community do not enjoy the same human rights protection as gypsies, Saami peoples in Norway and Sorbs from Germany and others everywhere, all these groups having being absorbed into and indistinguishable from the greater community. It would appear that human rights are not for the likes of me. However, there is an automatic right of appeal from Scotland to the House of Lords and that is where I shall be going."

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. FIGHTING FUND**

As you are aware the Union has set up a "Fighting Fund" which, amongst other things, will help support Brian Friend and Hugh Thomas with expenses such as travel, court fees, research and photocopying for these challenges - no lawyer or advocate fees are involved in these cases. 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.

### **4. WILD BOAR CONSULTATION**

On 2 September 2005, Defra announced that it will be holding a public consultation on wild boar. The UCSW will be taking part in this and would welcome input from any members. If you are affected by, or interested in, wild boar now is the time to have your say about how the animals should be managed in England.

A range of issues surrounding feral wild boar, including disease risk, potential for damage to crops and property, effects on animal exports, animal welfare, conservation and biodiversity, game and shooting interests, and human safety are to be covered.

Please contact the UCSW office by November if you wish to participate. The closing date for all responses to Defra is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

### **5. SHOOTING SURVEY**

As some members will be aware, the UCSW has agreed to take part in a survey on the shooting industry. We are most grateful to those of you who have taken part and would like to encourage all those who have been sent forms from the office to complete and return them as soon as possible.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the Countryside Alliance and the Country Land & Business Association, in consultation with the Game Conservancy Trust, have commissioned Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC), an independent firm of economic specialists, to undertake a comprehensive and up to date survey to find out exactly what shooting in the UK is worth today. How many jobs does it create? What would be lost if shooting were to be stopped? These will be vital facts to put before the politicians in the new Parliament.

### **6. PERMISSION CARDS**

We have had a number of enquiries for multiple copies of the "Permission to Control Foxes and other Wild Mammals" card which was distributed with the summer issue of *'Livin' Country'* following the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004. If you require more copies please contact us with your email address and we can either send you a few or let you have a pdf file to enable you to print off your own copies to comply with this legislation.

### **7. UCSW MERCHANDISE**

Just a reminder that you can buy UCSW merchandise 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 a few B\*ll\*ck's to Blair badges and car stickers left again available from the office at £2 each. The following new products are also available with the wording:

- a) "A Hunting We will Go!" (White wording on green background) – badge & car sticker £1 each
- b) "Full Cry for Hunting – Fighting the Ban" (White wording maroon background) badge £1 each

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.