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A round up of News and Events – October 2008

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1. SUPPORT YOUR CHAIRMAN – HALF MARATHON RUN

On Sunday 14 September 2008, UCSW Chairman, Alex Ford ran in the Bristol Half Marathon to raise money for the Union. Alex beat his personal best by 2 minutes crossing the line in 1hour 46.09 minutes.

It's not too late to send in a donation in support of this achievement. Please send your cheque to the UCSW Office marked "UCSW Half Marathon". All donations will be put into the UCSW Fighting Fund to support country issues. Thank you to all those who have already donated!

2. 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.

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.

For those of you who were unable to attend, catalogues are available for £12 each (including p&p) from the UCSW office.

The exhibition was organized to raise funds for the UCSW and the Hunt Staff Benefit Society.

4. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – Members can now pay online...

At the AGM we announced another way that members can pay their membership subscriptions. 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. TUNE IN TO UCSW “COUNTRY SPORTS RADIO”

UCSW Member, 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. Ian is always looking for more stories, so if you have something you think would be of interest please contact the UCSW office. Advertising opportunities are also available – again please contact the UCSW office for more information.

The ever popular hunting horn ringtone can still be download for FREE ... (under Archives March 2007 or <http://ucsw.podbean.com/2007/03/>)

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 at the 16 shows and to all members who came and visited us. Dates for next year’s shows will be posted on our website shortly.

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

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, 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.