



PO Box 129, Banbury, Oxon OX17 2HX

Telefax: 01295 712719

Website: [www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org) Email: [office@ucsw.org](mailto:office@ucsw.org)

## **A round up of News and Events – April 2006**

1. New UCSW Website
2. AGM
3. Trade Membership – Web-Link Offer
4. Advice
5. UCSW Merchandise
6. Legal Challenge Updates
7. Fighting Fund

### **1. NEW UCSW WEBSITE**

The UCSW has revamped its website which can be found at: [www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org)

The new website is far 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 can make use of the website whether they want to find out information or have their own input into their organisation.

### **2. AGM**

All members are welcome to come to the next AGM which will be held at the Worcestershire Hunt Kennels on Sunday 14 May, 2006.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to make your views known, to shape the future of the UCSW and to meet new and old friends.

The meeting will start promptly at 12 noon and will be followed by a buffet lunch. To help with catering please let the Office know if you are coming. Directions are available from the Office or on the internet using the post code: WR3 7UT

### **3. 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 would like to consider upgrading to a Trade Member, please contact the office for more details – subscriptions per annum are only £40.

### **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: 01295 712719.

## 5. 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. All merchandise can be viewed on our new website: [www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org)

We also have B\*ll\*ck's to Blair car stickers 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.

## 6. LEGAL CHALLENGES – PARLIAMENT ACT CHALLENGE, HUNTING ACT 2004 & WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) PROTECTION ACT 2002

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

**Hunting Act Challenge 2004:** 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". The application for leave to appeal was heard in March 2006, with an outcome expected before Easter.

**Wild Mammals (Scotland) Protection Act 2002:** 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 there is an automatic right of appeal from Scotland to the House of Lords and that is where he has gone. He lodged a petition of appeal in the House of Lords Judicial Office on 4 January 2006, presented to the Lords on 9 January, lodged the security on Friday 13 January and is meeting solicitors to the Scottish Ministers in Edinburgh to discuss processing the appeal to the House of Lords as soon as possible.

Anyone who wishes to speak to speak with Brian Friend can call him on 01404 881357 or contact him by email: [bkldfc@aol.com](mailto:bkldfc@aol.com)

## 7. FIGHTING FUND

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.