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UCSW 10th Anniversary Year

A round up of News and Events – February 2007

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

UCSW member Brian Friend having lodged his case against the Scottish Hunting Act in the House of Lords was hoping that his Appeal would be heard in June 2007, but as the Countryside Alliance and Francis Derwin (Horse Dealers) cases have both been given Leave to Appeal to the House of Lords, their Lordships have indicated that all 3 appeals will be heard at the same time, and the earliest this is likely to be is this autumn. The appeal of his challenge to the England and Wales Hunting Act 2004 was lodged in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on 21st December 2006.

The Union of Country Sports Workers launched a **major fund raising initiative** at the CLA Game Fair 2006 to raise £100,000 to support Brian with his travel, court, research and administration expenses. To date we have raised £25,000. 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

2. **ANNIVERSARY DINNER with guest speakers Baroness Ann Mallalieu & Robin Page**

UCSW's 10th Anniversary Dinner will be held in Great Thurlow, Suffolk on Saturday 12 May, 2007. Tickets are now on sale (£25 each), please call the office for further information: 01295 712719.

3. **SHOWS**

For the first part of the show season the UCSW are intending to take a stand at the following shows. If you would like to help on the stand, please contact the office or just come and visit us...

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| March 17 & 18 | West Country Game Fair, Bath & West Showground |
| April 8 & 9 (Easter) | Kelmarsh Show, Northamptonshire |
| May 27 & 28 | Highclere Game & Country Sports Fair, Berkshire |
| June 7 - 9 | South of England Show, Ardingly |
| June 15 - 17 | Three Counties Countryside Show |
| June 16 - 17 | Welsh Game Fair |
| June 28 | Wales & Border Counties Hound Show |

4. **CONSULTATIONS**

The UCSW has been invited to comment on the following: Consultation on the draft mutilations (permitted procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 and the draft Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations, Consultation on an animal welfare delivery strategy and the Consultation on snaring in Scotland. Visit UCSW website for full submissions and others.

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. GAMEKEEPER OF THE YEAR 2007

Farmers Weekly magazine has recently launched its annual Gamekeeper of the Year competition. The award is open to all full and part-time 'keepers employed in the UK, including those who have been nominated previously (with the exception of past winners). All nominees are expected to work to high standards and follow the Code of Good Shooting Practice.

If you know of a gamekeeper who is an unsung hero, write to the Farmers Weekly giving the 'keepers name and contact details (also your own), say why he or she should win the award and write as much as you can about: the gamekeepers working methods; attitude to wildlife and conservation; any schemes implemented to benefit wildlife; involvement, if any, with the wider issues of countryside sports or their promotion; the shoot - type, size, location, number of days etc.

The first round of judging is based purely on the details received in your nominations, so make an impact. Shortlisted shoots will be visited at a later date. Entries to: *Gamekeeper of the Year 2007, Farmers Weekly, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS Tel, 020 8652 4928.* Closing date Friday 30th March 2007.

7. UCSW MERCHANDISEsome new items...

- 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 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.

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

8. 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.

9. UCSW YOUTUBE & PODCAST SITE – Down load your free ring tone...

UCSW Press Officer, Ian Summerell has set up a channel showing video clips on Youtube. So far these cover topics such as: hornblowing, the UCSW Charity Race at Hereford Racecourse, bumble bees and badgers, falconry, a short history on gun making and horse shoe making. To access the videos go to www.ucsw.org → news & press→ shows and information, where you will find the links.

You can also download your free hunting horn ring tone from our new Podcast site by following these links from the UCSW website or by visiting: ucsw.podbean.com as well as listen to the UCSW Country Sports Radio Podcast.