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A round up of News and Events – May 2008

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1. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The UCSW held their annual General Meeting on Sunday 11 May at the Worcestershire Hunt Kennels. Two new members were welcomed on to the Committee: Matthew Allen, farrier and beagler from Herefordshire and Steven Dixon, falconer, beater and coarse fisherman from Essex.

Co-opted onto the Committee was Helen Benson from the Gamekeeper Welfare Network with whom we have been working with for some time.

2. 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.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE

Brian Friend, an Associate member of the Union of Country Sports Workers, told the AGM he will be taking his Human Rights Challenge to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg following the dismissal of his judicial appeal in October 2007. No date has been set for this and it could take several years. 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

4. DIARY DATES

Listed below are a few dates for your diary for the next couple of months. Do come and visit the Union stand or contact the office if you would like to help. More details on these and future events can be found on our website: http://www.ucsw.org/Shows_&_Information.htm.

June 5 – 7	South of England Show, Ardingly.
June 13 – 15	Three Counties Countryside Show, Malvern.
June 14 – 15	Welsh Game Fair, Llandeilo
June 26	Wales & Border County Hound Show

5. SUPPORT YOUR CHAIRMAN – HALF MARATHON RUN

On Sunday 14 September 2008, UCSW Chairman, Alex Ford will be running in the Bristol Half Marathon to raise money for the Union. Alex, a keen runner, has taken part in full marathons and many half ones too. He is hoping to beat his personal best of 1 hour 48 minutes.

Please support him by sending in your donations to the UCSW Office marked “UCSW Half Marathon”. All donations will be put into the UCSW Fighting Fund to support country issues.

6. TUNE IN TO UCSW “COUNTRY SPORTS RADIO”

UCSW Press Officer, 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. The enclosed list shows you the variety of subjects covered by the Radio. 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. FUND RAISING

The UCSW is currently working on various fund raising projects. If you are holding a fund raising event and are in a position to support the Union please contact us and we will do all we can to help publicise the event.

In the meantime, if you are able to supply an auction prize for our 2009 Sporting Auction, please contact the office.

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 hand warmers and various books, are available on the show stand.

These can all 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.