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A round up of News and Events – May 2009

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1. **AGM**

We are delighted to announce that Rob Lowe was elected as our new Chairman at the 12th UCSW Annual General Meeting, held at Syresham Village Hall on Sunday 10 May. Rob has been on the UCSW Committee since 2005 and has taken over from Alex Ford, who is remaining on the Committee. Rob runs his own farriery business in the Herefordshire/Worcestershire area. Rough shooting is his particular interest with his Labrador, which he trained. Rob also hunts, fishes and has trained his own point-to-pointer which he ran in the UCSW/Air Ambulance Charity Race in March this year.

2. **SUMMER DRAW TICKETS**

Tickets for our annual summer Prize Draw will be sent to all members with the Summer issue of *Livin' Country*, due out at the end of June. If you think you could sell extra tickets on behalf of the UCSW, please contact the Office and we will be delighted to send you extra books. They are available now.

The Draw will take place at the Midland Game Fair on Sunday 20th September. First prize is £200, Second prize is £100, and the Third prize is £50. Tickets are £1 each with proceeds going to the UCSW "Fighting Fund".

3. **UCSW AUCTION**

We are planning on running an Auction, with a closing date of 27th November 2009 - just in time for lots to be used as Christmas presents. To make this a success we need lots! If you are able to donate something for our Auction, please contact the UCSW Office as soon as possible. All donations gratefully received....

4. **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Do we have your correct email address? If you want to make sure we have your correct details, please email us with your name and membership number and we will check our system: office@ucsw.org

5. **LIONEL EDWARDS EXHIBITION – Tryon Galleries London**

If you were unable to get to the Lionel Edwards Exhibition or would like to have another look at the pictures, catalogues are now available for £12 each (including p&p) from the UCSW office. This may well become a collectors item, as many of the pictures have never been seen before.

6. **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – Members can now pay online...**

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 so that you know when your subscription is due.

7. **HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE**

Brian Friend, an Associate member of the Union of Country Sports Workers has heard that his claims against the Scottish Hunting Act and the English Hunting Act, lodged separately in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, have been conjoined to case Number 16072/06. We now await a hearing date, which may take a couple of 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

8. **SHOWS**

Do come and visit our stand! Dates for shows we will be present at for the first half of 2009 are:

June 11 – 13 South of England Show, Ardingly
June 20 – 21 Welsh Game Fair
June 25 Wales & Border Counties Hound Show
July 14 – 16 Great Yorkshire Show
July 18 – 19 Holkham Country Fair
July 22 Festival of Hunting, Peterborough
(a full listing can be found on our website).

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **UCSW MERCHANDISE**



New car stickers available now at £1 each plus p&p.

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 notecards, badges and car stickers, key fobs, 'hunting' mouse mats, NEW jute bags, etc. A larger selection of stock, including various books, are available on our 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.

We would like to thank all our members for their support through their membership, fundraising and donations, without which the UCSW would not be here. Please encourage your friends who are involved in country sports, whether workers or participants, to join us – together we can be stronger...