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## A round up of News and Events – November 2005

1. New UCSW Website
2. Legal Challenge Updates
3. Fighting Fund
4. Wild Boar Consultation
5. Permission Cards
6. UCSW Merchandise
7. Fur & Feather Auction – 14 December

### 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. 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".

**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 shall be going.

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)

### 3. 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.

#### **4. WILD BOAR CONSULTATION**

On 2 September 2005, Defra announced that it will be holding a public consultation on wild boar. The UCSW will be taking part in this and would welcome input from any members. If you are affected by, or interested in, wild boar now is the time to have your say about how the animals should be managed in England.

A range of issues surrounding feral wild boar, including disease risk, potential for damage to crops and property, effects on animal exports, animal welfare, conservation and biodiversity, game and shooting interests, and human safety are to be covered.

Please contact the UCSW office with any comments you wish to include in our submission by the end of November. The closing date for all responses to Defra is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

#### **5. PERMISSION CARDS**

We have had a number of enquiries for multiple copies of the "Permission to Control Foxes and other Wild Mammals" card which was distributed with the summer issue of *'Livin' Country'* following the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004. If you require more copies please contact us with your email address and we can either send you a few or let you have a pdf file to enable you to print off your own copies to comply with this legislation.

#### **6. 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.

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.

#### **7. FUR & FEATHER AUCTION – 14 December 2005**

The Granta Harriers jointly with the UCSW are holding their annual "Fur & Feather Auction" on 14 December, 7.30pm at the Fox & Hounds, Great Gidding, (south of Peterborough) by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Henry Hill. All gifts for the auction can be delivered to Mr Hill at the Fox & Hounds or to Mrs Martin (Tel: 01223.237112) prior to the auction or please bring them with you on the night. If you are in the area, do go along – light refreshments available.