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A round up of News and Events – September 2006

1. Legal Challenge Updates and Fighting Fund
2. UCSW Raceday – Hereford – 5th November, 2006
3. Consultation on changes to Game Licensing & Game Management
4. UCSW Merchandise
5. Advice
6. Trade Membership
7. UCSW Website

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

UCSW member Brian Friend is taking his Scottish Hunting Act case to the House of Lords despite an unsuccessful attempt by the Scottish Ministers to stop him. He will be lodging the case papers (all 65 volumes) in the Lords Judicial Office very soon.

In the English courts UCSW members Hugh Thomas and Brian Friend's application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal was refused, so their next step is to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Union of Country Sports Workers launched a **major fund raising initiative** at the CLA Game Fair to raise £100,000 to support Brian and Hugh with their travel, court, research and administration expenses (about £3,000 has been raised so far). There are no fees for lawyers or barristers in these cases as Brian and Hugh continue to represent themselves. 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. UCSW FUND RAISING – RACE DAY AT HEREFORD RACECOURSE

Sunday 5th November 2006

This is the UCSW's major fund raising event of the year. The seven race card will be followed by a 1m 4f "charity" race. Please contact the office if you are interested in:

- sponsoring a race
- taking part in the "charity" race
- donating a lot for the Silent Auction
- advertising in the race card
- enjoying the hospitality
- offering your services on the day
- taking a trade stand

OR just come and enjoy a day's racing

Gates open 11am - First race 1.10pm. The day will end with a firework display put on by Hereford Racecourse at approx 5.30pm

Children are free - discount offers for UCSW members – see *Living Country* for details.

All proceeds for the day will be distributed between the Air Ambulance, Hunt Staff Benefit Society and the UCSW Fighting Fund.

3. CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO GAME LICENSING AND GAME MANAGEMENT

The UCSW has been asked by DEFRA to comment on the proposals for a Regulatory Reform Order to amend the Game Act 1831, Game License Act 1860 and the Deer Act 1991 in order to:

- Remove the requirement to hold a game licence in order to take or kill game
- Remove the requirement to hold a local authority licence and excise licence (“dealing licences”) in order to deal in game
- Remove the restriction on dealing in game birds and venison during the close season permitting game to be sold all year round provided that the game was lawfully killed.

If you would like to contribute to the UCSW submission, please contact the office before the end of September 2006. (Tel: 01295 712719, email: office@ucsw.org).

4. UCSW MERCHANDISE – Start your Christmas Shopping now!

****New merchandise on sale****

- 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 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 “Bollocks 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 Bollocks 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

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. 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 are interested in upgrading to a Trade Member, please contact the office for more details – subscriptions per annum are only £40.

7. UCSW WEBSITE

The UCSW has revamped its website which can be found at: www.ucsw.org We hope the new website is 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 make use of the website whether they want to find out information or have their own input into their organisation.