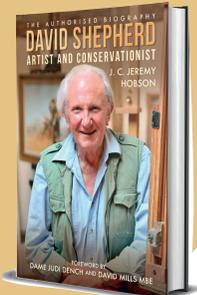


**NEXT WEEK'S
 fabulous
 competitions!**

WIN four individual tickets to the British Shooting Show



WIN David Shepherd – Author and Conservationist by Jeremy Hobson



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HUNTING KIND PLAN A WAY FORWARD

HUNTING Kind convened a meeting for a broad mix of 'natural hunting' organisations at Scotch Corner earlier this month to discuss some of the issues related to the future of hunting.

In attendance were representatives from the Central Committee of Fell Packs, the National



Working Terrier Federation, the Northern Counties Minkhounds, the Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management, locally based foot, gun and mounted

packs, terrier, lurcher and longdog clubs.

It was discussed that after effectively 17 years of inertia in terms of any review of the *Hunting Act 2004*, that the PR and public face of hunting needed a serious turnaround.

The recent formation of the British Hound Sports Association was welcomed as a positive step forward in improving the governance of its own member organisations and the intention of taking direct control of its own PR and messaging.

The key topics of feedback were:

- **The effectiveness of the representation of hunting by current organisations charged to perform this function – on a scale of 0-10, the highest score was 5, the lowest, minus 10! People felt that hunting had never been properly represented nor with any form of conviction at political level.**
- **Whether all natural hunting organisations should link up for future**

lobbying and messaging – the unanimous feeling was that natural hunting organisations should convene to form future strategy and that this strategy should reflect the views of all forms of natural hunting represented in the meeting.

• **Whether it was preferable to go forward with the delivery of hunting's positive message now or to delay until after the next election – all agreed that it was infinitely preferable to go forward now for an 18-month delivery schedule and to begin to embed a positive stream of consciousness around hunting.**

With the understanding that the basis of any argument concerning the future of hunting needed to have firm foundations in sound wildlife management practice, the joined-up formulation of a wider strategy needed to be agreed imminently and delivered effectively from early 2023. The agreement was reached to convene a further meeting for all hunting organisations for late January 2023.

Senedd committee backs ban on Greyhound racing

A CAMPAIGN to end Greyhound racing in Wales has won the support of a Senedd committee.

The Hope Rescue charity gained 35,101 signatures in its petition to the Welsh Government although only 18,707 came from people within Wales.

A new report showed four out of five members of the Senedd's petitions committee supported a phased ban of Greyhound racing in Wales and recommended the Welsh Government, 'look at other sports where animals compete'.

Committee chairman Jack Sargeant said: "As a committee our number one priority has been the wellbeing of Greyhounds and that was always our first reference point when hearing and discussing evidence."

There is only one Greyhound racing track which currently operates in Wales – The Valley Greyhound Stadium in Ystrad Mynach – with races once a week.

In November 2021, it was bought by Dave Barclay, who announced his intention to develop the track and seek a

Greyhound Board for Great Britain (GBGB) licence in January 2024.

A GBGB spokesman said it was 'disappointed' by the decision.

He added: "The petitions committee's recommendation that the Welsh Government should consider banning all sport with animals puts horse racing, fishing, dog agility and even pigeon racing on notice that they are next.

"We have always said that calls for a ban on Greyhound racing are the thin end of the wedge and this recommendation proves that 100 per cent."

ANGLERS are being encouraged to buy a digital fishing licence as the Environment Agency (EA) has announced it will no longer be possible to buy a licence from the Post Office from January 16, 2023.

The licences, which are a legal requirement for anyone who wants to fish with a rod and line in freshwater, have been available over the counter from the Post Office since the early 1990s.

However, the latest data from the EA reveals that over the last decade sales of fishing licences at the Post Office have declined, with almost 90 per cent of anglers already buying their fishing licence online.

Heidi Stone, fisheries partnerships manager at the EA, said: "As well as being environmentally friendly, moving to digital licences means we will release money to spend on maintaining, improving and developing fisheries across the country.

FISHING LICENCES GO DIGITAL



"The transition to digital licences reflects changing customer demand, while going paperless will reduce environmental impact and help the Environment Agency progress its carbon net zero targets. The money saved from printing and administration costs will be reinvested back into the fisheries service."

For members of the public who do not have easy access to digital services, the Environment Agency will be boosting their phone sales service and providing digital assistance through trained customer contact centre employees. The service has also been made easier for customers to buy fishing licences on behalf of family members or friends.

Anglers can buy their fishing licence via the EA's 24/7 at www.gov.uk/fishing-licence/buy-a-fishing-licence or by calling the EA's phone sales service on 0344 800 5386, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (except public holidays). There will still be an option to request a paper licence if desired.