



HUNTING Kind has continued to gather momentum with widespread support and now counts as associates 17 'natural hunting' organisations from Wales, Scotland, Ireland and England, along with its circa 500,000 monthly 'reaches' on social media platforms.

Joining the original supporting organisations mentioned in previous updates by *The Countryman's Weekly*, the recent addition of the National Coursing Club precedes the addition of The Robert Smith Surtees Society under the literary eye of Rob Williams MFH. It's always helpful to have someone who knows how to read and write and I'm sure that old Jorrock would approve.

Having worked for many months in alignment with the objectives of the Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management (VAWM) throughout the campaign in Ireland and Scotland in particular, we are delighted to announce that Hunting Kind will continue to be supported by VAWM as 'advisors'.

This is a critical ally and the vision of chairman Dr David Renney and his committee as well as their ongoing practical support, keeps the science of wildlife management as an underpinning theme.

With this support, we can continue to reach into the fields of wildlife management research and evidence, gaining perspective and credibility from third parties from among the fields of academia, anthropology and science. Whether our politicians ever actually take any note of that is quite another matter.

There is still plenty of work to be done to achieve our objectives and everyone can play their part. Instead of bemoaning the situation we find ourselves in – easily done when confusion reigns as to who is doing what on behalf of hunting and where your money and support is best spent – you now have a choice.

Would you rather continue to go down the pub and bemoan the situation, its leadership and strategy and watch helplessly from the sidelines as your entire culture is destroyed, death by a thousand cuts, or would you like to get out there and do something to try to save it?

Hunting Kind



www.huntingkind.com

What are you prepared to do to save hunting?

ED SWALES GIVES AN UPDATE ON THE GROWING SUPPORT FOR HUNTING KIND



That is your choice.

If you're dissatisfied with the direction we're going in, challenge it and engage with those who seek to represent our cause. If they're not doing a good enough job, call them out. But you've got to be in it to win it, as members.

If you follow scenthounds, sign up to support the British Hound Sports Association, they're the regulatory body of hunting with hounds after all, no-one else is. If you prefer terriers, join the National Working Terrier Federation and sign up to their code of conduct, rules and regulations, keep yourself protected.

Sighthounds have plenty of clubs and associations as do falconry and ferreting, it's all there, just put your money where your mouth is and we'll get there.

We need to assess and deliver the case for 'natural hunting' using research starting from now and over the next 18 months, from the following disciplines:

- Scientific research and opinion
- Cultural heritage
- Minority rights, protections and equality
- Practical wildlife management from a practitioner perspective
- Academic wildlife management research and evidence
- Legal and discriminatory perspectives
- Socio-anthropologic considerations
- Morality and ethics
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Conservation, ecological and environmental criteria
- Farming and food production requirements

To help shape opinion on changing the game and changing the narrative, please could you let us or *The Countryman's Weekly* know your thoughts on the following options?

- 1) To secure a Law Commission review aimed towards amending existing wildlife management law to achieve a self-regulated and self-licensed outcome for natural hunting as an essential component of wild species management, pest control or community based cultural heritage activity, based on all factors listed. Yes or no?
- 2) To assess and commission research as listed. Yes or no?
- 3) To continue under existing law without further review in the short term, while aiming to secure the current position for as long as possible to enable legal natural hunting activity to continue. Yes or no?
- 4) To lobby to secure a legal position similar to the recently passed *Scottish Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act* (flushing to Guns with reduced hounds under Scottish Government issued licence) in England and Wales. This will in itself require a change in primary law, which might backfire. Yes or no?
- 5) Do nothing and wait for some other third party, government or animal rights lobby to decide the outcome. Yes or no?

Apart from that, what else could you do? Get the diary out and for every country show, summer hound, terrier and lurcher show, every Point-to-Point and race meeting, reach out and invite your MP as well as those who might be. Get them engaged, explain, educate, have an effect, make a difference.

One final ask, if I may? We need a data bank of information that articulates and defines what hunting means to you in your 'country' and to what extent it forms part of your life. This will go towards furthering the case for our cultural heritage being recognised as something that justifies legal protections.

We shall shortly be in touch with a template to guide each hunt to produce its own abridged version. In the interim, please identify an individual or small team who might be willing and able to produce such. It's now about 'doing' something effective, over to you. If you want your way of life to continue, you have a choice.