

SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2018

By Mike Wells Secretary General

KEEP CLEAR OF INJURED DEER

An experienced stalker and member phoned me with the following story and his self confessed stupidity..

Our member owns a smallholding; his neighbor erected an electric fence adjacent to his property for containing grazing sheep.

Our member's guns were lodged with a RFD pending renewal of his FAC. He took a rake to clear up the mess left by the electric fence installers, there was debris all over the field, as he raked he heard rustling in the undergrowth. A fallow Buck was entangled with wire from off cuts of the fence, the animal retreated to the undergrowth.

Our member rushed to his workshop returning with side cutter and pliers. The irony of this story is that our member advocates never approach an injured or distressed wild animal without means to dispatch. He pulled on the wire and was charged by the Fallow, both he and the Deer became entangled; he managed to grab the antlers and keep the Beast at bay. The Beast now on hind legs attacked him with front hooves ripping through his Jeans. The Beast was still tethered to a ground stake; exhausted our member escaped and called his neighbor to use a shotgun to dispatch. Our member admitted that he had done it the wrong way round, he asked me to publish his stupidity as a warning to others, adding that if the Beast had of been a Red, he would be dead.

WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

On FAC renewals more of our members are being asked by the police for a GP letter costing £35 + VAT confirming that they are fit to own a firearm, failure to comply will result in refusal, this latest action was hatched by ACPO and the British Medical Council, whatever happened to patient confidentiality?

TINKLEING THE IVORIES

It appears that the move against ivory is EU-wide. I have received the following from FESAC:

A discussion is ongoing in the EU on a possible total ban on ivory. While we all oppose the poaching of elephants for ivory, a ban on all ivory, including that which was incorporated into classic/antique firearms is simply unacceptable. Such an outright ban would not bring back the elephants that were slaughtered but it could certainly lead to the

confiscation/destruction of historical artefacts.

The drive for a total ban is being pushed hard by NGOs, such as AVAAZ, which claim that the antiques trade is being used to channel illegal ivory into legality. They are out to get the proof, assuming the position of investigators, prosecutors and judges at one go. This is from a circular that this highly-political NGO funded by George Soros just sent out:

“African elephants have just 10 years left before they’re poached to extinction. 10 years!!! We’re wiping them out. Just to trade in stupid trinkets!

But right now we have a chance to shut down a major ivory market -- in Europe. After experts found Europe's 'antique' trade is driving the slaughter of elephants by giving cover for illegal ivory, the EU launched a public consultation, asking for proof. If they get it a total ban is possible.

So we've found a way to prove it. We’re teaming up with Oxford University and top wildlife investigators to source ivory across Europe, and then radiocarbon test it to tell its age and origin. This could provide the sure-fire evidence to get the ban we need!

The consultation ends in weeks. If 40,000 of us donate now, we can get started today. Chip in what you can -- let's make sure this is not the elephants’ last decade.”

If they are successful in achieving a total ban on ivory, we could expect other attempts to follow for total bans on other animal products that were incorporated into antique artefacts.

Should we be asking for the same exemption as will be enjoyed by musical instruments?

WISHING YOU COMPIMENTS OF THE SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR