

Farmer guilty of hunting hares without a licence as coursing club is fined €300

Dara de Faoite

June 9 2007 12:00 AM

A FARMER and chairman of a well-known hare-coursing club has been found guilty of trapping endangered hares without a licence.

Brendan Farrelly, who holds hare coursing meetings on his land, was found guilty yesterday of hunting 18 hares without a Department of Environment licence.

Farrelly's club, the Westmeath United Coursing Club, was convicted and fined for the same offence at Killucan District Court, Co Westmeath.

Farrelly (58) and the coursing club were acquitted of a separate charge of injuring a young hare that was captured without a licence.

The court heard how rangers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) called to Farrelly's farm on August 31, 2006, and found two compounds containing a number of hares.

Ranger John Mathews told Judge John Neilan that one of the hares was in such a poor state that it was unable to move and had to be removed and destroyed by a vet.

The court heard how the Westmeath club's licence to hunt wild hares was not due to come into effect until the following day, September 1.

When questioned by rangers at his home at Riverdale, Raharney, Co Westmeath, Farrelly said he did not have a licence and insisted that the hares had only been caught the previous day.

Wildlife ranger Triana Finnen told Judge Neilan that in her experience the hares at Mr Farrelly's farm appeared to have been in the pen longer than one day and that it was unlikely that such an amount of hares could have been trapped in a single day.

Injury

Defending counsel for Farrelly and for the coursing club, Stephen Byrne, said there was not sufficient evidence to show that either of his clients had caused injury to the hare.

Judge Neilan dismissed the second charge against both defendants but upheld the charges of hunting without a licence under the Wildlife Act of 1976.

He fined the Westmeath United Coursing Club €300 and ordered them to pay €175 expenses to the NPWS.

Farrelly was found guilty of the offence of hunting hares without a licence but the judge took the offence into consideration, having fined the club.

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/farmer-guilty-of-hunting-hares-without-a-licence-as-coursing-club-is-fined-300-26296262.html>

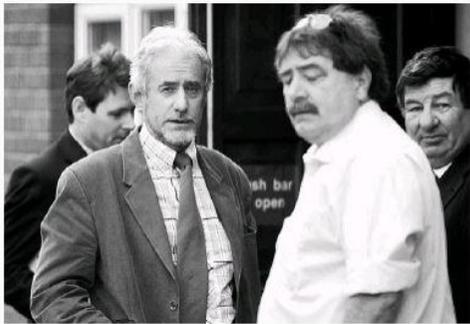
Search Results

Farmer guilty of illegally hunting hares

Coursing club fined for not having a licence

Irish Independent 9 Jun 2007 Dara de

Faoite



Brendan Farrelly (centre) and other members of Westmeath United coursing club outside court yesterday.

A FARMER and chairman of a well-known hare coursing club has been found guilty of trapping endangered hares without a licence.

Brendan Farrelly, who holds hare coursing meetings on his

land, was found guilty yesterday of hunting 18 hares without a Department of Environment licence.

Farrelly's club, the Westmeath United Coursing Club, was convicted and fined for the same offence at Killucan District Court, Co Westmeath.

Farrelly (58) and the coursing club were acquitted of a separate charge of injuring a young hare that was captured without a licence.

The court heard how rangers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) called to Farrelly's farm on August 31, 2006, and found two compounds containing a number of hares.

Ranger John Mathews told Judge John Neilan that one of the hares was in such a poor state that it was unable to move

and had to be removed and destroyed by a vet. The court heard how the Westmeath club's licence to hunt wild hares was not due to come into effect until the following day, September 1.

When questioned by rangers at his home at Riverdale, Raharney, Co Westmeath, Farrelly said he did not have a licence and insisted that the hares had only been caught the previous day.

Wildlife ranger Triana Finnen told Judge Neilan that in her experience the hares at Mr Farrelly's farm appeared to have been in the pen longer than one day and that it was unlikely that such an amount of hares could have been trapped in a single day.

Defending counsel for Farrelly and for the coursing club, Stephen Byrne, said there was

not sufficient evidence to show that either of his clients had caused injury to the hare.

Judge Neilan dismissed the charge against both defendants but the charge of hunting without a licence was upheld against both.

He fined the Westmeath United Coursing Club €300 and ordered them to pay €175 expenses to the NPWS.

Farrelly was found guilty of the offence of hunting hares without a licence but the judge took the offence into consideration having fined the club.

Write a comment...

- Share
- Comment
- Save
- More

- Upvote
- Downvote