

DPP-V- Jerry Connors, Bill Connors, Miley Connors and Dan Connors
Illegal Hare Coursing Case

On the 22nd November 2015 Gardai in Athy received a report of males with dogs trespassing on lands and hunting with the dogs in Mullaghmoy, Suncroft, Co Waterford. A search of the area was conducted by Garda Kirwan and O Mahony and located vehicle 00 TS 2436 Opel Zafira parked in a gateway. On the gate there was a large sign stating clearly no trespassing.

I could see four males in the distance with lurcher dogs. I could observe one of the males let two dogs loose and chase off after a hare across the field. I called the males to come back to the car. One of the males arrived back first and he stood watching the lurchers chase after the hare. The hare got away and the males all came back to the car, I got all their details and made the demand to produce dog licences and I also noticed no collars on the dogs.

The defendants were:

Jerry Connors, Ballybeg Sq, Waterford,
Bill Connors, Carraig Ban, Bunclody, Wexford,
Miley Connors, Ardmore Terrace, Waterford,
Dan Connors, Clonard Park, Waterford.

A prosecution file was created recommending prosecution under the Wildlife Acts and Control of Dogs Act, and the case was presented by State Solicitor Boyce at Athy District Court on the 8th November 2016.

Having heard the case, Judge Desmond Zaidan convicted the accused on:

Offences under the Wildlife Acts; Hunting hares without a licence; Entering land to hunt a wild animal.

Offences under the Control of Dogs Act; No dog licence, No identification collar

The following penalties were imposed:

Despite previous convictions, the accused were fined 100 Euro each on the Hunting hares without a licence charge, with the remainder of the offences being taken into consideration.

The fines went to the state, and in addition they each contributed 500 Euro in cash for the benefit of WRI.