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Hounds off our wildlife

MAGAZINE OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
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AIMS: To save the lives of hunted animals by legal, non-violent direct means and bring to the attention of People and Parliament the barbaric cruelties involved in the hunting of animals until such time as these practices are banned by law.

PROTECTION RACKET

On January 1st 1978 the otter was made a protected animal.

In July of last year the Nature Conservancy Council advised that the otter was endangered in England and Wales and that legal protection was necessary as one of the measures to restore the population. The Order was laid on Nov. 1st and was considered by a Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Nov. 23rd after a Prayer had been tabled for its annulment by Marcus Kimball. The Prayer was not pressed to a vote and in the Lords on Dec. 6th a similar Prayer against the Order was defeated. This means that the otter has now been added to Schedule 1 of the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975 in respect of England & Wales.

The effect of this makes it an offence to kill, injure or take otters, or to attempt to do any of these things.

While the wheels of the political machine ground slowly to achieve this 'victory' the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) were somewhat subdued in their attempts to sabotage the Order. Only a half-hearted attempt was made by the infamous 'Gang of Four' (MPs Kimball, More, Brotherton and Cope). The reason for this soon became clear when the otterhunters announced that they were going to hunt mink and coypu instead.

Not only does this mean that the nine existing otterhunts would probably continue under thier new guise but some beagle packs are, reportedly, going to hunt mink during the Summer months. Therefore more mink and coypu are going to be slaughtered every season than ever before and more otters are going to be 'accidentally' killed than before they were 'protected', after all otterhounds were never known for their selectivity!

The Dept. of the Environment seems somewhat confused on how, if at all, it is going to enforce the Protection Order. Communiations from this august body differ greatly, the last correspondence received said that they were *not* going to prosecute hunters hunting mink and coypu as they are vicious pests. . . .

The only place where otters will be safe from hunters will be in the newly created otter-havens, unfortunately if their numbers increase in these havens it is possible for the Secretary of State to remove the otter from the protected list.

If the HSA are not vigilant the effect of putting the otter on the Protected List will be as beneficial to the otter as the 1970 Conservation of Seals Act was to seals. (Over 70,000 seals have been slaughtered in British waters since this Act came into force.)



Not a dying breed after all

ALL CHANGE

The protection of the otter will make little difference to some of the hunting fanatics in this country as they gather forces for the big changeover to mink and coypu.

The Dumfriesshire Otter Hunt will continue to hunt otters in Scottish waters as the Order does *not* apply to them (devolution already?) but English and Welsh packs have already laid plans for next season:

Border Counties–to hunt mink and survey otters (?!!)

Eastern Counties–to hunt mink and coypu.

Courtenay Tracy–to lend hounds and country to a newly formed mink hunt (ex-beagle hunters?).

Culmstock–to hunt mink.

Dartmoor–to hunt mink.

Pembroke & Carmarthen–(who have, up 'till now, loaned their rivers to the Border Counties) undecided, possibly to hunt mink.

Northern Counties–are, as yet, undecided.

Curiously both the Kendal & District and the Hawkstone are to suspend all forms of hunting and to discourage landowners from permitting hounds to hunt mink.

However, while these new schemes are getting underway, it seems that the BFSS are not prepared to consider the hunting of either mink or coypu as 'fieldsports' and nor will they give any legal, financial, political or Parliamentary support to these hunts. Likewise the Masters of Otterhounds Association (MOHA)were not going to concern themselves with the new 'sports' and advised "that those hunts proposing to hunt mink or coypu would be well advised to consider getting together as a Hunt Association and to formulate rules for hunting".

So much for otterhunt contributions to the Fighting Fund!

Although we suspect that all hunts are facing the same internal dilemmas our sources in the north have made enlightening discoveries about the deliberations of the Northern Counties Otter Hunt.

They state that they "are just surviving financially" (no doubt due to the attentions of our North-East branch)and "any attempt to monitor rivers or even hunt mink will inevitably lead to a risk of infringing the Act and consequential financial penalties and/or legal costs, which would be hard to bear".

That the NCOH are undergoing a traumatic experience cannot be disputed. They freely admit that "the antis will be as difficult as they have been in recent seasons" and it seems local farmers are no help either "landowners' support has been increasingly lacking and there is little doubt that it will have deteriorated even further as a result of the conservation order". Even pleas to the Dumfriesshire to lend them a bit of water 'over the border' has led to a "negative response" and the authorities at Tillmouth Park (on the Tweed) "would far rather have mink" than the NCOH. Last but not least, their huntsman, Alex Vickers, is not prepared to hunt mink!

Meanwhile, down in Eastern Counties country . . .

By their *own* past admissions they appear to have been almost 'tripping over' otters in what they declared in 1976 was a distinct "lack of water", so it's slightly unsatisfactory when they claim that the new hunt would not go to areas where otters were known to live–on what rivers *do* they propose to hunt? Is the "enthusiastic support for the new hunt" from a totally new clientele? Hardly plausible, in the short time since the plea for "new water" went out.

And in Dartmoor country . . .

Secretary to the DOH, Miss Loveday Miller, said that they had been turning their attentions away from the otter for some time and more to mink which were more destructive. Seems no time ago that they were painting the otter in the same light!

Douglas Leslie, writing recently in Shooting Times, said ". . . any deviation from the mink or coypu quarry, however accidental, will set up a hullaballoo compared with which the Watergate enquiry would be nothing more than a tea party". Does he fondly imagine that we'll be happy with otterhunts changing the pursued animal? Other 'anti' bodies may only be concerned with the numbers game but *we* are concerned with "hunting with hounds".

Sorry Mr. Leslie, while hunting continues–in whatever form–we'll be there!

IT'S NOT CRICKET

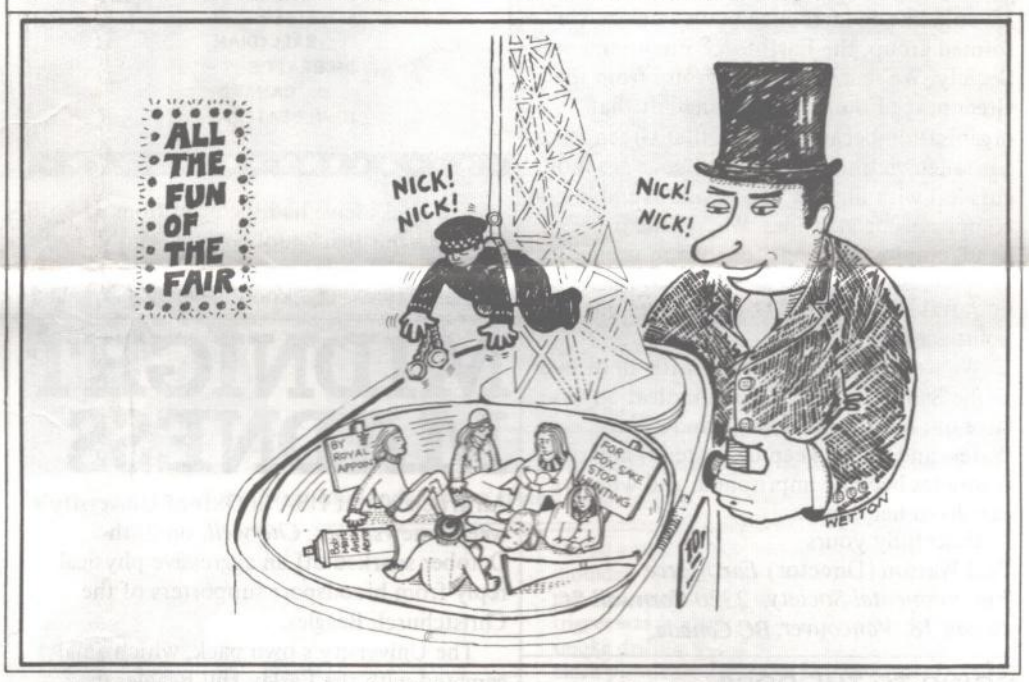
While some correspondents of 'Horse & Hound' and 'Shooting Times' still deny that the otter is rare, others claim that the fox population is in danger. This follows a Sunday Telegraph exposé of the current trade in fox pelts, which can sell for up to £20 each.

Shooting Times editor Tony Jackson (alias Turnstone) reports that foxes are now scarce in his area, and forecasts that the pelt trade could be a danger to hunting.

Although as sickened by the trade in fox pelts as we are by hunting, the more cynical of us cannot help but smile at the irony of one of so-called Turnstone's paragraphs (S.T. Feb 16-22 '78):

"Looked at cold and dispassionately it is difficult to suggest that those who kill foxes in the ordinary course of their work should not, if they so wish, make some pocket-money by selling the pelts. It is when, however, deliberate attempts are made to escalate the practice into a minor business that the stench of greed begins to pervade the atmosphere."

What, one wonders, is fox-hunting, if not a business dealing in fox pelts?



GERMANS ACT THE GOAT

After their abortive attempt to hunt our stags on Exmoor last year it seems that wealthy German hunters are now venting their blood-lust on the wild goat population of the Scottish Highlands.

The Germans are prepared to pay £600 a week to kill the goats on an estate near Newtonmore, Invernessshire.

It's claimed by the locals that the goats of the 100-strong herd are so tame that they feed out of the hands of holidaymakers and yet the Germans will use high-powered rifles to obtain a mounted trophy to take home.

Slaughter organiser is John Ormiston, director of Sport in Scotland, 6 Queensgate, Inverness, Scotland.

meanwhile . . .

AMERICANS SEEK ROOTS

An American newspaper, The Star Ledger, recently featured a travel article encouraging its readers to get a taste of *real* English life, by taking a fox-hunting holiday, with the added incentive that "the countryside is lovely whether you catch anything or not".

The hotel welcoming the misguided Americans is the Kings Arms Hotel, Kingsbridge, S. Devon, who offer a week of fox-hunting with no less than three packs. As the article advises, "a letter will reach them at the above address"!



Dear Sir

I would like you to know of the help I received from the Anti-Bloodsports Society, Swansea University.

After hearing of a possible hunt on my land, I contacted the society and explained that I had refused permission to the hunt and would like help regarding the hunt taking place. At *very* short notice a few (sabs) turned up and sprayed the land. The hunt did turn up but left after an hour.

Although I had contacted the National Farmers Union, of which I am a member, and also the police I had *no* advice or help from them. The students that turned out worked hard and caused no aggro and I have a very high regard for them.

I have since contacted the League Against Cruel Sports for legal advice.

I wish your association great success in the future.

Yours very sincerely
(Mr) R. S. Childs (Craig-y-Bwldan Farm, W. Glamorgan.
P.S. May I add that when I attend farm demonstrations etc. I have to comply to rules, such as disinfecting my boots at the farm. I cannot understand that the same people allow hounds and horses on their land without similar precautions.

Dear People

I would like to introduce you to our newly formed group, the Earthforce Environmental Society. We're a breakaway group from the Greenpeace Foundation having left that organisation because we felt that Greenpeace has fallen victim to its own success. No more guts left with high paying positions and liberal compromising attitudes. We, on the other hand, employ all funds for the job needed to be done, we don't pay out wages and we're not afraid of a little C.D. (sic) to get our point across.

We would like to establish with all of you in the Saboteurs a link, communication wise. Give our best to Sue Hough and Valery Waters and please keep us posted if any more comrades become imprisoned, and what we can do to help out.

Peacefully yours
Paul Watson (Director) *Earthforce Environmental Society, 2320 Cornwall St., Room 18, Vancouver, BC Canada.*

GOING TO THE DOGS

A HOWL poster displayed on a Daventry District Council official notice board so upset a local councillor, Pamela Dent, that she complained to fellow members of the Council's Policy and Resources committee, "This poster offends me and must also offend many of the people I represent. It is a very sordid leaflet." Sordid?!

America

The National Society for Medical Research is "very concerned about discussing" ALF-type actions that have taken place in the US recently. A leading pharmaceutical company was threatened with a full-page "boycott this firm" newspaper advert if they didn't stop using pound dogs for lab. testing. The company complied! And in a New Jersey town all the residents have received leaflets describing the cat experiments at the American Museum of Natural History, the leaflet also carried the address of the man responsible for the torture, Dr. Aronson, who lives in the town. The material was mailed "so that (the residents) can know how their neighbour earns his living".

Meanwhile in Honolulu a pair of research dolphins have been liberated back to the sea. Two students have been charged with the theft and one has been found guilty of grand larceny, after his submission—that dolphins could not be owned—failed. The students face fines of up to $5,000 and 5 years in gaol.

A man was apprehended in a Californian street carrying a 9 stone loggerhead turtle, when asked what he intended, replied, 'I'm going to liberate it'!

ANTI ANTICS

Supporters of the Southdown FH have got so confused by the actions of the Brighton Group that they have started hitting each other!

Sabs were again successful in making the papers on Boxing Day—some were even noted for their absence! And South London Group set what must be an all-time record—sabbing 5 different hunts on the day.

The Co. Down Group (N. Ireland) have conducted a very successful campaign to persuade local farmers to publicly ban local hunts from their land. The farmers issued a statement in their local paper (reproduced below).

NOTICE

We the undersigned, hereby give notice that trespassing on the undernoted lands with horses and hounds is strictly prohibited.

CLONTINAGLARE
WILLIAM JACKSON
JACK PENTLAND
JOHN JACKSON

BARNAMAGHERY
WILLIAM JACKSON
Mrs. C. STEWART
CECIL THOMPSON

LISOWEN
H. REA
J. HAMILTON
W. J. DICK
JOHN BEATTIE
W. PENTLAND
G. HUTTON
H. M. DICK
A. MATEER
JOHN MILLAR

LEGGYGOWAN
A. MATEER

BALLYDIAN
JIM BEATTIE

CAHARD
JOHN BEATTIE

Fell packs have had the attentions of both Cumbria and Blackpool Groups who've had their share of aggro in the process, including 2 slashed tyres. Blackpool have also arranged with a local disco to share takings at the door one evening a week.

East Midlands Group have arranged a bazaar on the 22nd April, a flag day on the 13th May and action against local hunts hasn't been lacking. One sab perched in a tree scanning the country for other sabs was threatened by a hunt supporter who, along with 4 riders, unsuccessfully tried to shake him to the ground.

Bradford University Group sent a 56-seater coach to hits against the Atherstone and Quorn foxhunts.

The Birmingham Group have developed a simple pressurised spray for sab special (or any other liquid concoction)—instructions from HQ.

Stockport Group held a benefit evening on the 3rd February, complete with vegan meal, guest speaker and filmshow.

The Banwen Miners FH unable to dissuade Swansea University sabs by normal methods complained to the police that 'acid' was being thrown in the hounds' faces. Samples of sab special have been supplied to local friendly fuzz for analysis.

Bob Bradley (W. Mids Group) and Chris Williamson (E.Mids Group) successfully beat a rap of "breach of the peace" in heavily pro-hunt Leicestershire. Complaints from sabs that it was the hunt that should have been prosecuted for blocking the road resulted in the Atherstone being told to keep to the grass verge, in no uncertain terms, by the police.

Bob Bradley was also set upon by thugs of the Worcestershire FH, who held him under water in a ditch after punching and kicking him. Bob received hospital treatment. We have since learnt that the police, following complaints by our members, apprehended one of the attackers and have sent papers to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration.

Hunting with the Old Surrey & Burstow FH, Jimmy Edwards (a comedian), was reported, at one sabbed meet, as cheerful and friendly at 11.00am, dour at 12.00, grumpy at 1.00pm and apoplectic at 2.00! Rhodes Boyson (Shadow Minister of Education) was also thought to be out the same day as a foot follower.

West Cornwall Group was filmed at their first banner demo by Yorkshire TV.

The Eggesford FH (W. Country) was successfully sabotaged when the meet was advertised as 'cancelled' in the Western Morning News, due to weather conditions!

At a meet of the South Durham FH riders whipped sabs, male and female, around the green. North-East HSA now has, as standard gear, suspenders and thigh-length boots (and that's just the blokes)!

2 sabs from Derby are adapting their summer holiday, walking the Pennine Way, into a sponsored walk on behalf of the HSA. They hope to do all 280 miles! Sponsors welcome.

Exeter Group fill 2 minibuses every week with enthusiastic sabs—much to the chagrin of local hunts.

At a recent recruitment meeting with filmshow, organised by N.Herts Group, 90 interested people were 'entertained'; because of lack of room others had to be turned away!

A Kendal & District Otterhunt supporter who caused a northern sab to crash his car (see HOWL 9) was fined £5 and his licence endorsed for leaving the scene of an accident. The supporter was reported as saying, "These bloody savages ran down the road at me . . . and I was scared and left". Actually, when the word 'police' was mentioned he sped off!

Please support your local group! Even if you don't want to be active in the field there are lots of other things you can do to help.

TEAR 'IM AND EAT 'IM

According to our sources in Cumbria initiates to hunting circles are blooded in a bizarre and totally unique way. Not only is blood from the fox daubed on their faces but it's also put in a traditional 'Tatie Pot' which is eaten by initiate and friends. Drinking commences and as the evening warms up singing begins. Then, at the height of the festivities the fox carcass is passed round and in true terrier fashion the participants shake it in their mouths.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

An article about HSA in Oxford University's weekly newspaper, *Cherwell,* on 28th October sparked off an aggressive physical reply from bloodsport supporters of the Christchurch Beagles.

The University's own pack, which amalgamated with the Farley Hill Beagles in 1971, were reported in the same issue as having their request for £100 from Junior Common Room funds refused and our man in the University, Mike Smith, expressing delight over the decision was to pay the price, whilst Julian Chadwick, President of the hunt described the antis as "violent and desperate crypto-marxists"!

At 11.45 on the night of the 4th November (the day the paper was circulated) Mike was woken by the sound of hammering fists on his door and sensing impending aggression he escaped out of the window as the top panel of the door splintered and hunt supporters broke in. Neighbours reported fireworks being let off and a window was also smashed.

One of the assailants was identified as Robert Bell, a regular follower of the Christ Church. In an interview with Cherwell, Bell denied taking part although he said he knew the identity of the attackers. He "assumed" some mild aggro would have taken place if Mike had been found in his room, he also gave the impression that the raid was planned and probably instigated by the hunt—the joint masters, of course, being above suspicion.

The following week saboteur efforts against the hunt were intensified and the hunters were forced to wade an armpit-deep river in an attempt to evade the antis.

A week after this hit Chadwick was caught letting off a fire extinguisher and fireworks in his room. As we're sure he would not wish to discredit Oxford HSA we can only assume he'd gone off his rocket!

CLUNK, CLICK, EVERY TRIP

Joint Masters
Hon. Mrs. N. C. Hermon-Worsley
H. M. Parker (Exeter)
J. Stinton (Keble)
M. R. J. Rundell (Christ Church)

CHRIST CHURCH BEAGLES FARLEY HILL

Secretary:
P. J. Tabor (New College) Oxford

Kennel Huntsman:
Reglan Snell
Stanton St. John 710

Dear [redacted]

You may or may not have heard, depending on how frequently or infrequently you come out with us, that last Saturday we had a repetition of the events of November 12th. In other words, our meet at Bletchingdon was honoured with the presence of the Hunt Saboteurs, who were bent on the destruction of the days sport. This they achieved, flushed as they were with success at having already broken up a Coursing meet near Woodstock.

The time has undoubtedly come when the Antis are going to increase their campaign against packs of Beagles, for they have had virtually no success against Foxhounds. The most fanatical of these people do not come from Oxford, but are members of the Student Unions of both Exeter and Sussex Universities. Exactly the same people who were out at Islip in November were out last Saturday. However unattractive or loutish they may appear, and in some cases undoubtedly are, we can no longer afford to disregard their activities. They present a very real threat to our sport.

We have had further rumours of a visitation, planned for next Saturday when we are meeting at Lyford Grange, near Wantage. We have very few courses open to us when trying to combat these people, but there are one or two things that we can do, and we must make every effort to make their lives as difficult as they attempt to make ours. Apart from obtaining written permission from landowners to have the Police evict these people, we can also follow the example the Heythrop. They have practically no trouble from Antis as all the members of the Field carry cameras. The Antis dislike photographic evidence.

I appeal to you, if you are worried, as you should be, about the future of Beagling, that not only do you try and come out with us as often as possible bringing a car full of enthusiastic followers with you, but that you also bring many cameras to upset the Antis. We need your support badly.

Yours Sincerely,
Paddy Tabor

The Christ Church saga doesn't end there, for on the 4th March, following the issue of the above letter, 23 sabs set out to disrupt yet another meet of the beagles. However only 1½ hours into the proceedings police moved in and arrested all the sabs, including an 11 year old girl, Rebecca Hough, with cries of, "We'll get you wherever you are, on roads, paths or fields". They were all carted off to Wantage Police Station and detained for up to 4 hours—in fact until the hunt was over and were reported for charge, "action likely"; as yet none of them has received summonses. Is this a misuse of police powers—putting sabs in clink until the hunters have gone home?

P.S. Because of sab action against the Christ Church & Farley Hill they've reportedly only killed 2 hares since Christmas!

FORUM

FORUM is designed specifically for individual members to express an opinion about subjects that interest them and the views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those held by the Association.

MOANS & GROANS

–ELSIE

Having been a member of the Hunt Saboteurs for nearly three years now, which is probably above average, and having been on hunts 40-odd times a year, I feel that it would not be too arrogant of me to put forward some practical criticism of the habits of some saboteurs. Here goes!

Lateness

There is no point whatsoever in arranging rendezvous with fellow sabs if through your own negligence or laziness you do not get there on time. Many a time sabs have given up and gone home after waiting around for an hour to be picked up by somebody who was running an hour and a half late because of sleeping in. This can be especially disheartening for new members who can be put off for good. Also, if one turns up late to a Meet, searching for the Hunt can be like looking for a needle in a haystack whereas by arriving before the Meet one can simply keep one step ahead of the Hunt by sticking with them from the very start.

Maps

Mounted hunts move so fast across the country that a 1" map of the area is absolutely essential if contact is going to be maintained. One must always be able to read the map efficiently and be familiar with all the symbols so that suitable vantage points for forward sabotage can be rapidly located. A plastic map cover is also a good idea as this keeps the map open at the right place and also keeps it dry.

Dithering!

There is nothing more frustrating than to be cooped up in a mini bus with a dozen sabs squabbling amongst themselves. It sometimes seems that if you put a dozen sabs together they will want to go in twelve different directions and some will even want to go in more than one direction at once! Perhaps under these circumstances it might be considered the best solution to elect a "leader" for the day to help determine tactics. After due consultation, of course. No doubt the tendency will be to choose the most popular member of the group but this might not always be the best choice. The qualities I would look for would be primarily experience, common sense, calmness and a reasonable amount of courage and boldness.

Conduct

We all know that the Police take great delight in harrassing Hunt Saboteurs including searching cars and bodies. It would seem obvious, therefore, that it would be extremely silly to go anti-hunting carrying drugs or offensive weapons such as knives. Drugs do not advance the HSA cause or aid in sabbing, so the discovery of them on a sab will only bring discredit on HSA. Sabs should never be drunk or "high" when on a hit as this not only gives us a bad name, but also hinders the effectiveness of the entire sabotage.

Another useless tactic is verbal abuse directed at the hunts people and sometimes the Police. This behaviour does not save wild animals but simply antagonises hunts people and makes them more nasty towards us in confrontations and destroys what little respect they may have for our point of view.

'In' Crowds

The purpose of HSA is to prevent the hunting and killing of wild animals but to look at some HSA groups one would think that many are in HSA to enjoy themselves and be part of an "in" crowd. My view is that we are not in HSA to like each other. We are in it to **save animals** and I would be glad to go sabbing with the most repulsive person if they were a good saboteur, and, conversely, I would rather leave my best friends at home if I thought they would be useless or a hindrance on Hunts. Also the cult of "in" crowdism sometimes leads to the 'Joint Hit' phenomena whereby hoards of people converge on one solitary hunt leaving the hundreds of other hunts have a free hand that day. Surely, it's more efficient for 50 saboteurs to do 10 Hunts rather than one. Indeed, 5 sabs can often be more successful than 50 because of their mobility and compactness as a unit.

Vehicles

It's very important that all vehicles used should be road worthy, taxed and insured and the Driver licensed. The Police will check all these points thoroughly during their harassment of you, so everything must be in order. The expense of vehicle maintenance should not fall totally on the owner since all the occupants are benefiting from the car's use. I think it's a good idea to add, say, 20 per cent to the petrol whip round to cover these items. But a word of warning here, petrol and car maintenance whip rounds are illegal as the vehicle would then become a taxi and would need to be licensed as such. Maybe the way around this is for passengers to contribute food, drink or sabbing materials instead of cash.

Friday Night Booze-ups

One of the prime causes of lateness and absenteeism on Saturdays is the Friday night booze-up. Surely Saturday night would be more suitable for celebration because although you may be tired after sabotaging all day, you will at least be able to sleep in on Sunday morning as they haven't made hunting legal on Sundays, yet! Remember also, foxes and other hunted animals never have Saturdays off!

Naturally, I don't regard myself as the perfect saboteur and I'm sure I have been guilty of some of the 'sins' I've portrayed, but thinking them out and setting them down has helped me identify just where I have room for improvement so before you call me a right misery please, think on!

Good anti 'ing!

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

Following a tip-off to police 26 hare-coursers were arrested after holding an illegal course near Stevenage, Herts, on a Sunday in December. 25 adults and a boy were fined a total of £630 for trespassing in pursuit of game under an act of 1831. They were tried at a special court convened on the day.

Action against hare-coursing has been above average this season.

In Norfolk on New Year's Day a meet of the Swaffham Coursing Club was sabbed by 6 HSA members. They so upset coursers that 3 of them were dragged off the field by their hair before police arrived.

The 21st January saw 60 antis from southern England successfully disrupt a meet of the Isle of Wight Coursing Club. The sabs outnumbered coursers by 3 to 1 and almost by sheer weight of numbers brought the coursing to a quick end. The demo made the New Zealand Herald!

Two weeks later a meet of the now infamous Oxfordshire Coursing Club was disrupted when 65 countrywide sabs kept walking onto the coursing fields. There was no resistance from coursing supporters. After a quick clean chop of the sabs teeth a couple of coursers got a bit shirty but when completely surrounded by their adversaries decided to call it a day.

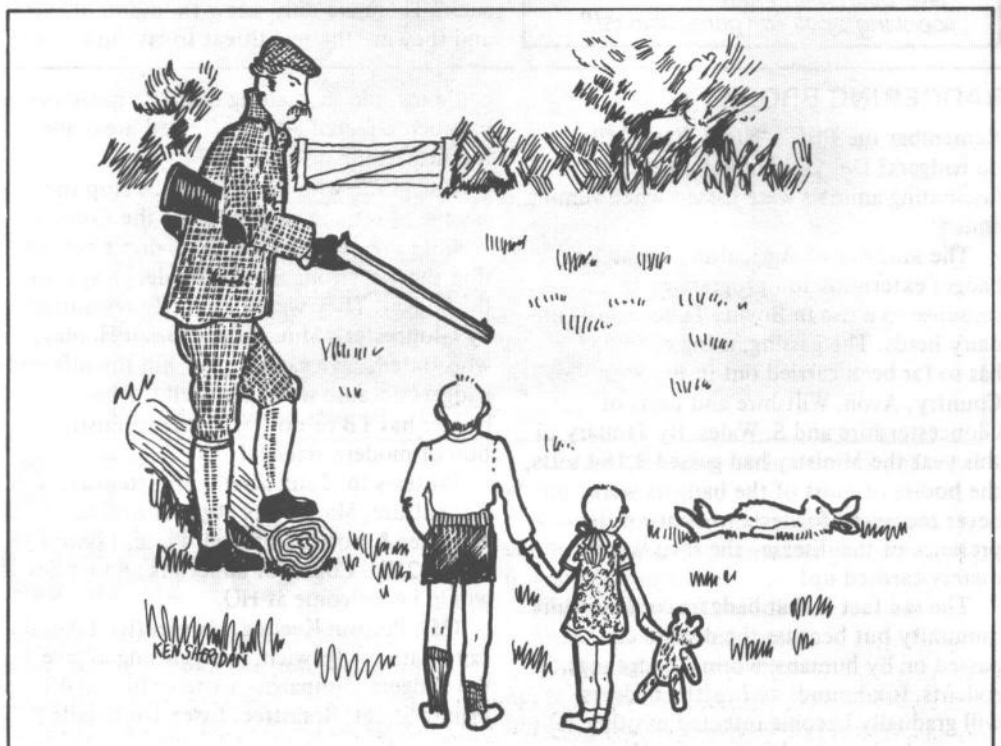
On the 8th and 9th February at Altcar, Lancs the President's Cup was run. This was a replacement event for the Waterloo Cup because an epidemic of liverfluke has reduced the hare population (they say!). 40 sabs from the north disrupted the meeting from the road with whistles, horns and calls and were successful in turning hares from the field.

Coursing supporters incensed by the presence of sabs got a bit uptight and began handing out punches. One apoplectic female courser attacked several sabs and Diane Willey from Morecambe was knocked to the ground, dislocating her shoulder. The offender, Violet Leigh of Newark, Notts was arrested but later released. We have since learnt that papers are being drawn up and statements from witnesses are being secured for police prosecution against this lady. Fingers crossed!

Overheard at the meeting was comment from John McCririck, fanatical coursing correspondent to The Sporting Life, to newspaper reporter, "Of course the people we really fear are the hunt saboteurs". Seems we're making ourselves felt.

The last big event on our calendar (and on the coursers) was to have been the Barbican Cup, near Spalding, Lincs. Fortunately, because of some dispute in coursing circles as to the fitness of hares in the area (the Waterloo Bug?), the meeting was cancelled.

The Abolition of Hare Coursing Bill is to be reintroduced later this year, let's hope its movement is swift and that the pro-hunt lobby suffers the same fate as the hare.



"Well, them's vermin lad." "What *is* vermin Sir?" "Vermin be rabbits and foxes and weasels and stoats and rats and squirrels and owls and hawks and crows and magpies and jays and cats and rooks and otters and some dogs and hares and some other things and I shoots 'em all for my master."
"What's left in the woods then Sir?" "Pheasants sonny, and the master shoots *them*."

Germany

A zoo near Essen actually advertised their animals as targets in order to raise funds. Zoo director, Martin Bishop, invited sportsmen to pot a stag for £900, a doe for £250 and a sheep for between £25 and £50. The creatures did not attempt to run away. "This is the only way we can raise money," Bishop stated.

On a jollier note an intruder broke into a game park, and liberated a pride of lions, unfortunately he was attacked and eaten. Animal liberationalists beware!

CLASS DISTINCTION

Further education at Bridgenorth College, Shropshire took a turn for the worse lately when a 5-lesson course on foxhunting was held. Instruction was given in horsemanship, care and management of hounds and tips on the chase. The course was partly funded by rate-payers. Tony Clarkson, press officer for the British Horse Society who ran the course commented that the college did not want to be associated with the bloodsport argument!

It's unlikely that the night classes will be repeated–three lessons were disrupted by antis.



Some members of the West Midlands Group trying to enroll for the classes!



'At 30 yards, I raised the old gun to my shoulder, looked down the barrel gleaming in the moon light–and the duck jumped. The trigger was pressed. A ton of flame, a cloud of smoke drifting in the moonlight, the boom of black powder thudding in the night, and a duck was down. Shot dead before it had time to launch into full flight.

'An ecstatic plunge, knee-deep into the water and the bird was grabbed by the neck and admired, breathlessly, in the moonlight. The sheer beauty of it captured the eye and made one almost wish that the shot had not been fired. Not only my first duck, but surely the most beautiful duck that ever flew'.

'An awful lot of folk have some sort of built-in desire to kill. Not to hunt, mark you, but just to kill. To dig an animal out and kill it. Now I just can't see that at all, unless I suppose, the animal is a renowned, proven chicken thief, as, of course, is the case with some foxes. But to chuck terriers in a van, on a Sunday, say, and go out and put them in and dig and then just murder foxes, that I cannot for the life of me understand. Yet these chaps'll call themselves sportsmen!'

'The month was May and the year was 1939. The war lords of Europe were blowing their trumpets and the Hitler youth of Germany bore a sheath knife with a swastika on it. The big Frog of Italy was calling his young men "The Sons of the Wolf" and knocking hell out of the youth of Ethiopia who only had spears and swords against tanks and machine guns. In my quiet corner of East Anglia we were wondering what sort of partridge season it was going to be.'

'Finally, the hunting horn in battle . . . Colonel John Vaughan Campbell, formerly Master of the Tanatside Harriers, was awarded a VC in the first world war after leading his men to victory with a revolver in one hand and a silver hunting horn in the other.'

All gleaned from 'Shooting Times': 9.9.76, 2.10.75, 11.11.76, 18.7.74.

GONE TO PRESS

The Field, September '77, "That they (hunting fraternity) have not had sympathy from the press reflects both on the success of the antis' public relations as well as on failure of the field sports' effort". . . .
"It is a question of securing public opinion, of seeking the active sympathy of a substantial majority of a disinterested population. . . a factor which so far only the hunt saboteurs seem to have grasped."

IN MEMORIUM!

10.50 Open Door

The programme in which the BBC hands over air-time to the public.

The British Field Sports Society and the **Masters of Fox Hounds Association** present
Hunting the Wild Fox
'The programme explains what it is that makes well over a million people go out in the British winter to enjoy themselves chasing after a wild animal. They come from all walks of life, of every age, male and female – some on horses, some in motor cars, some on bicycles and many on their own two feet.'
In the studio: **Jimmy Hill, Robin Page, Ann Mallalieu** and others.

Made by the BFSS and the MFHA with the help of the Community Programme Unit
(Repeated next Saturday evening)

HUNT HAVOC

Sabs often find it necessary to leave footpaths and cross areas of farmland and when doing so are careful to avoid damage to crops and always walk round the edges of cropped fields? not so the huntsman, who calls himself the Conservationist, the humanitarian, the one who really cares. Who does he think he's kidding! . . .

In a period covering only 3 months hunts, over the length and breadth of the land, have created havoc and destruction to many people and property.

November 1977

A child's puppy was mistaken for a fox and hunted to death by Ulsters' premier harrier pack, the Inveagh Harriers. Gareth aged three and his brother Alan, two, "cried and cried" when they found their puppy lying dead.

Hunt comment: "The dog was the same colour as a fox".

The East Cornwall Hunt was officially reprimanded by a local council for churning up footpaths and scaring walkers whilst hunting woods they had no right to be in.

Hunt comment: It's not fair! It must be "a cover-up by an anti-bloodsport fanatic."

A Walsall HSA member had two beheaded foxcubs dumped on her doorstep after a hit on the Albrighton Foxhunt.

December 1977

The Brighton & Storrington Foot Beagles halted the London-Ore train service for 30 minutes so that they could remove one electrified and one burnt beagle from the line. A British Rail spokesman said, "I hope that whatever they were after got away that time."

Hunt comment: We'll be hunting as usual on Saturday.

Farmers from Gt. Bardfield banned the Essex Hunt after huntsmen had made roads impassable and damaged grass verges with their horseboxes. The hunt then proceeded to charge at full cry through the local churchyard and across three fields of newly planted corn. One enthusiastic follower drove his vehicle into the middle of one field and others 'unnerved' villagers.

Hunt comment: No comment.

On the same day the Suffolk Hunt allowed hounds to scream through a pensioner's garden hedge which had taken 10 years of loving care to grow into a prizewinning example. The hunt didn't apologise. Later hounds, closely followed by a hunt official crashed through another garden causing extensive damage to flower beds and lawns.

Hunt comment: "Anybody who lives in the country has to accept things like this."

Meanwhile up in good olé John Peel country, the festivities of Boxing Day were ruined when a fox went to ground on a family's nature reserve. The owners guarded the earth for two hours to prevent huntsmen from Ullswater Foxhunt putting the terriers down while supporters offered all kinds of 'festive greetings'. Eventually the family's daughter had to fetch the police to prevent violence from breaking out. Sadly, later in the week, someone returned and dug up the fox!

Hunt comment: "You cannot really control a pack of hounds when they are in full cry."

Italy

Fed up with shooting butterflies and fellow cowboys an army of 200 hunters broke into a nature reserve at Circeo, near Rome and blasted off at deer, rabbits and birds. They complained to the warden, who was unable to stop the rush, that "the surrounding countryside was bare of game so they wanted to hunt the animals in the park"!

Japan

Japanese fishermen recently herded 1,000 dolphins into a bay on Iki Island and systematically harpooned them, dragged them ashore and bludgeoned them to death. The animals were reported to have tears streaming down their cheeks. The reason? They were eating the fishermen's livelihood—cuttlefish. This slaughter was not only endorsed by local authorities but actually financed by the payment of £6 per dead dolphin.

Following the massacre Olivia Newton-John, who had 24 singing engagements in Japan, and Helen Reddy, who also had a tour booked, have refused to fulfil their contracts in Japan.



A new hunt tactic—squashing foxes to death?

January 1978

One incident really credited the hunting fraternity this month and they talk about us . . .

On Saturday 14th at Oakley Wood Crematorium, near Leamington, a funeral service was being held for a 10 day old child when the peace was disturbed by the Warwickshire FH arriving on the scene. The mourning family arrived to find hounds and huntsmen chasing through the grounds and car park and for 20 minutes the service was disrupted by the huntsman blowing his horn and hounds continually baying. The grandfather of the child said that throughout the incident the attitude of the hunt was "diabolical" and no attempt to apologise was made by the huntsman present.

Hunt comment: "We were pursuing a legal pastime, but occasionally something goes wrong. It is the first time anything like this has happened." (However, according to the chairman of the district council it's the second time!)

DEATH IN THE NORTH

This year over 195,000 seals will die on the ice floes off Canada's east coast and every one of us will be responsible, as an average of 34,000 seal pelts are imported into Britain every year. Most of these pelts are handled by the Hudson's Bay Company whose infamous trade in animal skins has been tolerated in this country for too long.

Greenpeace will again be making itself felt on the floes, although their tactics remain a necessary secret, and on the 11th March, in conjunction with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), they organised a mass demo in Trafalgar Square which called for the halting of the kill.

Because of the ban on marches by the Metropolitan Police the demonstrators, numbered at about 2,500*, were urged "to walk, amble, stroll" to Beaver House to deliver letters of protest. Extra police were drafted in to 'protect' staff at the offices while about 2,000* people queued to drop their dissertations into boxes provided by the Hudson's Bay Co. (*Police figures)

Meanwhile back in our own waters the slaughter of seals still goes on. In November/December last year an estimated 7,000 seals were butchered in Scottish waters, this killing goes on every year—without opposition. The Scottish Dept. of Fisheries & Food refused to release the names of the licensed killers, but the Norwegians are strong suspects. There is absolutely no sense in pointing the finger at other nations when we tolerate seal slaughter on our own doorstep!

Protests please, to:
Canadian High Commission, Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London SW1 (the Canadian Government receives more mail about the seals than on any other issue).
Norwegian Embassy, 25 Belgrade Square, SW1.
Hudson's Bay Co., Beaver House, Great Trinity Street, EC1.
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food for Scotland, Chesser House, Georgie Road, Edinburgh.
Home Secretary, Home Office, Whitehall, SW1.
Postscript: The Beatles each sent £500 to aid the cause.

HALLO, HALLO, HALLO

The police have a new toy. It's called the 'Police National Computer' (P.N.C.) and it lives at Hendon. Policepersons anywhere in the country can play with it. They simply radio in your vehicle registration number and in just a few seconds it will tell them your name and address and whether your vehicle is stolen. It will also tell them that you are anti-bloodsports (as we first reported in HOWL 8).

Why the police deem it necessary to note on police computer files that your car is owned by an anti-bloodsports person we don't know. It may be, of course, that they are genuinely interested in your views. Or perhaps they think that an 'anti's' car is far more likely to be stolen than a hunt supporter's car. Whatever the reason, the result is no laughing matter. On one occasion it has caused 3 people to spend 6 months in prison. On other occasions sabs have been harassed and persecuted.

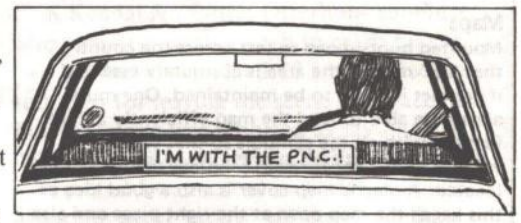
Lancashire police did a routine check, via the P.N.C., on a car in Forton service station. The P.N.C. told them that the owner was an "anti-bloodsports animal liberation supporter" with a cross reference to the Criminal Records Office (despite the fact that the owner did *not* have a criminal record!). As a result of that information three people were arrested, charged, convicted and sentenced to 9 months imprisonment for allegedly exhuming the late hunter, John Peel, an incident that took place 60 miles from Forton. The 3 still protest their innocence, but for the P.N.C.'s circumstantial evidence they would never even have been *suspected* of the alleged crime.



"Personally speaking, my family have been using it as a scenting spot for generations!"

An almost identical situation last year resulted in a sab being charged with damaging signs at a Bloodsports Fair. He also protested his innocence, and on this occasion the charges were eventually dropped.

Where do the police get their information for the P.N.C.? The vehicle/name and address side comes from the Driver Vehicle Licencing Computer at Swansea. The anti-bloodsports information must often be supposition based on often inaccurate information. However it is possible that use was made of HSA membership files when police 'detained' (ie legally stole) them for a while 18 months ago. Since then police have been seen taking sabs' car numbers, for no apparent reason at several hunts and once at a sab's birthday party! We could of course be misjudging the police. As 'Datalink' (a computer users' journal) pointed out, "many people, of all ages, collect car numbers with quite innocent intentions".



We are not the only people concerned at this invasion of our privacy. MPs, barristers and computer journals all expressed concern at our revelations. Datalink has repeatedly questioned the Home Office and Scotland Yard about the P.N.C. Although at first refusing to answer, the police eventually confessed that the P.N.C. was not alone. There were computers, similar to the P.N.C., at Hull, Thames Valley, Dorset, Suffolk and Scotland Yard police HQs. Not forgetting the massive Metropolitan Police computer near the House of Commons, which houses the Special Branch files (now, they *should* make interesting reading!). Other forces are planning to join in the fun.

So what have they got on us? No-one knows exactly, but the P.N.C. alone has 4,500,000,000 characters of directly accessible information covering just 12,000,000 drivers, and even that is not enough room, they are planning to double the capacity to 9 thousand million characters. That will enable the P.N.C. alone, if properly used, to hold virtually unlimited information about any of us in the HSA.

The bare facts remain. Having been given (by us, the taxpayers) an expensive new toy, the police are abusing it. 75% of the population are anti-bloodsports. Are we all labelled as such (if so no wonder the P.N.C. is full!)? If not, surely those of us that are labelled are being discriminated against—we are automatically suspects to certain types of crime and are thus at a legal disadvantage.

Surely it would be easier, fairer and more logical to label the pro-bloodsports people as such? There are only a few thousand of them—and they are the real threat to law and order!

BADGERING BROCK

Remember the BBC's 'Night Watch' film on badgers? Did you know that those fascinating animals were gassed when filming ended!

The Ministry of Agriculture began its badger extermination programme in response to a rise in Bovine Tuberculosis in dairy herds. The gassing, using cyanide, has so far been carried out in the West Country, Avon, Wiltshire and parts of Gloucestershire and S. Wales. By January of this year the Ministry had gassed 3,184 setts, the bodies of most of the badgers were never recovered for tests to confirm the presence of the disease—the setts were merely earthed up!

The sad fact is that badgers *could* acquire immunity but because the disease can be passed on by humans, worms, hedgehogs, rodents, fox-hounds *and* cattle, badgers will gradually become infected in other areas and when this happens the Ministry will undoubtedly follow behind.

Two initial and vital steps could be taken—the immunising of cattle, as practised on the Continent and the use of restrictive measures similar to those imposed during outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. These could include the halting of cattle movements between affected and unaffected areas and the suspension of hunting.

One group who are fighting to stop the gassing of setts in their area are the Cotswold Wildlife Preservation Soc. who don't believe that there is strong enough evidence against the badger. They weren't exactly reassurred by Gloucester's Min. officer, Brian Hopley, who stated, "We cannot *only* kill the infected badgers because we cannot tell if a live badger has TB or not." Oh, the sophistication of modern science!

Protests to: John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriuclture, Fisheries & Food, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HH. Copies of all letters and replies would be welcome at HQ.

(Mr. Preston Keeling, prospective Liberal candidate for Ipswich, is organising a 'save the badgers' campaign—write to him at 43 Manor Street, Braintree, Essex for details.)

BLOW THAT FOR A LAUGH!

John Brown, an anti-hunt tenant farmer, whose landlord supports foxhunting, used a gas-powered bird-scarer to keep hounds of the Cheshire Hunt from his land.

Published by the Hunt Saboteurs Association, P.O. Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent.