The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association Spring 2021 (Issue 125) £2 (free to members)

HOWL

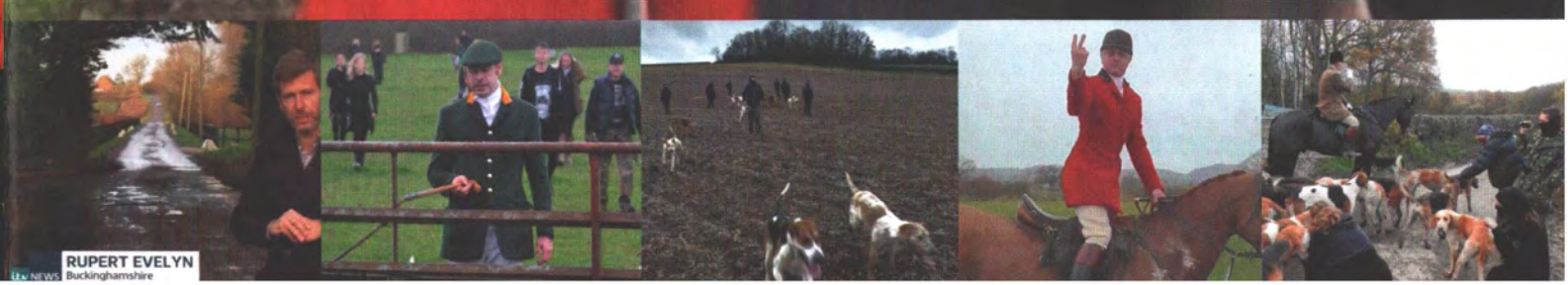
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports www.huntsabs.org.uk

Hunting Office webinar leaks

Tactics: Taking control of the pack

Beagle packs merging to death

North Wales Sabs





LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Once again, I am in the position of being able to say that the Hunt Saboteurs Association is the foremost anti-hunt organisation, but this time with even more evidence than usual. As you will be able to read in detail later (How a Smokescreen Turned into a Firestorm), just a few short months ago our newly revamped website broke the news of the Hunting Office 'training video'. This shows what hunt sabs have known for years: that the facade of trail hunting is just a cover, (or 'smokescreen,' in their own words) for what has been a countrywide conspiracy for hunts to continue hunting and killing.

This leaked video has far-reaching ramifications for the fight against hunting and will be used for years to come to show how hunts are breaking the law, hopefully to secure convictions and enable us to show our actions are not only morally defensible but are also legally justified when challenged by biased police. The worrying element is that some people in the video have strong links to police forces; it also shows a trend for ex-police officers to move into positions where they can use their knowledge to subvert animal welfare laws, like the role of 'wildlife officers' who also have links to hunts. This shows what sabs have known for decades; that the police are rarely the solution when it comes to protecting animals.

We wait with bated breath the outcome of the police investigation into the video but know that the damage to the credibility of the hunting community, such as it was, has been dealt another serious blow.

You will have seen the many and varied organisations who have taken this opportunity to finally ban hunts from land under their control; please support all campaigns to increase this practice, but also take the time to thank those organisations who have taken this step. We want to make it extremely hard for this decision to be reversed, regardless of the outcome of the police investigation.

In other good news I am delighted to welcome to the ever-expanding hunt sabbing community around the world Hunt Saboteurs Ireland:

https://huntsabsireland.com/ https://www.facebook.com/huntsabsireland/ https://twitter.com/HuntSabsIreland

At present they cover three provinces: Connacht, Munster, and Leinster, with no doubt more to come, as they fight legal hunting with hounds even though 77% of the population want it banned outright. Please promote them on social media in the usual ways.

Of course, many hunts have been forced to stop because of Covid-19, and we can only hope that the financial burden and pressure will cause some to close.

Thanks, you for your support, membership, donations, and promotion of us and all our affiliated local groups on social media which makes our task much easier.

Here's to another great year of pushing hunting towards the dustbin of history...

Covid-19 lockdown carries on, but the HSA work continues. If your are a member of the HSA and want to stand for the committee you need to email your interest in March to: info@huntsabs.org.uk and have two other HSA members to support your application for committee who also need to email in.

Any questions email: Chair@huntsabs.org.uk

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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 57 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action (nvda) to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

Editor	Ed Howl
Contributors	All groups who sent group news in.
Photos	www.stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com, www.richardbowlerwildlifephotography.com HSA Archive, Sab groups everywhere - Ta folks!
Distribution	HSA
Big taverymuch to:	all HSA members and anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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The views expressed in Howl do not necessarily reflect those of the editor(s) or the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee. Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated. Nothing in Howl should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

Howl is printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable inks.



This issue of Howl is dedicated to the memory of Hunt Saboteurs

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

9th February 1991 & 3rd April 1993 respectively whilst lawfully trying to prevent hunts from killing our wildlife.

You will never be forgotten



EDITORIAL

Welcome to another edition of HOWL, the magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Amidst the desperate misery of the Covid pandemic it's been hard to find positives. But they are there.

The leaked Hunting Office webinars have fatally damaged 'trail hunting' and - along with other leaked material - revealed just how much of a problem we are for the hunters. The third lockdown, too, has offered a tantalising glimpse of a world where our wildlife is safe from the hunters.

This HOWL covers the webinars and a good deal more besides: there are pieces by sab groups in Scotland, Wales and England; news from a record 47 of our affiliated groups; articles on the police, DIY punk, the badger cull and our usual look back at our inspirational history. Thank you to all our contributors.

Finally, the Hunt Saboteurs Association have provisionally booked our AGM at Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS for Saturday 24th July 2021.

If it goes ahead there will be the usual shenanigans involving horn blowing, whip cracking and vegan victuals. Obviously, the Covid-19 situation will determine whether it can happen: please keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Enjoy the magazine and please pass it to a friend when you've read it.

With best wishes,

Ed Howl



HOWL is your magazine and the mouthpiece of active hunt saboteurs everywhere.

Please ensure your voice is heard: send Group News, articles, photos and any other items of interest to howl@huntsabs.org.uk to arrive no later than 1st May 2021.

Please also get in touch if you have ideas for content but are not sure how to proceed. We can't promise to include everything but we'll have a look and, if it's bad enough, we'll publish it.

HOW A SMOKESCREEN TURNED INTO A FIRESTORM

FRIDAY THE 13th November 2020. A date which will be burned into the memories of hunters forever. Their least favourite website, huntsabs.org.uk, flashed up a news article that they had hoped nobody would ever see.

Hours of footage from the top table of the hunting community, the Hunting Office, had been somehow leaked. Not only that, but the HSA had condensed and analysed the fateful film into its most relatable, understandable, and shocking elements for ready consumption across the world.

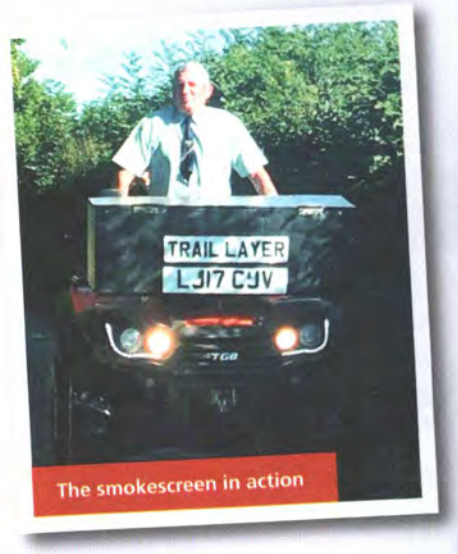
THE FIRST MATCH IS LIT

Behind the scenes, a team of hunt sabs formed what could be called the smokescreen press team, working around the clock to give this story the most airtime and coverage it possibly could.

Just handing out hours of hunting webinars to news outlets would be unlikely to strike a chord with journalists and editors. They needed focus, context and links to real life people and events in order to meet the demands of news desks.

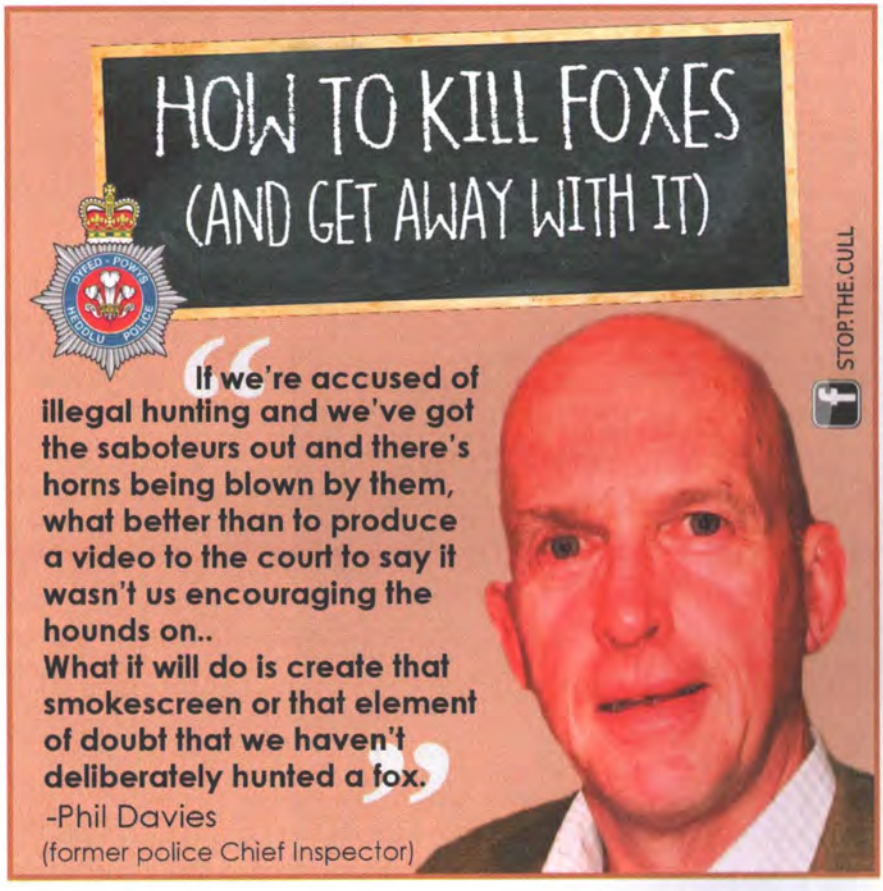
Once the leaked webinars had been made available the HSA, the team spent countless hours reviewing and analysing the videos, writing up the transcripts and distilling hours of damning footage into the short, digestible clips which have now become so memorable. The phrases "smokescreen", "bit of a wheeze" and "only record the legal things we do" were clearly dynamite to the foundations of fox hunting.

The leaked videos were initially published by the HSA on social media channels, and it became clear that the Hunting Office were very rattled - trying to put out the fire by issuing takedown notices to Youtube and Facebook. Each obstacle was overcome with ingenuity as at first, local hunt sab groups took to posting versions of the video on their own sites, before finally a solution was found involving hosting the footage on a server outside of the EU, who would confidently stick two fingers up to the Hunting Office when their lawyers came calling...



The smokescreen in action

Readers may recall the frustrating delay experienced when, after the initial news broke, on the HSA website, major news channels seemed hesitant to run the story. Back with our smokescreen press team, a guerrilla strategy formed. By spreading the news as widely as possible using local groups knowledge and contacts of regional news pages, the audience for the now infamous smokescreen webinars was growing fast.



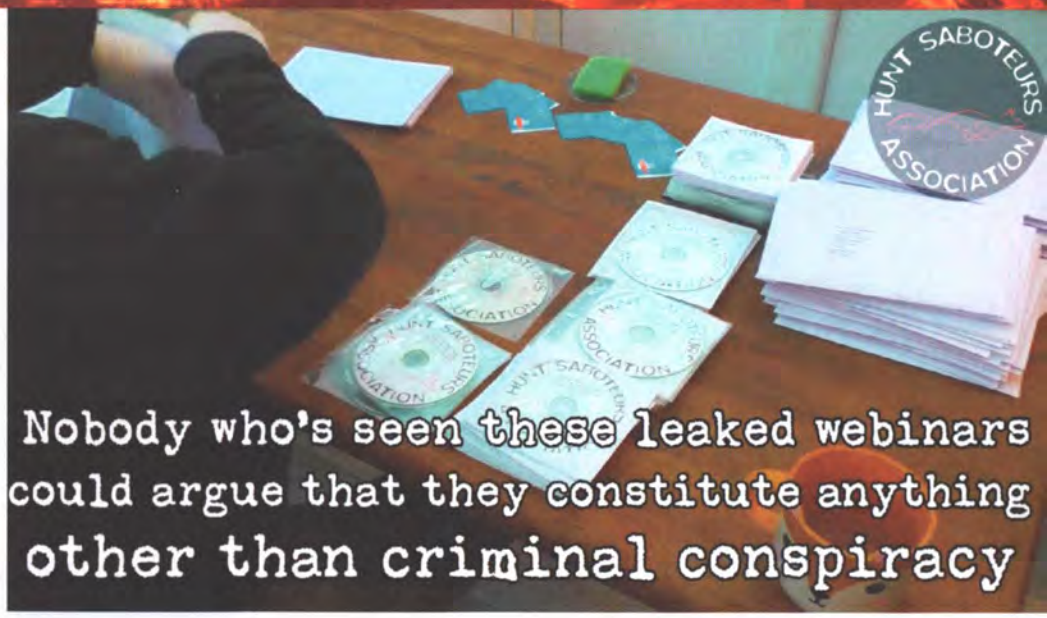
NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

A special place in the hearts of us all, will always be reserved for the (perhaps previously lesser known) news website The London Economic. This site ran the story the day after the news broke and paved the way for their peers in reporting the scandal. Each local news site publication of the story was taken as a victory for the truth yet still, nationals seemed cautious. After all, this was a

huge story and fox hunters count powerful, rich and influential figures within their ranks.

Local news sources were now picking the story up, while both the webinar "most shocking" highlights video along with the full unedited source material were racking up thousands of views on the HSA website.





However, national news was conspicuous by its absence. The smokescreen press team continued working with local groups to keep building the momentum of the story. By now, the public were demanding to know what was to be done about this shocking admission from the hunters.



FANNING THE FLAMES

In what would turn out to be the spark that ignited the news inferno, people across the country had turned to the social media channels of every police force, challenging their local coppers as to what should happen next. In one fateful tweet to the Devon & Cornwall police, a response was posted which confirmed that a nationally led investigation was now under way. Suddenly, all hell broke loose, what was already a bad news story for the Hunting Office quickly became their worst nightmare.

The confirmed investigation gave national news channels the angle they craved. As soon as police confirmed they were investigating the contents of the webinars for criminal activity, ITV News ran their story.

BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

It was now too late for the hunters, with the story well and truly out and a nationally led police investigation into their beloved Lord Mancroft, following the admission of widespread illegal hunting and perjury, the stage had been set for the next catastrophic fallout: the loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of permitted hunting territory. The Hunting Office had absolutely no answer to what has happening around them, and reverted to their tried and tested tactic, "keep quiet and wait for this all to blow over". Only, this particularly smoky cloud wasn't blowing anywhere.

Within days, the National Trust, United Utilities, Forestry England, Natural Resources Wales, Lake District National Park had all pulled their ill-advised trail hunting permissions. Hunting had been dealt several hefty roundhouses and was on its knees, and that's before coronavirus had even laced up its winter boots ready to finish them off completely.

ONLY ASHES REMAIN

At the time of writing, the investigation into the webinars is still underway. Of course, hunt sabs are well used to expecting little from police intervention. However, this story has now become indelibly written into the history of the downfall of hunting. Future generations will be able to look back to 2020 as the year when hunters were finally exposed to the public as the lying crooks and charlatans they are.
Fox hunters can never again use the phrase "trail hunt", without the next word being "lies".





CASHING IN ON THE CHECK

The HSA's Tactics Officer advises on the best time to take control of the pack

Understanding how a hunt operates is key to becoming an effective sab. Although there are variations in how different huntsmen work their hounds, there are certain processes that never change.

In the pursuit of their quarry the hounds will often "check" before either losing the scent completely or regaining it and continuing with the chase. If the chase is a long one the hounds may check several times and, in the eyes of the hunter, this is the perfect scenario, working the hounds hard over a long distance where their superior stamina will ultimately lead them to catching and killing their quarry.

What is a check?

The check occurs when the pack have been "in cry" or "giving voice" on a scent line and they lose the scent. This can happen for several reasons. For example, a fox running from a grass field to a ploughed field may cause the hounds to check, as the ploughed earth carries scent less well than grass.

A fox or hare may deliberately throw in a turn or jink, causing the hounds to overrun the line. It could also be something as simple as the fox crossing a road, a change of wind direction, or just poor general scenting conditions.

"The hounds will become quieter, slow right down and spread out with their noses down as they try to regain the scent..."

Generations of selective breeding mean hunting hounds are superbly adapted to their work. They are athletic, have unbelievable stamina and great noses with which to follow the scent of their quarry. Like any tool - and that is how they are treated - they are utterly worthless if they fail to serve their purpose and, sadly, hounds that don't make the grade don't last long. Because of this, hounds are incredibly single minded, and you can use this to your advantage...but more of that later.

Recognizing the check

It is almost impossible to take control of the hounds when they are in full cry; by far the best time to do it is at a check.



Let Us Spray: sab quickly covers the scent.

Fortunately, recognizing the check is straightforward. First off, the hounds will be baying and moving swiftly in a fairly straight line or very narrow "V" shape. Even if you have not seen the quarry (it could be 15 minutes or more ahead and well out of sight) you must assume this is the path it has taken. The huntsman may be doubling his horn and hunting them on, shouting "*on on on*" or a similar encouraging call.

All of this will change as hounds check.

The hounds will become quieter, slow right down and spread out with their noses down as they try to regain the scent. They may take only seconds to



Bonfire smoke foils the scent, so Bristol horn blower takes control!





Check mate: West Mids sab takes action at the check

reacquire, several minutes or indeed they may not refind it at all. If this is the case, it's likely that the huntsman will encourage them with voice and sometimes short horn calls. If he's seen the line the fox or hare has taken then he'll gather up the hounds and put them directly on it, hunting them on with both voice and horn once they are back on the line and speaking. If not, he will take them back to the original point where they lost it and cast them again in an arc in the hope of a regaining the line.

Take Action!

You should take action as soon as the hounds check. If you have a proficient horn blower they should call the hounds with long winded notes on the horn and voice (*"come come come"* shouted in a positive way); similarly, use a gizmo in short bursts but be careful, make sure you're not encouraging the hounds over areas where there is the risk of putting up another fox or where the original one could be lying up. You should also be keenly aware of hazards like roads and railway lines.

Remember that single mindedness the hounds have? They will be keen to impress and looking for instruction from the huntsman, so if you can take his place and provide that instruction then, more often than not, they'll happily come to you.

Once you have them moving in your direction keep up the encouragement, take them further away and watch with a smug grin as the huntsman comes galloping into view with his hounds long gone and firmly under the control of sabs!

Splitting the pack

Taking the whole pack is a winner for sabs, but splitting them is just as effective and can be double the work for hunt staff. If you have two horn blowers, station them on either side of the checked pack, blowing those encouraging calls. If you achieve a split pack take them away in different directions, a line of fit sabs calling the hounds can take them miles away! Any huntsman worth his salt won't continue hunting with half his pack missing, he'll also have to call the whipper in to try and regain control of the lost hounds and this will not only save the quarry but also put a big dent in their hunting time!

Cover that line

While all this is going on get other sabs to give the area a good soaking of whatever scent masking solution you use. If you're seen the quarry then you'll know where to spray but, if not, cover all likely looking escape routes and remember foxes in particular love to run hedge lines and hares big circles as they try to keep in their home territory. Be wary of spraying in full view of the huntsman, this may give him a clue as to the direction his quarry took but, if the huntsman sees you, spray a bogus line and send him the wrong way. Don't forget to use your environment as well. Scent doesn't hold well on a road or similar surface so rev your vehicles exhaust to dilute it further. If a fox has jinked after coming through a hedge then this will be another perfect spot: basically, anywhere that will force the hounds to blow through and lose the scent after failing to make the turn.

Be wary

Taking or splitting the pack is likely to send hunt staff into a rage. Make sure you're not isolated and know how to dodge a horse being ridden by an angry rider whose face matches his coat!

Check Mate!

These tactics rely on being in the right place at the right time and having the situational awareness to act accordingly. Hunting is, by its very nature, fast and fluid so none of this is easy. However, if you can get to the right place, at the right time...it will be check mate for the hunt!

Right place, right time: Notts sabs take the pack away from the fox



SABBING THE CULL



Images: Derbyshire Against The Cull

In 2020 the cruel and unscientific badger cull rolled out to 11 new zones, 54 in total, and aimed to kill almost 65,000 of one of Britain's favourite wild animals. For the first time, culling was due to take place in Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire (where it had been halted at the last minute in 2019 due to a large vaccination programme in the county).

In these cull zones badgers are trapped in cages and shot, or even more controversially encouraged to piles of peanuts in the middle of a field where shooters fire at them with high powered rifles. The cull lasts for at least 6 weeks and each zone has a minimum and maximum number of badgers they can kill. Shropshire, for example, a new cull zone in 2020 and one of the largest, had minimum kill figures of 4,187 and a maximum figure of 5,676 badgers.

There are now also a number of supplementary zones, areas where culling has taken place for at least 4 years, where the cull companies are able to continue low level killing for the majority of the year.

As in previous years hunt saboteurs from across the country mobilised to sab the cull, directly intervening at night to stand between shooters and their bait points and walking hundreds of miles during daylight to find traps.

From Cornwall in the South to Cumbria in the North and the Forest of Dean in the West to Lincolnshire in the East sab groups went to the zones where they felt they could be most effective.



As always local groups were supported by the Hunt Saboteurs Association. We distributed £7,000 of fuel funds and loaned out military-grade thermal imaging and night vision equipment for groups to locate and sabotage shooters in the darkness. We also provided advice and support to groups when they request it and ensured vital tactical information is shared between all the local groups so they can constantly adapt their tactics and be as effective as possible.

Sabs worked with local people, sharing knowledge and skills to ensure they were as effective as possible in disrupting the cull. The success of the anti-cull movement has been that it contains a broad church of people. From pixies who are willing to sneak about in the darkness destroying traps to badger patrollers who walk the footpaths and protect setts from shooters. All have played their part in creating a powerful, effective movement to stop the cull.

The final figures for 2020 show that a horrifying 38,642 badgers were killed in the cull. While this is a heart-breaking figure, we know it would have been far higher without the amazing efforts of hunt sabs supported by the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

To get involved and for more information:

www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/contacts

www.innocentbadger.com/

www.badgeractionnetwork.org.uk/

sabgroupnews



Wilts & Infantry Beagles sound the retreat

Bath Hunt Sabs

bathhuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk

Find us on

With disruption to the hunting season due to Covid we have had more time off sabbing than usual! We've sabbed every Saturday hunts have been out, and a number of mid-week meets.

But, really, the obvious thing to focus on recently is the HSA webinar leak. This brilliant piece of work has really galvanised our group, we have been campaigning, recruiting new sabs, getting more tip offs, getting people contacting landowners, growing hugely in confidence as a group and growing in numbers!

During the time off our resident mechanic fixed up the second landy the HSA supported us to get (Thanks!). So when the second lockdown ended we were ready to go with two vehicles, and we've still had to turn down sabs due to too many people! The HSA's support and then the biggest hit to hunting since the ban means we are a stronger group than ever before. We can sab hunts alone and always be in front, and we can sab groups previously too rough for small numbers of people.

Our whole community is keen and relishing kicking hunts while they are down.

In the short periods of time hunts have been allowed to spread covid this year we have sabbed: the Avon Vale FH, Chilmark & Clifton Foot Beagles, New Forest FH, Ross Harriers, a road trip to the Fernie, Wilton FH and the Wilts & Infantry Beagles.

We have worked with brilliant groups including Bristol, Mendip, Severn Vale and Wiltshire Sabs, with the mysterious Royale Wiltshire been in the area!

And in a bad year, the webinars and everything resulting have given us a much-needed boost.



Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

bedsandbuckshuntsabs@riseup.net

ko-fi.com/bedsbuckshuntsabs

Find us on

With the current Covid situation we've had to adapt to some challenging situations, but here at B&B Towers we take these head on and have given the hunts no peace. Early in the cubbing season we caught the criminal Kimblewick several times and forced them into meet changes and enjoyed seeing their soft underbelly (the terrier man) crash his quad!

Our main target (the Oakley) have had an absolute pasting. We've been hitting them on Saturdays and midweek and even had a single-sab hit where lives were undoubtedly saved.

During cubbing we also had a dedicated team out dealing with cages and chasing badger killers and even though a pair of our sabs were detained and cuffed (later released with no charge) by an overzealous police officer it made good PR and highlighted the work sabs do all over the country.

Lockdown meant the cancellation of the Oakley opening meet which was great news for all wildlife but would have also hit them in the pocket. Once that lockdown was lifted, we were back out although, with the leaking of the Hunting Office webinars, the wind really seems to have gone from their sails. We'll continue to highlight their criminality while saving lives, but they are already advertising for a new whipper in, Tom Henson - AKA The Paperboy, has either been sacked or is jumping ship but we won't miss this odious little turd and we're told that old Shaky Hand the huntsman is also looking for a new job. We suspect there will be a few on offer as anyone with any sense will see that hunting has been fundamentally damaged by the recent revelations.

With a further lockdown in the South East over the festive break it means for the first time in the groups history we'll be staying home but at least so will the local hunts. Rest assured as soon as we are able, we'll be back out and getting stuck in.



Hunt master having absolute Fitz!

Berkshire Hunt Sabs

huntsabs@riseup.net
Find us on

Since the hunting season started this year, we have continued to concentrate on our hare hunting campaign.


Is that a horn in your pocket or...?

Hunts sabotaged in the period before Christmas included the Vine and Craven, New Forest Fox Hunt, Royal Artillery Fox hunt, Trinity Foot Beagles, Wilts & Infantry, Chilmark & Clifton Foot and finally the New Forest Beagles.

As we write, all our local hunts are now confirmed as not going out due to the Covid restrictions, so we are using the time to test out new tech and keeping fit. The latest lockdown will enable us to focus our efforts on our anti badger cull activities and we are gearing up to continue sett surveying in preparation for next autumn and a cull that is likely to come to our area.

It's been a turbulent few months for everyone, but especially for those in the hunting world. The hunts must almost be glad of a respite to the almost weekly bad press they've been hit with this season with criticism about grants, lockdown exemptions, violence, hidden cameras, the webinar expose and various land bans. Long may it continue!


"On...on...on!" Brighton sabs take the pack for a run

Brighton Hunt Sabs

E-mail list: https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/brightonhuntsaboteurs
Find us on

Well, it's been an interesting season so far for us Brighton lot to say the least. Due to Covid the hunting community hasn't had their normal run of terrorising wildlife, which also means that sabbing across the country has been pretty sporadic. But if they're hunting, we'll be sabbing, so as soon as the scum were back to their murderous ways, we've been back out in the field ruining their bloodthirsty fun.

We've paid visits to all the usual local scumbags and took huge gratification in being a massive thorn in their sides, as well as popping up north for the Inglorious Twelfth. Talking of shoots, four of our sabs recently stood trial for an incident that happened last November near Pycombe. It was a truly disgusting incident that saw two of the sabs in attendance assaulted and then all four were unjustly arrested by the ever-biased Sussex Police. After a very long trial, with constant delays due to the pandemic and an incredibly incompetent CPS, the sabs were finally acquitted of all charges. We thought that it would be interesting to note that the allegations were made by the vile father and son duo Steven and James Attwood, who not so long ago were responsible for assaulting our comrades South Coast sabs, as well as causing damage to their landy by suspending it in mid-air.

Thanks to our supporters and the HSA we secured a new vehicle this season, our landy has been great but was just costing too much in maintenance. For obvious reasons, fundraising hasn't happened of late, but we have just ordered some merch with our brand spanking new logo, and with a bit of luck we'll be back behind the stall at a grotty punk gig in the future.

And remember folks.... AHAB, ACAB, keep resisting!

Bristol Hunt Sabs

bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on

We started the 2020/21 season at the end of August with a cubbing meet of Tedworth Hunt, followed in September by the VWH, the Cotswold Vale Farmers' and our only mink hunt this summer, the Courtenay Tracy Hounds (see previous HOWL for reports until then), and a return to the Tedworth.

October onwards saw us turn our attention to beagles, starting with the first sab of the Chilmark & Clifton Foot Beagles in their own country in a decade; they resorted to their previous tactics of calling in thugs to attack sabs, but this didn't deter us.


Bristol sabs all over the Chilmark & Clifton Foot Beagles

The following Thursday we found and packed up the Severn Vale Beagles, and a week later we gave their kennel mates, the Berkeley Hunt, a visit. We joined in on the ruining of the opening meet of the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles on the Saturday. A month-long lockdown followed, with time for some recuperation and training, before we returned to the field in December with a midweek visit to the recently amalgamated Palmer Marlborough & Clinkard Meon Valley Beagles.

The following weekend saw a return to the Chilmark & Clifton Foot Beagles after their previous violence, with a long but successful day. Due to vehicle issue this was our last sab of 2020, with us very nearly but not quite making it to the Wilts & Infantry Beagles Boxing Day meet (others had it covered). At the time of writing (start of Jan), most local hunts have cancelled due to Covid restrictions, but we have just sabbed a kennel meet of the nearby Beaufort Hunt with over 100 supporters present. We'll see if this season lasts much longer, I predict not...

Calder Valley Hunt Sabs

caldervalleysabs@gmail.com
Find us on

Recent months has seen us grow in strength within the Calderdale community.

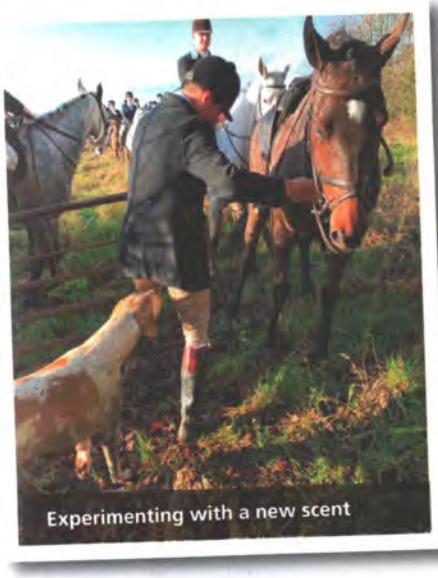
We have been busy with the mass snaring and trapping sites on the Walshaw shooting estate that dominates the tops of our valley, also empowering others in the community to take action against the estates many traps and snares. We've also had many run-ins with the local twats in tweed who like to hunt foxes and hares, putting a stop to the Airedale Beagles multiple times and working alongside other groups to piss on the bloodlust of local fox hunters. We will continue to oppose hunting and shooting with no compromise until their end.



The Airedale Beagles hadn't seen sabs in a while...

Cheshire Hunt Sabs

cheshirehuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on



Experimenting with a new scent

We've had many ups and downs, with highs including the leaked webinars exposing the Hunting community for what we already knew, and the domino effect that has had including some excellent coverage by ITV. Hunts have been out far less than they'd choose, with a whole lot less land to hunt on. A particular high was Cheshire Hunt Saboteurs being part of a campaign to ban hunts on Cheshire West and Chester council-owned land.

The lows have been the 8-week long badger cull, which as for many, was exhausting, heartbreaking, and relentless. With the cull being extended by two weeks, we had sabs out day and night in the cull zones, as well as covering Cubbing season.

This year has taught us a lot about resilience and loyalty and friendship and the huge importance of supporting each other through difficult times. We're forever grateful for our supporters who have made it possible for us to be out as often as we have been, protecting our wildlife.

With Cheshire Forest Hunt appearing to have disregarded any semblance of "trail hunting", and holding the record for the most ill-mannered man-child, Marcus Callwood, or Cheshire Hounds so keen to be seen to "trail" but really, still attempting to hunt where we think we can't see them, or The Wynnstay doing as they please, we've certainly had our hands full.

Whether it's videos of riders whipping horses or frolicking badger cubs, or badger murderers being chased off, or dealing with intimidating behaviour, damage to our vehicles, police harassment, endless submitted footage, or local coverage of Hunts breaching Covid regulations, there's one thing we're very grateful for - our friends and comrades, whether that's in the field with us or helping to keep us in the field with their donations and support.

Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

cihwatch@gmail.com
Find us on

Everyone hoped that the Badger Cull would be halted this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the government are determined to exterminate badgers and gave the go-ahead. So, we were out there opposing the cull, surveying existing setts and finding new ones. Working with Stroud Against the Badger Cull and Gloucester Badger Office we aimed to bear witness to breaches of cull guidelines e.g. prolific shooter in Gloucester actually shot into the walls of a house to kill a badger!

Cub hunting continued and we were out several times a week mainly sabbing the Beaufort but also the VWH, Cotswold and Cotswold Vale Farmers. Hunts continue to break the law hunting and laying their 'trail of lies' and 'smokescreens' – Lord Mancroft of webinar fame is regularly seen riding with the Beaufort Hunt.

We've had more media interest this year with good coverage from ITV West Country showing the Beaufort Hunt chasing a fox. Also, alongside Three Counties Sabs who obtained damning footage of terrier man Paul Tasker caught red handed with dead fox in plastic bag. Matt Ramsden MFH, Nick Hopkins and Rhys Matcham - awaiting his court appearance, continue to lose control of the hounds which has resulted in two deer being rioted on and killed and countless foxes that we don't know of meeting same fate.

So far this season, we have had 33 incidents reported to Gloucestershire and Avon & Somerset Police involving assaults, Breach of Hunting and Protection of Badger Acts. The hunts continue to block artificial earths and hunt followers continue to be abusive shouting out homophobic and racist comments and committing public order offences.

A big thank you to our supporters who follow us online and contribute towards our needed funds also providing essential information.



CIHW recruit a defector from the Beaufort Hunt



Croydon Hunt Sabs

croydonhuntsabs@gmail.com
Find us on

Thanks to the complete indifference of the local plod when it comes to enforcing Covid regulations on the rich, the hunts have continued unabated and Croydon sabs have been busier than ever, with our best midweek turnout adding to our regular Saturdays. In the company of our friends we have hit the Burstow, the C & H, the Southdown and the Chid, as well as three shoots, but the main mention has to go to the stunningly vile East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH.

These serial lawbreakers were emboldened when Kent's finest, instead of nicking them for breaching Covid rules, joined them at the meet for post-cubbing drinks and breakfast. Knowing that they are above the law, they went on to ram two sab vans with a tractor and illegally hunt foxes on three occasions that we have witnessed, sadly resulting in a kill on one occasion. One Croydon sab was even threatened with arrest for Breach of the Peace for having the audacity to try to report illegal hunting to a Police Officer!

We have lost two video cameras to the weather whilst sabbing the ESRM and another when one of our sabs was thrown in a drainage ditch on a shoot, and we have also just had a big repair bill on our vehicles, so if you can contribute via our Facebook or Twitter fundraisers it would be much appreciated.

Cumbria Hunt Sabs

cumbriahuntsabs@gmail.com
https://ko-fi.com/cumbriahuntsabs
Find us on

It's been a very strange first season for our reformed group. We started off with the badger cull, which was going its third year. It was a tough 6 weeks, but we feel we managed to at least have some impact on the badger killers and hopefully saved some lives.

The hunting season started, and we found ourselves focussing on the Blencathra FH, with the occasional trip to the Melbreak to mix it up. In recent years, the Blencathra have become a bit scared of sabs, thanks to the presence of Lancashire sabs and their cameras. This means they have been trying their best to avoid us, going as far as switching their hunting days around on a weekly basis. The combination of some rubbish weather, the leaked webinar, Covid and sab presence has really messed up their season. As I write, we have just gone into Tier 4, this is great for the local foxes but the stop-start nature of the season has meant we haven't been able to get into any kind of rhythm, which isn't great for a new group and has impacted our vehicle fundraising efforts.


This shambles used to be the premier fell pack

A big positive has been the support from the local community who have been feeding us info and sightings. There also seems to be a lot of enthusiasm for getting involved with the group, which is very exciting. The hunts are going to start feeling like the hills really do have eyes.

We are going to use this latest lockdown to survey local badger setts in preparation for any future culls and to speak to new recruits so that if the season starts up again, we will be ready and raring to go. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved; let's make 2021 the year we end hunting once and for all.

Derby Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

After a year's delay, the Derbyshire Badger Cull finally happened. We were out in the cull zone, day and night, protecting badgers and exposing the cullers.

Following the cull, we have stumbled across some local shoots that we have been promptly packed up. Two Derbyshire hunts that have received our attention are the Barlow Hunt and the High Peak Harriers. On one occasion while sabbing the Barlow, at a farm close to the meet in Ashover, we found a large mammal trap with long handle, presumably for releasing a fox.

The High Peak Harriers were filmed chasing a cow and calf in a shocking lack of control from hunt staff, and have been keen to avoid sabs ever since, cancelling their meets when sabs have kennel watched. Just before the new year the hunt made national headlines for the second time this season, when huntsman, Philip Watts, lost control of hounds yet again and they killed a pet cat while out exercising near the kennels in Bakewell.


Sabbing Santa brings Christmas cheer to Derbyshire's foxes

Devon County Hunt Sabs

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Find us on


Raise your hand if you are a stupid, servile lackey

September kicked off for us as usual with sabbing the badger cull. Only one small area of our county is not culling so we have our work cut out. Sabs were out day and night covering as many of the different zones as possible.

Cubbing season started with Covid restrictions for us which somehow didn't seem to apply to the hunts who were out harassing wildlife in large groups and receiving substantial sums of money for doing so from local councils! We visited several hunts during this time including the Eggesford (who often packed up just at the mere sight of us), Lamerton, Mid Devon, Dartmoor, Spooners & West Dartmoor and the Dart Vale, South Pool & Modbury Harriers to try and put a stop to their blatant illegal activities and blood lust.

Opening meet in November started off with the Torrington Hunt who quite are a laughingstock; sabs put the huntsman to shame more than once with their horn blowing skills. One team of sabs stayed with them all day whilst the others went to see what the elusive Taw Vale Beagles were up to. Unsurprising they scarpered off home as soon as we arrived. Another tip off later in the day led to the Stoke Hill & North Dartmoor Beagles who also didn't stick around after seeing we meant business.

Since hunting resumed after lockdown, we've made trips to the Tetcott Hunt (their trail laying lies just get better and better) Lamerton (the drone really scares them) and our old friends at the Eggesford on Boxing Day who managed a measly number of riders and pitiful support. Next year we will continue to do our utmost for the hunted animal.

East/West Kent Hunt Sabs

https://kenthuntsabs.wordpress.com/
Eastkenthuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk/
Find us on

September began with sabs teaming up with other groups to visit the EAST SUSSEX & ROMNEY MARSH Hunt (ESRM), and no amount of crazy hunt driving could shake us off! A once huge hunt, they have now dwindled down to just a few riders, ands a very angry huntsman, who fails to show "sport" to his riders when sabs are about, much as he tries...we also found the EAST KENT with WEST STREET FH out cub hunting early one morning...and they packed up as soon as they saw us! (which they also did when we caught up with them in December!)


Kent sabs in hot pursuit of the Bolebroke Beagles!

A couple of weeks later we found the ESRM having a jolly at a hunt meet, where in defiance of Covid rules, 15 or more people were eating and drinking together. All these people had come from other locations, not socially distancing and no masks...yet when the police turned up, they just swelled their numbers! We have kept up the pressure on this failing hunt though, and many foxes have made it to safety (sadly we are able to report that they killed a fox in December, which we saw later upon reviewing our drone footage)

Early October saw Kent sabs on the national news again, when supporters of the ESRM smashed our vehicle (and the SC sabs landy) off the road with a tractor in an incredibly dangerous attack-this was filmed though, and an arrest has been made...thanks to our generous supporters though, the vehicles were quickly fixed and back out. Violence will never deter us.

We also made efforts to find our local hare hunt (THE BOLEBROKE BEAGLES), but more than once, with the help of their supporters blocking public roads, they would speed off in the hound vehicle to hunt hares unimpeded...

East Yorkshire Coast Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

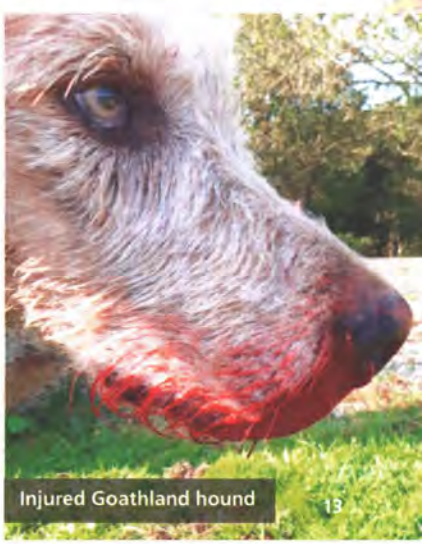
It has been extremely busy at EYCHS. With most of the team being key workers and the fact that all the local hunts are intent on spreading Covid as far across our area as possible, as well as still brutally destroying our wildlife, it all makes us even more determined to put an end to their wicked ways, just like, with the help of friendly local landowners, we managed to do with the Staintondale Hunt. (Although it is looking as though the Goathland and Glaisdale may now be using the Staintondale Hunt's former hounds and kennels as a second base). They will soon learn that they are not welcome!

Despite the recent webinar revelations, the hunts are increasingly brazen in showing what their vile intentions really are. They are going to be the architects of their own downfall and it cannot come soon enough.

This Autumn/Winter, we have witnessed Derwent Hunt terrier men disposing of a fox remains, (once they thought they were out of our sight). This hunt also carelessly lost their whole pack in early December.

We have witnessed the Middleton blatantly hunting baby fox cubs, screaming at them on the edge of coverts, to try and drive them back into the jaws of the hounds. They also recently trespassed on private residential land, causing criminal damage whilst chasing an exhausted fox,which we believe did not manage to escape.

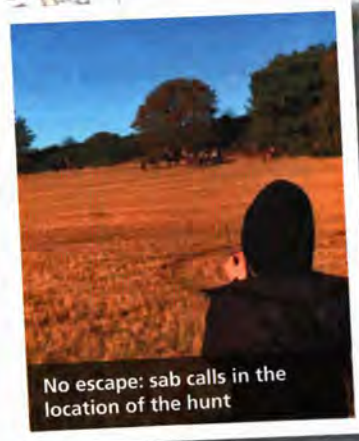
It is good to see large landowners across the U.K. finally having the courage to suspend so called "trail hunting" on their lands, we are confident that more will follow, and we are actively engaged in talks to try and ensure this happens in our area. Long live the fox!


Injured Goathland hound

Edinburgh Hunt Sabs

Find us on

Unfortunately, outings for Edinburgh Hunt Sabs have been few and far between so far this season. As a group, we've been impacted by Covid with very low numbers of sabs and a lack of drivers due to restrictions.



No escape: sab calls in the location of the hunt

Contrary to hunt scum lore, sabs are in full time employment (some of them even health care workers) and in low numbers, struggle to attend every hunting day. Fife FH continue to manage to avoid our group having switched hunting days to through the week when availability of sabs is poor. We have reason to believe Robert Howarth, Huntsman for FFH has taken to drag hunting on a Saturday. Whether this is genuine, and hounds trained to follow an artificial scent are used and not his usual pack who are trained to hunt and kill foxes, remains to be seen. This has led to Edinburgh Hunt Sabs joining Glasgow Hunt Sabs in visiting the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire Hunt who are based in Houston, Renfrewshire.

Members of the L&R Hunt continue to escalate tensions and are now beginning to antagonise their neighbours and locals which has resulted in them being banned from council owned land. The hunt most recently appeared in local news media (they've had a fair bit of coverage in general, recently) due to an ongoing investigation into illegal hunting by them (during lockdown) which was witnessed and reported by locals.

While sabs continue to adhere to Covid guidelines and restrictions by limiting numbers and following guidance detailed in risk assessments, this hunt displays a blatant disregard for not only the animals they hunt and supposedly have in their "care", but also for the health and safety of humans. And they clearly believe they're not only above the law but also above catching and spreading Covid.

Glasgow Hunt Sabs

glasgowhuntsabs@riseup.net

Find us on

This season, armed with a new landy (thank you HSA!), we decided to focus on the L&R Foxhounds.

During cubbing, we were out twice a day almost every day and so findingthe hunt was a breeze. Our onslaught of successful sabbing, frequently taking control of the pack and stopping any hunting attempts, must have got a bit much for L&R. As the weeks went by, there was no sign of the hunt whatsoever on any day, choosing to stay in over facing sabs. We finally caught them out on a Sunday. Desperate times!

Between our relentless sabbing of cub hunts and the first covid restrictions, we're confident that our local pack would have had little opportunity to train up their new hounds, a great result for us and a few weeks of respite for wildlife.

Sabs took the opportunity to do some leaflet dropping and were followed by huntsman Thomas Haddock frothing at the mouth with obscenities. The cracks of the L&R are now becoming crevices and this silly man certainly isn't handing it well.

The L&R's opening meet was met with opposition. We sabbed well and saw several foxes to safety. After packing up however, the hunt attacked a lone disabled sab at the and smashed up his vehicle. They also slashed another vehicle's tyres. Police are involved.

Undeterred by bully-boy tactics, our group carried on hitting the L&R both mid-week - packing them up immediately - and on the weekends, controlling the pack and aiding multiple foxes to safety.



Glasgow sabs in action

For us, we're going nowhere. Our numbers are swelling, and our determination is stronger than ever. Respect and thank yous to fellow sabs and our supporters.

Herefordshire Hunt Sabs

Ko-fi.com/herefordshirehuntsabs

herefordshirehuntsabs@gmail.com

Find us on

September started badly for Herefordshire's wildlife with the licensing of a new badger cull zone in the north east of the county. Fortunately, we had received details of the cull company involved within days of it being set up and put this knowledge to our advantage sett surveying over a period of two years. As a result, we know we put a proper spanner in their works and we believe culling was extended from six weeks to eight, due in part to our efforts.

During the cull we managed to take time out to sab three cub hunting meets – the Ross Harriers at Orcop, the Ludlow at Leysters and the North Herefordshire at Whyle. With Bristol, Bath and Welsh Border sabs we successfully hit the Ross Harriers opening meet.



Leadon Vale Bassets trudge back to the meet

From early November the wildlife (and us) got a welcome break with a month's lockdown. During this downtime the leaked Hunting Office webinars were released by the HSA, described by one hunting group as the biggest threat to hunting since the ban. It is a travesty that hunting has continued to take place during the pandemic, however the government has given the hunts an exemption, and while hunts are hunting, we will keep sabbing, while observing covid regulations. Since hunting resumed in December, we have sabbed the Ross Harriers, North Herefordshire, Leadon Vale Bassets and the Clifton on Teme's Boxing Day meet. The North Herefordshire merged with the North Ledbury earlier this year which means they have been hunting an extra weekday. We in turn have upped our game by doing our first midweek sabs.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year, both financially and with information on hunts. You literally keep us out in the fields week after week protecting wildlife.

Hertfordshire Hunt Sabs

hertfordshire-hunt-saboteurs@riseup.net
Find us on

Sabs made their presence known throughout the seven weeks in the Warwickshire cull zone. Yes, seven weeks as it got extended. Two of our sabs were arrested and bailed away from the area for 28 days. Our Sabs were also active in other zones. Pixies marched off shooters, found cages and used them as trampolines.



A bloody business: the reality of the badger cull

Cubbing and main season hunting has seen violence levels upped by the scum's hired thugs, but they won't deter us. The Cottesmore Hunt are now hunting in black to keep a low profile, not to be spotted or not to stand out as they are hated. You decide. Chris Edwards thinks he can hide, but with a pack of hounds and a field you will never hide.

Here is a 350+ year old hunt (one of the oldest) traditionally wearing hunting pink but looks like that is one tradition they've dropped. The next step putting them in the dustbin of history where they belong. We are carrying on our mission to clear one wood at a time finding snares, cages, and traps.

Onwards!

Kernow Hunt Sabs

kernowhuntsabs@riseup.net
www.kernowsabsmerch.weebly.com
Find us on

As for many groups, the autumn saw some of the Kernow team relentlessly fighting the badger cull every day in multiple zones, with a large percentage of the county now signed up. We had extensions from the suggested 6 weeks to gruelling 8, but that didn't stop us stomping around the countryside until the bitter end.

There seemed to be some very relentless targeting of nature reserves, particularly Cornwall Wildlife Trust woods, with cages appearing on surrounding farmland repeatedly. This year cages were being discovered more often placed in fields further away from setts, sometimes seemingly randomly. Sett interference is also on the increase and it was discovered that one Cornwall cull director purposely had a tractor drive over sett entrances on the edge of his maize field.



Kernow sabs save all lives

The autumn also saw the team get out on some cubbing meets pre lockdown, and then back out for the main season once hunting resumed after a merciful month off for the wildlife. On one outing a couple of sabs had to rescue a sheep spotted caught in fencing, a lucky escape for this little soul as we have many times made gruesome discoveries of sheep carcasses hanging on fences, neglected by farmers and left to starve to death.

Current events may have taken a further toll on some hunts with attendance seeming lower than usual. We are interested to see if this, combined with the atrocious weather and leaked hunting webinar fallout, sees an end to some of the hunts.

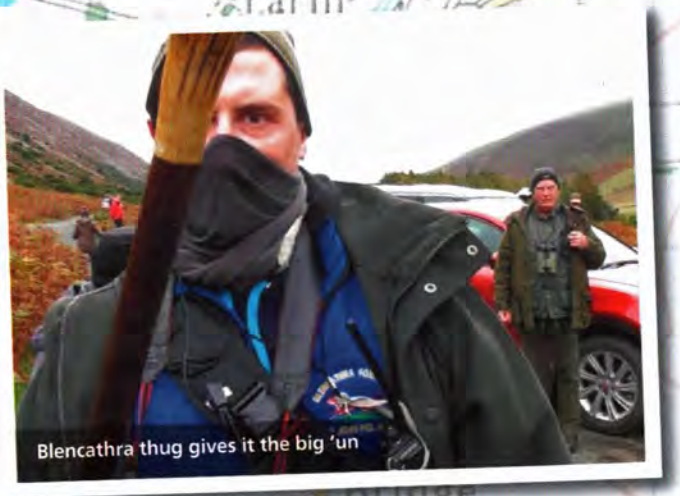
Whatever happens in these crazy times we will continue to protect wildlife and fight to get these atrocities stopped.

Lancashire Hunt Sabs

lancasterhuntsabs@hotmail.com
Find us on

Although Lancashire has been in Tier 3 for some time, we have still been able to keep an eye on several hunts, making sure we always remain Covid-safe. We have a smashing new sab vehicle, bought with an HSA grant, but due to Covid have been using personal cars and staying in safe 'bubbles'. We've paid numerous visits to the Blencathra FH and filmed them blatantly chasing a fox on Boxing Day. We have also paid a couple of visits to the Melbreak FH, who we have caught openly trespassing on National Trust land. We've also visited the Vale of Lune Harriers.

We've noticed that along with our regular hunt informants, there has been a marked increase in people telling us where the hunts are, for which we are very grateful. Hopefully, the pandemic will come to an end soon and we wish all our supporters a healthy and happy new year. We also look forward to the day when we can once again get out together to sab as a team. Finally, we look forward to working closely with the new Cumbria Hunt Saboteurs who we already have close links with.



Blencathra thug gives it the big 'un

Sabbing in winter is snow joke



Lincoln Hunt Sabs

lincolnhuntsaboteurs@gmail.com
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Find us on

Apologies to Lincs sabs whose Group News was missed out of the last issue. This was the fault of an underperforming sub-editor who has been taken round the back of the kennels and shot.

After the surprise introduction of the Cull to Lincolnshire we knuckled down and met the task head on, we cannot have that unchallenged in our area. Luckily, we know our area setts well, so appropriate action was taken with other groups day and night throughout the entire cull period. Lives were saved.

We took part in the Fernie's opening meet along with other groups which turned out to be a lively day. They are quite the physical and abusive bunch. Once realizing there were a lot of sabs, they called in reinforcements from the equally vile Cottesmore to the same end though: lives saved, hunters upset. They could have saved petrol and stayed at home.

The Belvoir Hunt's opening meet came up next and what a damp squib that turned out to be for them. Their own supporters showing us the way to the meet and sabs on them throughout the day. Lives saved again.

Then came lockdown Nov 1st, our wildlife and our sabs got a well-deserved rest for a few weeks, peace descended, and we could all take a breath. All too soon though December 2nd came, and our small but resolute group dusted ourselves down for the resumption of hunting. Since the resumption, the Belvoir and the Quorn have had visits despite changing meet times and can expect many more visits from us in the coming months.

A big thank you to the groups who we have been active with this year, we are family.



Shots fired! Lincs move in on a pheasant shoot

Liverpool Hunt Sabs

lpoolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk
Find us on

Early autumn was spent sabbing the badger cull in our allocated patch within the Cheshire zone. After assessing likely trapping locations and shooting spots, organising rotas and transport in and out of the zone, we put boots on the ground to prevent the unnecessary slaughter of some of our Great British wildlife.

On the first night in our patch, one of our teams saw off shooters at the first location they visited, although unfortunately not before they had killed one of our furry friends. It goes without saying that particular attention was paid to that farm to ensure no further kills occurred.

We also deployed teams to ensure a continual presence at the setts that had been heavily targeted by trappers and shooters in previous years. This resulted in a continual police presence at these locations and, on multiple occasions, the police escorted shooters to the fields and waited for them whilst they tried to carry out their deadly acts. However, the police failed to realise that such actions would not deter sabs from following them in covertly on foot, ready to prevent any killing.

After the grind of the badger cull our team had a brief break to recharge the batteries and are now focussing again on the fox hunting season. A recent visit to the Holcombe hunt successfully ensured they had to adapt by laying an actual trial for their hounds to follow. We know this is a smokescreen, only employed in the presence of sabs, and they'd have got away with hunting this remote bit of moorland as usual if we'd not been there. Much hunting has obviously now been stymied for this season by forces beyond our control, but we will continue to be vigilant in protecting our local wildlife!

Manchester Hunt Sabs

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Donate: ko-fi.com/manchesterhuntsabs
Find us on

It's been a busy season so far for us Mancs. September saw the start of this year's Badger Cull where we had sabs looking after a section of the Cheshire zone, and although incredibly tough at times we know many lives were saved thanks to our efforts. Whilst some of our sabs kept the pressure on in the cull zone, the rest of us focused on shutting down as many cub hunting meets as possible.

Despite COVID and a couple of lockdowns we have managed to keep this momentum up through the rest of the season. At the time of writing this we have sabotaged 41 hunts and 2 shoots since 1st September. The York & Ainsty South were the lucky recipients of 22 of those visits, which means we have probably attended more meets than most of their paid subscribers! Covid has impacted us in other ways, we have had to change the way we operate, ensuring there are less of us in a vehicle to comply with the rule of 6. This has meant more vehicles have been needed and with that comes increased costs, but thanks to some well received fundraisers and your kind donations we have made this work.



Yawn: sab is unimpressed by Fernie bully boys

November saw the release of the leaked webinars which meant a much bigger focus on fox hunting in the media. Our footage from the York & Ainsty South made it on to the ITV News at 10 (the featured sab is taking requests for autographs).
This season more than ever has made us hopeful that we will soon see an end to hunting as the wider public are no longer fooled by the 'smokescreen'.

We would like to say thank you to all our supporters, we literally could not do it without you.

Melbourne Hunt Sabs (Australia)

Find us on
MelbourneHuntSabs@protonmail.com

Well, we can safely say we are happy to finally see 2020 be done with. Covid stopped the hunts, given the season for fox hunting here is from late April to early September. With the cubbing season following soon after. Yes, here in Australia, the cub hunting occurs after the season ends.



With the downtime, we were able to explore the idea of an animated short film. With the help of an amazing animator, we have our short film, Between Hunters and Foxes ready to be released early March. This animated short film we know will help expose the barbaric hunting of foxes and aide the world to understand the importance of Hunt Saboteurs.

Keep a lookout for its release.

Mendip Hunt Sabs

Tip-Off Line: 07493 363134
mendiphuntsabs@gmail.com
https://mendiphuntsabs.wordpress.com
Find us on


Mendip sabs keep watch

It's been an immensely busy few months for us at MHS, as we fought the horrific badger cull and cubbing rolled into main hunting season.

With the whole of Somerset now a cull zone, we were out night and day non-stop for 8 weeks. This upset both killers and cops, with major police repression. A group of badger patrollers had seven police vehicles from as far away as Thames Valley Police show up to arrest them and seize their vehicle and belongings after shining lights on a footpath.

We weren't sure what to expect at the start of fox hunting season, as our main target the Mendip Farmers Hunt had a new huntsman. It immediately became clear that relentless fox hunting and extreme violence would continue as of last year. If anything, it has been an escalation. We have seen, filmed, and helped countless foxes, but unfortunately this has caused the MFH thugs to respond with horrendous behaviour.

One of our sab's fingers was broken when they were attacked by terrierman Louis Bridgeman after running into a field to cover the line of a fleeing fox. The injury was so severe they required surgery and are still recovering 3 months on. Shortly after, a freshly severed deer head was thrown at the group. In other incidents, our sabs have been pushed into ditches and run over by quad bikes. At one meet, ball bearings were catapulted at our vehicle, resulting in a smashed window but fortunately no injuries.

The hunt has been upsetting the locals too, trespassing in nature reserves and chasing foxes through residential gardens. They are constantly straying on to roads and tragically one of their hounds was killed on the A39.

Thanks to all our supporters who have kept us on the road and helped replace equipment that was damaged or stolen.

Norfolk & Suffolk Hunt Sabs

ns.sabs@yahoo.co.uk
https://ko-fi.com/norfolksuffolkhuntsaboteurs
Find us on

The first half of the 2020/2021 season has seen a shift of focus for us with the Dunston Harriers receiving most of our attention. We have, however, also visited the West Norfolk FH, Waveney Harriers, Essex & Suffolk Hunt, North Norfolk Harriers and the East Essex Hunt.

Early in the cubbing season, on 25th September 2020, a kill at the hands of the Dunston Harriers focused our minds and made us determined to keep a closer eye on a hunt that has previously only had sporadic sab attention. The Dunstons had set off from the meet at 7.15 am and just four minutes later, the hounds were chasing a hare. By 7.30 am the hounds had killed. The hare ran circuits of a fenced paddock, as it had no means to escape the hounds. Sadly, our sabs could not get there in time and could only film the aftermath.

The resultant bad publicity of the kill has made the Dunstons extremely wary of our presence. They have been doing their best to avoid us by changing their hunting days and times. Sometimes just the sight of us means either the hounds don't leave the kennels, or the riders just go for a hack. With the number of riders reducing rapidly and the same tired old meets being done repeatedly, we are hopeful the writing is on the wall. If the Dunstons followed the Easton Harriers' modern example and converted over to bloodhounds, then they may find they have a much better day of it as the Hamilton Bloodhounds are flourishing.

Last, but by no means least, a massive thank you to the HSA for the speedy and professional response and for helping us in our time of need, when the clutch and gearbox went on our van.


Battle lines are drawn at the Dunston Harriers



All together now: "ZOOOOOOOOOOM!"

North Wales Hunt Sabs

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Donate:https://ko-fi.com/nwsabs
Find us on

Well, it's been a stop start rollercoaster of a season so far. Covid regulations and lockdowns hampered our work in the cull zone after we were warned not to cross the border, but luckily not all our sabs live on the Welsh side of the border. With a new huntsman once again at the Flint & Denbigh Hunt in the form of Robert Medcalf it was difficult to know what to expect from him, but rather predictably it's been blatant illegal hunting. Cubbing was hard going with our numbers low due to restrictions and the hunt appearing to have never read the hunting act. The Flint and Denbigh were also breaching Covid regulations week in week out with the police coming up with different excuses for them each week.

Then one Friday evening the leaked webinar story broke! With the English hunts still in lockdown, we had first opportunity to gauge the hunts reaction the next morning, and this time we had numbers, and it was worth seeing. We greeted the hunt with calls of "Zoooom" and "Where's your smokescreen". Their faces were a picture and they had nothing to say. We've continued the onslaught on the Flint & Denbigh who look broken.

At around the same time of the leaked webinar North Wales Police, yes that's the force who've harassed us for years, seem to have a change of heart. Instead of hassling us they are looking at the hunt, and appear to be taking our complaints seriously, in fact we have an ongoing investigation into illegal hunting after footage we captured during the cubbing season, watch this space.... We've also managed a midweek hit on the Wynnstay Hunt who were not very pleased to see us.

As we write we are about to go into another lockdown in Wales so predicting the rest of our season is difficult but rest assured: if they are out, so are we.

Northern Ireland Hunt Sabs

Find us on

Here in Northern Ireland the season of 2020/21 has started with a cloud hanging over all our heads and not just because of hunting.

Now you would think due to a pandemic that all hunting would cease completely, no of course not, sure they don't care about animals so why would they give a damn about humans?

They have had no choice though on a number of weeks due to lockdowns. The result of these lockdowns means that the bloodlust frustration builds up and when they do get out they try and cause as much death and destruction as possible. Their problem is that sabs stand in their way and are the only protection between wildlife and them. This first part of the season has resulted in angry frustrated killers not getting their own way. As always, it's sabs that take the brunt of their frustrations which leads to assaults both physically and verbally, but sure if they are distracted by us then wildlife is free from danger at least for a while. We ain't easily put off, in fact this makes us more determined.

We have been going 7 years and this season we have seen the hounds been worked like never before. Their lack of killing frustration has really built up. This has seen hounds been put in danger, run across and along windy country roads, over the brow of hills & through rivers when the hounds are clearly exhausted. A sure recipe for disaster. But sure, the hounds are only a commodity anyway, those arrogant hunters don't give a shit for their lives.

We wish all sabs regardless of where in the world, all the luck in the world, keeping fighting the good fight and stay safe.



NI sabs preventing vulpicide



Brave Northants sabs saved this beautiful fox

Northants Hunt Sabs

www.paypal.me/ENABS
Find us on

The pandemic has been a blight to many. But one positive that has been the devastating effect its had on hunts, including the Cottesmore who will not cease to get our regular attention. True, it cut our numbers down too, which put pressure on the sabs in the fields. Targeted continuously by the "soft underbelly" of the hunt (the terrier men and their unruly crew as described on the infamous zoom call) sabs were constantly attacked but got up again and again and continued the fight against the hunt's cruelty.

The hunt are desperate to stop us in any way they can. We suffered personal injuries, slashed tires, obstructions in the road, smashed wing mirrors and lights, but we came back time and time again.

This year we got some amazing pictures and videos of foxes we've helped to flee the jaws of the hounds. Just looking at those pictures spurs us on to continue the fight and no amount of aggression and violence is going to stop us.

Norwich Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

There's not really such thing as a 'normal' season for any sab group, but like most we have had a weird time of it since the summer. Hunting in East Anglia seems to have been on the decline in recent years anyway, but we have watched it slip into a past time for the minority of the minority and, as some sort of silver lining, COVID is putting some nails in some coffins.

Our season began sabbing a range of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex based hunts for cubbing meets. We had some success reducing the East Essex Foxhounds, a notoriously aggressive hunt, to a bit of a laughingstock several weeks in a row. On one morning, just as the hunt were due to pack up, they chased a fox about across about a mile of country. The fox was given a decent head start when one of our newer sabs switched on the gizmo and led the pack astray. Locals then ended up calling huntsman Gary Thorpe all sorts of names as 'his' hounds tore through their garden!

Things continued in much the same way as November lockdown hit and we had another break. As this ended, many hunts were struggling due to poor weather so we sabbed a pheasant shoot instead. Finally, a short break from lockdown meant hunts were back out again. We hit three hunts in a single day (North Norfolk Harriers, West Norfolk Foxhounds and Dunston Harriers), all of whom packed up at the sight of sabs. The following week we closed the Waveney Harriers at a glance, then the Dunston Harriers wimped out and left the hounds at home. Before we knew it we were in tier 4 again!



The hunt head home

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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Find us on



Notts sabs up with pack

Autumn for Notts started with focusing on the badger cull with most of our crew based in the Vale of Belvoir and Lincolnshire zones but also with a presence in Derbyshire. Everyone had a smashing time tidying up the countryside and we're pretty certain we made our presence felt. We found time during the cull to squeeze in some cubbing meets at the Blankney, the Belvoir, the Albrighton and the North Staffs.

Once the cull finished in late October, we kicked off the main season as usual with the Belvoir's opening Leicestershire meet at Long Clawson, as always, a tough day but we hopefully ruined their big opener. We also visited the High Peak and our footage of their hounds chasing a calf received national media coverage. Delightfully just as it was all gearing up it all ground to a halt again with the second lockdown. Once that finished in early December, we were straight back to the Belvoir who surprisingly cancelled their first Saturday back due to a bit of snow. (Un)fortunately the Vale is a hotbed of animal abuse and we easily found a couple of shoots and packed them up.

The rest of December saw us sharing our time between the Belvoir and Blankney (simultaneously on occasion due to our excellent numbers) with a midweek at the Quorn where huntsman Ollie Finnigan doesn't seem deterred from blatant illegal hunting by the fact that he's due in court on Hunting Act charges.

With a bit of luck, we'll soon be in tier 4 and the hunting season will be a complete wipe-out but if not, we'll be out there doing what we do.

Peterborough Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Fox hunts, hare hunts, badger cullers and hare coursers. Peterborough Sabs took broad aim this autumn and made a dent in many a hunter's day!

While the last group news update was written from lockdown, we have just been signalled a new one - a weird year for us humans but with hunts being cancelled left right and centre, there has been at least a slight reprieve for wildlife.



Peterborough send the Fitzwilliam straight home

Memorably, we bumped into hare coursers on two separate occasions while returning from fox hunt sabbing. Both times the sight of a land cruiser full of black clad sabs piling out was more than enough to send even the slightly rougher end of the animal abuse club, fleeing home to their mums.

While we have continued our visits to the Fernie, including being part of a mass regional hit on their season opening meet as a show of solidarity with friends at West Midlands Hunt Sabs, we have also been part of shut-downs at hunts in Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Highlights included two consecutive hits on our old foes the Fitzwilliam, where they packed up pretty much immediately on seeing us, both times.

In fact, since the infamous smokescreen seminars, it seems many hunts have lost any sense of backbone or conviction and are now simply running from their inevitable demise...

Reading Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Firstly, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the HSA and our supporters whose generosity has allowed us to finally get our very own sab wagon! This has helped us get out in the field regularly to sab our local hunts, who've largely gone unsabbed, as well as work with our comrades in other groups to sab various hunts across the South of England. So far this season we've sabbed the Old Berks, the Royal Artillery, Hampshire, Hursley Hambledon, Surrey Union, Kimblewick and Vine & Craven.

We had success with Vine & Craven Hunt in early December when our presence and follow up report led to the hunt being permanently banned with immediate effect from Ramsbury Estate in West Berkshire. Having sabbed the Vine & Craven Hunt several times this season and seen no evidence of a legal trail hunt, we're very happy with this result. We hope that this is the beginning of local landowners turning their backs on these countryside criminals.

We've been very busy since cubbing season began, with members being out several times a week right up until the recent tier 4 rules, which have meant the hunts' events have been cancelled. But there is a lot of background work being done by our team right now which we hope will make a difference long-term. Here's to 2021 being another bad year for the hunting fraternity!

For tipoffs, please contact us on 07432643728 in complete confidence.



Vine & Craven terrierman: the soft underbelly's soft underbelly



Chlimark & Clifton Foot cavalry arrives to attack sabs

Severn Vale Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

It's been another busy season for Severn Vale, with our group being as active as Covid restrictions would allow. Throughout September we fully exercised our right to roam, finding and taking appropriate action against the many mediaeval contraptions we found littering our countryside,

In mid-October we hit the Chilmark & Clifton Foot Beagles with our pals Bath and Bristol sabs. Under the shadow of Glastonbury Tor we had to work hard to save hares from this fast pack. Huntsman James "Stretch" Warnett showed his desperation by calling in a gang of pick-axe wielding thugs on motor bikes. Sabs stood their ground against this intimidation. We had an easier time a few days late, hitting a mid-week meet of the Severn Vale Beagles who packed up straight away. We also joined others on packing up the Berkeley FH the following Saturday.

In December we sabbed the (deep breath ...) Palmer Marlborough Clinkard Meon Valley Beagles, again mid-week. This was well after the Hunting Office webinar scandal but - unbelievably - posh private school Marlborough College were still sending their students to the beagles as a "games" option!

We were back at CCFB later in the month - violence never deters us - with Stretch's attempts at intimidation more muted. Another long but successful day. Our last outing for the foreseeable future was an easy Boxing Day hit on the Wilts & Infantry Beagles which brought some Christmas Cheer to local lagomorphs!

We thank our supporters and hope you all stay safe!

Sheffield Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Since our last HOWL write up we have seen the end of the first year of the Cull in Derbyshire – our work there being a culmination of several year's preparation, meaning when the killing started we were ready. Footpaths where walked by patrollers, locals gave us and Derbyshire Against the Cull lots of tip offs. Cages were put out of action by Pixies and shooters confronted.

We combined badgering with sabbing hunts local to Sheffield. One of these being the Barlow Hunt whose joint master, Chris White pled guilty in October to using threatening and abusive words to one of our sabs the previous New Year's Day. He was punished with a 12-month conditional discharge and costs.

We have carried on keeping an eye on this violent but pathetic bunch and have sabbed them on numerous occasions, including with Derbyshire Hunt Saboteurs who are going from strength to strength.



Hunt caught in a sab sandwich

We have also been paying a lot more attention to the High Peak Harriers hunt based in Bakewell. On the 7th of November, near Buxton, they made the national media, when along with Nottingham and Derby sabs we filmed the hounds rampaging after a terrified cow and calf. The pack chased the calf across field after field, forcing the poor thing to leap high stone walls to escape, the pack snapping at its heels. Hunt staff eventually turned up and did their job, turning the pack. Even pro hunters couldn't think of a lie to get out of that one!

October 25th saw us get a tip off that the elusive Ecclesfield Beagles had been spotted so we headed off to find beagles and hunt staff on Bradfield moor in Derbyshire. This hunt has not been sabbed in about 7 years and were extremely unhappy at our presence. They turned tail and scarpered.

South Cambs Hunt Sabs

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Find us on


A "terribly good wheeze" at the East Essex Hunt

During autumn we had sabs out at early morning and late afternoon cubbing meets, as well as heavy-booted little pixies doing countryside clean-up work and sett-surveying in the Oxfordshire cull zone. The November lockdown put a halt to our group activities, although individuals were able to keep up the good work by keeping watchful eyes on the countryside. It goes without saying that the webinar leaked by the HSA (with the subsequent press coverage, social media storm, and license suspensions) helped brighten up this challenging period and made us more determined than ever for when hunting resumed in December.

This season, as always, we have been coordinating closely with other groups in our surrounding area to share intel and cover fox/harrier packs across various counties, including Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Hertfordshire, as well as Cambridgeshire. This teamwork has been invaluable, helping us all to maximise our impact, particularly as this season has been atypical for obvious reasons!

On the fundraising side, we were able to hold a stall in Cambridge in mid-October which was a great success. Our very own 'fundraising sab' has done an amazing job with campaigns such as the recent '12 Days of Sabbing' Christmas fundraiser on our social media. We would like to thank our generous supporters, including some wonderful people who ran an auction, raffle and are selling their paintings to benefit our group. We would also like to thank all of those who have sent/ phoned in tip offs this season. They have been extremely helpful.

Cambridgeshire entered Tier 4 on Boxing Day, putting hunts out of action again for an unknown period. Our last outing on Winter Solstice was a dramatic one with a fox very narrowly escaping with his life. We wish a happy and peaceful 2021 to all wildlife and antis!


This is why we grill up our vehicles!

South Coast Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

It's been a busy time for our group. We've focused on our local bloodthirsty psychos ESRM with their sordid cubbing practices and also had a constant presence opposing the sickening badger cull. We have been working hard to cover mid-week meets and also given some much needed attention to the shooting industry. Throughout the last few months our Sabs have had equipment stolen and been assaulted by scum in the cull zone when sabbing hunts and shoots.

Our trusty Landrover was deliberately rammed several times by a tractor in a pre-meditated attack by hunt scum alongside our fellow Sabs vehicle too. It was also dangerously lifted in the air by deranged bird killers whilst our driver and navigator were inside. We received the most generous help from HSA HQ and our wonderful supporters to get the vehicle back on the road.

We endured the usual police bias with arrests and witnessed some having their very own jolly Covid party with the hunt.

We are fortunate to have some new committed and enthusiastic sabs join our team. Despite being left hanging in the air recently we remain grounded and determined to save and protect wildlife. South Coast Hunt Sabs: small but mighty.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

We finished this year's badger cull sooner than expected due to Covid/lockdown restrictions. Whilst it was difficult leaving a new cull zone sooner than we wanted to, we did get to grips with the Banwen Miners Hunt. We say get to grips but, really, how do you handle jelly? Onto their third huntsman of the season by month 5, and with an opening meet that no one attended, meets that landowners knew nothing about, and fun rides advertised instead of hunting, and even these were over land that they did not have permission to use, including the land immediately adjacent to their kennels (score!), we spent some time scratching our metaphorical beards about how they were going to drag themselves out of this pit. They haven't.

Whilst this was going on, we were getting more tip offs than ever about local hunts, none of whom were paying any attention to Covid rules – the Vale of Glamorgan and the Gelligaer both causing local chaos in addition to the Monmouthshire, the Carmarthenshire but the prize so far this season goes to the Curre & Llangibby who, the day after Natural Resources Wales withdrew all permission for hunting on their land, hunted foxes through NRW woods, supporters spat at and manhandled sabs and showed their disrespect for the sacrifices everyone else has been making over the last few months. The Monmouthshire also decided to travel to a joint meet with the Sennybridge Farmers hunt because it's not like there's a pandemic on or anything so, hey, go where you want to do something that's been illegal for over 15 years.

We ended the year with reports that the Banwen Miners hounds are no longer at the kennels. God only knows what's going on there, but we are ready and waiting…

Thanks as ever to all our supporters, we loves ya!

"Filthy" Phil – the C& L's violent, spitting kennelman





Staffs sabs make it look easy...

Staffordshire Hunt Sabs

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This season we have sabbed the Meynell, Albrighton, Staffordshire Moorlands and the North Staffs. The North Staffs have a new huntsman who has brought the violence of the Cottesmore, where he was whipper in, to our county, with acts of vandalism and threats to sabs more prevalent.

We have worked closely again with our friends Manchester sabs going out of county sabbing hunts in Cheshire and Yorkshire. We had a recruitment drive before season and two of our new recruits have written of their experience.

"As new recruits our first season with SHS has been an awesome experience so far. Our initial anxious feeling has now been replaced by excitement. We've gained skills, knowledge and close bonds with our team. It can feel frustrating when the hunt run away from you but the necessity of being active comes into sharp focus when you're with the hounds. This is when the teamwork, tactics, clear communication and coordinating vehicle and foot sab movements makes all the difference. It's an amazing thing to be a part of. We are looking forward to seeing what the rest of the season with SHS brings."

We applaud the brilliant work the HSA did with the Hunting Office Webinars, hopefully more people can now see beyond the smokescreen. New lockdown rules mean many hunts are cancelled. We are, however, forever watching and working all the time to curtail their efforts.

Suffolk and Essex Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

The start to the 20/21 season has been a strange and difficult one, with the current climate of living through a pandemic. Rule of 6 meant we had to limit how many sabs could come out in the sab vehicle and reduced our foot teams. Despite being smaller in numbers we still have managed to successfully sab various hunts during the cub hunting season, teaming up with our usual pals, Norwich, South Cambs, Norfolk and Suffolk and now North London Hunt Sabs.



SES take control of the pack

Thanks to the public, there has be an increase of information on hunts to the HSA tip-off line. We have managed to sab the Essex with Farmers and Union Hunt and East Essex hunt more, even hitting them on the same day. We have also made it up to Norfolk on a few occasions to hit the Dunston Harriers, who at the very sight of sabs fled back to the meet or didn't leave the meet at all.

Some of our team also made it further up north, joining Peterborough Hunt Sabs and other groups to sab the Fernie or to take on hare coursers. And linking up with Norwich Sabs in sabbing the North Norfolk Harriers and West Norfolk Fox hounds on the same day.

With the 2nd national lockdown happening at the start of the full hunting season, it meant we had a month off from sabbing. Then of course, the infamous webinar of top hunting officials talking about creating smokescreens for illegal hunting was exposed.

Once lockdown restrictions were eased, we were back out, this time hunts cancelling due to flooding, so we sabbed a pheasant shoot instead.

Thank you to everyone for their support this year with donations or tip offs and to the groups we have worked with.

Surrey Hunt Sabs

Find us on

One of the strangest seasons because of Covid; we have concentrated on our usual enemies, the Surrey Union. We've mixed it up with trips out to help our neighbouring groups sabbing the Crawley & Horsham, Hampshire and, in December, a few away days to the south west.

We had some notable successes, taking the hounds off the Crawley & Horsham and the Hampshire. At a Hampshire Hunt meet at Preston Candover, with the hounds in full cry after a fox, sabs positioned themselves well and, when the fox broke cover, managed to call the hounds off, enabling the fox to escape.

We have spent most of our time concentrating on the Surrey Union, observing them constantly trespassing in private gardens and trying our best to make their lives a misery. Our work on the Union has seen many foxes saved.

Covid meant a quiet festive period, but the group remains strong and continues to grow, despite the difficulties Covid restrictions have presented to sabbing. We will be ready to sab our local hunts as soon as they come out of Tier 4.



Like the hoody says...

Three Counties Hunt Sabs

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Find us on


RIP Malachi

With 2 supplementary badger cull zones and several ongoing and new zones it's been busy here since the beginning of cubhunting in late August. So far this season we have sabbed the North Cotswold, Cotswold, Worcestershire, Croome & West Warwickshire, Ledbury, Cotswold Vale Farmer's and Heythrop hunts.

One morning spent sabbing the Beaufort Hunt, with our friends from CIHW, led to filming a fox being removed from Badminton sewage works by terrierman Paul Tasker. Other days out have involved the usual unblocking of badger setts, blocked by the hunts to stop foxes being able to escape into them while being chased, and the intervention in those chases, plus the prevention of several dig-outs. Unfortunately the Heythrop Hunt hounds also scared a couple of deer on to a busy A-road, both deer killed when cars collided with them, distressed drivers assisted afterwards by local hunt monitors - the hunt went on to blame sabs who were nowhere near at the time.

Wildlife had some brief reprieve due to Covid restrictions but we were still dealing with blocked setts and, when the hunts were out, a number of them were seen flouting the guidelines (surprise, surprise).

We have also, sadly, had to say goodbye to one of our group, Mal, who was killed in a hit-and-run on his motorbike while working. He was an amazing team-mate, learning quickly, intervening in chases, unblocking setts, traipsing through dew-soaked fields at cubhunts and, as the partner of one of our other sabs, ensuring hot baths, hot meals and hot drinks were ready when she got home after long days in the field. His energy, love and compassion is greatly missed by all of us.

As always, many thanks to our amazing followers for your continued support, especially. during these tougher times.


"Bloody antis are here. I need a smokescreen now!"

Welsh Border Hunt Sabs

Find us on

We continued in all of our wildlife activities assisting In wildlife rescues and surveying. During cub hunting we continued to show our presence putting pressure on to enable more lives to be saved.

Probably our most exciting announcement is we have a new vehicle after sabbing in one of our sab's small car for 4 years this is already proving to be a great asset. With the vehicles size and capability, it's enabling the group to travel as a team to various locations to be more effective with its ability to go where we have not been able to go before by vehicle, needless to say it's not appreciated by the hunts.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to: - HSA our biggest donation closely followed by Outpaced Wildlife Rescue, Fox Watch Auction, and various smaller donations.

With your help you have made us even more effective. Massive thanks to all

West Midlands Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

This has been a season like no other with coronavirus, lockdowns, and leaked webinars. However, in many ways it's actually business as usual, there just happens to be a few more laws that fox hunts think they are exempt from! Most of us appreciate the hard-working NHS workers, acknowledge the sacrifices we have all made, the lost jobs, the loved ones we've not seen. However, the arrogant Warwickshire Hunt have chosen to carry on meeting up as normal in large gatherings, sometimes numbering over 100, we've seen no social distancing, no facemasks and in their own words said that they "don't give a fuck about Covid".


Operation Mycoprotein: the Quorn get hit again

Cub hunting had barley finished for the Warwickshire Hunt before the season came to a temporary halt because of the second national lockdown and saw hundreds of riders attend their pre-lockdown meet as if it was the last time they'd ever be able to torture wildlife. We emerged from lockdown to the national news of the leaked Hunting Office webinars. Not something that affects the Warwickshire Hunt as they have never bothered with smokescreens instead just blatantly hunting foxes safe in the knowledge that they have plenty of connected people riding with them to keep them out of trouble.

So far this season we have sabbed six different hunts, 36 individual hunt meets, sabbed across 5 different counties and had a constant presence day and night in the Warwickshire badger cull zone. We've sabbed the Quorn Hunt 6 times and the Warwickshire Hunt 26 times. We've also seen off another attempt by Leicestershire Police to shut down our group.

We end 2020 with most of our local hunts now in a Tier 4 lockdown bringing another halt to hunting.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

The lockdowns, restrictions, and relentless grief that Covid has wreaked upon us all, has seemingly had little effect on those who enjoy blood sports. The Crawley & Horsham carried on with the usual Cub Hunting season from September to the end of October. Our group were out for almost all of the meets and any shoots we came across. Crawley & Horsham Huntsman William Bishop was charged in October with two offences under the Hunting Act, (from evidence we gathered) and is set for trial in March 2021. With more evidence from this current season, huntsman Bishop and whipper-in George Barrett, are both due to be questioned on 11th of January, in relation to two further suspected offences under the Hunting Act.

Another lockdown in November saw most opening meets cancelled, however, hunts were soon out again from the beginning December, often with a large field. We counted at least 60 at one meet and on Christmas Eve the Crawley & Horsham met at Pareham Park, with 100 or more riders attending.

We have been able to carry on with rescues of birds and animals, and during our countryside walks we continued to look out for snares, traps, and injured wildlife. Members of our group have been working hard to expose snaring. In December they investigated snaring on the Queens estate in Sandringham, Norfolk, after an owl was trapped and suffered a horrific death; the story went viral! Visit the antisnaring campaign at; www.antisnaring.org.uk

We hope all our supporters were able to enjoy Christmas, and 2021 brings to all of you, peace and happiness. The fight to protect our wildlife continues; Join your local group or donate, and please, keep ringing the confidential tip off hotline 07443148426 with any info.


Traditional Crawley & Horsham super-spreader meet


Hunsley Beacon Beagles run into trouble!

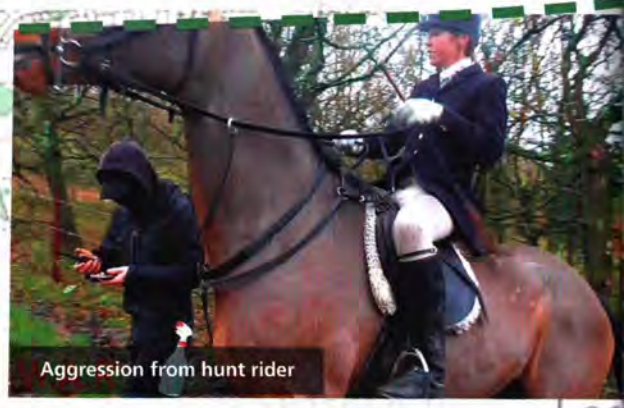
West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs

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Find us on

Prior to the start of the hunting season, we were able to contribute a couple of sabs to the effort to save wildlife in the Derbyshire cull zone. Meanwhile back up north we worked with Manchester Hunt Saboteurs to hit the York and Ainsty South multiple times a week during cubbing. While we were not able to stop them killing twice on the same morning, our constant pressure, and the media attention we drew to them over the kills forced them to spend a couple of weeks laying genuine trails.

As has presumably been the case for most sab groups, sabbing in the main season, while abiding with coronavirus regulations has proved an interesting challenge. We are lucky, then, to have been able to call on additional drivers and vehicles which have allowed us not only to keep as many sabs as possible in the field, but also increase the amount of mid-week sabbing we can get done. This season we have been able to keep up the pressure on the YAS; shut down a couple of Hunsley Beacon meets; cause a degree of emotional distress to Middleton huntsman Ralph Richardson; and make ourselves a nuisance to the York and Ainsty North, the Staffordshire Moorlands, the Hurworth, and the Barlow.

Following the webinars there has been a noticeable hesitancy from many hunts, with some now preferring not to go out rather than risk confrontation with sabs. However, with Yorkshire one of the few regions still not in tier 4 it seems that the hunting season here will continue as usual for the foreseeable future.


Aggression from hunt rider

Weymouth Animal Rights

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https://ko-fi.com/weymouthanimalrights
Find us on

To say this year has been a bit different, is an understatement. With the first lockdown over, the Cubbing Season commenced as usual...also the 4th year of the horrendous Badger Cull was in full swing. With some of our amazing, dedicated Badger Protectors from other areas now able to come safely and help us protect our South Dorset Badgers, they also joined us sabbing the local hunts out killing Fox Cubs. Joining up at times with other local groups, we made it clear to the Cattistock Hunt and the South Dorset Hunt, that we hadn't forgotten about them. We also travelled up North to help sab the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale Hunt and the Portman.

In-between sabbing , we have also been involved in the Anti-Fur Demos in Shaftesbury where a new shop was found to be selling real fur clothing and accessories. We have also kept up our constant pressure on the South Dorset Hunt landlord, Tory MP for South Dorset Richard Drax, who is now really under the public microscope for several reasons!

Juggers showpiece, the Boxing Day meet, was quite honestly a bit humiliating for him, with more quad riding knuckle draggers than field! With a combination of Foot Sabs and vehicles keeping him on the run for the few hours they were out. As for the big New Year Day meet, well that was cancelled at the last minute without even telling their support, maybe it was due to bad weather conditions or the fact that we were there, just in case they took the risk and went out...

It's been a hard few months. The knuckle draggers and huntsmen have been getting very aggressive and abusive. Tyres have been destroyed and equipment stolen or damaged....and where were Dorset Police when called?

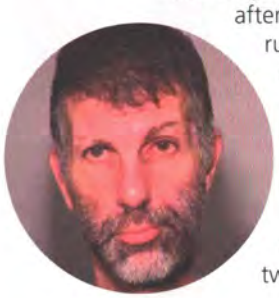
SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



Please write cards or letters to the following prisoners. Even if you just send a card with a brief message, receiving a message of support from the outside world can make a huge difference to prisoners. Remember all correspondence is read by prison staff. Don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.

Joseph Dibee

Joseph Mahmoud Dibee was arrested in Cuba whilst boarding a plane towards Russia after being twelve years on the run. The FBI accuses him of multiple accounts of sabotage carried by the ALF and ELF during the 90s. One of the actions he is accused of is a horse meat packing plant that was burnt to ashes twenty-one years ago.



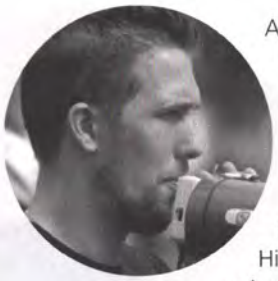
Joseph Dibee #812133
Multnomah County Jail
11540 NE Inverness Dr.
Portland, OR 97220
USA

Please do not discuss anything related to his case, to anything illegal or to any direct actions!

Release date: unknown

Peter Janssen

Peter is awaiting trial accused of an arson attack at a slaughterhouse in the Netherlands.



All correspondence should be unrelated to his case and not contain any reference to illegal activities. You can write to him by sending your letters through an email: forthebulls@gmail.com His support team will then get your words to him.

Release date: unknown, awaiting trial

Marius Mason

Marius Jacob Mason (Marie Mason*) is a transgender anarchist and environmental / animal rights activist serving nearly twenty-two years in federal prison for acts of property damage carried out in defence of the planet.



*In July 2014, Marius announced that he would no longer be using the name Marie, and will be using male pronouns. Until his name is legally changed, mail sent to Marius in prison will need to be addressed to "Marie Mason."

Marie (Marius) Mason #04672-061
FCI Danbury
Route 37
Danbury, CT 06811 USA

Release date: January 10, 2027

Ladislav Kuc

Ladislav is an animal rights activist accused of illegal possession of arms, manufacturing explosives for a bombing in front of a McDonald's in December 2011, in which there were no injuries. He was arrested in January 2012. In the latest ruling in early 2018, his total sentence was extended to twelve years. All his mail is opened and read. So far, there are no letter restrictions listed.



Uutos, Gucmanova 19/670
Priecinoik 7
Leopoldov 92041
Slovakia

His expected release date is January 2024.

SCOTTISH GUN LAW
SHOOTING ITSELF IN THE FOOT?

No Trails - Glasgow Hunt Sabs on why the trail hunting 'smokescreen' doesn't apply to Scotland.



Head to the comments section of any of our hit reports, and you'll find a flurry of vitriol in the form of 'they're blatantly not trail hunting!' or 'funny place to lay a trail! and other such outrage at our local hunts' shoddy attempts at duping us with 'trail hunting'. We hear this all the time, from the public and even sometimes, non-Scottish sabs. But here's the thing... hunts in Scotland do not, nor do they need to pretend to, lay trails in order to hunt foxes with a pack of hounds.



Sabs keep tabs

It is an understandable misunderstanding to have, given that the ruse of artificial trail laying is the number one 'smokescreen' used to hunt illegally south of the border. So, why don't the Scottish fox hunts need to pretend to lay trails? Are they allowed to seek out live mammals to kill? Well, yes and no. The difference is simply our 2002 'Protection of Wild Mammals Act' which banned traditional fox hunting but permitted the use a pack of dogs to flush a fox to waiting guns, when conducting pest control. (Pretty absurd form of 'pest' control, we know, but that's a subject for a different time). This contrasts with England and Wales, where it is illegal to pursue a wild mammal with a pack of hounds, but you can flush an animal to guns with one or two but not three or more dogs. And that's enough for us to be able to say that hunting with dogs is banned. Hurrah!

In other words, in Scotland, England and Wales, it's totally fine to use hounds to seek out a fox within a covert, and for the hounds to flush out but not chase the fox, who then runs for their life into the line of gunfire. If you're still following up to this point, you may have realised a wee problem, (or loophole if you like), that our dear lawmakers must not have anticipated.



Sticking two fingers up at the law

"Scottish hunts fall back on the gun loophole as a decoy for traditional hunting. Often there are no shooters stood in any meaningful position and hounds are encouraged onto the lines of foxes."

How do you stop a pack of excited hounds in full cry from following the fox out of the covert? Answer: you can't.

It will come as no surprise then, that just as English and Welsh hunts choose to pretend to follow an artificially laid trail to get round using a full pack, two hounds just not being exciting enough, Scottish hunts fall back on the gun loophole as a decoy for traditional hunting. Often there are no shooters stood in any meaningful position and hounds are encouraged onto the lines of foxes. Different smokescreens to the same end - to illegally hunt and kill foxes with hounds.

What is particularly devious about the gun clause, is that it is very hard to prove. There is a reason there has only been one conviction of a huntsman, hunting illegally in Scotland, in the 19 years post 'ban'. To prove what we can all see happening, you'd need a clear continuous video of hounds in chase over open land and it be beyond doubt



Hunters feel the pressure



So where's yer guns?

that there is no shooter "just out of frame, your honour". It is very easy to have gunmen standing arbitrarily about for the benefit of sabs or monitors.

"I didn't think it happened here!" or some variant of, is another expression we often encounter. Us Scots love to think of ourselves as the progressive nation, one where 'English redcoats' has been a phrase we've felt revulsion for since the time of Cromwell. Surely, we wouldn't stomach that kind of pretentious barbarity on our green and bonnie lands? We're better than that! Well no, as a government, we're not. Just as in England and Wales, an overwhelming proportion of the public are anti-fox hunt. Just as in England and Wales, our government placates the masses with laws that are not only misleading, but that are also designed to fail. The only thing our Scottish parliament did was dupe us a bit earlier by bringing in the 2002 Act two years ahead of the 2004 Hunting Act. Brilliant.

But! And that is a tentative, cynical, jaded, just a tad hopeful 'but', the SNP and the Scottish Greens have been



Murdering bastard

dancing around implementing some pretty staunch legislation for a few years now. Lord Bonomy's review back in 2016 concluded what we already knew - that guns are used as decoys - and since then both parties have made moves to substantially strengthen the existing 'ban'.

Alison Johnstone of the Green Party was first off the mark, unveiling a Member's Bill that she's been working on since 2017, to 'close the loopholes' creating a 'watertight ban' on hunting, not only foxes, but mountain hares. The SNP quickly followed by launching a Bill that would reduce the number of hounds to two...so bringing us in line with the rest of the UK then.

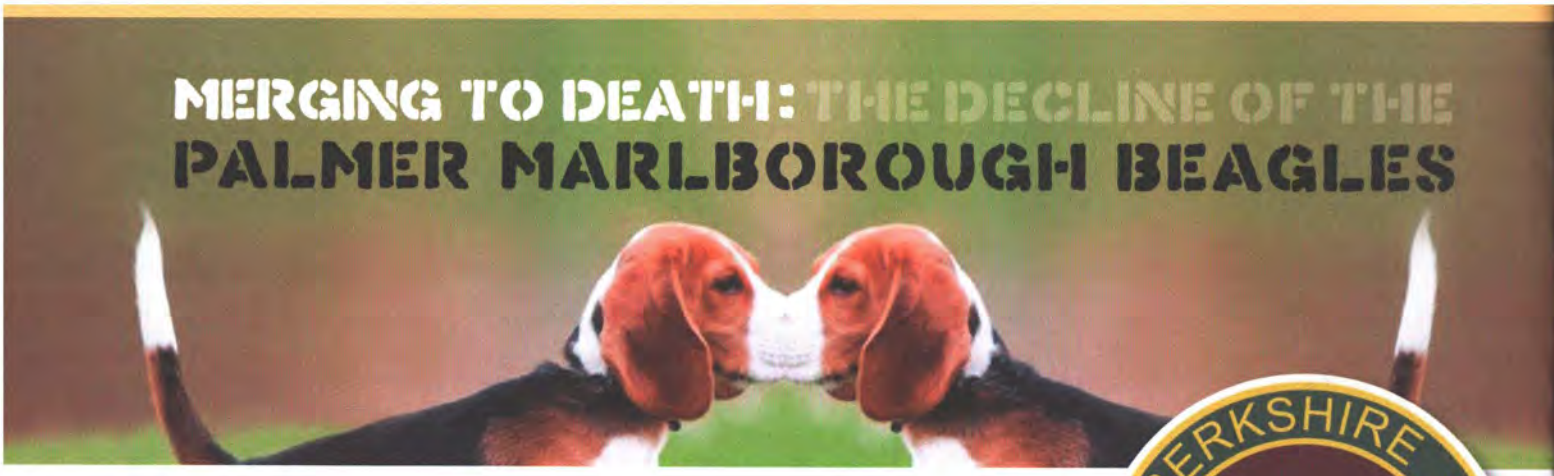
But wait! There's more! Back at the beginning of 2019, the SNP and it's first minister, publicly denounced foxhunting in all its bastardised forms. Citing it as 'appalling', she vowed to bring in measures to stop trail hunting from taking hold in Scotland. Meaning of course, that our hunts couldn't just do as they've done south of the border. This is good. This is very good. What's much less good is Brexit- generally speaking, but also because it created an almighty backlog and delayed any new Bills from going through. Fast forward to mid-2020 and the SNP have now reinstated their promise for action, and subsequently retracted it again to focus on Covid-19. So, when is this ban that should have been in place since 2002 going to happen? We don't know specifically, but the SNP have said sometime after the 2021 election. Politicians love to be vague and we've learned to place little faith in them. The momentum is undeniably there though, and any vote on strengthening and banning - properly banning - fox hunting would do very well in Holyrood.

Until then, all we can do is carry on with what we do best; meeting hunts in the field and being the real defence for wildlife. Until then, we'll be sabbing.



"Anyone seen a pack of hounds?"

MERGING TO DEATH: THE DECLINE OF THE PALMER MARLBOROUGH BEAGLES



One Saturday morning in 2012 the newly formed Berkshire Hunt Sabs received a tip off that the Palmer Marlborough Beagles would be hunting hares near their college grounds at Marlborough, Wiltshire.

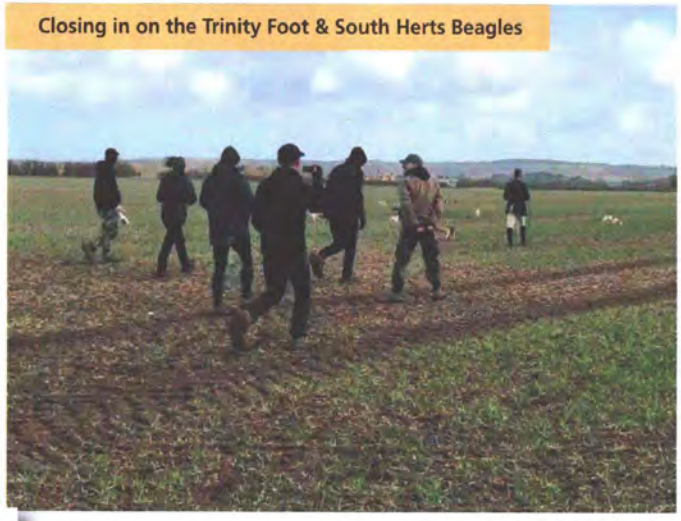
Sabs were watching from a distance and soon saw people dressed in hunting attire gather in the car park with their supporters. We watched as the pack 'paraded' their hounds in front of the photogenic buildings before leaving to hunt in an area behind the college. The hunt, so unused to seeing any opposition, had no idea that our vehicles were following them. We watched them as they unloaded their hounds and entered the fields. It quickly became clear that they were not following any sort of trail, so we entered the fields to make ourselves known and began rating the hounds - who were at this point close behind a hare. The shock from the hunt staff and students was palpable: until now they had been able to hunt quite openly without opposition.

CRUELTY ON THE CURRICULUM

Over the last eight years or so Berkshire Hunt Sabs along with other groups have specialised in operations against beagle packs and the Palmer Marlborough Beagles has been high on that list. As one of the few college hunts alongside Eton, Stowe, Christchurch, Radley, Trinity Foot and the Ampleforth it boasts of their connections but at the same time are nervous of scrutiny out in the field. Eton College Beagles is the oldest of the school beagle packs dating back to 1858.

The importance of sabotaging hare hunts is clear when you can see how the hunting world view these packs. *The Field* (13th July 2011) described beagling, with its strong links to schools and universities, as a crucible of many sporting careers and essential for training a future generation and crucial in hunting's continuance. *Horse and Hound* (14th July 2005) considered the school hunt clubs "An excellent training ground for future masters of foxhounds".

Closing in on the Trinity Foot & South Herts Beagles



Updating our files



One of its star pupils during the 1860s was the famous humanitarian, and early campaigner against bloodsports, Henry Salt. He describes the goings on there where pupils were encouraged into cockfighting and badger baiting as being *"a nursery of barbarism"*. His observation can be applied to all school packs.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This year, the annual round of hunt changes included the welcome news that the Palmer Marlborough were to merge with the Clinkard Meon Valley and will now be known as the 'Palmer Marlborough & Clinkard Meon Valley'.

The 'Marlborough College Beagles' were founded by two Marlborough students in 1952. The £34,000 per annum fee school has traditionally had hunting teachers and pupils including the five times criminally convicted Otis Ferry. At the time of the introduction of the Hunting Act in 2004 the school made the decision to wind down the pack as they felt "uncomfortable" continuing under the new rules and, as was said in an article by 'Country Life' at the time, "The hunting ban cast a shadow over the future of the club".

The college held its last beagle meet on 17th of February 2005; however, a group of rich locals took it on as a private pack, renaming it the 'Marlborough & District Beagles'. Even though they were then kennelled away from the school at Conholt Park in Hampshire, they maintained an association with the College which gave the Beagles a 'significant subscription' and continued to list it in the prospectus under 'country pursuits'.

In 2007 they amalgamated with the neighbouring 'Palmer Milburn', becoming the 'Palmer Marlborough Beagles', and moved into their present kennels near Hungerford. The kennels are owned and financed by Trevor Gore who went to Marlborough College as a child. Some of the hunt

"Once a prestigious hunt with students and their families proudly supporting them it is now just a handful of aging stragglers following loosely behind them."



staff come from the college and it used to be that up to 15 pupils would attend as followers on a mid-week meet.

The current hunt is now an amalgamation of four packs - the Palmer Milburn, Marlborough College, Clinkard, and Meon Valley. No hunt truly wants to compromise its heritage and identity by making a deal with another hunt club unless it gets them out of a fix and usually each pack insists on being in the name. The result is ridiculous, unwieldy names like (deep breath...) the 'Brighton, Storrington, Surrey & North Sussex Beagles'.

Hunt followers are by their nature mostly insular, provincial, and defensive of their group identity and while the decision to join with another hunt would be voted on by members guided by the masters there will always be some followers unhappy and disillusioned with the liaison, and with rumours circulating about fallouts in the community we know that amalgamations are rarely a joyous event. There are practical problems too - while mergers can increase the size of a hunt country, it can also vastly increase the distances supporters have to travel to meets.

IS THIS WHAT IT HAS COME TO?

After years of being sabotaged the Palmer Marlborough Beagles are desperate and hunt whenever and wherever they can. Once a prestigious hunt with students and their families proudly supporting them it is now just a handful of aging stragglers following loosely behind them.

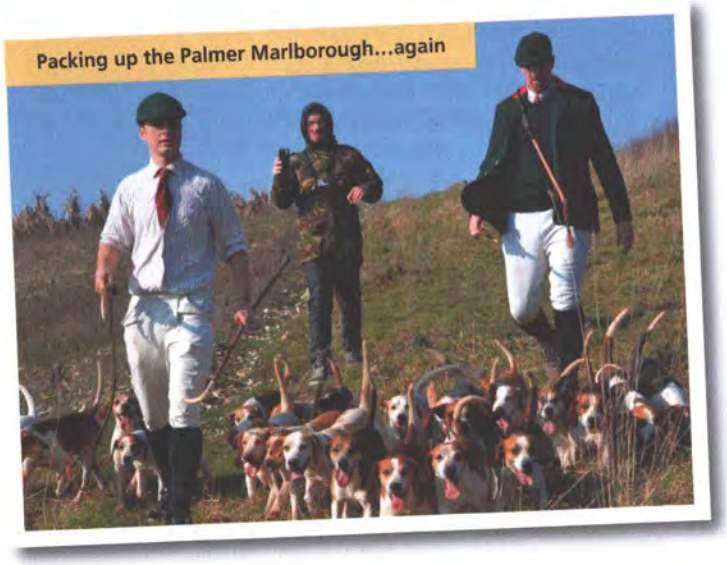
Looking back to that first meet we sabbed at the college grounds, there is a stark difference between then and how they hunt now. One of their recent hunt meets particularly showed their desperation. By hunting on Salisbury Plains during a storm despite the red flags being up (which means they were prohibited from accessing the area due to live firing). They decided to wait to see if the storm would pass. Eventually, they braced themselves to hunt in the torrential rain. Even their fox hunting counterparts the Royal Artillery - who were hunting in the same area - had already packed up due to the harsh weather. We watched them struggle to get their vehicles up the rain-sodden muddy track, determined not to lose this precious opportunity to hunt. They braved the rain for less than an hour before boxing their hounds back up and heading home under our watchful eye.

Is this what it has come to for the Palmer Marlborough Beagles?

So, we see this latest amalgamation as a moment of celebration for Berkshire Hunt Saboteurs alongside the other groups who we have teamed up with over the years. This hunt and their dwindling supporters are struggling to continue. Another hunt down as two become one which means many more hares saved. Result!



The Fashion Police respond to an urgent call-out. Albany Bassets, 2013



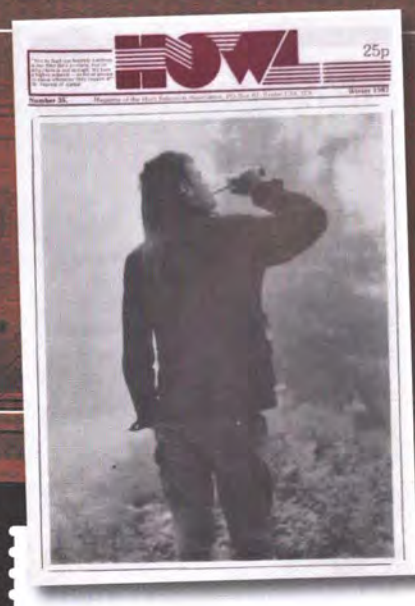
Packing up the Palmer Marlborough...again



Old Berkeley Beagles in full retreat

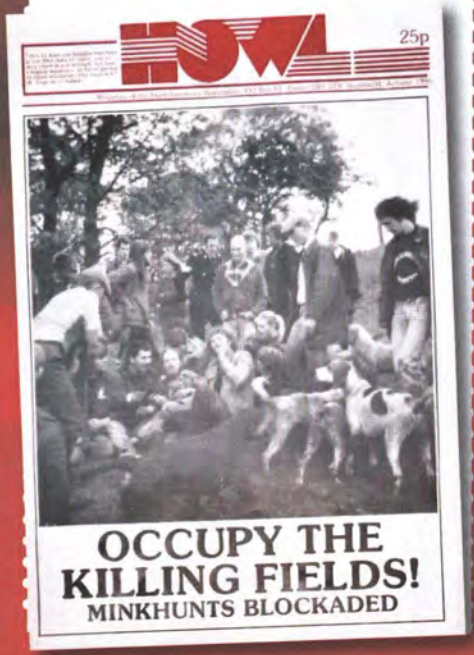
BACK IN THE DAY...

HOWL MAGAZINE

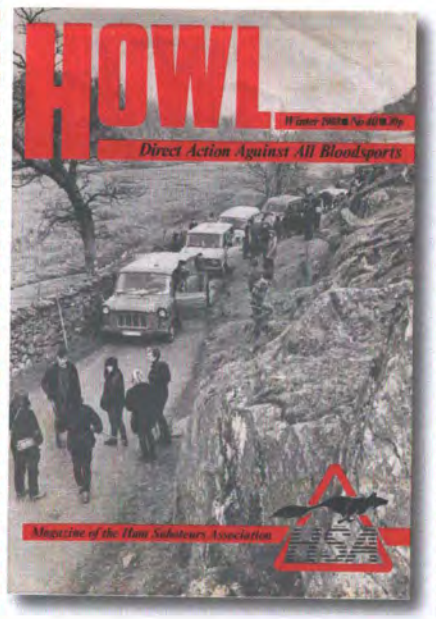


HOWL - Hounds Off Our Wildlife - is the best and longest-running animal rights magazine in the world. Steve Poole, HOWL Editor 1986-1992, recalls the trials and tribulations of producing the magazine at this crucial period of the HSA's development.

Back in the early 80s I was putting my NCTJ qualification in Journalism to good use working for *Bath Spark*, the city's radical/alternative paper. So, my first encounter with a foxhunt came when Bristol sabs persuaded me to come out and write a feature about them. It all went well enough for the resulting spread to get picked up and republished by *The Leveller*, a nationally distributed fortnightly and, after spending the next three years organising a sab group in Bath, I joined the HSA Committee first as Press Officer and then, in the summer of 1986, as HOWL editor.



We had no desktop publishing in those days, so I typed everything up myself, my partner Janette screened the photos, then we made a folder for each section, added typescript, pictures and captions, and took everything round to a Bath printer for layout and production.



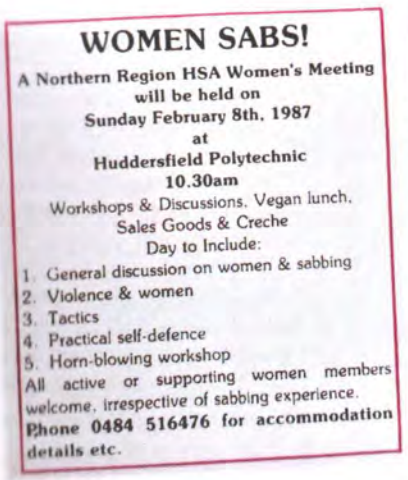
We tried to pep up the design a little, making the masthead bigger and bolder and filling the front page of each edition with an eye-catching photo. We increased the page count from 16 to 24, put up the cover price from 15p to 25p (yikes!) and to keep a good supply of photos coming in from active groups, began paying a fiver for each one we printed.

Before long, thanks to excellent field photographers like Simon Wild, we were inundated with good quality images.

We aimed for a mix of short news items, letters and longer features, some offering legal advice, some discussing tactics and others showcasing research, including regular contributions from HSA's research officer, Ralph Cook. We made a big push to improve the supply of group news and I began regularly phoning contacts, twisting their arms to put pen to paper and pop something in the post together with a picture or two. It worked; Group News was soon one of the busiest sections of the magazine.

The summer of '86 was a portentous moment to take the job on, caught as we were, midway between the defeat of the miners' strike and the beginning of Thatcher's triumphant third term. The Tories celebrated with a new Public Order Act in 1986, designed in part to obstruct the HSA, and HOWL quickly found itself reporting the immediate impact, 49 arrests during a single cub hunt in Dorset. From a political perspective, a hunting ban had never looked more unlikely. Unsurprisingly, any number of left libertarian political groups began switching from traditional forms of protest to direct action. The impact all this had on the HSA left its mark on HOWL. Tensions began to emerge, first between the Committee and a few of the new activists, and then, within the Committee itself. Most arguments centred on the management of the Association's income, particularly over the proportion ploughed back into local groups to pay for essentials like landrovers, van hire and CB radios.

HOWL was a natural forum in which issues like these could be aired, but some doubted its impartiality. After all, the journal was the public mouthpiece of the Association and it was effectively owned and paid for by the HSA Committee. We began in 1986 with a lively debate in print over the respective benefits of devolved power and centralised control, instigated by the arrival on the scene of the Southern Anti Bloodsports Society (SABS), an umbrella network of Southern sab groups who wanted to remain part of HSA but raise their own money and charge a separate subscription. Traditionalists feared fragmentation; new members might be recruited to SABS without feeling the need to join the HSA.



WOMEN SABS!

A Northern Region HSA Women's Meeting will be held on
Sunday February 8th. 1987
at
Huddersfield Polytechnic
10.30am

Workshops & Discussions. Vegan lunch.
Sales Goods & Creche
Day to Include:

1. General discussion on women & sabbing
2. Violence & women
3. Tactics
4. Practical self-defence
5. Horn-blowing workshop

All active or supporting women members welcome, irrespective of sabbing experience.
Phone 0484 516476 for accommodation details etc.

At that time most active sab groups were co-ordinated (if not actively 'led') by men, and HOWL heard from one or two women activists who felt their voices were often overlooked by their male comrades. It was another sign of the influence of the wider libertarian political agenda many new recruits were bringing into the anti-bloodsports movement. So, one regional initiative HOWL was unequivocal in welcoming was the introduction of women-only tactics workshops, particularly in the North, and some women-only regional hits as well. The Committee established a Women's Officer for the first time in response, but I think there was a feeling that the initiative had been led from the grassroots rather than the centre.

In my view as editor, making HOWL's independence from the HSA Committee clear was becoming increasingly important so I argued not only that we should say so in the magazine but that the HOWL editor, while answerable to the Committee, should not be a member of it.

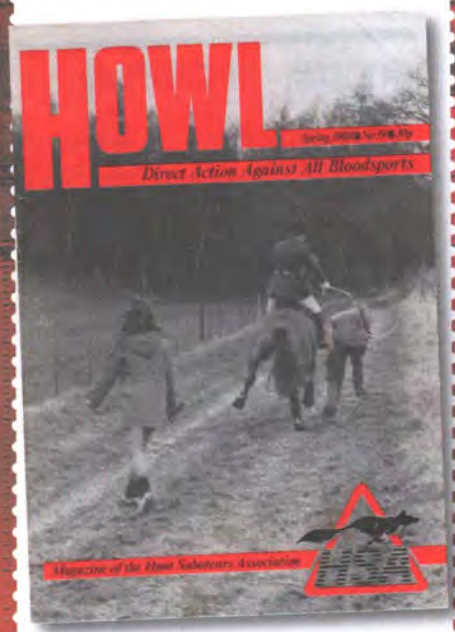


TACTICS

HUNTING ON: A TACTICS SUPPLEMENT

HERE HSA Tactics Officer, Aubrey Thomas, summarises the tactics he described in previous issues of H... Aubrey's Tactics are somewhat controversial. Fiercely advocated in some quarters, just as fiercely criticise... others, we leave you, the reader, to decide where you stand.

Despite some severe misgivings, and to their great credit, this was agreed and so issue No 37 carried a lengthy explanation from me, the gist of which was, that *'the editor and not the committee decides what to include in the magazine. The committee has no right of veto over any article submitted and would not try to exercise any. Instead, the editor is answerable to the committee…'*



It certainly made HOWL a lively forum for debate and as the centralist/regionalist disagreements continued to simmer, we carried on publishing forum pieces from both sides. Some controversial tactical ideas were in the air by the late 1980s too, most notably 'hunting on', an initiative developed by West London group. We carried a full explanation of its theory and practice of this approach, but also a piece highly critical of it. But things came to a head in 1989 when a 'progressive' faction on the Committee carried a contentious vote to lease a national office in Exeter and called an EGM to move the HSA into incorporation as a limited company. The intention, as expressed in HOWL, was greater professionalization but predictably enough it caused shockwaves amongst activists who saw such moves as a wholesale waste of money. The EGM was lost and by the close of the year, the progressives had resigned, and the short-lived office was closed.

All of this coincided with my having to step aside temporarily as editor because of work commitments, and a couple of issues had to be put together by willing volunteers while a holding group took over the reins of the Association and organised fresh Committee elections. When I came back, the dust had mostly settled and HOWL remained in good shape, serving the wider membership as it had always done. By 1992 I was trying to complete a PhD so I passed HOWL on to a new editor and retired, but I'm very proud of what we achieved in reshaping the magazine in the 1980s and for the small part it may have played in holding the HSA together in difficult times. But most of all, I'm proud of the engraved Cotswold horn I was presented with by the Committee as I headed off over the horizon and into academia…

Steve Poole



Leicestershire PoPo

Protecting the hunts

You know a campaign is becoming successful and having its desired impact when the state and police try to shut it down. This is what happened to West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs when their campaign against the Atherstone Hunt (which ultimately succeeded) started to have an impact on the hunting world. Despite there being a ban in place for the past 15 years hunting is still very protected by the establishment. You only have to look at people like the Attorney General, MPs, cabinet ministers, Peers, judges, serving and ex-police officers to see the type of people who support hunting.

Not only was it looking increasingly likely the Atherstone Hunt would fold due to sustained pressure from sabs, some of those links to serving police officers, ex-police officers and other establishment figures were starting to be exposed.

Leicestershire Police's reputation was taking a battering. Not one but two serving wildlife officers were publicly exposed as having links to fox hunts.

The first PC, Sharon Roscoe, rides with the Belvior Hunt whilst the second, PC Rob Cross, has links to several Leicestershire fox hunts. His best friends and Godparents to his child let the Fernie Hunt all over their land and his mother-in-law employed a violent Atherstone Hunt thug as her groom. We also heard persistent rumours that his wife rode with the Atherstone Hunt before they were sabbed. Cross has even attended a wedding in which members of the Atherstone Hunt were present. And of course, he has publicly retweeted an article supporting the repeal of the Hunting Act. Moreover, he was secretly recorded in a meeting with members of the Atherstone Hunt where he advised them on which laws can and can't be used against saboteurs.



Leicestershire Police of course saw no conflict of interest. Instead, they started a campaign to target people they perceived as key members of West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs to shut them up and silence them. Days after the Roscoe story broke in the press, an investigation was started into a member of West Mids Sabs accusing them of tampering with video evidence.



The footage in question was sent off to an independent video forensics company who came back with a report stating that it had not been tampered with. Not content with this result, they sent it off to a not-so-independent forensics company where one of the directors was also a retired high ranking police officer and president of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC). This got the result they were after, a report stating it had been tampered with by a sab.



Plenty of resources for hassling sabs

However, the stitch-up job didn't quite go to plan with the sab in question being found not guilty of one of the two counts they were charged with and for the other count they escaped going to prison and have carried on sabbing as normal.

Unhappy that this elaborate and drawn-out campaign (the sab had been on charges for 5 years) had not stopped anyone from the group from sabbing or challenging the police, Leicestershire Police appealed the sentence the sab had been given in one last attempt to get them sent to prison and the group shut down.

This involved yet more falsified evidence, this time from PC Cross himself who effectively accused the sab of smashing all the windows to his home after Leicestershire Police supposedly leaked his address to the sab by accident. This time, however, the sab could prove that this was a complete lie as he had kept all correspondence between himself and the police and Cross's address did not appear anywhere. We think it is safe to assume the whole story of smashed windows was itself completely made up.

The unused evidence from this trial contained emails from a high-ranking police officer DI John Gray which shows DI Gray interfering in separate cases against members of the hunt which ultimately got dropped most likely because of his interference.

Other members of the group have faced similar treatment from the same police force. Leicestershire Police tried to stitch up another sab with no actual evidence, just the word of members of the Atherstone Hunt who accused her of shouting and swearing at them during a demonstration outside the hunt kennels. The statements - accepted as fact by the police - accused the sab of bugging their homes, phones and mobiles. Once it emerged the sab had video footage to disprove the hunts claims Leicestershire Police actually tried to prevent the footage from being played in court. This last act of desperation failed, and the hunt members were crucified on the stand.

Having already successfully sued Leicestershire Police in the past for an illegal stop and search and arrest the sab is now pursuing further action against the police. With the Atherstone Hunt finished off, public confidence in Leicestershire Police undermined and West Mids Hunt Sabs still sabbing hunts and challenging the police all that's left now is this legal action against the police. This will hopefully be the final chapter in this saga which when concluded will show that the corruption goes right to the top of the high-ranking officers in charge of Leicestershire Police's hunting operations.



They could not stop West Mids Hunt Sabs

FOXPACK

An amazing individual, nine fantastic bands and a record company have come together to create this awesome aural and visual delight to raise money for the HSA. Liberty, Burnt Cross, Virus, The Domestics, Cress, Armoured Flu Unit, Contempt, Oi Polloi, Anthrax and Active Slaughter all recorded exclusive tracks to show their support for sabs and Global Resistance Records turned it into reality.





In true punk style it's taken four years to be completed but, boy, was it worth the wait. As well as the money raised from subscriptions to the series a further £625 was raised through a raffle of one-off test pressings. In total over £2600 has been raised for the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

It's projects such as this that show the ingenuity and DIY thinking of both sabs and their supporters. An individual came up with this brilliant idea, pulled together all the separate strands, never made any fuss about it and then presented this huge amount of money to the HSA. Our thanks and respect go to him and everyone who contributed. All the money will go directly to local groups to support them to save wildlife.

Obituary

Alistair Howson aka Brench aka B

(15 January 1967 - 22 January 2021)



Brench died peacefully at home on 22nd of January 2021 with his wife, brother, and long-term friend by his side.

After running a record shop, alongside his late mother's vegan café, 'Mar B's' 'in Bradford's anarchist social centre at The 1 in 12 Club, he later volunteered at Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, Liverpool.

Brench was a committed hunt saboteur during the 80's and early 90's. He operated independently with a small group of friends from Stockport who often joined forces with Manchester Hunt Sabs. B's modest nature meant few people knew of him serving two ALF prison sentences. He was one of the Dodleston Five; imprisoned for his part in a confrontation at the Cheshire Beagles hunt kennels following the death of 18-year-old hunt sab, Mike Hill. Brench also served time in prison for his involvement in a sustained and dedicated campaign of economic sabotage against the meat, dairy, and egg industries.

He was active in defence of animals harmed by fur farming and can be recalled storming the Chinchilla Fur Breeders Association AGM, ensuring it lasted all of six minutes. His efforts resulted in the permanent closure of fur shops in Manchester and Wilmslow. Vivisection laboratories and their breeders, circuses and zoos, as well as the pet trade were among B's targets during his time as a hardworking and dedicated animal rights activist.

Always one to enjoy a good party, B's generosity towards his friends knew no bounds. He enjoyed attending gigs and festivals during which he generated so much laughter and was renowned for his exceptionally cheeky grin.

In releasing himself from a phase of only ever eating porridge for a time as a bet, Brench challenged friends to beat him in a race against the clock to consume a whole packet of bourbons in 'The Biscuit Race', and whole sacks of potatoes, in 'The Spud Marathon'. He thought nothing of eating a whole steamed cauliflower!

B is especially well remembered for his truly unique command of the English language and tendency to christen his friends with abbreviated or elongated nicknames, along with a habit of gifting at least five embellished versions of the original name given to each of his rescued dogs; Toby, Nicky, and Lucky. He was adept at poetry and song writing; retribution towards animal abusers being the amusing and predominant theme in his three-piece band, 'Section Five'.

Brench was no music snob; he indulged himself in the widest possible variety of tunes ranging from Hardcore punk, pop, funk and soul, hip hop, drum and bass and everything in between. Genres in his collection were separated by labels depicting handwriting worthy of becoming a font. The neatness of his ability to organise handwritten information was applied in equal measure towards meticulous research into shady practices among big multinationals; B was known for accumulating vast swathes of intelligence on parent and subsidiary companies to ensure unethical practices had no place among the widest variety of vegan stock in his three independent whole food shops.

Latterly, B settled in North Wales, met, and married Hannah 'The Duchess', and enjoyed a readymade family; cats Elvis, Enid, and recently adopted Elenid, upon which they hoped to expand. Together, they tended their thriving allotment between travelling to care for Hannah's late mother in the Netherlands. Where, alongside Germany, they made endless trips to access treatment. Brench faced his illness with courage and applied his trademark diligence and commitment towards daily efforts to heal so he and Hannah could realise their future dreams.

He is sorely missed by many and his uniqueness is impossible to replace.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE: TACTICS OFFICER



In keeping with its grassroots direct-action ethos, the HSA is run by a volunteer committee of twelve people. In this series we meet some of those involved.

How did you get involved in sabbing and animal rights?

I've been passionate about animals and wildlife for as long as I can remember. As a kid I used to spend my days exploring the woods and learning everything I could about the birds and animals but as an adult I was a fairly late starter. It was the badger cull which tipped me over the edge. I was getting angry about the pointless waste of life and the injustice of it all and said to myself. *"there's only so many petitions you can sign, sooner or later you have to take a stand, now's the time"*.

I found myself down in Gloucestershire in that first year chasing shooters and flattening cages. I lived in my car for 3 or 4 days at a time before going home, sleeping and then doing a few days' work before starting all over again. It almost killed me! During my time down there, I had contact with several sab groups and thought, *"This is for me, those guys know what it's all about"*.

Do you remember your first sab? What happened?

Yes, very clearly, it was mental! I drove 2.5 hours and went out with Three Counties as I knew some of them from the cull and we sabbed the Ledbury Hunt, there was only 4 of us and what seemed like hundreds of riders. It was a tough day, we ran miles, got covered in mud, went through 2 rivers, saved at least 2 foxes, squared up to a 6 foot plus hunt supporter (I'm 5 foot 6) with no intention of backing down and had my video camera smashed! Talk about in at the deep end.

It was a huge eye opener and I learnt so much. I was completely exhausted when I got home but buzzing as well.

Why did you want to get involved in helping to run the HSA?

It just seemed like the natural progression. I'd been part of a small team running a local group for several years and when it was suggested I could have the chance to help out nationally I thought I'd give it a go.

The HSA have a great team and there's so much passion there it's just great to be a part of it. The fact we're all volunteers as well just makes it extra special. This is something the other side will never understand, we do what we do for no personal or financial advancement, just an overwhelming drive to right the wrongs taking place in our countryside.

Tell us about the role of Tactics Officer.

I'd learnt so much about sabbing from some great and hugely experienced sabs, every time I went out it was a learning experience and I used to analyze everything in great detail afterwards, thinking how things could be done differently or better and trying to apply what I'd learnt the next time out. I became a sponge for soaking up sabbing knowledge.



What I also saw was that sometimes this critical knowledge wasn't always passed on to the less experienced and this was something that could be improved. When I became the Tactics Officer it gave me the opportunity to pass on what I'd learnt and perhaps make sabs more effective and of course if you're more effective you'll save more lives.

I've developed a training course which I hope will achieve those aims. Groups can contact me and I'll come down and talk to them. It usually takes about 4 hours and I like to get everyone involved as well with a bit of whip cracking, horn blowing and rating. It's a bit of fun but of course there's a serious side as well.

I've also taken on the role of advising groups on the prosecution process when they have the opportunity of taking a hunt to court for breaching the Hunting Act. Of course, saving lives is our primary directive but hunts hate being prosecuted as the PR is a nightmare for them and it annoys the hell out of Timmy and the so-called CA. This basically came about due to my involvement in the Fitzwilliam (the first successful prosecution of a hunt that uses the Falconry exemption) and the Thurlow cases. Those experiences in court have taught me a lot about the legal process and what's required to achieve a conviction.

What's the best thing about the role?

Meeting lots of interesting sabs and hearing their stories plus getting feedback where they've applied something that helped them in the field save a life. There's nothing more satisfying than knowing there's a sentient animal out there just going about its business as nature intended because you passed on something that helped a sab save it.

And the worst?

Probably knowing we'll never save them all. Sometimes no matter how hard you try and how much you get right ultimately animals will still be killed. I try and make this clear on my training sessions and try and prepare sabs for the worst-case scenarios. It's gruesome to witness but if you spend any length of time sabbing it will happen at some point. Learning to deal with these downers is all part of becoming a great sab but picking people up afterwards who are so emotionally connected to what they do is a tough one.

Any final words?

Just a thanks to the HSA and all the sabs and groups around the country. You guys do an incredible job against a section of society that openly flout the law for their own gratification and yet are allowed get away with it week in, week out. I feel honoured to be part of it and know we will prevail in the long run.

If any groups feel I could help then please drop me a line (tactics@huntsabs.org.uk).



FLINTY DETERMINATION: GRINDING DOWN THE FLINT & DENBIGH

NORTH WALES HUNT SABOTEURS

We started out ten years ago, just three of us monitoring the Flint & Denbigh Hunt, it was hard going, and we stuck to this for almost three years. But after meeting some like-minded people at the first badger cull in Gloucestershire we decided we needed a change of plan. You see, as independent monitors we received no help from the police and due to being unknown, little support from the public. After the end of that first cull, we formed North Wales Hunt Saboteurs for the start of the 2013-14 hunting season and soon after became a Hunt Saboteurs Association affiliated group *(good move - Ed).*

From Protest To Resistance

The three years we spent monitoring the Flint & Denbigh had not been a total waste of time as we learnt all their meets and a great deal of local knowledge.


Sabs out for a stroll

As we got better at what we were doing, and our numbers grew, we became the victims of our own success. North Wales Police started to target us, in 2014 the police arrested two saboteurs after the police issued us with a suspicious looking dispersal order. They took the sabs to court, and we won! The dispersal order had been altered by the police and the police had conspired with the hunt to stitch us up. Both arrested sabs received substantial pay-outs after suing the police.

The next few seasons saw us continue to run rings around Jeremy Reed's dwindling Flint & Denbigh, while North Wales Police just got worse. As for our Rural Crime Team, despite the nonsense they write on social media, we've only ever seen them at a hunt about twice, and on those occasions, it was clear they sided with the hunt. The police continued to ignore all illegal hunting and assault after assault on sabs, whilst failing to even take statements from us, and using any excuse to twist evidence in the favour of the hunt. It was clear harassment by the police and numerous complaints made to the IOPC just saw the police tell more lies. It's no surprise North Wales Police are so biased, given that one of the masters of the Flint & Denbigh is married to the lord lieutenant of Clwyd.


Dodgy arrest by North Wales Police

Yarder, Yarder, Yarder

Again, in January 2018 two of our sabs were in court charged with multiple jumped up charges, the police and the hunt in cahoots again to attempt to get a five-year injunction on the sabs. Thankfully, the Magistrates saw through that, and not long afterwards the longstanding huntsman Jeremy Reed announced his early retirement stating, *"I can no longer hunt due to the sabs."* With Reed gone they brought Nigel Cox out of retirement for one season. Reed was always a bit twitchy about being caught illegally hunting but not so Cox who was blatant in his criminality. Later in the summer of 2018 more sabs faced court yet again on jumped up charges. When the first two appeared in court it came to light that the police were involved



He can't shake sabs

in a secret operation with the Flint & Denbigh. In a hunt member's own statement he mentioned "Operation Yarder", the same hunt member who has never been charged despite some 18 assaults on sabs over the years. The two sabs were found not guilty, and the sab due in court the following week had the case dropped by the CPS. But the statement against that third sab spoke about how the police drone team had phoned a known violent hunt member to tell him sabs were in the area, which resulted in him finding the sabs and assaulting one on a public footpath, yet North Wales Police had charged the sab with assault! These two cases made the media and now "Operation Yarder" was out in the open.



Flint & Denbigh on the attack

Losing Support

When the hunting act came into effect the Flint & Denbigh gloated that it had made their numbers soar and said they would get up to 100 members out on a hunting day. Well, that is not the case now, we've seen membership drop, regular supporters vanish, and hunting land lost. On a big Saturday meet they're lucky if they get twenty-five riders. We've been able to reach out and attract members from far and wide which has resulted in a couple of other groups forming from us. We have a great relationship with all North West groups, which is a far cry from when there were only three of us blindly monitoring from footpaths. Although our prime target has been the Flint & Denbigh, who happen to be the only mounted hunt operating in North Wales, we have also been able to hit hunts elsewhere including Cheshire, Derbyshire, Shropshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, and Gloucestershire. We were there when Cheshire sabs formed and started to hit the notoriously violent hunts of Cheshire.

Where we are now is the Flint & Denbigh Hunt have their third huntsman in three seasons, Robert Medcalf who was sacked by the South Devon Hunt for cruelty to hounds. With nobody wanting the Flint & Denbigh job due to the constant presence of sabs and talk of infighting they really do look to be falling apart.

As for North Wales Police, this season they're trying to take a new approach towards sabs and the hunt. But we won't be fooled, and we won't forget what they have put us through. We can assure you our campaign will continue till the end...however long it takes.

"...longstanding huntsman Jeremy Reed announced his early retirement stating, "I can no longer hunt due to the sabs."



PLEASE JOIN THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

Why should I join?

The HSA is the country's fastest-growing and most effective anti-hunt organisation. We are 100% volunteer-run so much more of your subscription goes directly to saving hunted animals.

What do I get?

You will receive HOWL magazine three times a year - it's packed with essential news and articles that you can't read anywhere else. You receive exclusive mail shots throughout the year, keeping you up-to-date with campaign news from the front line. You also get a new member's pack and have the right to attend our AGM.





Still need convincing?

Tim Bonner of the Countryside Alliance recently described hunt sabs as the "primary concern" for most hunts!

HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

❒ £20 (1 year subscription) ❒ £200 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the HSA's work

Name.....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

Email.....

Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

For a standing order form, to pay via paypal, or for more information please email us -

USEFUL CONTACTS

Most of the groups below can also be found on Facebook and Twitter

Accidental Activist
www.morethanjustbadgers.net

Action Against Foxhunting
www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/

Animal Justice Project
www.animaljusticeproject.com

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALF SG)
www.alfsg.org.uk
PO Box 1107, Northampton, NN7 9BT

Animal Welfare Information Service
PO Box 8, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0JL
www.acigawis.org.uk acig@btinternet.com
(publishers of Outfoxed Take Two and Outfoxed Again)

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting
www.facebook.com/bantrophyhuntingcampaign

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT) www.caft.org.uk

Cumbria Hunt Sabs blog
www.cumbrianhuntsabs.blogspot.com
Exploring the history of Cumbria Hunt Sabs (1987 -2015) written by those involved.

Fox Project
www.foxproject.org.uk

Hare Preservation Trust
www.hare-preservation-trust.com

Hunt Investigation Team
www.huntinvestigationteam.org

Hounds Off
www.houndsoff.org.uk

Moorland Monitors
www.facebook.com/MoorlandMonitors/

National Fox Welfare Society
www.nfws.org.uk

Stop Hunting on the Nation's Land
https://www.facebook.com/Stop-Hunting-on-the-Nations-Land-110530057004500/

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
www.powa.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
www.seashepherd.org.uk

SPEAK Campaigns
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.innocentbadger.com

Vegan Prisoner Support Group
www.vpsg.org

Vegan Society
www.vegansociety.com

Veggies Animal Rights Calendar
www.veggies.org.uk/arc



CONTACTING THE HOWL TEAM?

To submit articles, photos, or anything else for publication, please contact the Editor on: howl@huntsabs.org.uk

Please note that the copy deadlines for Group News and all other HOWL content are 1st January, 1st May and 1st September every year.

To inform us of a change of address, request HOWL as a PDF, or anything else to do with your subscription, please contact the Membership Officer on: membership@huntsabs.org.uk



RUN WITH THE FOX

Help save lives after you've gone





Making a will is the only way to ensure that your wishes are followed after you've gone. If you can, please consider leaving a legacy gift to the HSA after you have taken care of your loved ones.



With no paid staff, you can be sure that your gift to the HSA will be used where it is needed most - out in the killing fields.
The HSA strongly recommends that you use a solicitor when you make or update your will.

If you would also like to discuss leaving a gift or legacy to the HSA please contact our Treasurer on: office@huntsabs.org.uk

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION in 2020

Affiliated groups: 56

Money to sab groups: £63,000

Money to fight badger cull: £7,000

Copies of HOWL sent out: 10,250

NEWS

National news bulletins on webinar fallout: 4

Calls to tip-off line: 2,500

Masks sold: 900

Facebook reach: 2 million +

Acres lost to hunting: 2.3 million

Sabs on Glorious 12th: 120

WWW

New HSA website: 1

Hunts seen trail hunting: 0

HSA Wages: £0:000 (zilch, zero, nada, sweet FA)

www.huntsabs.org.uk