"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission — to be of service to them whenever they require it."
St. Francis of Assisi

HOWL

5p

ISSN 0308 2709 **Magazine of the HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION, PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent** No 14 Winter 1979/80

FESTIVAL RITES

The County of Warwickshire was going to 'ring to the sound of a hunting festival' and the Warwickshire Beagles were supposedly going to give the local hares around Upton Snodsbury 'a rattling' on September 22nd last, at least that's what *Shooting Times* said. But when approximately 75 sabs, mainly from the West Midlands Group, turned up to try to prevent the three hunts scheduled to meet at the Coventry Arms, at different times of the day, from killing any wildlife, the hunt had other ideas.

At 7.00 am the Croome & West Warwicks. FH drew the first covert in search of foxcubs. The sabs began a normal sabotage, distracting the hounds by blowing horns and spraying anti-mate along the edge of the wood. After about half an hour the hunt employed their normal tactics and 20 hunt thugs attacked with spades and sticks; at least one was armed with a pitchfork. Fortunately the sabs managed to repel this wave of violence, but decided to retire to a more discrete distance where the continued to keep the hounds' attention and succeeded in preventing any kills from being made.

At 11.00 am the Three Counties Mink Hounds (ex Border Counties Otterhounds) failed to materialise; Ian Coghill, joint master, had switched the meet. However they were spotted 1½ hours later on a stretch of the Brook stream which had been well-sprayed before the meet. The road ran parallel with the river for a good 3 miles and afforded several bridges and a public footpath. The sabs made towards the river via this path followed by a solitary young police officer.

By this time the hunt heavies had swollen to about 40 and on seeing the sabs they came charging over swinging poles and began beating the handful of antis about the head and body. Those who were unfortunate enough to fall were kicked and punched without mercy. When the police officer tried to intervene he was also subjected to kicks and punches from the thugs.

At this point other HSA vehicles arrived and the violence died down. After radioing for assistance the PC told the sabs that they would not be trespassing if they went back onto the land via the footpath. Then he bravely led the way back into the fields. The hunt was at a standstill for the next hour or so with the sabs containing them between the two bridges. No kills were recorded.

At 4.00 pm the now weary HSA members set out over the fields after the Warwickshire Beagles. They were successful in preventing the hounds from picking up a line, until, that is, a landrover with headlights blazing and loaded to capacity with a gang of vicious rural vandals came careering across the humpy pastures nearly running over a group of sabs plus a crowd of hunt supporters who happened to be standing nearby. They all piled out and, joining forces with another 30 or so thugs who were already in the field, began attacking everyone in sight including 2 young sabs and their mother. They beat 3 sabs so severely that they needed hospital treatment for head and eye injuries. One sab from Brighton was detained in hospital for 3 days for observation.

Meanwhile a Birmingham sab's mini-bus was overturned by a JCB excavator and a brake-pipe was severed—luckily the damage was spotted before the bus was driven off. Another sab, a polio victim, was pushed off his moped into a ditch and a group of sabs with a police inspector in their midst was driven at by a mad-man in a van. However this assailant was stopped by the police and the inspector was heard to say "I've been in the force for 20 years and I'm not going to be killed by a bespectacled idiot like you".

THERE WAS NO RECORDED KILL BY ANY HUNT THAT DAY!

HOW THE HUNT SAW IT

"A gang followed the mink hounds to Feckenham and reached the river before us. They tipped in a black fluid (this was special).

"I was in a field when about 80 of them came running at us blowing bugles, whistles and shouting in a great wave. It was like an infantry charge." said Ian Coghill, joint master of the Three Counties Mink Hounds.

Organiser of the festival, Mike Aldersey said that allegations of the violence were "exaggerated" and added **"We have all had a lot of fun today, and that includes the saboteurs"**.

The hunters were backed up by at least 2 papers. The Daily Mail said that "men and women *from both sides* lashed out with spades, pitchforks, clubs and hunting crops. The Birmingham Evening Mail joined in with a totally biased editorial from an obvious hunt sympathiser, "The anti-hunt brigade, on this showing, are not saboteurs, but vandals. Apparently feeling that they are not making progress by the persuasion of argument, they are prepared to resort to mindless violence". (You sort that one out, we can't!)

Fortunately most of us are sane enough to know who's telling the truth. Suffice to say that the sabs stuck courageously to the task in hand. They all deserve a great deal of credit for staying the field, against all odds.



Sabs deliberate in the shadow of Bow Wood while hunt heavies come in out of the sun. The Croome and West Warwickshire cub hunt. *(Photos courtesy of John Hickman)*



In with a stick to the left and a swift kidney punch to the right. A couple of heavies having "a lot of fun", with a saboteur sharing the 'joke'.

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE

"Saboteurs are just a nuisance, not so much to the hunt, but to other people on the roads." Quoth Mrs Nora Harding, Master of the Devon & Somerset Staghounds to the Daily Mirror, following a visit from sabs.

"I don't know what all the fuss is about." Quoth Mrs Nora Harding to a police constable in Dunster's main street, after driving into the rear of a stationary car with more than three times the legal limit of alcohol in her blood.

HARE'S SOME HYPOCRISY

In an article published recently in Farmer's Weekly, Jim Stuttard, secretary of the BFSS's political wing, appealed to farmers to help stop the decline in numbers of the brown hare.

Speaking at a lagomorph (hare) conference in Ontario, Canada, he spoke of the "hare as an object of sport" and asked farmers to drive the hares temporarily off the fields they were to spray. He added that hare numbers in Britain were now at the lowest this century so the BFSS would shortly be considering how it might help the Game Conservancy to set up a research project into halting the decline in population.

Meanwhile, keep on beagling!

CHRIS GETS THE BIRD

On August 9th Chris Williamson (HSA Press Officer) was asked to appear on his local radio station to outline the HSA's plans for the imminent grouse shooting season. This he agreed to do and an interview was broadcast the following morning at 7.10 am and 8.10 am. At 5.40 pm the Chief Inspector from Buxton, a certain Graham Ward, along with another senior ranking police officer visited Chris to issue him with a summons to appear before a specially convened court the following day, for allegedly "threatening to conduct himself in a 'disorderly, turbulent and offensive manner' ".

In court Chris asked for an adjournment in view of the fact that he'd only received the summons the night before, making it impossible for him to contact his solicitor to gain legal advice. The magistrates, however, saw fit to refuse this request, and ordered Chris to defend himself.

Questions such as, "who informed the police of the broadcast, when it is impossible to tune into to Radio Derby from Buxton" were considered irrelevant by the magistrates. When Chris stated that he was only speaking on behalf of the Assoc. and that at no time did he say that he would be taking part in any action, the magistrates queries why he should mind being bound over!

After listening to the Chief Inspector's diatribe the bench retired to consider their verdict, but inevitably returned with the decision to bind Chris over in the sum of £100 for six months, against which he is appealing.

Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North said that he "marvelled at the speed of the action taken by the police" and that he thought the complaint had been brought on only the most tenuous argument. He added that the speed over this matter compared badly with the lengthy delays in getting more serious offences to court.

Mr Whitehead has campaigned vigorously in recent years to get the 1361 Public Order Act amended, to prevent police taking this sort of ridiculous action against hunt saboteurs.

Looking on the bright side however, the hits that have been undertaken by HSA against grouse shoots this year have been extremely successful. Especially on August 25th when approx. 50 sabs arrived at Chunal Moor, Derbyshire, attempting to clear it of grouse; resulting in all the shoots in the Peak District cancelling for the day. A police spokesperson said, "You cannot very well shoot when people are blowing whistles and waving flags".

FUN FURS

Congratulations to Fay Funnel who burnt a fur coat in London's Oxford Street after queuing for nine days to buy it in a sale at Debenhams.



Dear Sirs

I don't think you realise why people ride horses, for hunting, jumping, point-to-point, ponies etc. etc. (excluding horse racing).

It has got nothing to do with hunting wild animals (these are only used as a cover-up).

Tight trousers, the stirrup cup, etc. are all contributing to the real reason for sitting with legs wide apart with an undulating motion underneath: it is of course M.S.U.B.TION.*

Try to stop a man or woman m.s.u.b.ting* on horse-back or anywhere else and you have got a job on. But if you publicised the fact that this is the reason why horse-riding is so popular you would perhaps shame them.

Rotten Row and riding astride were Society's way of m.s.u.b.ting.* The first Women's Lib was the woman who first rode astride, who said, "Why should the men have all the fun".

Anon, Colwyn Bay

*Editors discretion

Dear Persons (Twits)

I have just seen a photo and the writing on the back of it. It is one of your stupid pictures. The hounds do not leave any trace of the fox when it has been caught. You have just taken a photo of a fox that you have seen and have used it to put over your stupid argument. This is rubbish.

from A hunt supporter
(well, he said it! Ed.).

Dear Sir

Our form had one of your posters up in our form room. Today a hunt fanatic came in and tore it down, he is also a teacher.

So could you send us some leaflets and a couple of posters please.

We nearly murdered him.

Yours
P. Baldock, E. Sussex

Dear Sir

My thanks to the local British Field Sports Society member whose appeal at a local Sheep Dog Trial reminded me that my membership payment to HSA was overdue!

Mr B. A. S. Dale
Macclesfield, Cheshire

SEASON TICKET

A British Rail train driver claims that locomotive engineers get paid £1 if they stop a train for a hunt!

FOGGY DAZE

You must have all heard about the to-do over British Leyland's ridiculous plan to sponsor Capt. Mark 'Foggy' Phillips' team of 6 horses with £18,000 per year, plus an interest-free loan of a further £5,000 for each of the next 3 years to buy other horses. All Foggy had to do was promise to call the team the "Range Rovers".

The reason for Foggy's acceptance of the BL offer appears to have been because he and Princess Anne have a high mortgage to pay off on their horses' swimming pool and their only income comes in from running their farm at Gatcombe Park, Glos, plus P.A.'s annual handout of £63,000 from the Civil List. The Queen paid approx £1m for their 730 acre estate plus an adjoining farm in 1976.

The exercise didn't exactly gain much sympathy for the hunting couple, coming, as it did, during BL's announced planned redundancies. And the mastermind behind the scheme?– none other than British Equestrian Promotions under its directorship of Raymond 'Sparkle' Brooks-Ward, BBC commentator, Master of the Enfield Chase FH and ex BFSS PRO.

SHOCK, HORROR, PROBE!

The hunting press, it seems, are not adverse to reading the annals of the anarchist press. Be not alarmed however dear reader–they are not the ones to be seeking an "unholy alliance" (their phraseology) with such militants–but us!

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) had an article about their cause published in the Anarchist fortnightly "Freedom" and because the HSA was "given a glowing mention" we are now supposed to be "lying with some extremely dubious bed partners" (ie ALF and . . . anarchists).

Oh dear, we were mentioned in the Daily Telegraph only the other day . . . .

"GIVE US A CLUE"

He runs a nine-man shooting syndicate from his north country stately home, Wynyard Park and rears the pheasants for the shoot. He has recently resigned from a well-known organisation, along with the rest of his committee because of its "political activities"– who is he?

Lord Londonderry, ex-President of the North East branch of the League Against Cruel Sports!

CURE IS BETTER THAN PREVENTION

Fox destruction societies in Wales are going to have a lean winter this year as the Government has withdrawn their grant of 50p per adult fox killed and 25p per cub. A Min. of Ag. spokesman said of the withdrawal, "The fox population can re-establish itself so fast after a number have been destroyed in an area that we have come to the conclusion that it is not viable to try to destroy foxes on a large scale".

True to form a Farmers' Union of Wales spokesman replied, "The fox is a predator . . . and apart from poultry will kill weakened lambs . . . it will kill for the sake of killing, particularly among poultry. The fox has always been regarded as a spreader of rabies . . .".

They are concerned, too, over the grant made by the Forestry Commission–£12 every time the destruction societies take their hounds (?) on shoots–but it seems they'll still get this blood money. However the Commission's Welsh Office have banned the digging out of foxes from badger setts.

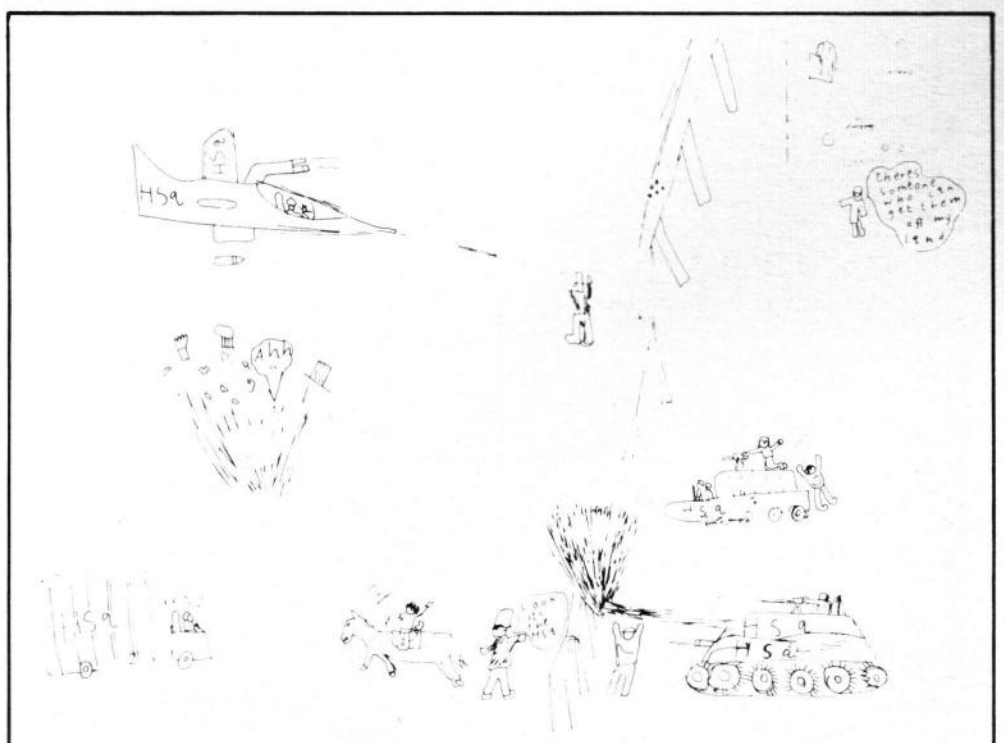
Whilst these farmers worry over foxes their actions during last winter were being severely criticised by a leading Welsh vet (British Farmer & Stockbreeder, 26.5.79). The farmers claim that the increase in sheep losses (8% against the normal 4%) could not be explained, the vet sees it as a result of bad husbandry with too many sheep chasing too little winter fodder through overstocking. This particularly told in pregnant ewes, whose weakened condition gave them little energy to cope with pregnancy and resulted in irreversible liver damage. (Min. of Ag. figures state that 50% of all hill-born lambs die of exposure and starvation in the first hour of life.)

So, on the one hand we have bad weather and foxes and on the other bad husbandry and greed. The suggestion that shelters should be built for in-lamb ewes is met with hands raised in horror–"Too expensive". When this point was put forward to Young Farmers at a meeting in Sussex they simply failed to see the logic involved in such a scheme. They argued that it was better to hunt, shoot and snare foxes than prevent the so-called deprivations by this animal on lambs. They claimed that, quoting figures of lamb losses in their hundreds every season!

The only logical explanation for such illogical reasoning is that they'd rather enjoy the thrill of the chase than enter the 20th century!

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST?

The news that the junior Minister of State for Agriculture has called for a Common Market ban on sperm whale oil and other derivatives should be treated with a certain amount of sceptisism. Mr Buchanan-Smith told the IWC meeting that "Resumption of whaling (after a ban) should only be reconsidered if evidence of recovery of stocks and improvements in the methods of killing justifies it. We owe it to future generations (human, one presumes) to ensure that stocks are not overexploited".



Seven year old David August's view of HSA's activities in the future (?).

GROUP NEWS

All the following groups have been involved in successful cub-hunting hits and it's pleasing to note that more members are sending in detailed reports of their sabotages. A number of new groups have emerged this year and we wish them well in the winter season.

Could we remind all members that if they're involved in assaults by hunt members they must put an official complaint to the nearest police station. If they don't the police will simply not investigate or prosecute, and all the letter-writing to Chief Constables by the Secretary will not alter the situation.

Meanwhile please keep sending in the press reports and activities reports–it's the stuff that HOWL is made of. Information by word of mouth is not guaranteed.

The **East Midlands** group had a stall at the World Vetetarian Congress in Loughborough and met 2 colleagues from Canada who, after going out on a hit, expressed their admiration for sabs who go out week after week (perhaps they'll carry the idea over states-side!). The group have also been involved in scaring grouse from the moors much to the consternation of the shooting fraternity. A timely reminder comes from one of their members–to watch out for illegal hunt cap collections (see note at base of this column).

The **North West** group recently organised the demo against local hunting vicar Canon Roland Meredith, at Preston Parish church, who hunts with the Bleasdale Beagles. About 40 sabs attended the service, some being ejected at the beginning. Others avoided detection and rose to sing that well-known hymn "All things bright and beautiful" with verse ending "Your Canon kills them all" in the pause before Holy Communion. Their voices were joined by the brownies in the front row who thought it was all part of the service! The sabs were escorted out by the police, singing all the while, with a valiant organist hammering at the keys. (We hope the Canon will refrain from future hypocrisy.)

One member recently appeared in court, along with a hare-coursing supporter, charged with "action likely" following a scuffle at a country fair demo organised by the **North East** group. A group of three coursers had attacked the sab after he'd called the police following an incident as they were handing out leaflets (with the organisers' permission). The accused sab was acquitted when the courser's broken nose was explained by another sab's over-enthusiastic actions in trying to make a citizen's arrest! The courser was bound over for one year in the sum of £50. When asked if he had anything to say he replied, "Well I've done wrong and I'll pay my debt. I mean we don't go round wrecking anti-bloodsport meetings like they do. I just went there for a good fight . . . I mean . . . drink."!

Stockport group sold goods, including poetry books, candles and popcorn, at a festival in Torness. They also held their own benefit gig in the evening and played to 360 people.

They joined SABS (Society Against Bloodsports) in an anti-bloodsports rally in Bolton Town centre. They attracted good publicity by publically speaking to sunbathers in the pedestrian precinct; a similar rally was organised in Manchester.

Guildford and **Farnham** groups have formed an Animal Rights Group and have permission to stand in Farnham town centre to recruit members. They had a run-on at a show in Alton, Hants when the embarassed Aldershot Beagles paraded themselves.

Southampton and **Meon Valley** groups have again had good success against the New Forest FH who have since stopped hunting on Saturdays. Other Hampshire hunts have frequently cancelled Saturday hunting as a consequence. Several hound parades have had the attentions of the group attracting good press and TV coverage.

One member recently appeared at Southampton co-accused with New Forest FH kennelman Frank Cross, of "driving without due care and attention" and "reckless driving". The incident happened in September when sabs were following the hound van; Cross was weaving across the road in an attempt to keep them behind, when the sab made an attempt to overtake his car, was forced into the ditch by Cross's landrover. The hunter was acquitted and the sab fined £100 with £300 costs! (Southampton group have paid the fine but are greatly out of pocket–all donations of sympathy will be forwarded onto them–Ed) Cross has since been seen drinking with the magistrate who acquitted him!

The **South West** group's had a get-together demo at the AGM of the Quantock Staghounds, just to let them know they hadn't been forgotten. The meeting moved as one man when a sab stuck his head round the door and said, "good evening–nice to see so many of you non-humans meeting in such a civilised establishemnt, planning next year's bloodletting".

Following the AGM, a new group has been formed in **Bristol** by Mandy Dawes. To date the group (affectionately known as Mandy's Marauders) has 20 members and has taken part in a mass strike against the Exmoor FH. A couple of visits have been made to the Quantock Staghounds, where they were treated to a fine display of hound beating, courtesy of the whipper-in.

A good day out with the Clifton Foot Harriers

(This practice is illegal unless permission has been granted by the local authorities. If in doubt note the registration number of any vehicle involved in the collection or get the collector's name. Inform the Chief Constable of the area, in writing, complaining of the street collection and send a copy of the letter to the Home Secretary. The Home Office claim that they are not aware that this practice is widespread and the Chief Constable will say that they have not had any complaints from the public. If a police constable is at the meet it is as well to inform him of your intentions and to note his number.)



Harold Taylor, Freedom for Wildlife group, holds a fox cub which was hung on his farm gate by terrier men.

BADGERING BROCK

For God knows how many years man has always had to find scapegoats for his own incompetence, inefficiency or situations that he doesn't understand.

The evidence that badgers infect cattle with tuberculosis is thin to say the least, nevertheless in some areas of the country badgers are being systematically wiped out. Now, perhaps, some sanity is prevailing with the news that Agriculture Minister Peter Walker has reversed government policy (ie using cyanide gas on any badger near cattle) until an investigation into the usefulness of this method has been carried out. We understand that Mr Walker's decision was a purely personal one; perhaps he too felt sick about the wholesale slaughter of an innocent party.

Incidentally the cost of innoculating cattle against the ravages of this disease would be about a 0.25 increase in the cost of a pint.

However gassing will still continue in the South West where the Dartmoor Badgers Protection League (Spitchwick Manor, Poundsgate, Devon) is now 3,000 strong. A recent victory 300 badger enthusiasts guarding a centuries-old sett on Condon Tor, Dartmoor, against



an army of Min. of Ag. gassers. Ministry statistics show that over 3,500 setts have been gassed, which represents 10,000 badgers; whilst at least one authority on badgers estimates that there are under 50,000 in the country.

Naturalist Eric Ashby has been attacking the Forestry Commission for continuing to permit the New Forest Foxhounds to dig out fox earths. It would appear that in their ceaseless hunt for animals to maim and kill badgers are suffering too.

Turning to the insidious and, it seems, uniquitous, badger baiter, it's now evident that this so-called 'sport' is beginning to creep into suburbia. Carcases of tormented badgers have already been found in woods around Croydon, Surrey and recently the same scenes have been repeated in Bromley, Kent.

We list below persons who have been found guilty of 'digging' or 'taking' badgers, we would be grateful to be kept informed of any others who might come to our readers notice.

Geoffrey Lockett (23yrs) Hawthorne Road, Lache, Chester
Paul Lockett (27yrs) Sycamore Drive, Lache, Chester
Albert Whitley (26yrs) Sycamore Drive, Lache, Chester
John Bell (30 yrs) Oaklands Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester
Alwyn Jones (17yrs) Red Lion Farm, Sound, Nr Nantwich, Cheshire
Philip Trickett (24yrs) 188 Rochdale Road, Bacup, Nr Nantwich
Mark Griffin (17yrs) 51 Conkinson Oak, Nantwich
Peter White (26 yrs) 6 Stanley Street, Bacup
John Simpson (22yrs) 14 Volunteer Avenue, Nantwich

Those of you living in Devon and the South West who are members of, or thinking of joining the Devon Trust for Nature Conservation no doubt think you'll be helping to protect the wild animals of this area. Unfortunately one Devon Trust committee member, a Mr Coombes, is responsible for a novel method of conserving badgers. As a Ministry of Agriculture official he is directly involved in the gassing of badger setts in the SW.

A spokesman for the Devon Trust told us there was **"definitely and absolutely no possibility of any connection between Mr Coombes' voluntary work as a badger surveyor for the Devon Trust and his work as a badger gasser for the Min. of Ag."**

was also had, during which the social nicety of spitting at female sabs by hunt followers was observed.

Essex and **London** branches picketted a BFSS stall at the Essex County Show. When their banner was snatched at by a hunt follower he had his face slapped by a lady sab. The same sab gave another hunter a left hook when he tried to burn the banner with a cigarette lighter, to which he retorted "That jolly well hurt you know". The BFSS replied by pulling their own banner off the stall and holding it up in front of the sabs; so-called Gerald Astley-Cooper, BFSS regional sec. said, "The whole exercise seems utterly futile to me. These so-called hunt saboteurs appear intent on causing trouble".

Due to the growth of anti-hunt feeling catalysed by the **South London** group WAPS the organisers of the Lambeth Country Fair refused applications for stands by the Coursing Supporters Club (CSC) and the BFSS. The CSC has had a stand there on 2 previous occasions but Lambeth Council felt that "there would be people present who would object to them". (The BFSS were also turned down for a stall at Sittingbourne Fair where the HSA and League Against Cruel Sports shared a double - fronted site.)

Hitchen and **North London** groups have been continuing their successful activities against the Enfield Chace. A new tactic is being employed that is so effective we're not able to divulge it

DEPRESSING LIES

The Daily Telegraph has stated that "Hunt Saboteurs, so full of tender concern for the fox, deliberately terrify horses to make them bolt, throw and with any luck kill their riders". Perhaps the journalist concerned, one Honor Tracy, would like to come out on a hit and see for herself before uttering such ridiculous allegations, but of course, that isn't what pro-hunt journalism is all about.

The newly-formed **Doncaster** group realised £80 and over 20 new members after a sponsored walk from the Badsworth FH kennels, where they held a banner demo, to Doncaster town centre, a distance of about 15 miles.

The **Bexhill** group, assisted by Hastings Anarchists, did a demo in Hastings against whale hunting using Project Jonah's chemically preserved fin whale.

Brighton group, amongst others, demonstrated at the South of England Show when the West Kent FH paraded. The only demonstrator to be escorted from the ring was a bystander who rushed in to tear down a banner. Later a group of farm workers demonstrated in the ring, during a parade of police horses, about low wages. It seems



Doncaster group members outside the Badsworth FH kennels before their sponsored walk.

ART FOR ARTS SAKE, MONEY FOR GOD'S SAKE

Sotheby's, the art auctioneers, dipped their fingers in another pie this year when they auctioned animals near Johannesburg, S. Africa. The auction, bringing in £65,000, was attended by 600 farmers, rangers and butchers.

Most of the antelopes were destined for game farms where tourists pay to hunt and shoot them. It was not stated to what fate the giraffes, ostriches and buffalo were destined.

The Earl of Westmorland, a director of Sotheby's said, "It seems almost certain that this will be the first of a series of wild game sales. I think we will be back next year".

NO RESERVATIONS

Miss Barling, Warden of the Ravenshill Woodland Reserve in Worcestershire, gave a talk at the North Ledbury Hunt's 'Horsemen's Evening'. Although a 'conservationist' she "realises the importance of controlling the fox population" and so lets the hunt gallop over her reserve which is "ideally situated in a quiet area"!

RSPCA DISAPPROVE/APPROVE

Over 1,000 circus posters advertising a visit by Gandey's to Luton, Beds were 'cancelled' with stickers over them by "anti-circus saboteurs". Circus hands were employed to try and remove the stickers throughout the towns of Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Caddington.

The local RSPCA inspector described the successful campaign as "stupid" and said that it was "not the correct way to go about stopping circuses using animals". The RSPCA cleared the circus of allegations of cruelty to their animals. Which makes one ask—if the circus is not cruel by using animal acts why do the RSPCA disapprove of them?

HUNT HAVOC

The Aldershot Beagles lost two hounds whilst out hunting on 22nd September. One was electrocuted on the Alton railway line and another was killed by a car in Alton itself when the pack followed a hare under the local bypass.

WESTERN

Meanwhile further west on the 23rd October eleven of the thirty-hound strong Western Hunt plunged to their deaths in a disused Cornish mineshaft. At least one hound was not killed outright—its pitiful whimpers could still be heard—but it had died by the time the fire brigade arrived.

The hunt clearly attempted to suggest that the fox had deliberately lured hounds to the shaft and veered off at the last moment. A slightly-less-than-grief-stricken hunt secretary, Graham Curnow, said "It's one of the hazards of the game. The 11 we lost this time were probably the best in the pack. It will take us three years to replace them".

CURY

The same day hounds from the Cury pack chased a fox over a 200ft cliff on Cornwall's Lizard peninsular. Capital, one of the hounds, became petrified and retreated to a ledge shivering with fright—the rest of the pack made it to the bottom of the cliff safely. The hunt's organisers left him there until the coastguard and his colleagues finally arrived and got him to safety.

The parting comment of Major Tony Grimshaw, hunt master, "And the fox escaped—as they invariably do".

VALE OF AYLESBURY

On 29th October a car driver on the M40 had a narrow escape when he smashed into the central barrier after swerving to miss the hounds of the Vale of Aylesbury FH. One hound was killed but the driver, who was not named, was uninjured although his car was damaged. It seems a miracle that no other cars were involved.

Major Allister Mann, joint master, commented, "The people in the cars were very helpful and sensible. It was just one of those unfortunate incidents. It was a minor incident but we are quite aware it could have been worse and we must prevent it from happening again".

SURREY & NORTH SUSSEX BEAGLES

On the 27th October the beagles stampeded a herd of bullocks and went on to run through a barn on the same farm. They emerged from the barn headed by a terrified goat, which had been tethered within. It ran the ropes length only to be jerked fully into the air as the tether tightened. The farmer was horrified but pro-hunt!

QUOTE OF THE YEAR?

Philip Ware, otter ecologist extraordinaire: "I think we have a moral duty to conserve animals for future generations of people—conservation is not about animals, it's about people."

in HOWL! A North London member, Linda Turvey, recently manned a stall at the week long evening CAMRA Festival at Alexander Palace. Several more real ale enthusaists have joined our ranks, and Linda did stirling work taking £1,700 over the counter!

An **Isle of Wight** member has recently become a Borough Councillor and is co-ordinator of the controlling group on the Council. It's now doubtful whether the IOW Foxhounds will get future permission to hold their Boxing Day meet in Newport town centre.

Members of the **Luton** group spotted a BFSS member having a quiet pee behind the beer tent as they were hassled by his friends at the Enfield Chace point-to-point.

A member from **Peterborough**, Karen, joined the joint master of the Fitzwilliam FH in the arena when he announced that foxhunting was a great country sport and part of the great British Heritage. She took the microphone from him and declared that it wasn't anything of the sort!

A member of the **Mid Essex** group received good publicity in the local press when his neighbours drew his attention to an abandoned fox cub. After ascertaining that it was really abandoned, and not just temporarily mislaid, he and his sister fed the four-week-old cub and took it to a sanctuary.

the HSA has set a precedent!

A group member recently met a Hells Angel recruiting bikers for a reprisal ride against a London hunt. It seems that he is not only a member of the Motorhead rock group but also a member of the Windsor All-England Hells Angel Chapter who were recently involved in a shoot-out in the New Forest!

A member of **Freedom for Wildlife** (Cumbria) was recently presented with a battered fox cub which was hung on the gate of his farm. A seasoned campaigner, he is constantly being harrassed by local hunts.

A successful hare-coursing demo was recently held in Oxon against the Oxfordshire Coursing Club. The Club has given up Saturday meets after regular attendance by sabs and obviously thought Monday was a safe bet! 25 HSA members got a day off work to save hares but the coursers, of course, assumed they were all on the dole; when asked to explain the presence of 70 coursers out on a Monday they just walked away!

A veterinary surgeon, Paddy Sweeney, was out with the club, he was cross that his "pleasure" was being spoiled by "stupid sentimentalists"! A new local police sergeant, out to impress his colleagues, searched two sabmobiles in search of explosives—all he found were rookies, a bag of plums, some joke shop fart powder and a drain smoke tester. The drain-tester (arguably the most inoffensive of the things found) was confiscated. It was subsequently reported to have been driven to Bisley to be blown up by the army.

Members of **Yeovil** group picketted a jumble sale by the Cattistock hunt and managed to turn away a few would-be jumbalists. The sale was being held in church property in Yeovil.

Members of the **West Midlands** group were warned off with a shotgun blast at a cubhunt of the Worcestershire FH. The police were called but no action was taken. A lone member of the group whilst out pre-meet spraying was beaten up by a gamekeeper and his accomplice. He was found unconscious by a passing motorist and awoke in the ambulance on the way to hospital. Fortunately the blow that knocked him out did no damage but the police, who have the names and addresses of the assailants, are not going to act—unless it happens again!

The Central Scotland group were also attacked recently by members of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH. Ten members were surrounded by 30-40 hunt thugs and whipped and beaten. A spokesman for the hunt said, "I was there. There was no incident. We are not interested in that group. We don't want any publicity at all—at any cost".

THE ACCEPTABLE FACE OF DEMOCRACY?

The annual demonstration and rally against the slaughter of the world's whales took place on July 8th in Trafalgar Square where an estimated 15,000 people were present.

Speakers included John Gilbert MP (backed by a flyover of Red Arrows), Ex-Minister of War in the last government, who gleefully told the crowd that the Defence Dept. were going to stop using whale oil as a lubricant, but whose presence alienated Greenpeace (London), the aims of whom are pacifistic towards humans as well as animals; Sir Peter Scott*, latter-day shooter of birds, on whose head, it is reported, several pigeons registered their disgust; Stephen Ross MP (Isle of Wight) whose turn-coat attitude towards hare-coursing, which he now supports, rankled not a few people in the crowd; and Bob Geldof (of Boomtown Rats fame) who made it clear that he didn't much like the sight of a bunch of liberals slapping each other on the back and that direct action was the only way to save whales. For many, it seemed, this last speech saved the day.

After the rally 40 people began an all-night vigil outside the Japanese Embassy—the other 14,960 presumably went home until next year. (In fact one speaker urged them to return year after year until someone took notice!)

The following week, in which the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting took place at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, saw the largest turnout of demonstrators ever, over this issue. The Japanese, once again, bore much of the brunt of the deserved criticism.

Monday saw the burning of the Japanese flag; the Jap delegates were upset—Greenpeace Ltd and Friends of the Earth (FOE) apologised.

The demonstrators were herded into 'pens' by the police and at least one person was arrested for trying to 'escape'. The chanting kept up a constant barrage on the ears of the delegates and the windows of the conference room had to be kept shut despite the heat. A van 'dressed' as a whale stopped outside the Cafe and while the driver harangued the IWC meeting from the roof through a megaphone the police drove it away. Banners were hung from both the windows of the Cafe Royal and from Swan & Edgars opposite, while at least five demonstrators reached the 'hallowed portals' by hiring a taxi, thus foiling the police, to carry the chanting to the opposite side of the street.

*We are informed by the WWF that "Sir Peter did at one time shoot birds for sport but definitely does not now. He has never endangered or killed a wild animal, but worked as a dedicated naturalist and conservationist and has made invaluable contributions to the cause of conservation, and to have him speak at the Whale Rally was indeed an honour".

While the whalers argued FOE officials lectured the demonstrators and promised to "stamp out militancy in FOE". This organisation later wasted valuable television time by publically condemning the demonstrators instead of the whalers.

On the Thursday the Japanese delegates were sprayed with red paint; FOE declared that if the guilty were found they would be handed over to the police—they apologised to the Japs.

On the afternoon of the last day (Friday 13th) the Canadian High Commission was occupied as a protest against their representative MacMercer's vote against the much hoped for moratorium on sperm whale hunting. Four activists were arrested and charged.



Pensive policeman outside the Café Royal seems unaware of the harpooned japanese effigy by his side.

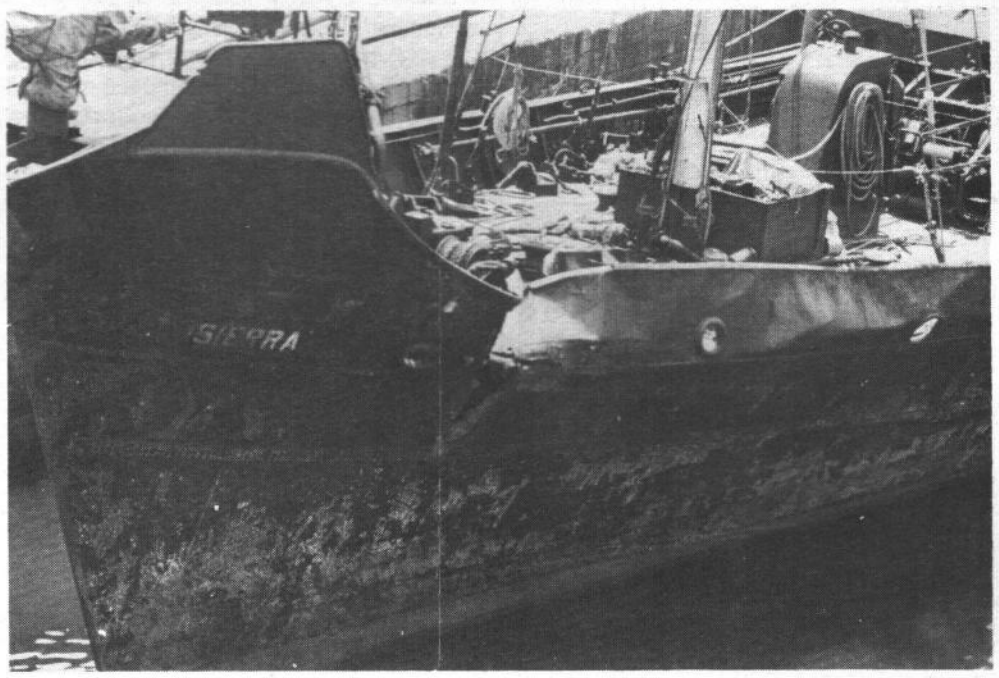
The progress made for the whales amounted to a sanctuary (for ten years) being set up in the Indian Ocean and a limited ban on the use of factory ships. However much this is claimed a victory the IWC have still "given permission" for the killing of 15,835 whales, which is only 467 less than last year.

The next IWC meeting is in July 1980 at Cambridge. It may be that letters addressed to the larger hotels in the area would persuade them not to accommodate the IWC delegates.



The concrete-reinforced bows of the Sea Shepherd after the ramming and (below) the incapacitating tear in the Sierra's side.

(Photos courtesy of Marcus Halevi and The Fund for Animals)



RAMMING IT HOME

A week after the IWC meeting in London the notorious 'pirate' whaling ship, Sierra, was rammed and holed by activists of the New York based 'Fund for Animals' organisation in their boat 'Sea Shepherd'.

The Sierra, which was insured by JH Minet & Co and underwritten by Coatsworth, Minster and Sun Alliance (all London based) supplied whale meat to Japan. Her cargo has included both humpback whales (a species protected throughout the world) and blue whales (theoretically protected by the IWC since 1966).

The Sea Shepherd tracked the 'pirate' for two weeks before the dramatic 'kill' off the port of Lexoes, near Opporto, Portugal, when her 100 ton concrete-reinforced bow produced a six-foot gash in the Sierra's side. This ramming was the culmination of an amazing undercover detection job which first pushed the whaler and her linkmen into the limelight.

Five days later the owners of the Sierra said all whaling operations were ceasing immediately and permanently and that the ship was to be sold. Japan says she is going to ban whale imports from countries outside the IWC—that remains to be seen.

Meanwhile all concerned with the fate of the Sierra are to be applauded for actions which will lead to the saving of a great many necessary lives. Pity all whaling boats can't go the same way.

We have just heard that a 'Sea Shepherd' fund has been set up to enable the crew and ship to harrass other pirate whalers in the same way (ie without endangering the lives of the protagonists). Their next target is the 'Cape Fisher'.

Please send your donation, however small, to an organisation which really will, 'Help to save the whales':
Sea Shepherd Fund, c/o Captain David Sellars, 'Baracca', Fearn, Rosshire, Scotland.

WENCH RETIRES FROM BENCH

It is with much regret that we inform you of the retirement as Chairperson of the bench at Hemel Hempstead magistrates court of Lady Lyell. This deal old soul engaged in such pursuits as hunting and had been, with the exception of one year, the joint master of the Aldenham Harriers since 1951.

KINKY CATERING

Richard Hunt (that 4-letter word again) runs a shop for cranks in Stockport, Cheshire. He sells reindeer and Himalayan Black bear steaks, wild boar by the pound, dormice and roast rooks.

RIGHTS

Since taking office the Conservative Party has set up a Farm Animal Welfare Council, its main objective being to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at markets and in transit, and an Advisory Committee on Animal Experiments, pledged to update legislation on experiments on living animals. We must leave other animal welfare groups to comment on the benefits of these moves.

We now have the Government's response to questions on hunting—a Home Office official, in a recent letter to one of our members, had the following to say;

"The Government is aware that many people have strong and sincerely held views about hunting. As you will appreciate, however, the numbers of certain wild animals need to be controlled for various reasons: for example, to prevent damage to crops and property, to prevent the spread of disease and for ecological reasons. The main alternative methods are shooting and trapping which, especially when used by the unskilled, may involve as much or more suffering than hunting. In addition, hunting raises important questions of individual conscience and decision. **For these reasons the Government has no plans for legislation to ban hunting.**" (our emphasis)

COURSING

Faced with that one can only greet with hollow enthusiasm the Conservative Research Dept's recently published booklet on Animal Welfare, written by Charles Bellairs OBE. The booklet is not an official party statement but merely a personal contribution by the author to discussion on the subject.

In addition to recommending the establishment of a dog warden scheme, an increase in the dog licence fee, support for a moratorium on commercial whaling, an EEC ban on the import of sperm whale oil, greater protection for farm animals and tighter legislation over animal transportation, Mr Bellairs also proposes a ban on hare coursing because "it has little or nothing to do wtih the control of hares". He makes no recommendations about the banning of any other bloodsport though and mistakenly believes that otter hunting has been banned in England and Wales. (It's only illegal to "kill" otters, not to "hunt" them—a subtle but vital difference—Ed)

SNARING

At first sight the new Government's recently announced proposed ban on the use of snares for trapping animals is a most welcome humanitarian move. Until you read between the lines that is. For it appears that there will be "certain exceptions from the ban for the purposes of pest control and in special circumstances". These "special circumstances" are gamekeeping interests. Therefore the ban would discriminate against poachers after fox pelts whilst still allowing gamekeepers carte blanche for their grisly and inhumane "pest control" snaring exercises in the interests of their equally callous shooting masters.

Snares are abominably cruel, whoever uses them—the government should recognise that and ban them entirely, with no exceptions whatsoever.

AND LEFTS

It would appear that, of the three recent political party conferences, the Labour Party's was the only one to allow time for the discussion of animal welfare issues. Acknowledgement was made to the "furious lobbying" by constitutents during the past year—a clear tribute to the efforts of all those involved with the "Put Animals into Politics" campaign.

With only one vote against, the Labour Party Conference carried a motion that the Party support:

1. the banning of the export of live animals for slaughter or fattening followed by slaughter
2. the ABOLITION OF ALL BLOODSPORTS excluding fishing
3. the establishment of a centre to study alternative forms of experimentation not involving live animals
4. the abolition of intensive farming which involves unnecessary cruelty and suffering.

The motion, moved by John Denham (Southampton, Itchen) also instructed the National Executive Committee to include such an item in the manifesto for the next general election with a promise of immediate implementation by the next Labour government.

Of particular significance to those who have accused the Labour Party of using promises of animal welfare legislation purely as a vote catcher is the motion's further request that the Parliamentary Labour Party make every effort to persuade the existing Government (ie the Tories) to take such action.