HSWL
SUPPLEMENT Spring 1980

FAWC OFF

Saturday 23rd February witnessed members of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and British Veterinary Assoc (BVA) making a take-over bid for control of the RSPCA.

10 years ago similar scenes were enacted when bloodsport adherents fought to retain their influence over the same organisation. Fortunately there were some in the RSPCA who decided to bring matters to a head. They formed the RSPCA Reform Group. This move resulted in a full-scale enquiry into the running of the Society, and at long last a more progressive and animal-rights conscious RSPCA emerged. Many of those involved in this fight are both active and passive supporters of the HSA and rely upon the free-thinking support of HSA members.

The row at the Society's EGM centred around the decision by 11 members of the Council not to allow the Executive Director, Julian Hopkins, and the Chief Veterinary Officer, Philip Brown, to stand on the Government's "Farm Animal Welfare Council" (FAWC) (a body set up to replace a similar one which met only once or twice a year.) FAWC's terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals "on agricultural land, at markets, in transit and at place of slaughter".

On the face of it, it seems an excellent committee to support, with its direct links to Government. However, on closer examination, the make-up of the Council will hardly advance the cause of animal welfare—vets, intensive farmers, NFU members, dairy farmers, animal researchers, a feed-stuff manufacturer, an animal shipper and game exporter, a BFSS member and a livestock auctioneer. Only 2 of the 21-member committee have more than a passing interest in animal welfare. Further to this, Peter Walker (Min of Ag), who appointed the Council, has consistently voted against the ending of live exports. The 11 RSPCA Council members felt that their representatives were merely being invited to add window dressing to FAWC and feared being trapped into compromises.

RSPCA

Although the decision to preclude Hopkins and Brown animated the moderates there are more sinister currents influencing the masses.

It appears that branches have been petitioned by 5th columnists who have been spreading vicious rumours to the effect that militants on the Council aim to disband the Inspectorate and run down the animal care centres. An editorial in the Daily Telegraph even suggested that the RSPCA was near to having its resources and name used to further Left-wing political ideals! The Editor, it appears, fears that these Left-wingers are using "hunting, the fur trade and almost any sphere of activity related to animals . . . as a stick to beat the free society". Just who is the more extreme?!

The profit conscious NFU have deeply embroiled themselves in the affair.

In a jubilant article headed "Spiking the Welfarists", in the British Farmer & Stockbreeder (the journal of the NFU), the writer plainly suggests that Peter Walker purposely invited "two RSPCA top-notchers" in order to screw-up the effectiveness of their independant campaign. A whitewash affair indeed!

Letters were written by an A. L. Smith-Maxwell, from Welland Lodge Farm, Upton-on-Severn, Worcs, urging RSPCA members to attend the EGM and vote the Council out. One appeared in *Farmers Weekly* which said, "I am sure no farmer wishes to exploit animals to the point of cruelty"; the other in *Horse & Hound* said, "I realize that attendance means giving up a day's hunting or whatever and, in place, having to see the film "Down on Factory Farm". This may be the only chance to rid it (the RSPCA) of the "anti" element and political opportunists of the extreme left". Mr Smith-Maxwell turns out to be an ex-joint master of the Ledbury FH!!

BUTTONING IT UP

RSPCA Branch members were bussed in from all over the country, like flying pickets, many of the seats being paid for out of Branch funds.

Other dirty tricks included the formation of Auxiliaries. Under the rules of the Society a Branch may divide its area into Auxiliaries, each Auxiliary having a secretary with automatic voting rights. At least six such Auxiliaries were formed for the *sole* purpose, we understand, of gaining extra votes for the Branches.

All this stirring resulted in a motion being put forward demanding a vote of no confidence in the 11 and asking for their resignations. This motion was supported by Mrs Felthouse, Secretary of Stafford & County Branch and NFU member. Although the motion of no confidence was carried, by 641 to 467 votes, and the addendum that they should resign, by 668 to 460, both motions failed to reach the three-fifths majority required, by the **narrowest of margins.** Mrs Felthouse commented that "it's just the first shot in the war".

After April of this year, under a new ruling, membership of the Branches will entitle voting at national level. This means a possible extra 20,000 Branch members having an influence over the Council and the Society's direction and policies. The RSPCA needs its grass-roots workers, like any organisation, but if they are to be led by extremists of the moderate camp it will be a sorry day for the animals. Let one of the "leaders" speak for herself, **"A list of candidates to steer the Society back to the right course is being drawn up. This will help to break the influence of the radicals. We can expect major changes in the RSPCA"**—Mrs Felthouse.

For the moderates and compromisers to gain control of the RSPCA would possibly put animal welfare legislation back years. We, therefore, urge all HSA members to back the RSPCA. It's vital that this Society maintains its progressive policies. There can be **no** moderation in the fight for animal rights, **no** compromise in the way legislation is framed.

JOIN **NOW** and make your voice heard before it's too late!!

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Three members of the BVA spoke **against** the RSPCA Council's motion calling upon the British public to "boycott white veal, battery produced eggs and intensively produced pig products"!

On the motion calling for support for the RSPCA's campaign against "cruelty involved in the intensive rearing, transportation, marketing and slaughter of farm animals" there were **110 votes against** and **33 abstentions.**

These results are hardly surprising considering the NFU has launched a campaign to counter opponents of factory farming, whom Roy Brown, an NFU member from Oxon, described as "fanatical non-welfarists who had virtually taken over the RSPCA", at the NFU AGM, 11 days before the RSPCA EGM.

It is alleged that at the time of P. Brown's appointment to FAWC he was negotiating a £50,000 golden hand-shake! Brown denies knowledge of this affair but one can only wonder at the way Janet Fookes (Chairperson) leapt to the microphone to quash what she referred to as "confidential information", and the convenient way Brown had an eminent lawyer sitting by him throughout the debacle.

HOW TO JOIN

Annual membership of the RSPCA is **£2.** Your remission should be sent to **RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG.** You must be a member for at least 3 months before you can vote. This year you may be too late to give your support to **John Bryant, Celia Hammond, Michael Kay and Mrs M. Wyatt** but it's vital that you attend the AGM in June and that you remain a **paid-up** member to do battle for the animals. Let the HSA know if you require transport—there'll be some coaches going (if they can do it, so can we!)

It's time to stand up and be counted against the forces of reaction and those who put profit before compassion.

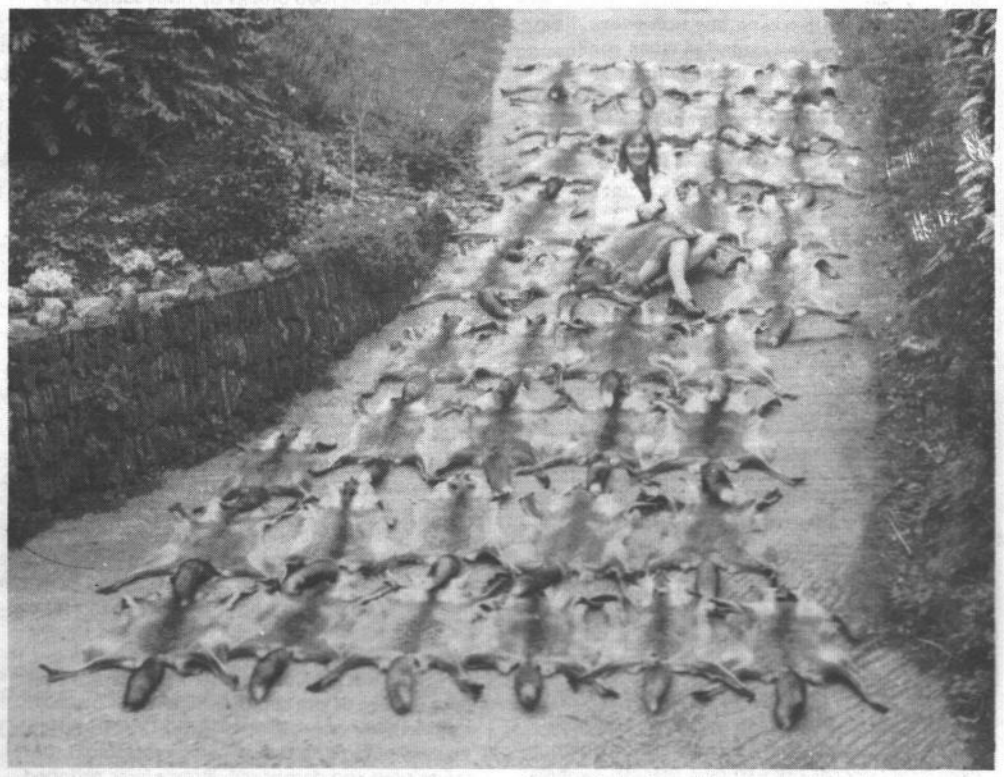
SNARING THE UPPER HOUSE

Lord Paget, fox-hunter, Labour Lord and ex-master of the Pytchley, has introduced the Furskins Bill to the Lords; which aims to ban the export of certain animal skins from this country. The ban, he claims, would effectively stifle the snaring of animals such as the fox, badger, hare, pine marten, polecat etc. for their pelts.

The Bill seeks to impose up to three months imprisonment or £500 fine on anyone found exporting skins.

In his speech to the house Lord Paget slammed the middleman "who inserts the advertisements, issues the instructions and who goes around in a car collecting the skins". He may be interested to know that Britain's largest wild-fur buyer—West Country Enterprises, PO Box 12, Bude, Cornwall—is a trade member of both the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) and its co-sporting "partner in crime" the "Wildfowlers Association of Great Britain and Ireland" (WAGBI).

The Bill was opposed by Lord Mowbray & Sourton (for the Government) on the grounds that there was already adequate legislative control under the Endangered Species Act. "I am advised that there are no good conservation reasons why any of the species listed should have this type of protection and the fox is certainly on the increase and can stand a high rate of culling. As for the sale of skins, that has always been a legitimate source of finance to pest control firms and pest control officers."



Some of the fox skins destined for the backs of depraved humans

Lord Houghton (Labour and good guy) gave his support to the Bill. He argued, quite rightly, that "to wait for the Government Bills (ie the Wildlife & Countryside Bill) in the hope that they were going to be better and bigger" was a mistake.

The Bill was passed for its second reading 36:17.

BFSS FIGURES IT OUT

The British Field Sports Society has offered the following statistics for 1979.

Approx. no. of foxes in UK		900,000
Numbers killed in any one year:		
by hounds	9,000	
by fox-destruction societies	11,000	
by Forestry Commission	2,500	
by A.N.Other (ie gamekeepers, shooters, poachers etc)	10,000	–32,500
		867,500

From this we can only assume that farmers, gamekeepers et al are content with 867,500 foxes in the country but not 900,000! It makes all excuses for fox 'control' laughable.

DICKY DISHES THE DIRT

Richard Tracy, PR-person for the BFSS never did blanch at a touch of libel. His latest offering (amongst other more familiar rubbish) to the International Herald Tribune is the best yet, "They (saboteurs) shoot at Land Rovers of hunt supporters".

What with, Dicky Baby, peas?

SHOOTING PRACTICE

Public money has been used for the past 28 years by the Ministry of Agriculture to pay a gamekeeper approximately £3,500 a year to tend hundreds of pheasants for members of the Royal School of Infantry at Larkhill, near Salisbury, to shoot down during the game season. Well it's safer than shooting down enemies of the State.

IN FOR A BIT OF BIRD

US custome investigators revealed that a pair of Spix Macaws, so rare there have been no reports of sighting in the wild since 1903, were smuggled through Britain for a wealthy Canadian collector, Kenneth Clare, by UK bird dealer Gordon Cooke.

Cooke was convicted at Leicester Magistrates court for smuggling endangered species, fined £200 and imprisoned for 6 months. Other offences included forging certificates and false labelling in connection with rare geese and swans, valuable primates, Buffleheads and Pygmy geese.

Cooke is a life member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

LEAGUE IN EUROPE

The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) has appointed a representative in Brussels to lobby Members of the European Parliament. The position has gone to League member Jonathan Fryer, a free-lance writer in Brussels, who is also prospective European Liberal candidate for London South-East.

"HUNTING PEOPLE ARE IN THE MAIN PEACEFUL"

—RONNIE WALLACE (Chairman of MFHA, Vice Chairman BFSS)

The recent foxhunting season has seen even more violence in the field than usual. The main reason for this is, without doubt, the fact that we have had more members than ever before going out to save hunted animals. So the actual *percentage* of violent clashes, compared with the total number of hits being made, has remained virtually unchanged. By far the greatest number of hits are still peaceful and successful in achieving their primary aim.

However, as the list below shows, hunt violence when it's happened has been increasingly more savage than in previous years. This has been sparked off, in most cases, simply by the fact that peaceful antis are known to be operating in the area and, in many cases, has been clearly carried out with the participation or full approval of the hunt officials.

The police, with all too few exceptions, have remained anything but impartial when dealing with our members. Faith in the police has now dropped to such a low that many sabs are simply not bothering to report cases of criminal assault to them.

AUGUST Sabs attacked by pole-wielding members of the **Dartmoor Mink** Hounds. Police informed but no charges.

SEPTEMBER Many sabs assaulted by hunters at Upton Snodsbury, Warks at 3-hunts-in-one-day venue. 3 sabs beaten so badly they needed hospital treatment for head and eye injuries. One kept in for 3 days. One sab van overturned and brake cables cut, one policeman assaulted by hunters. No police action (see HOWL 14 for full story).

OCTOBER Yeovil sabs roughed up by **Cattistock** FH supporters and ridden at. A week later they were chased over fields by a **Blackmore & Sparkford Vale** FH supporter driving a brown Ford Granada whilst out sabbing cubhunts.

W. Midland sabs were warned off with a shotgun blast at a **Worcester** FH cubhunt and a lone member beaten unconscious by a gamekeeper and his friends. No police action in either case.

30 to 40 **Linlithgow & Stirlingshire** foxhunters attacked 10 sabs with whips and fists.

NOVEMBER A Yeovil sab ended up in a ditch after being driven at by a mustard Mini Clubman Estate (MYC 718L) driven by a **Mendip Farmers** FH supporter.

On the 7th sabs Colin Lewis and Elva Adamson were viciously attacked without provocation by **Aldershot Beaglers.** As a result of this two members of the hunt, Lt Cpl Adrian 'Taffy' Andrews (20) of 3 Field Workshop, REME, Martinique Barracks, Bordon, Hants (home address 1 Havens Park, Herbrandston, Milford Haven, Dyfed) and Mrs Lynda Burton (25), one of the hunt's whipper-ins, of 127 London Road, Holybourne, Alton, Hants, appeared in Aldershot Magistrates court on **March 19th.** Andrews denied a charge of "assault occasioning actual bodily harm" and Burton denied a "breach of the peace" charge.

Colin told the court that Andrews pushed sabs out of field then hit him on the head. Colin fell into a ditch with his arms beneath him. Andrews then jumped on him and hit him on the head 20 or 30 times leaving Colin with bad bruising and 2 cuts. Andrews then attacked Elva after she'd tried to stop him hitting Colin, ripping Andrews' shirt in the process. Burton also joined in against Elva who was pulled off Andrews, flung on the road and kicked twice in the left breast by one of the hunters. The sabs eventually managed to get away to a police station.

Colin and Elva were charged with "action likely to cause a breach of the peace" too.

Anyway, getting back to November. Essex sabs experienced undue police harrassment whilst out sabbing the **Essex** FH on the 17th. The police kept insisting they weren't on a public footpath when they were; kept switching on their car engine when sabs switched theirs off to listen for hounds; kept helping supporters block roads to prevent sabs reaching the pack; warned sabs to park on the grass verge out of the traffic's way whilst allowing hunt supporters to park theirs on the road and eventually told sabs to move on or they'd be arrested for "putting mud on the road". Pity they weren't around when a whipper-in rode sabs down and whipped them and when a huntsman tried to whip sabs through their open Landrover window (on second thoughts, they'd probably have done the sabs for hitting the hunter's whip with their car!).



Michael Manning gets the whip on the Essex FH

An aging **Eridge** FH supporter tried to kick a girl sab's camera out of her hand and was pushed through a hedge as a result.

On the **Croome** FH joint hit police lack of concern led to road blocks by hunt supporters and assaults by hunters leaving one girl sab with a torn leg ligament and another sab with a suspected hairline skull fracture after being hit with a brick (he released himself from hospital when he discovered the doctor treating him was pro-hunt).

In a retaliatory attack one rider was given a very bloody nose and the hunt's master Mrs Aldersey was assaulted after riding sabs down. HSA Secretary Dave Wetton has been charged with both assaults and with having an offensive weapon. The trial date has yet to be set. Legal aid has been refused.

DECEMBER A **South Somerset Beagler** attacked Exeter sabs with the butt end of a whip, one sab receiving a gashed head, all because they'd tried to help hounds caught up on barbed wire and left by the hunt. The attack came as a sab tried to get a photo of the hounds. The police were called but no action ensued.

A geriatric supporter of the **East Essex** FH poked a sab in the face with his walking stick and pinched his hunting horn, but quickly returned it in exchange for his own hat. Southend sabs were whipped for spraying hedges and an attempt was made to steal a horn from them at a road block.

A week later Essex sabs were advised by the **Essex** FH that a rugby club had been called out to sort them out. A woman rider kicked a sab's car door as hard as she could—when he got out to approach her another rider lobbed a rotten (battery?) egg into the car which splattered the driver's lap and dashboard. Riders later galloped through sabs claiming they "couldn't control" their horses. Police unwilling to act.

Yet again in Essex, this time on an **Essex Union** hunt sabs were blocked in by a cream Landrover and horsebox (KLP 795K) and a metallic mauve Granada Mk 1 (RIM 257M) whose occupants yanked open the sabs' doors and unsuccessfully tried to steal a horn and a map. The door was slammed but opened again by the heavies who only backed off when they saw a jack handle in the driver's hand.

The **Surrey Union** FH terrier man hit a sab with his spade.

East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH supporters Kevin Barton and Michael Bullen attacked 3 sabs who were coming out of a sprayed wood, giving one a black eye, another a split lip and badly bruising the third. The assault was reported to the police who subsequently brought charges (see full story "Rye Justice").

After spraying antimate around (not in) the **Royal Rock Beagles** hound trailer from their van North West sabs were intercepted *5 mins* later by Chester police who claimed they'd been called because of the spraying. Chester was a *20 minute* drive away.

Police can only search people, premises or vehicles without warrent on "reasonable" grounds, ie when they're looking for drugs, explosives, firearms or stolen goods. This time they chose "drugs" as the excuse. The sabs were told that they were under arrest for "suspicion of criminal damage" to the hounds (by spraying near their van).

The police have now dropped this silly charge in favour of making a "complaint" that the sabs acted contrary to the provisions of the Justices of the Peace Acts of 1361 and 1952. The case has been adjourned until 12 May while the police desperately look for more evidence. During the original questioning they produced a well-documented photos file of many of the prominent sabs in the North West.

On the 29th **Essex Union** FH, while 2 hunt members helped kick in the sides of a sab minibus, another hunter tried to push a fox carcase through the passenger window. When it was wound up he wrenched the wing mirror off and threw it through the window, narrowly missing the girl passenger and causing £48 worth of damage. He then left the carcase on the bonnet.

Four statements were made to Billericay police station who proceeded to pass the matter around between various police stations before telling Southend sabs, under pressure, that there was not enough evidence for them to take action. They claimed that they had not been able to identify the hunter from a photo produced, despite the fact that he lives ¾ mile away from their station. A complaint was lodged about their unwillingness to take action and this is now being checked by a police inspector from Chelmsford.

JANUARY Exactly one week later **Essex Union** FH supporters were at it again. Following a couple of incidents police arrested hunters Michael Reeve, 24 Bushgrove Road, Dagenham, who had been threatening sabs with a pick-axe handle, and Steven Anthony Yeoman who had been firing stones at sabmobiles with a catapult. They were initially charged with "having offensive weapons" and with "causing a breach of the peace" but when they appeared at Chelmsford magistrates court on **26th March** the "offensive weapons" charges had mysteriously been dropped.



"Well respected" Michael Reeve (complete with pick-axe handle) gets arrested on the Essex Union

Both pleaded guilty to the b.o.p. charge and both were consequently bound over in the sum of £100 for two years and ordered to pay £35 costs.

In their defence their counsel said that Yeoman had become involved in the incident "through no will of his own" (he just happened to be carrying a catapult in his pocket). He suggested that both men do valuable work for the hunt and are well-respected people!

Later in the month, Essex sabs again ran into trouble with the **Essex Farmers** FH when their minibus was dented and scratched by a monkey wrench wielded by a supporter. As they were checking the damage he walked up and threatened them with a 4ft steel post in one hand and a bamboo stick in the other. He was disarmed whilst trying to hit the lead sab, frogmarched back to his car (which belongs to the master, who was most annoyed about the incident), pushed inside and his weapons destroyed.

A **Britannia Beagler** tried to sugar a sab van but was prevented by a lone sab who spotted him sneaking around with his Tate & Lyle bag.

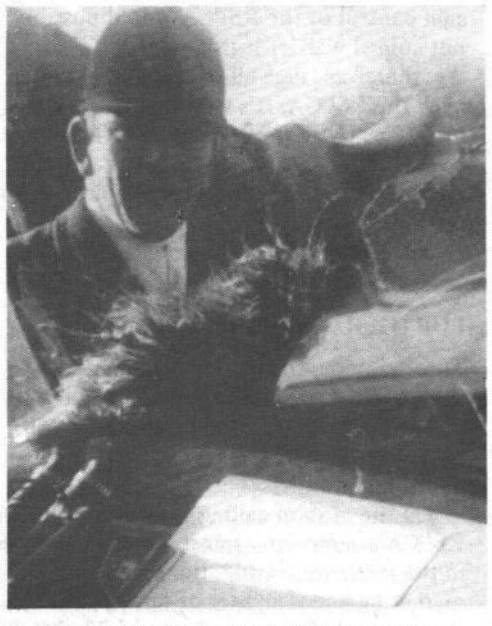
Police stalled Yeovil sabs for an hour on a **Mendip Farmers** hunt by carrying out a "routine check" and questioning them at length about the car's ownership.

Zetland FH riders hit a sab with a riding crop and pushed a neutral reporter into a ditch (not so neutral now perhaps?). Throughout the day police took the registration numbers of all the sabmobiles for forwarding to the Police National Computer no doubt. They weren't interested in hunters' car numbers.

FEBRUARY **Essex** FH rider Derek Robinson (Bridge Farm, Willingale) chased 2 sabs on horseback, pushed one over and made his horse trample him—other riders later apologised for Robinson's behaviour.

A Doncaster sab was struck in the face by a doubled-up whip and a sab van was sprayed with red paint and had its tyres deflated.

Eight Brighton sabs deliberately avoided a **Southdown** FH meet and made for the South Downs Way. They spotted 18 heavies heading straight for them so retreated to the car park full of more sedate hunt supporters. But when the heavies reached the sabs they started punching and kicking despite verbal attempts by older supporters to call them off. They eventually got bored with using the sabs as punchbags and the sabs retreated. The assailants included the occupants of a blue Landrover (FBP 31L). At least a dozen supporters drove home in disgust—one actually went to fetch a police escort for the sabs. The heavies stated that if they ever see the sabs out again they would kill them.



A hunter on the Essex Union FH leaves a fox carcase on the bonnet of sabs' mini-bus

A week later Manchester sabs were preparing to leave after successfully sabbing the **Cheshire** FH. They had earlier advised Chester police about the demo as agreed at their meeting with the police last year. After pumping up deliberately deflated tyres they were driving home when they stopped to let a redcoat get his horse into a horsebox lorry (SDK 345J). After getting his horse boxed he came back and hit the driver's window with his whip. He then walked back to his lorry and returned with a 3 foot iron bar and without further ado smashed it through the windscreen, holding on to it all the while. There had been no abuse from the minibus' occupants—all the windows were wound up for obvious reasons.

Caroline Legge was cut by flying glass ¼" from her eye and down the side of her face. Another sab, adjacent to the driver, was actually hit by the end of the bar such was the savagery of this unprovoked attack. The ambulanceman who arrived 15 minutes later thought the glass had penetrated Caroline's eye and rushed her to hospital where she was given stitches. As soon as police sirens were heard the hunt supporters totally vanished.

The Wilmslow police took 15 statements and were sympathetic. They talked of bringing "criminal assault" and "criminal damage" charges.

On **March 19** Charles Marcus Chambers (50) of Manor Farm, Snelson, near Chelford, appeared before Knutsford Magistrates Court. The "criminal assault" charge had been dropped (as part of a deal?) and he very cleverly pleaded "guilty" to the "damage" charge, no doubt on the advice of the BFSS, as a result of which no prosecution witnesses were called by the police. The prosecuting counsel (would you believe) told the court that the sabs had been obstructing riders by throwing disinfectant around (a lie). Chambers, a horse dealer, claimed that he'd been sworn at and had "thrown" the bar at the windscreen in anger. He said he'd been sprayed with disinfectant and his horse had been lamed by the sab van.

Defence counsel, John McKenna, said "these bully boys were brought into the area and paid to create trouble. The fluid caused terrible distress to the horses". There were no sab prosecution witnesses to refute these lies, of course.

Chambers was fined a paltry £25 for an assault that could so easily have led to the loss of an eye and a fractured skull. He was also made to pay £75 damages. He probably gathered that from his friends in the celebration drink after the hearing.

On a joint Sheffield/Doncaster groups demo a sab's car was whipped by a **Badsworth** FH hunter after being seen spraying. They were told to get off private land by a "plain clothes policeman" (calling himself Sgt Pepper and sporting a BFSS badge and water bailiff's badge!) in the company of two heavies, one armed with a crowbar.

On Feb 23 (the date of the RSPCA EGM) HSA member Pat O'Neill (45) was attacked by supporters of the **New Forest** whilst laying a false trail in the Forest. He was kicked unconscious and his jaw broken in two places. Several teeth were loosened. The full story is covered elsewhere.

Again, on Feb 23, Bristol sab Ian Nunnerley had a tooth knocked out by PC Paget whilst out sabbing a **Huntingdonshire Coursing Club** event.

A Plymouth sab had his hair grabbed and head banged against a gate post by a 60 year old heavily built supporter of the **East Cornwall** FH whose wife was meanwhile bending another sab's car key with one hand!

Central Scotland HSA members were subjected to more violent assaults by members of the **Linlithgow & Stirlingshire** FH. Sabs were charged by red and black coated riders, a red coat kicked a girl sab, at least one supporter fired stones from a catapult at the sabs minibus which was later surrounded by hunters and supporters, armed with sticks, who tried to cut the valves on the tyres and push leaves and soil into the petrol tank. Group secretary, Dave Doneghan was twice struck round the head with a container full of



Sab Dave Doneghan, receives a full container of 'special' to the head

MINK ARE OFFICIAL!

It had to happen! The British Field Sports Society (BFSS) and the Masters of Foxhounds Assoc (MFHA) have now made the mink an "official quarry", thus legitimising the several mink hunt (ie ex-otter hunt) packs in the country and earning themselves an increased capping fee revenue in the process.

Not that there's much money in the mink hunters' pockets–last season the Three Counties Mink Hounds had to cancel a trip to Surrey because they couldn't afford the petrol money. The Culmstock Minkhounds, whose tally last season included 2 ducks, 1 squirrel and 1 deer calf, are reportedly on the verge of financial collapse. They have reluctantly agreed to start advertising locally and nationally with the Dartmoor Minkhounds in a joint bid to recruit new members and "improve their image". The fact that they're increasing their subscription fees substantially will doubtless lose them more members than they'll gain.

OTTERS STILL LOSING OUT

Meanwhile finances in Scotland seem no better. J. Bell Irving, master of the last remaining otterhound pack in England, Scotland and Wales, the Dumfriesshire Otterhounds, is giving up his beagle pack because he can't afford to keep it going.

Despite the fact that the Nature Conservancy Council stress that the Scottish otter "is vulnerable and in need of some form of legislative protection", Hector Monro (Parliamentary Under-secretary to the Dept of the Environemnt) has ensured that protection won't be afforded to it while he's around.

Can his decision have anything to do with the purely chance fact that his constituency just happens to be the one that J. Bell-Irving lives and operates in?

THROWING THE CHALLENGE

Animal sanctuary manager, HSA member and Vice Chairperson of the RSPCA, John Bryant, has offered a £100 reward for information following the discovery of a vixen in a snare at Cuttifords Door, near Chard in Somerset.

But his challenge to the master of the Cotley FH, Lt. Col RFP Eames–who has publically denounced snaring–to match his offer was turned down.

The fox was taken to John's sanctuary for treatment but was in a bad way. The snare was so tight around her body that it could only be removed with wire cutters. Unfortunately she had to be humanely destroyed later in the day.

special wielded by a hunt thug after it had been stolen from the bus.

Master of the hunt, Tom Boland, a builder, of Ravelston Estate, Ravelston, Dukes Road, Edinburgh, commented, "If someone comes to interfere we don't like it. I have given up trying to reason with the protesters, but have warned them if they interfere with horses, hounds or people then I cannot be responsible for what might happen". Mr Boland said the people who chased the sabs in Landrovers had nothing to do with the hunters, strangely though he went on to say that they were "the huntsman's wife, a publican, a kennelman and an unemployed chap who just comes along"!

In mid February 7 sabs were boxed in by **Whaddon Chase** FH supporters, then a 6ft tall x 6ft wide man walked down the line and dented the roof of each car with his clasped fists. Not surprisingly no one got out to challenge him!

MARCH After splitting the **Surrey & North Sussex Beagles** pack on two separate days Brighton sabs were attacked on the second day, a joint meet with the **Pevensey Marsh Beagles,** whose master told them that his supporters were perfectly entitled to use violence.

When the theft of a sab's horn was reported to a Cowfold police sgt (J780) he simply threatened to book them for having offensive weapons (antimate cans!) and advised the master that supporters could use force if sabs strayed from the footpaths.

Oakley FH "whip", N. Staines, went spare with his whip, after Luton sabs had called his hounds over. One rider rode her horse into a sab and a "gamekeeper" and friend threatened sabs with large sticks, prodding one in the stomach and throat and accusing them of being paid "£5 a time".

A WAPS car was thumped by the woman driver of a blue Marina (HPP 221K).

The **South Notts** FH huntsman and joint masters ordered the riders to encircle sabs in a field, who had just successfully helped a brace of foxes to escape. The heavies were then sent in and the sabs only managed to escape by wading through a deep stream. When they flagged a police patrol car down the driver told them they deserved to be caught and hoped they'd get a good hiding. Meanwhile 2 other sabs were being attacked by hunt supporter George Simpson, a coal merchant from Ashover, who then tailed them in his blue Honda Civic (SHE 949S) until sent on his way by a policeman.

An East Midlands sab's car was attacked by 10 **Meynell & South Staffs** FH supporters who jumped from their green Landrover (RFA 306R) and Ford Estate while the 3 sabs were stuck behind a horse box. The wing mirror was ripped off and the wing and bonnet dented. When the sabs finally squeezed past the horsebox hunt supporters the other side lined the road to kick the sides in.

A **Surrey Union** FH terrier man, driving a white Renault van (YPD 765T), threatened to cut sabs' "f . . . ing throats" with his spade. One sab's hat was stolen by a heavy–D. H. Cameron of 80 Woodside Road, Little Bookham. Leatherhead PC 1155 didn't want to know about this or the fact that the hunt's regular terrier man, William Johns of 3 Beech Close, Station Road, Dorking, wanted by Reigate police for previous assaults on sabs, was pointed out to him. He chose to threaten the sabs with arrest for "breach of the peace" instead. The matter has since been reported to his superior.

This seems hardly surprising since Colin Willock, writing in Shooting Times (20.3.80) reported that the hunt "enjoys some stalwart support from the local constabulary" and on the occasion he was out "volunteered" to find the main body of the hunt for lost riders! "A police car is invariably around to see that the rent-a-crowd mob do not cause a breach of the peace" he writes. *A definite case of bent coppers.*

Nails were placed under N. Herts sabs' car tyres by **Enfield Chace** FH supporters.

Essex FH redcoats deliberately swerved their hound van across the road at sabs before the day's hunting had even begun. One of the 2 sabs there was whipped across the back by the huntsman and "whip" for blowing a horn. Whilst walking away the same sab was pushed into a water-filled ditch by a terrier man. Later the sabs were chased by terrier men in a red Ford Capri (WRT 561M), overtaken and forced to stop. Three men tried to get into the sabs' car but they managed to get away and pull into Takeley police station where they were told that the policeman had no sympathy for them and that "it was about time they were followed because they're always following hunts".

A middle-aged **Cottesmore** FH supporter tried to smash an East Midlands sabs' windscreen with a large post. The police who later arrived advised the sabs that they'd be done for "breach of the peace" if seen spraying in front of hounds, but they could call the hunters "stupid buggers" if they wanted without fear of arrest!

On the 29th E. Midlands sabs were again assaulted. This time by **Fitzwilliam** FH supporters who sprayed "de-icer" and "easy-start" through the driver's open window. A man then punched him in the face and reached in trying to steal antimate sprays on the dashboard. He only let go after being hit on the wrist with a blunt instrument several times. Police were called and the sabs taken to the police station but they were released after a phone call to the hospital where the hunt supporter said he wanted to drop the charges as it was mostly his own fault.

Stirling University sabs were yet again attacked by supporters of the **Linlithgow & Stirlinghsire** FH. This time 7 windows and the headlamps were smashed and 4 tyres were damaged on the University's minibus and the 11 occupants assaulted. A noxious-smelling substance was thrown into the bus, a male sab was hit with a pick-axe handle and a girl sab was hit over the head and body with a pick-axe handle, hair was pulled and horns and antimate stolen.

The seven hunters who have been charged with, but deny, malicious damage, assault and theft are Alexander Smith (54), Derek Smith (22) and Lorna Smith (20), all of South Lodge, Glenbrae, Falkirk; William Haddow (43) of 229 Glendevon Park, Winchburgh; Thomas Brash (31) of The Cottage, Burnbridge, Manuel, by Linlithgow; Andrew Crowe (35) of Crownerland Farm, Linlithgow and Malcolm Dick (22) of Main Street, Kirknewton.

Trial has been set for June 10.

Other stories so far received include . . . a Manchester sab being struck over the head by a hunt follower with a thick wooden stick, which broke. The local police have regularly searched the group's cars for "drugs and explosives". The police are also suspected of phone-tapping after mysteriously turning up at secret "target" hunts . . . East Midlands sabs were attacked by heavies who took away their containers of "special" claiming that they'd been "polluting the countryside with this stuff" and then proceeded to throw the open containers into a ditch! . . . Whilst spraying a road with antimate the SE Essex group were attacked by a hunt follower from a passing white Landrover (KLP 795K) and a man rushing from his house. Two sabs were knocked to the ground and a horn broken. As a neighbouring house-holder phoned the police the assailants disappeared. The police, when they arrived, were only interested in the name of the sabs and warned them against further trouble! . . . Very recently an Executive Committee member of the HSA was approached by two unknown men outside his place of work, during his lunch break, and told that he would be "got".

NOW SHOWING AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA

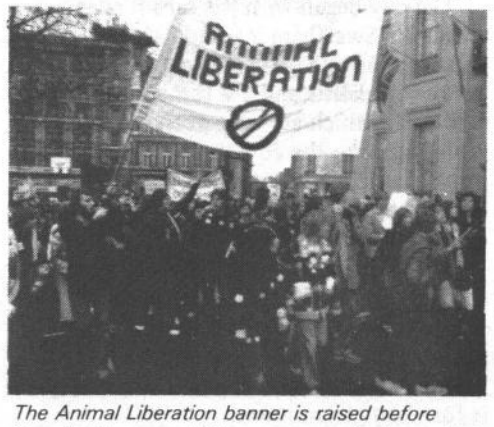
The RSPCA has launched a new film about the Canadian Seal massacre which will be shown in cinemas all over the country.

The British Board of Film Censors offered an "X" certificate on the film but the RSPCA refused because they wanted it to reach as wide an audience as possible. To gain the necessary "U" certificate the scenes featuring the clubbing have been switched to show a porcelain seal having its skull smashed in slow motion.

To our knowledge this is the first time that such a campaign has been aimed through the cinema and we wish it much success. However the Society still has much to learn about public relations. After the press conference launching the film the RSPCA handed out what the Guardian described as "delicious sandwiches made from smoked and inoffensive salmon". (One of the arguments for the killing of the seals in the Orkneys was that they interfered with the salmon fishing industry!)

A seal demo in Trafalgar Square in March ended with a march to Hudson Bay & Annings Co. (fur importers/exporters) near St Pauls. Some 40 to 50 demonstrators managed a brief sit-down in front of the offices. The police were beaten to the scene by Charles Wartenburg (International Fund for Animal Welfare) saying that he didn't want any trouble or violence!

Well over 300 police were in attendance.



The Animal Liberation banner is raised before Canada House and, later, a group of sabs protest outside the offices of Hudson's Bay with a sit-down



SEAL SONG

The Government is to make it compulsory for goods made of sealskin to bear labels stating their origin. They won't, however, ban their import.

Meanwhile thousands of harp and hooded seals have been clubbed to death on the New Foundland ice floes by Norwegian and Canadian killers supported by local licensed fishermen and laws imposed by the Trudeau Government making it an imprisonable offence to interfere. Despite this, Boston Greenpeace members managed to get onto the floes and dye 150 seal pups green, making their furs worthless.

The Canadian Govt. openly admits that 10,000 seals are skinned alive each year. The year's total quota was 160,000 harp and 15,000 hooded seals.

Some of the ships leaving to slaughter the seals were blessed in at least one Catholic ecumenical service.



ABOUT TURN

We are pleased to announce that 'Wildlife' magazine (the journal of the World Wildlife Fund) will not accept our advertisements following their previous refusal to do so (see HOWL 14).

This follows the departure of C. Murnaghan from the advertisement dept. whom, we are told, "totally misunderstood what HSA represents". It also follows a letter from Animal Aid (anti-vivisection) who decided not to place a large advertisement with the mag. because of the refusal and wrote to Wildlife to tell them so. (Thanks also to other groups and individuals who did the same.)

AND SHOW THE OTHER CHEEK

Meanwhile a World Wildlife Fund leaflet, appealing for funds to finance nature reserves in the UK, was sent out with the Annual Report of the British Field Sports Society.

In answer to a letter questioning these reserves a spokesperson for the WWF replied, "It is unlikely that any hunting, shooting or fishing will be allowed (in these reserves) *although this cannot be guaranteed*"

BERGEN, NORWAY. A combined Swedish and Norwegian animal rights group recently demonstrated at the Reiber factory, HQ of the Norwegian seal and whale killing industry, despite much abuse from the locals. Reiber owns the town and has presented it with an aquarium where a recently born seal pup has been a celebrity for months, amusing children and adults dressed in sealskin boots and jackets for hours.

Aileen Osland of the Norwegian group has asked us not to forget to pressurise the Norwegian Government on the issue of seals and whale rights. The Norwegian Embassy is at 25 Belgrave Square, London, SW1.

BOWLED OVER?

The Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray foxhunt will be reducing their current two Saturday meets to one next season. A case of another hunt going to the wall or simply running out of foxes?

Strange that this ideal sort of reserve should be promoted via the mail-outs of an organisation composed of nothing but hunters, shooters and fishermen. Or can we conclude that they are doing an "about turn"!

ACCURSED COURSING

Violence erupted at a meeting of the Swaffham Coursing Club on December 27th when about 25 sabs from the East Midlands, East Anglia and Sheffield tried to prevent hares from being abused in the name of sport.

The day began with the sabs rendezvousing in Swaffham market place at 10.30am and then moving off, followed by an entourage of journalists and TV cameramen (eight cars in all, which actually outnumbered sabmobiles) to the coursing meeting just outside a small village called West Acre, on land owned by a Justice of the Peace, a certain Cpt. Harry Birbeck.

Unfortunately, on arrival at the coursing field it was discovered that a couple of hares had already been killed. However, proceedings were brought to an abrupt halt as the sabs invaded the coursing field and occupied it for about 15 minutes.

An early lunch was taken by the coursers as they waited for the police to arrive, hoping, we suppose, that the sabs would be ejected. But when they did eventually turn up the sabs pointed out that they were on a public footpath, a fact hotly contested by Cpt. Birbeck. The police went off to find out—which took at least three-quarters of an hour—during which time no coursing took place. The frustration must have proved too much for the Captain who vented his wrath by kicking a sab's car, causing a large dent in the side.



Shane Kind is helped to a police car after being kicked in the head by a Swaffham courser. Below, another sab is comforted

The police returned to confirm that the lane was indeed a public right of way, so the antis stayed to demonstrate.

It was about 2.00 pm by the time the beaters were in position again and trying to flush hares towards the coursers, who were eagerly waiting for one to break through the hedge. They waited a long time, but not a single hare was to get anywhere near them.

The beaters were flushing plenty forward, but the sabs turned them all back again with the use of flags, whistles, football rattles, fog horns and smoke flares.

Suddenly, around 60 vicious louts attacked the sabs, wading in with fists, boots and sticks. Television and newspaper photographers weren't to escape injury. One of them, Albert Claridge, who was filming the demonstration for the BBC, was pushed headlong into a ditch. His camera equipment was kicked until a reel of film fell out, exposing it to the light, and the lens was smashed.

Two antis were hospitalised, while virtually all the others suffered black eyes, cut lips and the like.

Had it not been for the presence of the three policemen the injuries would have been much worse. However, a police officer who saw a well-built man smash his fist into a female sab's face was prevented from making an arrest by the howling coursing mob. We are told that enquiries are continuing but it's against all odds that the culprit will be brought to justice.

A spokesman for the Swaffham Coursing Club told a local reporter afterwards, "Half of them (antis) were paid to come here and cause trouble". He went on to say that he thought there was nothing barbaric about hare-coursing, "If there was anything barbaric about it I wouldn't be doing it".

Violence against antis isn't unusual for the Swaffham; the previous two years they've been hit by about a dozen local sabs and on each occasion the sabs were assaulted. However, if we let these maniacs see that violence deters us then we have lost.

Apart from the two hares killed before the sabs arrived no further hares were coursed that day, let alone killed.

At the Huntingdon Trials, at Peterborough, on the 23rd February, sabs met with violence from a different quarter.

Whilst trying to save hares (from a public road) a sab was struck in the mouth by PC999 Paget causing the whistle he was blowing to snap off his tooth. Complaining to the senior police officer at the meet he was told that he had sustained the injury by tripping and knocking his tooth out on the side of a van! The sab has put in an official complaint.

Recently published statistics give the lie to arguments used by hare coursers to defend themselves. The following figures were compiled by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) after attending seven coursing meetings during 1978/79 and examining the carcases of all hares killed.

While there is an argument about the morality of chasing hares with a pair of greyhounds, it cannot be disputed that at least 70% of all hares coursed do manage to escape. Coursers argue that of the 30% that are caught and killed, the majority are humanely destroyed by a handler.

This is not the case: of the sample checked (total 53) only 35% (18) were so destroyed. Of these at least half had already suffered damage to the chest, abdomen, back and hindlegs.

Total of hares killed	*53*
damage to abdomen	*42*
damage to chest	*41*
damage to hindlegs	*39*
damage to back	*31*
Destroyed by handler	*18*

Whilst on the subject of coursing it is worthwhile reminding members, and any other interested parties, that coursing and any other killing of game is illegal on a Sunday. If you can obtain evidence of the law being broken, advise your local police and direct their attention to Section 3 of the Game Act, which clearly states that this is an indictable offence.

The RSPCA has investigated an artificial 'coursing machine' which follows, as near as possible, the twists and turns of a hare. The 'machine' uses a wire along which a lure is drawn and the wire (and lure) can be made to twist over 16 times in a course length of 600 years. It has 5 set speeds, ranging from 22 to 45 mph.

In the Autumn of last year the RSPCA was attempting a demonstration with members of the National Coursing Club in attendance—we wonder how they got on?

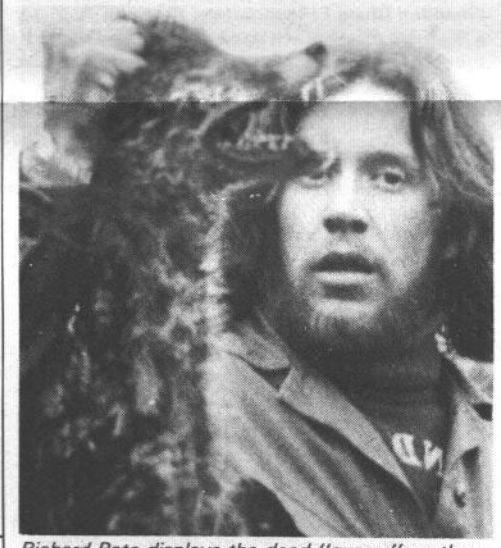


LOCAL ANNOYANCE

Edward Judd, a gamekeeper, has been employed by Anne and Mark Philips on their 1,200 acre Gatcombe Park (his wages no doubt will come from Anne's recently increased public funded Civil List handout).

Members of the Beaufort, their local foxhunt, it seems, are up in arms about the whole thing. They point out that there's *no* game on the estate and that Judd has been taken on to shoot, trap and gas foxes, badgers and rabbits.

Are they, one wonders, worried about the unnecessary decimation of wildlife for its own sake or simply because they consider that all local foxes belong to the hunt to be used and abused as only they see fit?



Richard Bate displays the dead "quarry" on the Beaufort FH

It is with great regret that we report the recent untimely death of HSA member Richard Bate. Despite a long, hard fight involving several spells in hospital and painful side effects to treatment he finally died of a brain tumour on January 23rd.

Richard helped keep the HSA battle flags flying in the Cumbrian bloodsports arena and will be sorely missed. Out sympathies go to his wife Maureen—if you'd like to write, she can be contacted c/o PO Box 19.

MORE HUNT HAVOC

Joanne Rock found her pet cat, Pickles, torn to pieces in undergrowth adjacent to their house 8 days after hounds of the Suffolk Hunt invaded their garden and the cat disappeared. Her mother phoned the hunt who apologised. However, the joint master, Paul Rackham, later denied that the hunt was responsible. He claimed the dogs would not have attacked the cat and anyway, "the cat would have torn their eyes out"!

Pity he didn't have a word with BFSS propagandist Raymond Brooks-Ward (MFH Enfield Chace) who recently confided to the Daily Express' William Hickey "to my certain knowledge we have not killed a cat forum-three seasons".

Meanwhile in Scotland, hounds of the Eglinton FH chased a fox into a housing estate where families witnessed the dismemberment of the fox. Former Tory candidate, John Corbett, who was following the hunt, scurried round to apologise saying, "I feel some people might try to make a mountain out of a molehill over this".

At a meet of the Royal Rock Beagles (Cheshire), in December, hounds stampeded some heifers of a local hunt farmer. Prior to the meet another hunt farmer was moving horses from his field in order to allow hounds free access when they escaped and caused chaos on the B5132 as they remained free for ½ hour.

A farmer from the same county complained about the behaviour of the Cheshire FH as they passed over his land. The hunt churned up his silage field, one pony sinking to the top of its legs in the mud. Although, in previous years, they had damaged a field of rye, left gates open or damaged, and forced his cows to jump over hedges, he remains pro-hunt!

Cheshire foxhounds also savaged a schoolgirl's dozen pet hens whilst in pursuit of a fox. Amanda Berry (14) was hysterical with grief after the incident; she had raised the hens by hand and they used to follow her around like puppies.

In the closing minutes of a meet of the Aldershot Beagles, reports a Surrey sab, the hounds chanced on a tired hare that had taken refuge in a hedge bordering a road. Arrogance, as usual, stood whip-in-hand, in the middle of the road, to prevent traffic moving forward.

The hare suddenly scrambled down the bank, across the road, and up the opposite bank. It was pulled back by the pursuing hounds. Promptly, one of the huntsmen, a Lance-Corporal Adrian "Taffy" Andrews, intervened. He grabbed the struggling creature, a large buck hare, it was thought, and held it up by the feet, away from the jaws of the hounds. A merciful act you might think? Not so!

With the only-smile-of-the-day on his mean face, the soldier and animal vandal, whose vocabulary includes "F . . . ing c . . .", "Mother F . . . er", "Queer c . . .", and other such delectable phrases, brandished the terrified animal at the onlookers, waving it in a gesture of triumph.

The hare was carried into a field for the ritual execution. Obscenities were shouted at the protesters, and a hare's foot was offered. Before the hare was thrown to the hounds, accompanied by the unmusical fanfare from the joint master's horn, the head was severed with a knife.

(In World War 2, the Nazis executed many thousands of their victims, defenceless and innocent, to the accompaniment of music, usually a brassband.)

A few moments later Andrews was seen to be carrying the trophy by the ears while others played 'catch' with the paws.

Police allowed the Seavington foxhounds to cross and re-cross the busy A303 trunk road in December—stray hounds blocked the road for a while.

A cat belonging to a butcher's wife was killed in a ditch by hounds of the Cambridgeshire FH.

30 of the Jed Forest foxhounds chased a fox through gardens of a Hawick (Borders) housing estate, breaking down fences and entering a kitchen. Many of the houses are occupied by pensioners, one of whom saw the frantic fox scrabbling at her french windows in an attempt to escape.

The fox was killed in the car park of a knitwear factory which was left covered with blood and entrails; but there seems to be confusion over how the fox was killed. One eye witness said that one of the horsemen held the squealing fox up by the tail as the hounds ate it. However, master of the hunt, Sir Hugh Arbuthnot, a baronet, was immediately unavailable for comment (aren't they all?) but later claimed that the fox was not killed by the hounds but had been grabbed by himself and "with one smart crack" it was dead. "I am not a barbarous person" he added.

Most intersting aspect of the case was the fact that Patrick Murray, Chairman of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA), an Edinbrugh solicitor, was out with the hunt that day but stayed on the hill above the town whilst the slaughter was going on. He later commented, "I am quite prepared to stand up to criticism. I do a tremendous amount of work for animal welfare".