**Aims:** To oppose and undertake to sabotage, where practicable, the pursuit, harrassment or killing of any sentient creature for sport or pleasure until such times as these practices are banned by law.

# HOWL

5p

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# RYE JUSTICE

On December 8 three south coast HSA members, Keith Bird (26), Melvyn Dallas (27) and Vince Smith (23) were leaving a wood after blowing a horn in it to attract hounds of the East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH. Without any other provocation they were attacked by 3 hunt supporters. Keith was left with a split lip, Melvyn with a black eye and cut hand and Vince with bad bruising. The assault was reported and (surprise, surprise) actually followed up by the police.

On **March 12** Kevin Barton, of Glovers Lane, Bexhill and Michael Bullen, of Turkey Road, Bexhill, appeared in Rye Magistrates Court charged with "causing actual bodily harm" to hunt sabs. Both pleaded not guilty, but Barton changed his plea to guilty during the trial. Both were found guilty and yet given "absolute discharges" and bound over to keep the peace for a year in the sum of £50.

Upon the suggestion of the defence counsel, the magistrates then attempted to bind the sabs over too, in the same amount, even though they'd never been charged with any offence. No attempt was made to bind over the defence witnesses. The 1361 Justices of the Peace Act (the oldest act listed in Stones Justice Manual) allows magistrates to bind over defendants, solicitors, and even onlookers in the public gallery, if they're feeling stroppy enough.

The 3 sabs naturally said they were not prepared to accept the same sentence as the people who'd attacked them. They were given a week to change their minds. The alternative could be *up to* 6 months' imprisonment.

On **19 March** Keith, a scaffolder, and Melvyn, a clerical worker, again refused to be bound over and were immediately sentenced to 6 months by the three magistrates —Alan Webb, a master baker in Rye, Mrs Joan Munn, widow of a Rye business man and Mrs M Whitehead, chairperson, wife of a retired fruit farmer (the 'M' stands for Mercy, would you believe). Vince asked for an adjournment as he had been refused legal aid, even though unemployed. When this was refused he reluctantly agreed to be bound over.



*Keith Bird, Vince Smith and Melvyn Dallas on the East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH after their release*

Keith and Melvyn were taken to Pentonville Prison in London but were later transferred to Wormwood Scrubbs for the night due to the shocking overcrowding at Pentonville, where prisoners are forced to sleep in the gym. Next morning, after having been returned to Pentonville, both sabs, faced with 6 months incarceration for no crime, agreed to be bound over.

They were released that day and were back sabbing the East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH, with 40 others, the following Saturday. This time though, the heavies, which included Barton and Bullen, had obviously been told to avoid violence by the hunt's officials, who must have been sensitive to the bad national publicity which the case had achieved for the hunting cause. The case went international too, being given a mention on CBC Radio, Canada and no doubt others.

The League Against Cruel Sports immediately sent a protest letter to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, over the magistrates' action. Since when Leon Brittan, Minister of State at the Home Office, has asked the Law Commission to look at the 1361 Act in the context of its forthcoming review of the Common Law offences relating to public order. The 22,000 Magistrates Assn. still feels, however, that the time is not opportune for a review—binding over cases rose from 5,387 in 1975 to 7,263 in 1978.

The police don't like the 619 year old Act, as it deters people from coming forward as police witnesses. One sinister aspect of the case, though, is that although a "binding over" doesn't classify as a conviction Scotland Yard admit that the details are filed on the notorious Police National Computer.

Keith and Melvyn have lodged an appeal against conviction, at Lewis Crown Court. This will cost money. Anyone wishing to contribute towards this should make cheques/POs etc. payable to **HSA Legal Fund, PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent**. We'll make sure the money reaches them.

Another hunt sab received similar treatment in 1977. Val Waters appeared in a case as a prosecution witness against 4 Atherstone FH thugs who'd poured sump over her car windows, sprayed red paint over the car, broken the aerial, kicked her and rammed a fox's brush in her face.

Val was never charged with any crime but suddenly found herself being bound over to keep the peace. She refused. The case went to appeal, which Val had to abandon because the hunt were bringing in more and more witnesses simply to push her costs up. She went to prison for a month in the notorious Risley Remand Centre where she was forced to scrub floors.

Questions were asked in the House but we're still plagued by this repressive Act. The sooner it's repealed the better.



*Val Waters gets the "get orf maih land" treatment on the Albrighton Woodland FH*

## YOUNG ANTIS

**A fourteen-year-old member, Peter Livesey of Leatherhead, recently won first prize in an inter-school public-speaking competition when he gave a talk on the opposition to bloodsports. Congratulations!**

**Congratulations also to Colin Lowe of Fareham who handed a petition to his pro-hunt MP, for forwarding to the Prime Minister, calling for the banning of fox-hunting. This young lad obtained several thousand signatures off his own back.**

## DOUBLE STANDARDS

Three fallow deer had their throats hacked and severed with a penknife, magistrates in Mid-Glamorgan were told in January.

Unemployed factory workers Derek Williams of Heol Fach, Trecenydd, Caerphilly and Gareth Farmer of Thomasville, Penyrhea, Caerphilly admitted wilfully killing and cruelly terrifying the deer. The case was adjourned for social enquiry reports to be compiled.

It is somewhat ironic that writers in *Shooting Times* deplore the activities of deer poachers and the minimal fines imposed yet obviously condone the activities of deer hunters of the registered variety.

A typical comment was made in December over the activities of men in Bedfordshire who used lurchers to bring down deer on the Woburn Estate. Two months later hounds of the South Notts Hunt brought down and savaged a young doe. A passing motorist managed to chase the dogs away but the deer lay dying of a broken neck (it was later destroyed by a gamkeeper).

The secretary of the Master of Foxhounds Assoc. commented, "Neither the law or hunt rules have been broken. This was just a breach of discipline by the hounds".

## SNARING LEGALISED

The Government is to ban the use of snares, announced Hector Munro, Environment Under-Secretary. Legislation to make illegal the snaring of all animals—wild or domestic—will be included in the Government's Wildlife & Countryside Bill, with, of course, the exception of "pest control and other special circumstances".

According to a report in Shooting Times, "This is in line with discussions which the British Field Sports Society has been having with the Dept. of the Environment"!

## CIRCUS SANS CRUELTY

40 Boroughs have banned circuses with animal acts but circuses can be OK as the Circus Hassani is currently proving. It's the only one in Britain *not* to feature any animal acts at the request of its current owner's late father Coco the Clown. It deserves the full support of all animal welfarists.

Details of its venues can be obtained from Mrs Hassani (Tel. 078 087 341), Betty Lawson (Cockfield Green 864) or Thelma How (0403 64181). Letters to your local council asking them to ban animal-using circuses can now give an abuse-free alternative!

## FACTS OR FICTION?

A book called "Social Trends" reports that BFSS membership fell by approximately 8,000 between 1977 and 1978.

A recent poll conducted by MORI for the Sunday Times indicated that 59% of the British public thought bloodsports were unacceptable and morally wrong.

Taking these two facts together can we seriously believe Dick Tracy, PRO-person for the BFSS when he says that "Every week we have a flood of enquiries . . . (people) are enthusiastically joining in our sports—shooting, fishing, hunting with hounds, coursing and falconry".

# RESCUERS RAPPED

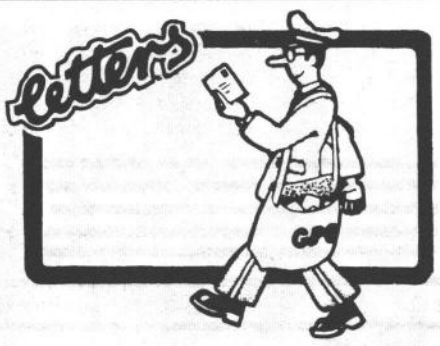
Five animal rights campaigners who rescued hens from battery farms have been ordered to pay nearly £2,500 by Solihull (Birmingham) magistrates.

The five, Derek Carroll, Viv Bates, Anthony Boyson, Sue Forester and Christine Smith, were involved in various raids on battery units in the W. Midlands.

Between them they took over 500 hens from their cramped cages and found them good homes in free range conditions. Three of the five also rescued 18 dogs from an establishment where the animals were to be killed and then sold for processing into agricultural fertiliser.

As well as being ordered to pay well over £1,000, Derek, one of the country's most active animal rights crusaders, was given a 12 month suspended sentence.

A fund to raise money to help the five pay the severe financial penalties has been set up. All donations should be sent to **Solihull 5 Defence Fund, 91 Home Close, Hockwell Ring, Luton, Beds.** (Cheques or POs made payable to "Solihull 5 Defence Fund).




*In response to Chris Williamson's (HSA Press Officer) letter to the Sun in January.*

**Dear Chris**

I am 78 years of age, when I was a young boy a man said to me:

An inmate at the asylum was looking over the boundary wall into the country lane when the hunt went past; lovely dressed men, nice horses and a lot of hounds.

A bit later on a hunter, a late comer, stopped and said to the inmate, "Have you seen the hunt go past?" "Yes sir, and what a lovely sight. Excuse me but how much do all that hunt cost?"

"Well, my man, they cost thousands of pounds."

"What do they hunt?"

"A hare."

"And how much is a hare worth?"

"Oh, nothing!"

"In that case," replied the inmate, "thousands of pounds hunting nothing. I think you should be this side of the wall with me."

**Yours truly**
**Lover of Animals**

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**Dear Sir,**

I have just received your winter issue and noticed the item on my views about killing fish. I am concerned that this remark, taken out of context from a lecture I gave at the University of Sussex, might lead some people to think that I do not object to commercial fishing or so-called "sport fishing". My opposition to these forms of killing was stated in my book *Animal Liberation*, and I have not changed my mind on this question. The remark that you quote, that I see nothing wrong with killing fish because "they don't plan for the future", is taken from a hypothetical case in which fish might be killed entirely painlessly and replaced by other fish which would lead just as enjoyable lives. If this seems a farfetched case, it was not intended to be realistic but to try to separate out ethical problems about killing from issues involving suffering and the ending of a happy life. When we are considering killing on its own, with no suffering involved, I do think it makes a difference to the wrongness of killing if an animal is capable of realising that it has a future and therefore has hopes or desires which are interfered with by being killed.

I remain a strong supporter of HSA and wish you well in your work. I hope you continue to snipe at your enemies rather than your friends.

Best wishes,

**Peter Singer**
**Monash Univ.,**
**Victoria, Australia.**

**Dear Sir**

Congratulations for printing the letter from Anon of Colwyn Bay in the last Howl. The issue raised is a fundamental one by no means confined to masturbation *sensus stricto*. ANY pursuit of pleasure independent of need is spiritual masturbation and sooner or later leads to moral degeneration. Masturbation *s.str.* is relatively innocuous, being usually practiced for the relief of tension with little thought of pleasure. By contrast, the practice of blood sports, where physical and emotional stimuli are very powerful, causes rapid degeneration.

If bloodsportsmen and women are degraded human beings it follows that they are NOT sub-human creatures. Many contributors to Howl do not accept this, apparently believing that to do so would make their opposition to blood sports less effective. This is undoubtedly the case: the majority of soldiers kill more efficiently if they think of the enemy as things; the majority of animal experimenters work more efficiently if they think of the animals as things; etc. Nevertheless, this attitude is an indication of moral inadequacy. We should not be surprised it is widespread since the media are constantly reminding us that the fundamental purpose of life is the pursuit of pleasure. In the long run, however, it is always counter-productive. Another item in the last Howl illustrates particularly clearly the dangers of this attitude. This is the cartoon drawn by a supporter too young to conceal his real feelings who clearly believes that if the HSA adopted the Final Solution paradise would appear on earth. Older sabs would dispute the practicability of such an approach, and probably the morality as well well, but many would go along with his conclusion unless they really thought hard about it.

**Yours etc.**
**John Docherty**
**Crowborough, E. Sussex.**

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**From Southampton and addressed to the HEAD ANTI**

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE FOX HUNTS, CHICKENS WOULD BE EXTINCT, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE EGGS FOR YOUR BREAKFAST.

**FROM**
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

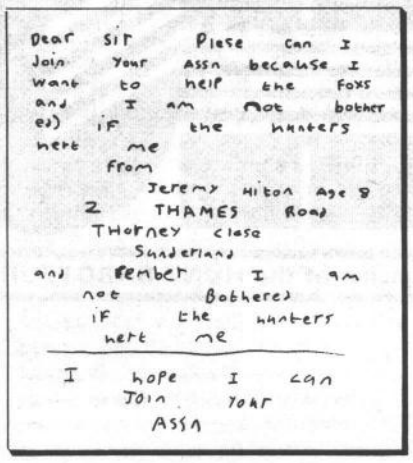
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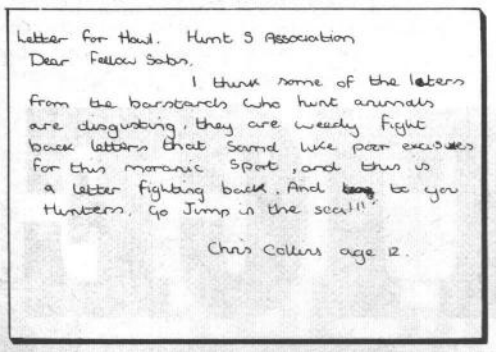
**Dear Sabs**

I would like to say how grateful I am for all the contributions to the appeal. Thanks to the generosity of *all* who contributed I have been able to buy a new pair of glasses.

Sometimes I think it is a little sad that organisations such as HSA have to exist at all, but I am sure that as long as man persists in his ritual slaughter of animals under the label of "sport", dedicated people will rise to the support of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Keep on sabbin'.
**Gary Booker**
**Exeter, Devon.**
(Gary had his glasses stolen by mink hunters in the West Country. He relied on them to prevent migraines)





Letter for Howl. Hunt S Association
Dear Fellow Sabs,
I think some of the letters from the barsteards who hunt animals are disgusting, they are weedy fight back letters that Sound like poor excuses for this moranic Sport, and this is a letter fighting back. And to you Hunters, Go Jump in the sea!!!
Chris Collins age 12.

## FRONTING FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

**CLUB ROW, LONDON.** 300 activists recently met at the Club Row market to protest about the cruelty of the unlicensed pet dealers who give unsold pets to vivisectionists or dump them in litter bins at the end of the day's trading. The demo received excellent coverage which led to questions being asked in both Houses of Parliament by Labour Lord Houghton and Labour MP Peter Shore.

**SAVOY HOTEL, LONDON.** The annual dinner and dance of the British Fur Trade Assoc. in February was again picketted by hundreds of anti fur trade activists. A massive police presence kept the demo peaceful whilst the fur brigade arrived. Two girl sabs, dressed in fur coats, arrived with their escorts and proceeded to rip the coats apart outside the Savoy's entrance; the girls had anti fur slogans stencilled on their backs. Other activists made it to the entrance through the police cordon by catching a taxi cab and unfurling banners behind the police lines. There were nine arrests as the traders came out of the Savoy with charges ranging from criminal damage (a windscreen wiper was bent), having flour bombs ready to damage property, obstruction, insulting behaviour and threatening a policeman.

On the 28th February four of the arrestees (Roger Barfoot, Scott Glover, Steve Jones, Linda Wadley) were each bound over to keep the peace for a year in the sum of £100. Three of the four were also fined £30 and the fourth fined £25 and made to pay £5 costs. Debbie Jones was unfit to appear due to an old leg injury being started off again, having been dragged over a police barrier at the Savoy by an over-enthusiastic police officer. Gillian Wadley will be appearing in a Juvenile Court later.

Three others, Maureen Barfoot, Sheila Kilvington and Jill Millington, have pleaded not guilty and will be appearing at Bow Street Magistrates Court again on 21st May.

# GETTING IT RIGHT

A recent article in that 'respected' magazine *The Field* listed the following 'direct action' taken against bloodsports:

a trespass
b breaking and entering
c damage to property
d intentional cruelty to animals
e assault
f desecrating a grave
g interrupting church services

Now let us compare this with a list of hunt activities:

a trespass—very common
b breaking and entering—packs of hounds have often been known to break into private property in pursuit of their quarry
c damage to property—as above
d intentional cruelty to animals—foxes, hares, stags, cats and anything else that gets in their way
e assault—at least a dozen sabs have received hospital treatment in the last few months and at least one hunt supporter has been charged with "causing grievous bodily harm"
f desecrating a grave—desecrating a funeral service
g interrupting church services—as above.

Perhaps before criticising others our opponents should put their own house in order—but, of course, these incidents "have nothing to do with members of the hunt!"

## MONEY RAISING

**Aberystwyth** HSA have held three concerts making £30-£40 per time. Approximately 400 people attended the last one held in the University College of Wales, which featured 6 local bands.

**Brighton** HSA made approx. £100 on a recent flag day but may face possible charges for not having sealed tins in conformation with local bye-laws (other groups take note!).

**Exeter** HSA raised £60 by organising a disco.

**Luton** HSA made over £100 on their recent flag day (no charges pending!)—their 2 panda suits went down well with the kids.

**North London** HSA have been holding successful discos.

**East Midlands** HSA have raised over £100 so far on their Sponsored Sab week in March.

**West Midlands** HSA raised over £100 on their sponsored pub crawl—their headaches are just beginning to disappear. Spurred on by their idea a young Sussex sab, Chris Collins (12) has offered to do his own sponsored crawl—along the ground!

## CARCRASH TESTING

We've been assured that Citroen have not and do not use animals for research purposes. This followed a question by us following the news that ONSER (French 'Organisme Nationale de Securite Routiere') have been using live baboons, pigs, macaque monkeys and bears in simulated crashes to test injuries.

Renault are now using dead people in such tests.

# ROUTING THE ROYALS



It's probable that Charles would make a very good king *but* he will go around killing things!

An editorial in the Daily Star recently defended his hunting activities because he is "a member of the Royal Family and future king".

Such nonsense. That is the very reason why Charles should *stop* indulging in such pastimes. By supporting the hunt this "future king" is giving credence to those who favour inhumanities.

The HSA has, in the past, made attempts to contact Prince Charles in order to put the anti's point of view. But having pursued the pen, and failed, HSA members obviously favoured the "direct confrontation".

Naturally Charlie's whereabouts are kept very hush-hush but, despite that, he's been sussed quite a few times only to be lost to sabs when his bodyguards have whisked him away.

## CHUKKA HUNTING

However, towards the end of last July sabs from SE England succeeded in staging a demo against Charles when he was playing polo at Cowdray Park in W Sussex.

About 15 sabs managed to unfurl banners and shout slogans in front of him as he went to collect his losers prize after captaining his own team "Les Diables Bleus". They also managed a repeat performance on his return journey.

The only 'incident' occurred when a steward tried to remove a banner reading CHARLIE CHUKKA HUNTING! STICK TO GIRLS. The steward promptly desisted when advised by a policeman that he wasn't doing his point of view any favours.

The demo was well-covered by attendant press-persons and captured on video by a TV crew, there to film the polo. It seems that the demonstrators were assured of good coverage. However, no story appeared in any national paper except for a one line comment, in amongst four paragraphs of pro-royalty waffle in the Express.

## CHEESED OFF

Seven months later, the Prince was caught on two consecutive days by HSA members.

On the 23rd February he was "bowled over" on the Cheshire FH, where a few leaflets and choice phrases were thrown in his direction.

On the 24th he decided not to appear in front of sabs to collect his team's (the Earl of Chester's Chasers) first prize, in a cross-country event organised by the same hunt.

He'd managed to evade the main demo by riding earlier in the day than scheduled, and was reported as being "very sad" that he couldn't collect the cup and Cheshire cheese. Ahhh!

## BRIGHTON BELLES

At a flat-race meeting at Plumpton, members of the Brighton group caught up with the Prince, yet again. In his first race on a public race course the heir came in second—and there were HSA members to greet him! Our banner-touting ladies were escorted away by police.

# GROUP NEWS

**ABERYSTWYTH** sabs learnt, whilst mingling with the locals and huntsmen at a Llwynygroes meet in January that the hunt are so short of foxes to hunt that they breed them specially and release them an hour before the hunt. Four foxes are reputedly used each season in this way after being taken as cubs from other areas and bred by a hunt official. Meanwhile they're still publically saying that local farmers suffer fox predation of course.

A new group has been formed at **WOLVERHAMPTON UNIVERSITY** and at **BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY** sabs are making every effort to curb the machinations of the BFSS to form their own group there. At a recent stall Ian Coghill, Jt Master of the Warwickshire Beagles and local Hon. Sec. for the BFSS attempted to pose as a student but was soon spotted. At a recent debate at the University he compared drag-hunting with masturbating and the "thrills" of foxhunting and beagling with "paki-" and "queer-bashing". Ian also fulfils the role of a NALGO shop steward!

hunt in marshy areas where there are no likely holding places. When the hunt's terrier man tried to attract the huntsman's attention to a fox that had just left a wood he was joined by sabs waving and blowing horns—consequently he was ignored by the huntsman! In a friendly argument with the senior Master after the hunt he told the sabs that he'd lost "thousands of chickens to marauding *weak* foxes" (presumably the strong ones can't gnaw through the steel mesh compounds!!).

On an Essex FH the sabs' offer to give a badly gashed hound a lift to the vet in their Landrover was refused by the hunt. Three weeks later the sabs managed to call the Essex foxhounds away from a deer they were rioting after and were later successfull in helping a fox escape from a drain by diverting the hounds' attention while they were being held back for it.

**ESSEX** sabs have found the Essex Farmers pack very responsive to sab horns and very easy to —they've also got a sociable terrier man, which




*Bolton sabs and friends demonstrate outside the Town Hall*

**BOLTON** sab, Richard Beckett, organised another successful march against bloodsports in the city centre on the 29th March whilst the abysmal Grand National steeplechase was going on nearby. 180 people took part, 90% of them coming from Bolton itself—this was four times last year's figure. 1,300 signatures against bloodsports were collected in one day.

**BRISTOL & YEOVIL** sabs found a Huckworthy basset hound caught in a snare.

**CHESTERFIELD** sabs spotted the Barlow FH hunting in a Derbyshire Naturalists Trust nature reserve on 3rd Jan. They've been using a dog with antimate sprayed legs to walk in areas being hunted and bark to confuse the hounds successfully.

The Secretary of the Mid Cornwall FH was furious when he discovered that he had given the hunt's entire fixture list to a **CORNWALL** sab at one meet!

**EAST MIDLANDS** sabs had a flying squad of 10 sabs out on a week long sponsored blitz of local hunts starting with the South Notts FH. Other hunts successfully sabbed during the week included the Quorn, Belvoir, Meynell & South Staffs and the Grove & Rufford, plus some beagle packs. Over £100 was raised by the venture.

On the 5th March sabs got the whole of the Belvoir (Duke of Rutland) pack away from the huntsman with their horns and kept them for a mile. Two days later, on the Quorn, sabs were spotted spraying and their car was nearly forced off the road by a brown BMW (reg. KWB 417P) and followed. The sabs were tailed all day by a blue Ford Granada Estate (LHK 222V), then a green Range Rover (MYV 628P). The sabs finally realised that these were security guards for Prince Charles who had joined the hunt after the meet at a farm. After telling His Royal Highness just what they thought of him they jumped out of their car and in his sight sprayed behind a fox running along a roadside hedge, for which a hunter in a red car (WRY 418S) tried to run them down.

The spray halted the pack long enough for the fox to escape.

Whilst out sabbing the Quorn in January one sab spotted his grandad, so, whilst talking to him, the other sabs in the car managed to get 2 gallons of "special" sploshed down. Five minutes later the horses and hounds trampled straight through it.

The group staged a demo against Prince Charles for his involvement in bloodsports when he came to visit a Nottingham Raleigh factory. While booing and heckling His Royalness they were escorted away by police. One sab who was arrested for walking away too slowly was later released.

A chummy hunter enquiring if Chris Williamson, the group secretary, was out that day reeled off Chris's address and said that he chatted with him, at his home, every other day. For addressing Mr Williamson at the time 0 out of 10 on the suss-scale Mr Hunter.

**EAST LONDON** sabs learned that the Essex Union FH terrier man was planning to pay a late evening visit to an earth at which a fox had been marked to ground. So they rearranged the earth and left a chalk message on a nearby tyre informing him that they'd bolted the fox.

The group's attention have forced the Essex Farmers FH to stop advertising their meets and

makes a nice change.

Whilst out sabbing the Essex FH, in February, on National Trust land, they were advised by one rider, who didn't like the fox to be killed, to run "between the fox and hounds, making a lot of noise". One horn-blowing sab was told by a rider "the whipper-in's having enough trouble without you adding to it". A girl rider with blood smeared on her cheeks had obviously been blooded with a freshly severed fox's brush. A week later sabs managed to save a hare being chased by the Essex foxhounds. They've been finding that their false trails of aniseed and Pernod have been proving effective.

On an East Essex FH antis witnessed the terrier man trying to bolt a fox which had sought refuge in a drain after having been *injured* by the lead hound. When his terriers failed to make contact he stuffed a chicken wire probe into the drain and pushed it through by means of a clip-together fibreglass pole. The fox did not emerge and probably bled to death in the drain.

**EXETER** sabs' minibus engine caught fire on a joint hit against the South Dorset FH in November. A fox was marked to earth but not dug out due to sabs' presence.

**GUILDFORD** sabs have found that the Surrey Union FH avoid known sprayed areas like the plague.

**ISLE OF WIGHT** sabs have had their offer to lay a drag for the island's foxhunt for a week declined.

**LIVERPOOL** member Daniel Lindsay has formed the international Prevention of Cruelty to Animals & Plants (PCAP) group whose current priority is the "Save the Whale" campaign. He's got support from other animal welfare groups, MPs and union leaders, plus the Liverpool Trades Council. He is currently organising sponsored walks.

Two **LUTON** sabs staged a demo when Dorian Williams MFH (and BBC commentator—just about) gave a talk to 30 local pensioners at Luton library. The group has discovered mysterious packages of blue crystals around keepered areas which they've sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

With the **NORTH HERTS** group they completely split the Enfield Chace pack in Knebworth Park in March. The hunt packed up early with some hunters claiming that 2 hounds had been killed on the A1(M) due to sab activity—the police had had no report of any such incident.

**MANCHESTER** sabs were approached by the Chief Constable of Cheshire immediately after the recent Cheshire demo against Prince Charles—he wanted to discuss the season's incidents and try to improve relations for next season. This follows a similar meeting last year.

The **MID-SUSSEX** group concentrated on the Surrey & North Sussex beagles at the beginning of the season, the Master of which views sabs with the same tremerous disgust with which a surveyor views dry rot! He is a staunch supporter of "maih land" league and once stood in front of a large 'public footpath' sign and stile protesting "There's no footpath here"! Later he made the same remark while standing by a yellow way-marker, "Ah", he said, "but it's pointing the other way"!

On a subsequent occasion sabs spent 1¼ hours attempting to pull hounds from the scent of a hare. Finally succeeding, by sending hounds one way and the hare the other, the hunsman managed with great calmness to spit out "Thank you; we didn't want that one!"

**NORTH LONDON** members spotted the Enfield Chace terrier man on a hunt in November carrying rods and a bitten terrier—fur, blood and entrails were found in a field. The **HITCHIN** group reported that the hunt had earlier released a bagged fox which accounted for the hunt staying in one small area virtually all day long. Earlier in the day a lone sab had tried to attract the attention of a car-load of fellow sabs parked in a nearby mental institution but only succeeded in attracting an inmate who'd "cornered" the others and kept waving back.

The **NORTH EAST** group organised a national hit in January against the Zetland FH. 100 sabs, from all over the country, converged on foggy County Durham to annihilate the huge hunt, which boasts Prince Charles as one of its frequent guests. There were no kills.

The **NORTH WEST** groups (Liverpool, Wirral and Manchester) are now being assisted by a newly-formed 30-strong Liverpool University group.

**PORTSMOUTH** sabs joined other animal welfare groups in March to take part in a 20 mile sponsored walk, organised by IFAW, on behalf of the seals campaign.

The **SOUTH EAST FEDERATION** of the HSA staged two successful joint hits against the Aldershot Beagles forcing them to abandon early on both occasions. On the last one the master, Paul Laity, trod on a drain-tester smoke stick which, he told the press, "nearly exploded under my feet"

A 14 year old member of the **WEST CORNWALL** group has twice had his antimate stolen by Penwith Harriers heavies, so the hunt was subjected to a joint hit by the South West Federation and sabs in March. The pack was split so many times and such confusion caused that the master was seen, at the end of the day, sitting in a pub with his head in his hands and talking about giving up hunting!

The **WEST MIDLANDS** group organised a second national hit against the Croome & West Warwickshire FH. 120 sabs turned up and at least one exhausted fox was saved by sabs spraying its trail. "Shooting Times" claimed that the hit cost the HSA £2,000 to mount and hinted that a "respectable animal organisation" put forward the finances and is reputedly hiding behind our skirts!

A **WIRRAL** group member saw two men digging out a fox on the Wirral Way (a country park) in February, very near a badger sett. As it's illegal to dig anywhere on the Way the Park police were called, the men surrounded and arrested.

**YEOVIL** members were taunted by having a headless hare held before them by one of the South Somerset beaglers. Beagles were being caught on barbed wire on the same hunt with no help from the hunters. One apparently dead hound, which had presumably been strangled on the wire was thrown into the back of a hunt Landrover. The sabs had a freshly severed hare's foot offered to them by an Ilminster beagler.

The group were joined by ex-Mayor of Yeovil, John Cruddas, in the Boxing Day demo against the Cattistock FH. In January they managed to turn the Taunton Vale foxhounds and a deer, they were hunting, away from the busy A303(T). After a dig-out, in February, by the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale (sometimes visited by Princess Anne), in which the fox was killed but no shot heard, they found a large stone near the earth with blood all over one corner. Another humane kill?



*Roy Clinkard, joint master and huntsman of the Aldershot Beagles taunts sabs with a dead hare before throwing it back to hounds*

(if these devices exploded *would* drain layers really be likely to use them? Obviously Aldershot beaglers think so).

The Federation also forced the Isle of Wight FH to cancel "because of frost" despite soft, muddy ground—the sabs moved on to successfully disrupt the Island's beagle pack instead.

Apart from the now established Farnham, Guildford and Southampton groups new groups in the south have emerged in Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Basingstoke.

The **SOUTH WEST FEDERATION** staged a demo against the Quantock Staghounds. But despite saving two stags and a hind, with spraying, the hunt later managed to elude them to kill a hind, leaving her fur and blood behind on a path as a testament to her existence.




*Steve Brimble and Georgina Rodgers demonstrate against Dorian Williams in Luton*

## POLICE SNUBBED

Cleveland's Chief Constable asked Middlesbrough Council to reconsider its decision to grant a collection permit to the HSA, but the Council reaffirmed its original approval. The Chief Constable also asked the Council if they would notify him in advance of applications for street collections so that he can comment on whether or not there would be a potential riot situation. The Council agreed to do this but made it clear that although his advice would be taken into account the final decision would rest with them. Such a waste of police time!

## WELL OIL BE BLESSED

An alternative to sperm whale oil, the jojoba bean is now being grown on a commercial basis in the USA.

The plant has grown wild for centuries in the desert, overlooked and unwanted, until recent scientific research showed that the shrub's oil acts as everything from hair restorer to motor oil.

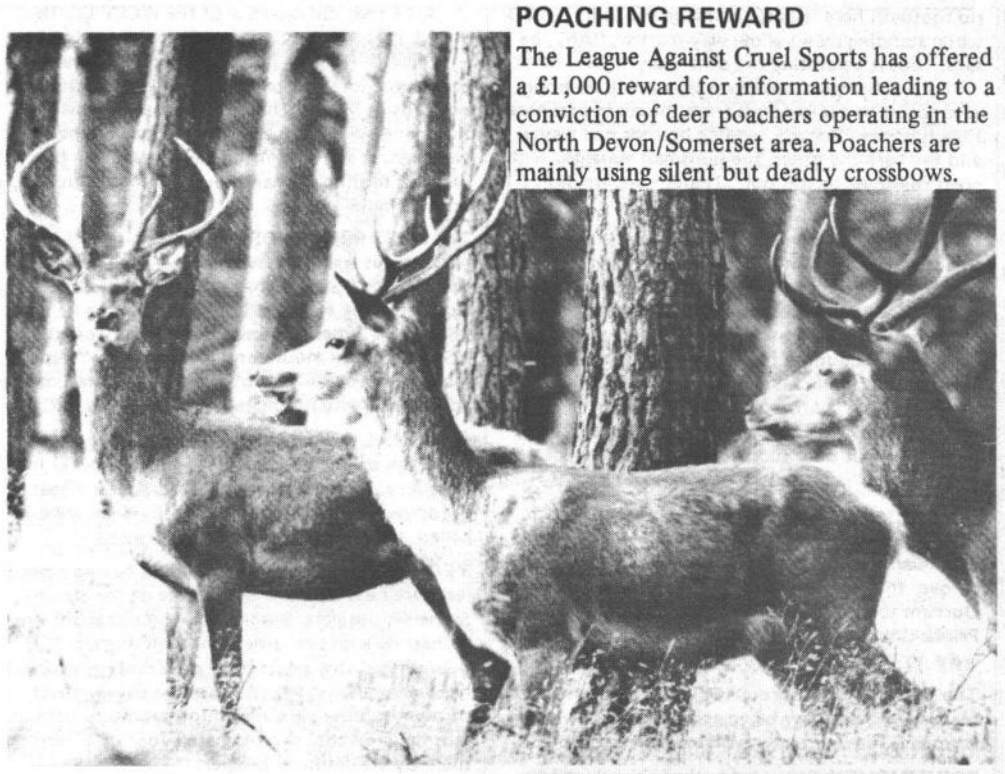
## LICENCE TO KILL

In November the National Trust was granted permission to kill seals in the Farne Islands (off the Northumbrian coast) which numbered 30 bulls, 120 females and 120 pups, as well as any diseased animals.

## SELF CONDEMNED!

The Taunton Vale FH couldn't have chosen a more appropriate venue for their hunt ball on February 16th—a school for delinquents at Curry Rival, Longport.

## POACHING REWARD



The League Against Cruel Sports has offered a £1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction of deer poachers operating in the North Devon/Somerset area. Poachers are mainly using silent but deadly crossbows.

## HANDLING CHARGE

Maurice Bell (43) of Fair View, Buttersett Road, Hawes, Yorks, a road works foreman, who doubles as master of the *Wensleydale Foxhounds*, was recently (March) cleared by Leyburn magistrates of possessing a live badger in a particularly bizarre case.

Five men, with terriers, were seen by farmer's wife, Mrs Cloughton, to be digging extensively near her farm near Hawes, last September. When she saw them extract something from the hole with badger tongs and drop it in a sack she phoned Bell and asked him why he was letting his men take live foxes. *He told her that it would be a badger and that the men would be calling at his home where he would see them.* 30 minutes later Bell allegedly phoned Mrs Cloughton to confirm that it *was* a badger and what did she want doing with it? At her suggestion he brought the badger back in a sack and released it at its sett.

The police were told but when they went to interview Bell he told them he had nothing to say and ordered them off his land.

When questioned two months later he agreed that the men had given him the badger to return. He denied knowing who they were.

The prosecution's case was that, by possessing the live badger, even for a short time, Bell committed an offence under the 1973 Badger Act. Bell told the court that he had been out with his foot pack after foxes that day. Sometimes up to 120 people came with him. He said he stopped a vehicle and found a live badger in a sack in the back of it. He took it from three strangers in the vehicle and returned it to the field "as a good deed".

Defence counsel John Winch told the magistrates "Mr Bell has landed in court through doing something humane. It was an act of mercy that led to him being charged."

It would obviously have been a miscarriage of justice to find such a kindly humane man, who spends all of his free time with similar humanitarians and dogs searching desperately for foxes to conserve. Accordingly, and despite Mrs Cloughton's evidence that Bell knew a lot more about the incident that he was admitting, the Leyburn magistrates found him "not guilty".

## BIG SHOT

A book called "The Big Shots" claims that the late Kaiser of Germany (Wilhelm II) from his early youth until 1910 killed 65,322 animals. These include 33,637 pheasants, 17,963 hares, 3,392 wild boars and one whale.

## HOME FROM HOME

After investigations carried out by north-west sabs there is now real evidence that the Cheshire FH is "running out" of foxes. Artificial earths, consisting of brick bottoms and strengthened sides, have been set up throughout their country. A local farmer has informed his RSPCA Inspector that "the Cheshire pay a good price for cubs". This particular farmer traps live foxes and last year caught 120!

Meanwhile the hunt is using man-made earth-stoppers consisting of 4 thick, strong bars of steel with a 4" spike at the base in order to secure this portable contraption to the ground.

In the same county one land-owner-cum-hunt supporter is breeding ducks, for shooting, in a pond fenced with chicken wire. This lovely lady has deliberately cut holes in the wire and inserted snares in order to strangle foxes, presumably for their pelts, which would otherwise not be able to get at the ducks.

## APPEALING FOR FREEDOM

**H.S.A. Press Officer Chris Williamson's appeal against being bound over for comments he made on the radio concerning the H.S.A.'s plans for the grouse shooting season last August (see HOWL 14), was turned down at Derby Crown Court on February 1st last, by a Judge who admits to occasionally taking part in "a little rough shooting."**

**Dismissing claims that justice must be seen to be done, that Chris had been treated less than fairly by being refused legal representation and that the decision by the Magistrates was taken without sufficient evidence to show that a breach of the peace was likely, Judge J. Blythe recorded that Buxton Magistrates had interpreted the situation correctly and that a breach of the peace *was* likely if Chris had not been bound over.**

**The decision was taken in spite of evidence given by another local sab Shane Kind, who told the court that he attended a demonstration against a grouse shoot a couple of weeks after the broadcast and there wasn't an inkling of any violence or breaches of the peace, as all the shoots in the peak District cancelled for the day when they found out that sabs were in the area.**

**It was also pointed out that during the proceedings there was a reasonable dialogue between the shooters and sabs at the three grouse shoots hit in 1978 by the H.S.A.**

**It seems that while the judiciary are prepared to put up with political parties both on the extreme right and left of the political spectrum threatening and carrying out actions which will almost certainly lead to breaches of the peace, people in the animal rights movement are being censured. So much for the freedom of speech.**

# PUTTING THE BOOT IN

**In the worst attack on an anti in the history of opposition to bloodsports, Pat O'Neill, an HSA member from Southampton, was so severely beaten that he had to undergo an emergency five-hour operation on his jaw, which was broken in two places.**

**Pat, it's reported, was tail-ending a group of sabs, who were following the New Forest FH, when a group of men jumped out of a white Range Rover and he was viciously attacked.**

**Chris Balcombe, a free-lance photographer who was following the sabs, said that 2 Forestry Commission officers witnessed the attack but refused to take Pat to hospital because, said one, "he was not insured for passengers".**

**Sir Newton Rycroft, master of the hunt, who was fined last year for "causing actual bodily harm" to a sab said that there was "a fight between a hunt saboteur and *a chap who has nothing to do with the hunt*".**

**Since the attack Pat's wife Natalie, a magistrate, has received abusive and obscene phone calls, one at least was from a hunter.** Thanks to a bit of detective work by the Soton group 3 men appeared 3 days later in court charged in connection with the assault. Richard and Michael Newman were remanded in custody, until March 7, and Denis Holbrook was bailed to appear on April 1 *on condition he had no further dealings with the hunt* (he was seen out with them the following week!). Bail was believed to have been set at £5,000.

On **April 8** at Totton Magistrates Court Richard Newman (20) labourer, of Bush Farm, Minstead, Hants, admitted causing grievous bodily harm, another charge of assault and causing a breach of the peace (bop). He was given 6 months, suspended for two years, and bound over for 2 years. He was also fined £60 and ordered to pay £131 costs.

His brother Michael (18) admitted assault and 2 charges of bop. He was bound over for 2 years, fined £60 and ordered to pay £123 costs.

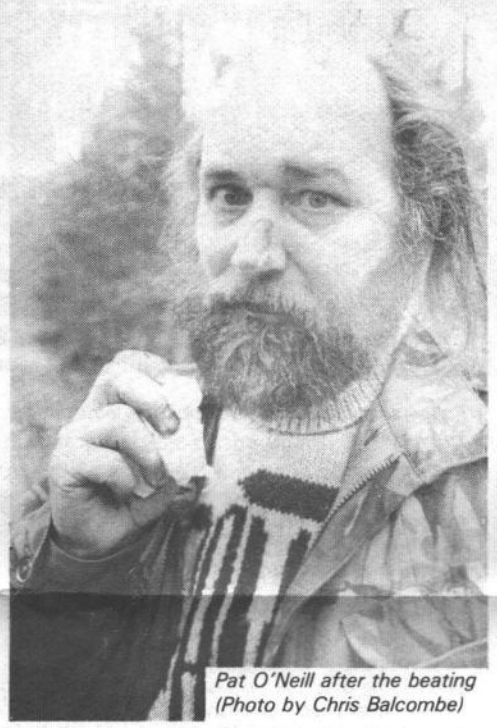
Denis Holbrook (20) of Triston Close, Calshot, Hants, admitted assault and causing a bop. He was remanded on bail for a social report.

Denis Light (31) of Ferndown, Dorset, admitted causing a bop, was given an absolute discharge and bound over for 2 years.

John Ship (58) of Shaldon Close, Lordswood, Southampton, admitted stealing a hunting horn. He was fined £10 and bound over for 2 years. He was ordered to pay £16 costs.

Derek Massey, defence counsel, said "If citizens are deliberately obstructed, threatened and assaulted while engaged in hunting—a lawful pursuit—they're asking for trouble".

Newman admitted that he'd been drinking port and gin and *had been told by a huntsman* that they were having a "lot of trouble with the antis". He said "I just wanted to scare him (Pat). I kicked him once then ran away because I was frightened as he was bigger than me".



*Pat O'Neill after the beating (Photo by Chris Balcombe)*

As a result of this drunken thug's actions in carrying out the hunt's dirty work for them Pat's jaw was wired up for 5 weeks, during which time he could only take liquids.

### SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

There are three ways in which this violence can be halted depending upon how the hunters, the police and parliament react.

As far as **The Hunters** are concerned there appears to be little hope.

**Shooting Times has now called bloodsport adherents to stop their violence "at once" saying that "it plays into the hands of the enemy . . . providing them with a means to call for an end to all field sports".**

**These bigots see their violence as retaliatory saying that "aggression has been the mark of the hunt saboteur", and continue, "there is a point beyond which even the most placid and reticent of individuals will be provoked and** *may lash out in desperation.* **We have no sympathy with their whines when their victims turn on them".**

**ST also have the gall to tell their readership that both the BFSS and MFHA "have constantly warned against violence". In fact both these organisations have condoned criminal actions against sabs by financing the legal costs of those (pitifully few) hunt supporters who get prosecuted.**

We challenge both organisations to prove that they have done anything at all to help curb the violence. They are now fully aware that the end is in sight for their grisly sports and, true to their desperado tradition, seem intent on seeing a sab killed in the field by their members. The BFSS has actually moved to a new siege HQ at 59 Kennington Road, London, where it clearly intends to see its miserable existence out safe in the shadow of neighbouring Kennington police station, following a number of break-ins at its old Victoria offices.

There is still some hope with individual hunt masters though—not all appear as hell bent on violence as their parent bodies in Kennington and Cirencester. In February Tim Asplin and 3 other members of the Essex Union FH agreed to meet HSA Chairperson Bob August, LACS committee member Dick Course and 2 sabs from the East London HSA, their main protagonists. Two police officers attended the meeting at which a mutual decision was made to quell violence on either side. Incidents will now be referred back either to Mr Asplin or to the E. London group, hopefully in an effort to prevent their re-occurance.

A similar meeting was arranged last year between Manchester sabs and Chester City police in which it was agreed that if sabs pre-warned the police about demos they wouldn't be hassled by pro-hunt local police officers.

We welcome such meetings if they do lead to a reduction in violence, but we stress that any agreements so made will not be allowed to compromise our use of standard sab tactics.

As far as **The Police** are concerned they'll simply have to learn a bit more professionalism and cast aside their prejudices about us. Many of them see us simply as temporary irritants out to cause trouble on their patch. They must remember that there is no law against sabbing hunts, just as there is no law giving hunters carte blanche to kill animals for amusement and that hunters are just as likely, indeed much more likely, to commit breaches of the peace as sabs.

As far as **Parliament** is concerned there doesn't seem to be much hope with Willie Whitelaw as Home Secretary. Following the assault on Pat O'Neill the LACS kindly petitioned him, as did HSA member John Cowen, to see that violence against peaceful demonstrators is stopped. We are still awaiting his reply.

Following the Swaffham violence Labour MP Joan Maynard, Vice President of the Agricultural & Allied Workers Union, asked the Min of Ag "in the light of recent incidents, including those at Swaffham" whether he would reconsider his decision not to introduce a Bill to abolish Hare Coursing. Mr Whitelaw, in the Minister's absence, replied "I have been asked to reply. No". Mr Whitelaw is, or has been, a member of the BFSS.

So it looks as if our best bet lies with **The Police.**

We are taking steps to arrange meetings with Chief Constables to put our side of the story to them.

An authorative, but not overbearing, police presence on a hunt can be the best assurance of non-violence.

The alternative would appear to be violence against hunt property of the type meted out to the Whaddon Chase in late February when approximately £1,000 worth of damage was done to hunt vehicles by unknown people, using acid and cutters, on a midweek hunt. We certainly don't want HSA members being forced into adopting those sort of tactics. The ball's now seemingly in the court of individual hunt masters and the police.