SUPPLEMENT Autumn 1980

WHALE WAR

Despite hopes for a moratorium on all commercial whaling or, at least, sperm whaling, the outcome of this year's 32nd International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Brighton was as predictable as ever, with a reduced quota being the only sop to the conservationist lobby.

Last year's mass death sentence of 15,883 was reduced slightly to 13,753 of which 1,190 can "legally" be sperm whales (4,250 last year), despite the fact that computer information shows that sperm whales could soon be hunted into extinction. This figure is split between 890 in the NW Pacific (Japanese killing ground) and 300 in the southern hemisphere. No more can be killed in the N. Atlantic—pity the whales don't know that!

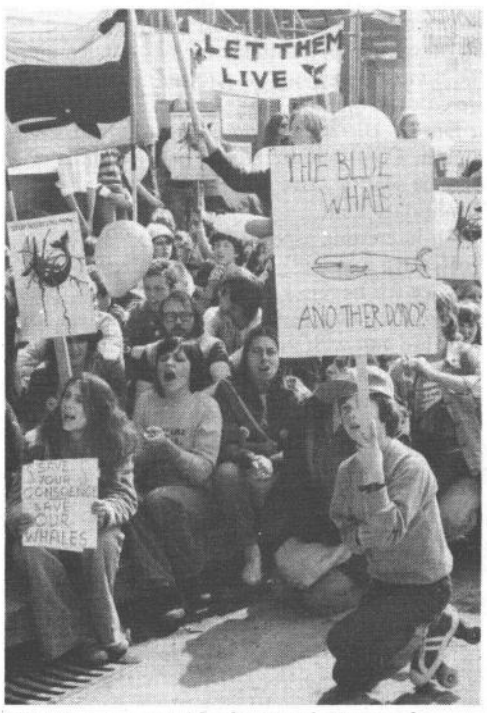
The muddle-headed reasoning of IWC members was best shown up by the US. Despite being the proposer of the ban on commercial whaling it pleaded for the Alaskan Eskimos to be allowed to continue killing Bowhead whales even though there are only an estimated 2,000 left alive. The Americans' argument, endorsed by Jerry Wiggin, Britain's junior Agriculture Minister, was that Bowhead whales are essential for the Eskimo economy and culture. Now where have we heard that before?

As soon as it became known that this year's IWC meeting was to be held in Brighton the local activist animal rights groups formed themselves into the Brighton Anti-Whaling Co-ordinating Committee (BAWCC). As previous years' militant activities at IWC meetings had been condemned by conservation groups BAWCC (consisting of HSA, Friends of the Earth (FOE), Ecology Party, Vegetarian Soc., Compassion in World Farming and Animal Aid members) unanimously passed a resolution "actively supporting the use of non-violent direct action".

Dozens of animal welfare organisations were asked to help finance this year's campaign. The only response came from the HSA, and FOE. Despite a reduced budget leaflets and posters were printed, accommodation was found for all those wishing to stay for the week and entertainment was provided on most nights—even animal rightists are human!

Ranging from 30 to 1,000, the demonstrators were present every day outside the Metropole Hotel, appearing in different guises and using varying diversions to attract the public and petition delegates.

While the first round of talks were taking place a Whale Raft Race had to be abandoned due to appalling weather conditions. However, the evening saw a free disco with 150 people partaking and the day brought good anti-whaling publicity. The next day (20th July) Greenpeace held a boatrace at Brighton Marina and, in the evening, charged £3 a head for a concert by the Alex Harvey Band. We understand that Mr. Harvey turned up 2½ hours late and was too unfit to perform!



The sit-down outside the Hotel Metropole, Brighton.

On the 21st 400 people assembled outside the hotel and banners were strung from scaffolding surrounding the building in the half hour before the police arrived, only to be removed by security guards. At 9.30 am 6 divers, led by a wet-suited Tim Clark of FOE, emerged from the sea to deliver a letter to the IWC from the "world's whales". But despite having observer status Tim was refused entry to the meeting—a peaceful sit-down was staged, there was one arrest, for "obstruction". It was also the day when the proposal for a moratorium on commercial whaling was lost—13 for: 9 against (thus failing by one vote to meet the necessary 75% majority). The nine were Japan, Russia, Peru, Spain, Chile, Iceland, Korea, S. Africa and Canada (the last two being non-whaling nations). Norway and Brazil, both whaling nations, abstained (which is as good as a "no" vote); strangely, Brazil intends to cease whaling in 1981.



Two sabs brave high seas at Brighton during the eventually abandoned raft race.

For probably the first time the press were being kept fully informed of the meeting's decisions and intrigues. Usually this info is restricted by the IWC, all observers at these meetings having to sign a written statement in which, amongst other things, they have to promise not to reveal which countries have voted which way, not to attribute statements to the delegates who made them, nor issue quotes from IWC draft documents. The source of this year's leak of confidential information is still being sought by the IWC and, reportedly, some disgruntled conservationist observers.

The proposed sperm whale moratorium wasn't discussed until the Thursday (24th), Wednesday being wasted away by a debate on, believe it or not, what a whale is! The matter seemed finally resolved by an eminent Canadian scientist, "White whales are not whales, neither are narwhals—they are dolpins. Dolphins are toothed whales (i.e. sperm whales . . . pigmy sperm whales . . . which are not whales . . . are various dolphins, porpoises and whales). Baleen whales are large whales, and all are whales, except pigmy right whales and sometimes, minke whales. Bottle-nosed whales are sometimes whales and are the same size as beaked whales (which are not whales) but both are toothed whales (which are mostly not whales)",

It is now assumed that the IWC knows what a whale is but, in case not, Peter Cook and John Cleese's advice (as given at "The Secret Policeman's Ball") that "a whale is an insect that eats bananas" has been relayed to them!

The Seychelles delegate first proposed a moratorium on sperm whaling to take effect a year hence. The vote failed to meet the required 75% majority, gaining only 14 for and 6 against with 4 abstentions. An "immediate" moratorium vote was then taken—it failed by the same margin. Immediate wrath was aimed at Canada whose delegates, led by the notorious Mr. Mercer, again voted "no" but who could have so easily have reversed the outcome. Demonstrators burned the Canadian flag outside the hotel.

On the same Thursday the pirate whalers had a major victory. Without a single dissenting vote the IWC passed a quota of 510 Bryhde whales for the Western N. Pacific despite the fact that they know Japan is illegally importing, via Korea, between 500 and 1,000 Bryhde whales killed by the 4-vessel, non-IWC member country, Taiwan.

The Japanese delegate, Mr. Yonazawa, assured the Commission that such imports have now been stopped. He made the same assurances last year, since when 300 tons of whale meat was seized in the Japanese port of Shimonoseki. After investigation by the Japanese government it was sent back to its Korean originators—in other words they returned seized contraband to its shippers.

On Friday nine hooded and chained figures emerged from the entrance of the Metropole, each carrying a flag of the nations which had voted against the ban on commercial whaling. The flags were later burned.

On the Friday evening, when all quotas were finally decided, the demonstrators decided upon the following press release—"the whale will become extinct in the next few years if drastic action isn't taken to stop the whaling fleets. We therefore call upon all individuals and animal welfare organisations to actively and financially support the "Sea Shepherd Fund"* and any others that intend to sink whaling ships".

BAWCC would especially like to thank Friends of the Earth whose new activist policy won them a lot of new friends and all those who came down for the week—including HSA groups from Glasgow, Newcastle, East London, Wolverhampton and Birmingham—and those that provided accommodation for them. Also those who ran the "Whale Shop" and operated the video and to the Alternative British Army for anti-whaling and hunt-sab songs!

* Sea Shepherd Fund, 3 Rosehill, Torrance, Glasgow G64 4EW.

STOP PRESS

We have heard from BAWCC that since the demonstrations they have found themselves quite heavily in debt. They are disgusted at the attitude of organisations like Greenpeace who took credit for the "Whale Week" and received large donations from the public, but still refuse to financially assist those that actually organised the demos.

The IWC plan to meet in Brighton again next year—BAWCC are happy to organise and co-ordinate again but only if the major a/w groups contribute financially. They feel that without their enthusiasm it's unlikely that the IWC will meet any opposition.

We are told that a signed letter from a large number of BAWCC members has been sent to Greenpeace Ltd. In it they condemn entirely the attitude of Greenpeace during the Week by claiming the organisation, their total lack of financial aid and of the activities of one of their heirachy whom, they say, did nothing the whole week except try to provoke fights with the demonstrators outside the Metropole.

THE FUTURE

The 24 member nation IWC is a very unstable organisation. It's as toothless as the United Nations when it comes to the crunch. Even though the whaling nations are outnumbered 9-5 on the Commission they invariably get their way in the end—i.e. the killing of whales.

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

There's always the threat of withdrawal by the hardliners to draw concessions from the non-whalers—this year the Japs threatened withdrawal if commercial whaling was banned. "Fortunately", some conservationists might argue, it wasn't. If it had have been Japan would presumably have stuck to its threat and so become just another pirate whaling nation with obligations to no-one (certainly not the whales) other than its bloody brained whaling crews.

If these withdrawal threats are taken seriously, as they appear to be, can there be any real point behind the moves being proposed by some conservationists to get more non-whaling nations on the IWC in an attempt to boost the chances of moratoria moves?

The IWC has no authority at all over pirate whaling.

QUOTAS

Even the quotas set by the IWC upon its member nations are not worth the paper they're written on. According to Greenpeace, Spain, an IWC member since 1979, has been hunting fin whales "without restriction" despite the agreed quota of 143. She's also been using cold grenade harpoons on *all* whale species despite the fact that these harpoons are only

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TROUBLE BREWING

HSA members not impartial to an occasional tot or two might like to know that the following brewers are, or have recently been Trade Members of the BFSS.

Matthew Brown—Lakeland Lager Brewery, Workington, Cumbria
Greene King—The Brewery, Biggleswade, Beds
Sanderson—Hope & Anchor Brewery, Morpeth, Northumberland
Sam Smith—The Old Brewery, Tadcaster, N. York
T&R Theakston—The Brewery, Masham, Ripon, N. Yorks
Vaux—The Brewery, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear
Wadworth—Northgate Brewery, Devizes, Wilts
Workington Brewery—John Peel Brewery, Workington, Cumbria

The people who run these breweries support bloodsports. Alternatives exist!

We also understand that King & Barnes and Shepherd Neame have hunting connections.

CROCODILE TEARS

In lamenting the disappearance of the corncrake from our fields DJ Watkins-Pitchford (Shooting Times' "BB") remarks in his autobiography ("Ramblings of a Sportsman-Naturalist"), "The last corncrake I actually saw was shot by the gun next to me during a partridge shoot in about 1934".

BABRAHAM BLOWN

On 29th June, the day after the HSA AGM, 120 activists, including many HSA members, converged on Cambridge for a precisely coordinated assault on the Institute of Animal Physiology, at nearby Babraham. (Known generally as Frankenstein Farm because of the genetic experiments conducted there.) The raid, codenamed CB/1, was organised by the Northern & Eastern Animal Liberation Leagues in great secrecy to avoid police tip-offs (in the event they were given a week's notice of the demo by a spy).

While Group B kept the police guessing in a "dummy" demo 6 miles away outside Cambridge University laboratories, Group A, consisting of 70 activists wearing gloves and masks, stormed into the Government research unit at Babraham, precisely at 1pm. 15 animal houses were entered and valuable photos and film taken which showed pigs with electrodes in their skulls and sheep with viewing panels pushed through their sides. Film showing a genetic cross-bred creature, half horse/half goat was later destroyed by the police. The stench was appalling.

Group B had meanwhile arrived to picket the place. Dr. Barry Cross, the centre's director, arrived and was abused and punched in the face by a distraught lady. The police and a small SPG unit arrived. In a fit of pique they arrested 18 activists and charged them under the Burglary Act with going intent to commit damage. One was charged with obstruction. They were released on bail at 10.30pm.

A month later following their remand at South Cambridgeshire magistrates court, 30 demonstrators marched to the centre and burned an effigy of Dr. Cross after a "people's court" had sentenced him "to death".

On August 27th all charges were suddenly dropped in favour of each defendant's being bound over to keep the peace for a year in the sum of £50.

The demonstration resulted in good television publicity with the film taken inside the institute being shown on Newsnight and Nationwide as well as local and national News programmes.

15 weeks later the N. & E.A.L.L. struck again, this time at Sheffield University's notorious Faculty of Medicine's Field Lab. At 1 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 12, 100 activists stormed the animal torture lab.

At least 30 dogs were seen including Alsatians, Collies, Labradors and mongrels, mostly supplied by a shady Irish dealer called McGill who operates in London under the pseudonym McCill.

8 dogs were liberated including one which had been undergoing an experiment but which is now well on the way to recovery.

The liberators left £1000 worth of damage behind their 11-minute raid.

4 people were pulled in for questioning and detained up to 28 hours following dawn raids by the police. Charges are believed to have been made.

"GANGSTERS OF THE SEA"

Dexter Cate, Hawaiian representative of the New York based Fund for Animals, was recently charged with freeing 250 dolphins which had been trapped by Japanese fisherman at Iki Island—he received a 6 month sentence suspended for 3 years. He said he was willing to pay for the cost of the rope which he'd cut but not for the dolphins—the Japs estimated their potential damage at $400,000.

In March 4,000 dolphins massed around Iki Island forcing 400 fishing boats back to port empty-handed. Just 24 hours earlier the fishermen had stabbed and hacked 200 dolphin to death after trapping them in nets. The island's 4,500 fishermen use waters believed to contain 35,000 dolphin, whom they call "gansters of the sea" because they believe they deplete the marine stock. The dead ones are processed for use as fertilisers and pig food.

Tens of thousands more dolphins are similarly killed each year off Thatsuno Island, again in S. Japan and so crazy is the Japanese culture (so readily defended by some Western conservationist groups) that a Buddhist priest actually goes to the island to pray for the dolphins' souls. A neighbouring fishermen's union at Katsumoto has erected a memorial stone engraved to the memory of the dolphins.

Despite the attitude of the local fishermen (some of whom, no doubt, operate from the neighbouring appropriately named "Fukue" Island) the Jap Fisheries Agency, in a move to curb some of the international outcry, has started testing a new sonic device, costing $236,000, to scare dolphins away. It's not expected to work.

Meanwhile, while we're rightly condemning these marine butchers, let's not forget our own untroubled shark fishers, operating mainly out of West Country harbours. They do it solely for sport—once back in port the carcases are weighed and photographed with the grinning oaf who caught them, before being discarded. They aren't eaten.

And let's also not forget that more dolphins are killed by American tuna fishers than any other nation, including the Japanese. So if you (or your cat) eat tuna you're part of the problem!

GANNET HUNTING

Every September a dozen men set sail in a small fishing boat from the Isle of Lewis to the rocky, uninhabited outcrop of Sula Sgeir to maintain a "tradition" that dates back to the twelfth century—Gannett Hunting.

There for 2-3 weeks depending on the weather they will kill several thousand small gannett. They pluck and salt the seabirds—protected in the rest of Britain—on the spot before returning south to their home port of Ness. Then the gannetts will be sold on Lewis.

But the proposed Wildlife and Countryside Bill could change all this because it requires individual hunters to be licenced in advance. The object is to comply with an EEC Convention aimed at conserving wildlife. The hunters are angry (the usual response to any humane legislation).

The RSPB has not condemned the hunt once undertaken throughout the islands. The hunters catch the birds with long poles and a small hook.

The Scottish Office commented that it was well aware of the traditions of the men of Ness. "We certainly have no wish to break this" they said.

IT'S THE SAME THE WHOLE WORLD OVER

AUSTRALIA—For a 30 Dollar licence fee and a bunch of wildlife tags anybody can go Kangaroo shooting. A nice little sideline for the hunters is that they can get 18 cents a kilogram for Kangaroo meat.

LEBANON—Thousands of migrating storks were massacred recently as they flew on their long Spring journey from Southern Africa. Killed with machine guns and pistols the beaks are collected and the inedible bodies thrown away. The world population of the Stork is only 1/5th of what it was 30 years ago.

FRANCE—A recent government report, months in the making, has concluded that there is much unnecessary suffering inflicted on animals in France. The report proposed harsher penelties for cruelty to animals and that there should be a large reduction in the amount of animals used in scientific research.

MADRID, SPAIN—Englishman Frank Evans, 27, of Victoria Road, Salford returned to the bullring at Alborava on Spain's South-eastern coast. He was applauded by the crowd for his kill and awarded both ears of the bull. Afterwards Evans said that the bull was a "bad one" because it kept going for him instead of the cape. Evans is returning to the ring later this year for two more fights.

ITALY—The Radical Party is campaigning for a referendum on the abolition of hunting as a pastime. Although the pro-shooting lobbies in Italy are very powerful and wealthy and the major political parties are unsure of their position on hunting the abolitionists are confident of success. They have already collected 850,000 signatures for a referendum (350,000 more than is needed) and are expecting a large amount of support from women for the ban who are tired of the traditional all male enclave of hunting.

IVORY COAST, AFRICA—Elephants are being slaughtered for the ivory by gangs of poachers using machine guns and are poisoning fruit destined for elephants with battery acid.

PARIS, FRANCE—Brigitte Bardot and two French weeklies have been found guilty of libelling Professor Henri Sarles, a Marseilles Research Director. They were fined 2,000 Francs. BB had called Sarles "a torturer who was causing dogs to suffer just to increase his fame".

SIBERA—Professional wolf hunters in Siberia are so badly paid they have taken to breeding wolves and selling the cubs for bounties to the government.

SPAIN—Cockerels are ritually slaughtered in Guarrate in honour of village youths called up to serve in the armed forces. The dead birds are said to absolve the sins of the youths.

UNITED STATES of AMERICA—Two white men in Oroville, California who stalked and killed a black man because they failed to find a deer or even a cow to shoot on a hunting trip pleaded guilty to 1st degree murder.

James T. McCarter 20 and Marvin D. Noor 19 told the court they murdered Jimmy Lee Campbell 22 of Chico with a 30-3 calibre deer rifle. They admitted they went to Chico deliberately to kill a black man.

Friends of Animals Inc. have launched a world wide campaign against the Leghold (Gin) Trap. Full details from Friends of Animals

IN THE COURTS

RYE THREE APPEAL

The appeals lodged against their binding over orders by sabs Keith Bird, Melvyn Dallas and Vince Smith have been heard in Lewes Crown Court and could lead to changes in the law.

The three were bound over to keep the peace after appearing as prosecution witnesses in March against 2 hunt followers who had assaulted them. The sabs were never charged with any offence but simply fell foul of the notorious 1361 Justices of the Peace Act. At the whim of a reactionary bunch of Rye magistrates they were "bound over" to keep the peace for a year in the sum of £50—precisely what their attackers had been given. Keith and Melvyn refused, were sent to prison for 6 months, changed their minds a day (and much publicity) later, were released and immediately all three lodged an appeal against the order (full story HOWL 15).

In July Judge Granville Wingate upheld Vince's appeal completely and reduced the 12 months orders against Keith and Melvyn to 6 months. He felt it was unfair that they should be given exactly the same punishment as their assailants. His decision in Vince's case appears to have been based on the fact that Vince had been carrying no sabotage equipment on that day and was, at that time, not a paid-up member of the HSA. Similarly his decision to leave Keith and Melvyn still bound over appears to be based on the facts that they had been carrying equipment (sprays and a hunting horn) and, during the magistrates' court hearing, had admitted that their "purpose was to disrupt the hunt" and that "what they do is bound to be provocative".

There's a lesson here for any other sabs caught up in legal proceedings in the future. A sab's purpose is to save the lives of hunted animals and bring to the public's attention the wanton cruelty involved in hunting. It's the hunters who are "provocative" and who "disrupt" the peace of the countryside, not us.

The case was without precedent in English legal history—no similar case was found in the law books by the lawyers involved during two full days of argument. As a direct result of the case the Secretary of State ordered an inquiry into the power of magistrates under the 1361 Act.

HUNT SUPPORTERS FINED £2,800 FOR ASSAULTING SABS

Yes, it's not a printing error! In August seven supporters of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire foxhunt were found guilty at Falkirk Sheriff Court and each fined £300 for assaulting a sab plus £100 for breaching the peace.

The assaulted sab was 15 year old James Alexander of the Central Scotland HSA. He was hit about the head and body with a stick during an ambush by the hunt in March, during which several other sabs were hit and damage caused to their van.

The seven hunters—Alexander (54), Derek (22) and Lorna Smith (20), all of South Lodge, Glenbrae, Falkirk; William Haddow (43) of 229 Glendevon Park, Winchburgh; Thomas Brash (32) of The Cottage, Burnbridge, Manuel, by Linlithgow; Andrew Crowe (25) of Crownerland Farm, Linlithgow and Malcolm Dick (22) of Main Street, Kirknewton—told the sabs "we're not hunting fox today, we're hunting you".

Crowe, a well-known local rally driver, was driving one of the Land Rovers which blocked the sabs' van in.

They originally faced 11 charges arising from the incident but technical problems led to 6 charges being dropped at an earlier hearing. At the main trial they were found not guilty on 2 other assault charges and a further charge of assault was found not proven. During the trial prosecution witness, sab Lorraine McGhee, whose fiancee James Alexander had been hit 40 times, astutely announced that anyone who engaged in foxhunting needed "psychiatric treatment".

Sheriff Isobel Poole held each of the 7 thugs equally guilty. They were defended by a QC named Taylor.

Master of the hunt, Tom Boland, an Edinburgh builder (whose cement mixers presumably suffer terribly from fox depredation!), ever ready to help his friends out in true sporting cavalier style said after the case, "It must be remembered that these people were not members of the hunt, but supporters". And if they're not hunt members why is the hunt reportedly paying off their fines, Tom?

The heavy fines in this case are a virtual milestone in anti-bloodsports history. English and Welsh courts please note!

DAVE GETS DONE

Following his arrest on a Midlands foxhunt in November, HSA Membership Secretary Dave Wetton appeared at Worcester Crown Court in June charged with two counts of "assault occasioning actual bodily harm on two members of the Croome & West Warwicks FH—John Firkin and Patricia Aldersey and "having an offensive weapon". He was arrested simply because Firkin pointed him out to the police as being one of his assailants (he'd been assaulted by sabs retaliating against his own assault on them and the way that he had reportedly ill-treated his horse—Dave wasn't one of them). Dave claimed that he'd been deliberately ridden down by Aldersey and admitted to the police that he'd poked her with a stick as a result—he had the stick as a defence against hunt heavies armed with sticks and clubs—the police arrested none of them of course.

The trial was expected to last at least a week. However, on the day, the prosecuting barrister offered a deal—they'd drop the Firkin charge if Dave pleaded guilty to the a.b.h. charge on Aldersey. Dave at first refused to do a deal but after two hours to-ing and fro-ing between the barristers and subtle asides between the Judge, Blenner Hasset, and the Clerk of the Court, changed his mind as it became clear that, legally speaking, he was technically guilty of a.b.h. on Aldersey as he'd been amongst others who'd hit her hard enough to bruise her after she'd allegedly ridden into more sabs and whipped others. The judge had begun to make it clear that he'd direct the jury to bring in a "guilty" verdict on this charge. He hinted that a jail sentence would then be considered if Dave went for a full trial and was found "guilty"—especially if found guilty on the Firkin charge (the deal having been dropped) as Firkin had claimed that Dave struck him in the face with the stick.

There was a brief hearing in which pictures of the hunt's heavies armed with stakes were shown to the judge and evidence of police helping the hunt to block roads produced. Dave's pretty clear record was mentioned—one "binding over" in 15 years of HSA (for disrupting a coursing meeting).

The judge fined Dave £150 on the Aldersey a.b.h. charge and £150 on the "offensive weapon" one. He was also ordered to forfeit the £400 paid towards legal aid on top of the £200 odd that he'd had to pay on the preliminary magistrates court hearings. Dave did have a go at the judge for not condemning the hunt violence but he retorted that they weren't the ones on trial!

Dave is currently paying off the fine at £50 a month. Contributions would be welcome and may be sent to Dave c/o PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent.

An interesting aspect of the case was the "offensive weapon" one. Apparently the only defence for having a 'weapon' in a public place is if you're being attacked, virtually in fear for your life and with no means of escape. Do you consider hunt heavies in fear for their lives? Well how come the police invariably allow them to swagger around with stakes, otter poles, iron bars etc. unchallenged?



Photo courtesy of Findlay's News Agency

The charges for damaging the Central Scotland Group's van were dropped due to a "technicality"!

SPRAY AWAY

5 members of the NW HSA were each bound over for 6 months in the sum of £50 by Chester magistrates in June. The magistrates were brought "near to tears" when a spray was used in court as part of the prosecution evidence, although it took two lengthy sprays to do it. The 5, Darren Rigg, Michael Goodwill, Paul Newton, Craig Grocott and Dave Callender were in court because they'd sprayed the ground around the Royal Rock Beagles van last November—the prosecution alleged that they sprayed the hounds through a van window.

As a result of this case, a product of excessive police zeal in looking for any sort of arrests on the day—the original charge had been "suspicion of criminal damage" (to the hounds)—many of the NW area sabs are now loathe to re-enter the agreement which local groups had with Chester police last year.

Inc., 11 West 60th Street, New York 10023 United States of America. The gin trap is manufactured in Britain (although it's illegal to use them here) and exported all over the world!
SOUTH AFRICA—Fishermen Mannetjies Binneman walking home with a supposedly dead Hammerhead shark intended for his dinner was surprised when the shark wriggled out of his grasp and attacked him. Binneman needed emergency treatment after the attack.

HARE-BRAINED

Two quotes noted by Time's Ken Banta, whilst out with the Christ Church & Farley Hill Beagles: "No true sportsman goes out to see the blood. It's bloody but it's not cruel—it's a way of living in the country—the hunter and the hunted. I'm a hunter, but I'm also a conservationist. The two go together." (James Hayward, undergrad master of the hunt) . . . and first-time Francesca Barnes 21 . . . "It's absolutely super. I feel absolutely scintillating. It's incredibly exciting, incredibly good exercise! Is there any better way to spend a Saturday?" . . . Suggestions may be sent to Francesca c/o the Kennels at Stanton St. John, Oxford.

GETTING THE BIRD

2,000 guns took to the moors on the "Glorious Twelfth" of August, the official opening of the grouse shooting season. For five days shooting behind butts a gunman can expect to pay £1,000. The 'walk-up' variety may cost £600 for 5 days.

Shooting didn't start until September on some Scottish moors where birds have succumbed to "louping ill", a tick-borne disease which progressively affects the spinal cord and brain, rendering the birds more susceptible to predators and the weather. The tick is carried by hares, sheep and deer—enough excuse perhaps for the wholesale slaughter of these creatures in "conservationist" defence of the grouse.

The delayed start to shooting was to give the birds more time to mature.

Prince Charles however, is believed to have been up bright and early on the 12th to blast away at birds on the Earl of Strathmore's Wemmergill Moor, Co. Durham.

The press coverage of the Twelfth included sab activity but concentrated again on the annual race to get the first grouse to southern dinner plates.

For the 3rd year running The Onslow Arms, Clandon, near Guildford, Surrey won, serving up grouse before noon. The owner, Alan Peck, employed the resources of fast cars, planes and the Army's "Red Devils" parachute team at a cost of several hundred pounds.

Another "Red Devil" paratrooper injured his ankle parachuting down with another grouse at Basingstoke. A Ministry of Defence spokesperson denied that taxpayers' money had financed the jumps.

The race was condemned by Egon Ronay, gourmet and twit, as "gastronomically barbaric". "It is not a civilised thing to eat freshly killed grouse." A sportsman felt the same way—"normal people don't eat freshly shot grouse. It should be hung for several days". We've always felt that 15 minutes is usually enough for most grouse shooters!

Allegations made by a Lancashire bird protection group that rare birds of prey are being illegally slaughtered on local moors to protect grouse for hunters' guns have yet to be denied by the local gamekeeping fraternity.

Carcases of rare hawk chicks with their heads pulled off have been found by the North-West Protection Group. Wounded parent harriers had been left to circle above their dead chicks.

Boot prints were spotted near the vacated nest of the only peregrine falcon to nest in the area in the last 30 years. It's assumed that the falcon was shot. Another two falcons were found dead nearby—one had been shot, the other was lying by poisoned bait.

The N.W. Water Authority, who own the land, are looking into the matter.

HSA AGM 1980

This year's AGM was held in Derby in June and attracted 172 members.

Bob August (Chairperson) started the ball rolling before handing over to Dave Wetton (Secretary) who gave a run-down on the year's activities. We now had approx. 3,000 paid-up members and were still recruiting at the rate of 4 or 5 a day. Topics discussed by Dave included sales goods, printing, the on-going computerisation of the membership, court cases and HSA's relationships with the police.

He thanked all those volunteers who'd helped maintain the effectiveness of the HSA throughout the year and urged all present not to rely on the committee to do *all* the work—the more members who get involved in informative letter-writing, public relations work etc. the better it'll be for the animals we defend.

Aubrey Thomas (Treasurer) presented a very comprehensive financial report which showed a net income for the year of £18,653.99 and a net expenditure of £17,532.62. With £3,199.81 in the bank, total assets, including stock amounted to £9,413.62. Outstanding loans totalled £993.70.

Chris Williamson (Press Officer) reported another good year's news coverage. As usual the "Sun" defended the thugs who beat up sabs at Swaffham and the "Daily Star" called us "maniacs" for demonstrating against Prince Charles bloodthirsty ways, although usually their coverage, and the rest of the national press, had been fair. The 3 stories which gained most media coverage were the grouse shoot disruptions, the Swaffham coursing disruption and the 6 month sentence given to 2 south-coast sabs who refused to be "bound over" (see this issue).

Flod Pamment (Tactics Officer) stressed the importance of sabbing cub hunts when the young hounds are most susceptible to horn calls and false scents. Joint hits had been effective in the main in saving animals' lives. More beagle hunts were hit—coursing events still required a large number of sabs present.



HSA Committe member Lynne Chamberlain netted us a good number of new members recently when she featured in an article in "19" magazine in which she explained our work. Lynne's also a secretary at the LACS office.

Photo by Janette Beckman
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Stag hunting is perhaps the most difficult type to sab but West Country sabs have been effective against the Quantock SH in particular. Groups in geographical regions have come together to form "federations"—these have helped increase the flow of information and catch hunts that had previously escaped sabs' attentions. A new, more comprehensive, sab tactics sheet has been drawn up and is now available. It has been agreed to drop "sab special" from the list of sab materials due to the risk, however small, of injuring hounds' eyesight.

The priority on a hunt is to stick with the hounds, *not* get involved in discussions with supporters or police. Flod also stressed the importance of hitting mink, coypu and otter hunts during the summer months, despite the difficulty in finding them.

The new committee was introduced after lunch. It consists of Bob August, Lynne Chamberlain, Bob Deacon, John Hale, Miriam Hollis, Stewart McIntyre, Flod Pamment, Trevor Scott, Aubrey Thomas and Chris Williamson.

Outgoing Hon. Sec. Dave Wetton was given a standing ovation and was presented with a set of fine cast bronze vixen and cubs for his work over the past decade.

Clive Hollands (Sec. Scottish Society for the Abolition of Vivisection and Sec. of GEECAP—the organisation formed to put animals into politics during the last election) gave a talk in which he attacked the "animal lover" approach to animal welfare. He detailed the work of GECCAP and stressed the need for constant pressure and co-operation with other a/w groups if we are to achieve our ends sooner rather than later.

Ian Pedler urged closer links with the League Against Cruel Sports and more joint hits against the Quantock Staghounds who were now close to financial collapse.

Arthur Latham (ex-Labour MP and renown animal rightist) expressed his support for militant action. He felt that it was sometimes less important to erect milestones in the battle's path than to rip up the road entirely. He attacked the invariable partisan approach of the police and magistrates when dealing with sabs. He also attacked typical British hypocrisy when it came to matters of animal rights and urged sabs to remember next time they go out that they're acting on behalf of many more people because they're fighting to beat the beasts on horseback.

The meeting ended with an open session which concentrated on the need for more legal advice and investigation, tactics, hunt violence, police attitudes, possible purchase of HSA sabbing and recruiting vehicles and the old chestnut of whether the HSA should change its name—this was heavily defeated.

A well-attended disco at Derby Rugby Club completed a very successful and positive day. Thanks to all those involved with the organisation, especially Diane Rands (Derby) for providing an amazing vegan spread at lunch-time.

GADZOOKS

Arch fox killer and Master of the Queen's Horse, the Duke of Beaufort, also happens to be President of Battersea Dogs Home.

During the war, whilst serving in the Army, Master (as he's known to his fans) once phoned Badminton from London to be told that everyone was safe but that a German bomber, returning from Bristol docks had dumped its load on a copse quite near the house.

"Good God" exploded His Grace. "There are cubs in there you know!"

COURSER CHARGED

Following the violent scenes at the annually held coursing event held near Swaffham, Norfolk last November, where two sabs needed hospital treatment (see HOWL 15) Captain Henry Birkbeck, landowner, former High Sherriff and magistrate was charged with criminal damage to a sab's car.

On the 24th June, Birkbeck, looking slightly shaken, was brought before fellow magistrates at Swaffham to answer the charge. The police, who had brought the charge, were unhappy about two of their witnesses (sabs) who hadn't turned up but nevertheless decided to proceed, feeling that the court wouldn't grant an adjournment.

Robin Smith, the owner of the damaged car, was cross-examined by defence council Atkins for just less than an hour. During this time he dragged up evidence about miscellaneous hunting incidents involving Robin, including court proceedings where names were never published and the length of time (to the month) he'd been a member of HSA.

Detailed maps of Birkbeck's estate were produced in an attempt to prove that the car was in the middle of one of his fields. Atkins, failing to get what he wanted from Robin and his brother lost his professional demeanour with "You Smith brothers have been trying to 'get at' Capt. Birkbeck for the last couple of years and now you are resorting to fabrication to frame this respectable gentleman".

Eventually Capt. Harry was put in the box and his "distinguished" career was repeatedly brought up. He claimed he hadn't kneed or kicked the car door but later, under cross-examination stated, that he may have touched it in the alleged ensuing brawl. He attacked the BBC and ITV for refusing to get off his land and implored the court to accept that they too would have thrown away Smith's keys.

After a 20 min. recess the court found insufficient evidence to prove the case but refused to pay Capt. Harry's costs, which were probably substantial.

Typically none of the more vicious assailants were charged.



Michael Goodwill, Dave Callender, Paul Newton, Darren Rigg and Craig Grocott after the trial. (see "Spray Away")

NO BUTS PLEASE

Two sabs, one of them Chris Williamson, HSA's Press Officer, were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage to shooting butts. Chris' arresting officer admitted having hunted otters and other Glossop policemen admitted going shooting. Paul Griffiths was thrown in a cell, told he'd be kept there for 3 days unless he confessed and denied access to a phone. He confessed. The criminal damage charge against Chris, who denied complicity throughout, was dropped.

Paul appeared at Glossop Magistrates Court in August and was ordered to pay £50 compensation and £28 costs.

Chris was then charged by Buxton police (who got him bound over last year for saying that sabs would be on the moors, on Radio Buxton) that, on this particular day, he "conducted himself in a disorderly, turbulent and offensive way", no less. The police case was so weak, including a gamekeeper witness who admitted having a courteous conversation with Chris, that Chris was found not guilty.

Paul would be grateful for contributions towards his costs, especially from those actually involved in demolishing the butts (c/o PO Box 19)

NICE FOR MICE

In July, members of the Animal Liberation Front freed 500 white mice from an Essex animal breeding centre, A Tuck & Sons. The mice were destined for laboratories at 30p each. The raiders were disturbed by security men before they could release guinea pigs and rats.

Previous raids at the same Hullbridge centre have included slashed tyres and an arson attack in August 1977 which caused £20,000 damage to property but no loss of life. Arrests were made but no proceedings were taken.

NON CO-OPERATION

The Co-op has recently been critisised for allowing hunting and shooting to take place on its vast estates up and down the country. It has been suggested that because the Co-op is primarily used by people with Socialist tendencies—most of whom are anti-bloodsports—they should cease to allow such practices.

A spokesperson said that the Co-op formed an integral part of the countryside and as such cannot forsee a total ban on hunting. A letter to the your local store might not prove amiss!

HUNT HAVOC

Huntsmen persistently claim to have total control over their hounds and, furthermore, are able to call them off a quarry with a quick blast on the horn. What follows is an example of what happened on just a few occasions in the latter half of last season when huntsmen up and down the country weren't quite quick enough!

In February a couple of **Cheshire** hounds got "burned" when they crossed the main Chester road and hit the main railway line where they finally failed to keep up with the pack—forever.

In March hounds belonging to the **Cury FH** careered through a villager's fruit and veg patch "flattening the brocolli and a couple of daffodils". A dispute then ensued via the local paper as the owner and a neighbour argued over the degree of damage caused—presumably one was pro and the other anti?

On the 15th of that month the **Enfield Chase** "lost" a foxhound when it, and a few others, tried to dodge traffic on the A1(M) near Knebworth House, Herts. The hunt tried blaming sabs but an independent witness later reported that he had seen the whole pack "riot" after a herd of muntjac deep (miniature species) one of which crossed the road followed by the hounds. He had also witnessed a huntsman finishing off the young dear which had also been struck by a car. Hours later stray hounds were still to be seen.

Also in March two similar incidents happened involving hounds and riders hacking in woods. In the first a young girl was exercising her pony at a local beauty spot near Farnham, Surrey when **Mr. Gochens** hounds went screaming past, out of sight but very close. She was thrown from her horse, hit a telegraph pole and broke her leg.

The joint master of the hunt, Robin Fulton, was quoted as saying, "You must accept that if you go walking or riding in the country then you may encounter a pack of hounds"!

In the second incident a group of riders near Toothill, Hants were thrown from their horses as the **New Forest Beagles** went past in full cry. The horses bolted and three of the riders were taken to hospital, two being kept in for observation. The owner of the stables told a reporter that she had only been given two hours notice of the hunt's presence—that much?

On April 1st hounds of the **East Essex FH** cleared a hedge and ran through the parish churchyard of Great Totham. The outraged minister Rev. Willcock was present as the hounds "desecreated" the graves and left via his own garden! He asked a hunt follower to find an official to come and apologise but no one came. The hunt later denied all knowledge of the incident and refused to comment further.

Also at the beginning of the month local Exeter papers reported that the **Silverton FH** bolted a snared fox and forced it to run before hounds dragging the snare with it. A hunt follower was so disgusted by this he complained to the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) whose spokesman replied that there was "no intentional cruelty" and added "The fox was old and had been killing lambs in the area"! He presumably knew the fox personally.

On the 13th we understand that terrier men from the **RA** foxhunt went back to an earth to which a vixen had been run to ground on the previous day's hunt, dug her out and nailed her to a tree! Not surprisingly the incident was denied by hunt master, Major Thatcher.

Towards the close of the month a widow received a circular from the **Warwickshire** hunt, asking her to donate animal feedstuffs and dead stock to the hunt, almost ten years after her husband died of a heart attack trying to keep the hunt off his land. According to her son she was very upset by the letter and that the hunt still come across their land—despite threats of being shot!

A Devon gamekeeper found that the **Dartmoor** hunt's idea of puppy training is to turn them loose on the moor to fend for themselves. He found two devouring a dead sheep and when he returned them to the kennels, intending to give them the sharp side of his tongue, he found himself being critisised by hunt master John Budgett for interferring in hunt matters.

Whilst out cubhunting in September thirty of the **Old Berkshire** foxhounds went berserk when they saw some cats, savaging one to death and chasing others over fences, through hedges and around gardens, leaving a trail of damage behind.

Old Berks MFH Michael Allsop (a Middle-Aged Berk himself) got short shrift from the cat's owner Bernadette Hazel. He commented, "some of the younger dogs lost their heads. They weren't as well trained as I thought. It's the first time something like this has happened for 10 years".

A fox chased to ground by the **East Devon Hunt** last March was clubbed to death claimed amateur naturalist Bill Harvey who said he saw the gruesome killing through binoculars.



An artificial fox earth in Cheshire Foxhunt country.

The Hunt claimed they used a humane killer but Bill was adamant. "They are just hooligans" he told the local press. He said that the earth was covered with blood. The hunt claimed this was from an injured horse and an unnamed policeman backed up their story to the local press.

FOXHUNT?—NO THANKS

An application to the Forestry Commission by the Wilton Foxhunt to hunt part of Ringwood Forest, Hampshire has been rejected due to local disgust of hunting. Two residents Joan Odell and Mrs. Joyce Lewington organized a petition against hunting and presented it to the Forestry Commission.

The Commission then rejected the hunts application stating that the forest land was used more and more by the public for recreational use which did not accord with the return of foxhunting.

LITTLE GREEN WHALES

Cleveland Green Group have a 17 foot model fibreglass whale which they're willing to loan to responsible groups for fund raising. Contact Paul Fairhill c/o PO Box 19.



THE FUTURE cont

"IWC approved" for killing Minke whales—the smallest of the Great Whales (the whale is first hit with a 90lb block of metal, then 4 harpoons pierce into it—it can often take ½ an hour for a whale to die).

Despite the potential demise of the bowhead whale its meat is still reportedly being flown from Alaska to Canada and already this year, before the autumn hunt, five more bowheads have been struck than the allowed quota.

The absence of a proper "observer" system on the whaling boats adds to this abuse. Without it discrepancies arise which make a mockery of any returns submitted by these boats. For instance—the "observed" catch of sperm whales in Japan showed a ratio of 70% female to 30% male, whilst in "unobserved" catches the Japs were claiming 80% male to 20% female, The RSPCA have failed to be granted observer status.

Even if the quota system was diligently observed by IWC members the pirates would still be a law unto themselves. There may be an agreed quota of 510 Bryhde whales for Japan but there is no limit for Taiwan's four pirate whalers.

BEYOND THE IWC

It is becoming more apparent that the IWC is increasingly losing its value as a "defender of the whale".

Quota levels are always based on the belief that "whales are harvestable resources, subject to the maintenance of stock levels and the conservation of the species". This was precisely the argument put forward by Canada this year when she voted against a moratorium on commercial whaling.

Unfortunately this belief is shared by far too many conservationist organisations who nevertheless think of themselves as friends of the whale. A FOE "Whales" leaflet calls for, amongst other things, "a 10 year moratorium on all commercial whaling so as to allow exploited populations to partially recover *and to establish an effective and sustainable management plan* based upon sound scientific data". Again, in the FOE mag Harpoon 2 (March 79) we read *"Until whales can be managed properly* they should not be harvested".

Much as we wish to avoid internicine squabbles with other anti-whalers we must stress that such "conservationist" claptrap is not, and cannot be, supported by "animal rightists".

The HSA is an "animal rights" group. We are concerned with the individual whales's feelings rather than the threat to the species. We find proposals, such as the Whale Centre's, to substitute grey whales for Bowheads for Eskimo catches (on the basis that there are more greys than Bowheads) intolerable. Grey whales have as much right to inhabit the oceans as bowheads.

With both sides, whalers and conservationists, simply haggling over "acceptable" kill figures or agreeing delayed death sentences (i.e. moratoria) and the setting up of sanctuaries (which will only help whales to breed future generations of harpoon fodder once the danger of "extinction" is over and the temporary bans lifted) it is clear that something better than the IWC is needed.

OTHER LINES OF ATTACK

OVER THEIR HEADS

FOE are currently aiming to go above IWC decisions and get national and international assistance to pressurise the whaling nations in a planned campaign expected to cost £20,000. The aim is to make the North Atlantic a whale sanctuary, persuade the EEC to ban all whaling within 200 miles of its coastline and urge more non-whaling nations to join the IWC. Similar sanctuary moves are being suggested for the N. Pacific, Med and Caribbean. Moratoria are again being sought.

UNIONS

HSA member Daniel Lindsay has, in his role as European Secretary of PCAP (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Plants) and as a shop steward, instigated a new and potentially very successful approach.

Starting with shopfloor discussions, proposals to union branches and with the backing of Liverpool Trades Union Council and several others Daniel's campaign, financed by money raised for PCAP by sponsored walks, has culminated in a decision taken at this year's TUC General Council meeting in August. It agreed to urge the Government to introduce a unilateral prohibition on all whale products and persuade the EEC to do the same.

The way is now open for any union affiliated to the TUC to black any whale products. Len Murray, Gen. Sec. TUC, will now be personally pushing for a similar decision from the delegates at the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

DIRECT ACTION

While such moves plough inexorably on there is plenty of room for militant action.

UK based "Moby Dick" was formed in 1978 to directly attack Jap car imports with the objective of forcing the exporters to bring pressure to bear on their whalers or face the consequences of a prolonged campaign against their goods. The campaign started with Nitromors paint stripper attacks on 'T' registered Japanese cars on show or parked privately. The total estimated amount of damage caused to date is over £200,000. The group has also placed incendiary devices at the Jap Embassy and Jap Trade Center when both buildings were empty.

At Britain's first National Anti-Whaling Conference, organised by Leviathan, in Portsmouth in March, the Conference voted 67-7 (42 abstentions) to disassociate itself from Moby Dick's activities. There was also condemnation of personal attacks on Jap IWC delegates.

According to one activist present "MAC (Marine Action Centre) got up and said that ink throwing was awful. FOE said that ink throwing was awful and so was Jap flag burning. Greenpeace said that ink throwing, Jap flag burning and Jap car bashing was awful, counter-productive and racist, and the Japs were really nice chaps with a culture stretching back over many generations and got upset about these antics, thus spoiling the efforts of Greenpeace to sit round the table with them and discuss it all nicely".

Greenpeace's diplomatic table manners appear strangely at odds with the heroic exploits of Rainbow Warrior's Zodiac crews—after putting themselves in the way of a fin whale and the Spanish whaler IBSA III in international waters in June the Warrior was boarded by the Spanish navy and ordered into El Ferral harbour where it has languished since.

Still at sea, or rather in harbour, the Fund for Animal's boat "Sea Sherpherd" was deliberately scuttled in Oporto harbour having been stuck there pending charges of deliberately ramming and crippling the pirate whaler "Sierra" a year ago. It was believed that Sierra's owners may have got hold of the Shepherd for use as a whaler.

In February, a month after Sierra's repairs had been complete, she was sent to the bottom of the River Tagus when a limpet mine attached to her hull blew up.

The total number of whaling boats believed to have been so destroyed to date is 6, including 3 Spanish ones (Sierra and IBSA's I and II), 2 Icelandic ones and one unknown.

Following the Sierra sinking her owners insisted that there had been no intention to use her again as a whaler and that she was to be sold to the IWC as a "research" vessel. Strange then that the harpoon gun was still firmly attached to her deck when she went down!

The Fund are now negotiating to buy another boat to replace the Shepherd.

CONCLUSION

Hunting whales is wrong, whether there are a hundred or a million of them in the oceans.

We welcome any legal move, whether government, union or mass media inspired, to black the trade in whale produce and pressurise whaling nations, however "cultural", to stop killing these intelligent creatures.

The authorities must act soon though if more drastic anti-whaling activities are to be avoided in the future.

Full details of the PCAP Trades Union moves are available from PCAP, 29 Broughton Drive, Grassendale, Liverpool L19 0PB, (sae please).

Copies of the full Moby Dick statement are available from PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent (sae please).