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

HSW

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SUMMER SHOWTIME

Country shows featuring hound parades have received the usual sab attention this summer. Banner waving sabs have again invaded show rings throughout the country to the sound of boos and cheers and mixed receptions from officials and police.

During a parade of the Hursley Hambledon FH **Southampton** sabs were escorted off by police but no arrests were made.

South Yorks sabs were forced to stage a silent demo outside Barnby Dun showground after being refused entry to leaflet the crowd during the Badsworth FH parade.

A joint master of the Holcombe Harriers tried to whip one of 3 **Merseyside** sabs in the rings with him at the Royal Lancs Show. Several stewards and assorted-looking hunt followers came in after them and ripped their banner down. It was retrieved and re-erected only to be pounced on again. After another 5 minutes of argument the sabs were finally booted out of the arena. Several people came up to praise them afterwards.

7 sabs went into the **Essex** Show ring during the Essex Union FH parade. After "running amok in front of the President's box" (according to one paper) the sabs were chased round the ring by officials and police. One was dragged to his feet after sitting in front of a horse. Despite a new bye-law which allows the show's organisers to throw out "trouble makers" the hunt were allowed to continue their parade.

2 local sabs joined John Amsden's picket of the **Isle of Wight** Country Fair and distributed leaflets to the sparse crowd watching the foxhound parade—one old lady gave them a "raspberry" and another told them where they could stuff their leaflets.

13 sabs went into the ring at the **South of England** Show during the Eridge FH parade and stayed on for the duration. One sab was booted in the kidneys by a mounted redcoat but otherwise there was the usual courtesy from both sides—this demo has been staged over a number of years. No police involvement, no angry supporters screaming in and an even more lukewarm crowd response for the hunt than before.

This was in marked contrast to the police and army violence at this year's **Devon** County Show. 4 sabs went into the ring during the hound parade and were immediately pounced upon by Royal Marines, from Limpstone Training camp, acting as stewards (paid for by the taxpayer) and handed to the police. One was handcuffed so high up his arm that it cut the skin and drew blood. Another had his head deliberately banged against the police van. Although 3 sabs were arrested no charges have yet been pressed. The police told them that they'd wait until term was over and the sabs had returned home before summonsing them back to Devon. Prince Michael of Kent was in attendance on the day.

40 to 50 sabs demo'd against the Aldershot Beagles and Hampshire Hunt foxhounds at the **Alton** Show. Police roped off an area adjoining the arena for the sabs. The beaglers came on first. The sabs told them to give a demonstration of their skills by killing a hare, holding it up for the public to see and severing its head and legs as they'd done recently for local sabs. The hunt invited kids in to fuss the hounds—one sab kid went in bearing a sign reading "If my Dad was a huntsman I'd kill myself". The announcer abused the sabs and the hunt slunk out of the arena to poor applause. By the time the HH hounds entered the ring almost 100 people were in the sab compound—they had been joined by sympathetic members of the public. The hounds scattered all over the arena, some preferring to taste the delicacies of horse manure rather than obey the whip! Another poor crowd response for the hunt and only 1/5th of the previous number of kids in to pat the hounds.

During the August Bank Holiday the Chesterfield group joined with the West Midlands group to put 80 sabs "in the field" over the three days of the Town & Country Festival at Stoneleigh, near Coventry, Warks.

The British Field Sports Society (BFSS) claim to play a major part in the festival, (indeed it is their biggest single event of the year). Bloodsports came to Stoneleigh 4 years ago with Chase 77 (Kill 77) and the BFSS, realising the enormous potential of reaching the public, stepped in and set up a massive hunting display, with their own show ring and an allocation of time in the grand ring on all three days. It goes without saying that the W. Midlands HSA have opposed them each year.

This year, despite good weather, the festival started on the Saturday with poor attendance. The massive cavalcade of hounds planned to appear on all three days, to celebrate 50 years of BFSS parliamentary blockade, was cancelled, due to Parvo Virus, and a solitary Fell pack made an appearance—looking rather lost in the grand ring. It's worth noting that all parades of hounds were the least watched, the before and after events (i.e. the military vehicle display and parade of classic cars) attracted much bigger crowds to the ringside.

The "country sports" area was like a Wild West ghost town and in the Horse & Hound building the odour of unfortunate decomposing animals, carefully arranged in Fen traps, ensured that nobody except the old die-hards lingered around the mediaeval displays (see Shooting Times Sept. 4-10).

On Sunday the crowds came and the N. Warks. FH joined the Coniston hounds in the BFSS ring, also in the ring were 30 members of the HSA and a number of flustered policemen. The N. Warks. huntsman, Ivor (Lovely) Bunch, had to huddle his hounds in a corner of the ring owing to lack of space to parade them! The commentator, observing the ineffective police action, spluttered something about people going to hunt meets and stabbing horses! A desperate statement that surely even the most moronic of hunt supporters knew to be a lie.

On Monday the sabs took the opportunity to make their protest to a more balanced audience, in the grand ring. Despite very heavy police security, when the N. Warks. appeared, 40 sabs dashed in and unfurled their banners to a burst of cheering from the stand.

This demo concluded a very successful protest against bloodsports, marring the BFSS's 50th year of shameful existence. Many sabs were congratulated by people as they walked about the ground and just as the vast majority of this year's record crowds were not associated with bloodsports so the potential to show people the cruelty involved, and to further our campaign, exists.

A group of sabs also found time to hold a demonstration against the use of animals in the fashion trade during a fashion show.



Sabs are surrounded as the Holcombe FH huntsman rides on

RIPE FOR REFORM!

The hypocritical stance of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) towards bloodsports was highlighted earlier this year at their AGM, in Edinburgh, when members of the Central Scotland HSA, who attended the meeting, called for the resignation of the Society's Chairman, Patrick Murray. Murray, who has ridden with the Jed Forest FH for the past 11 years and was out with them at the end of last season when they killed a fox in the centre of Hawick, refused. His comment after the fox was killed in the car park of a knitwear factory was 'I do a tremendous amount of work for animal welfare'.

A resolution "that participation in foxhunting should remain the decision of individual members, in view of the greater suffering which can be involved in alternative methods of control" was debated.

In support of the resolution Murray said that this had been SSPCA policy for the past *90* years, and any change would put at risk the Society's "very great support from those who participate in field sports", which, he claimed, was moral as well as financial!

One member suggested that people who felt strongly about hunting should join a pressure group, and leave the Society to get on with its "excellent work". Another member complained that because of the RSPCA's opposition to bloodsports the agricultural community were begining to ask if they were a lot of crackpots!

Meanwhile, the handful of people trying to put the case against hunting were repeatedly told to shut-up by the Chairman and his supporters in the auditorium.

When it came to the vote 73 of the 120 members present preferred to sit on the fence and abstained while the rest voted 38 in favour of the resolution, with only 9 against. Demands for a postal ballot were, not surprisingly, ruled out of order.

CONSUMER SOCIETY

In a recent report by Earthscan, an environmental information agency financed by the Un Environment Programme, Japan was described as "the world's biggest consumer of wildlife products", including such rare spotted cats furs as cheetah, snow leopard and tiger, and rhinoceros horns.



Rumours that the Culmstock Mink Hunt are recruiting mods and rockers as heavies, are now causing serious concern, following the sighting of the above at a recent meet near Exeter.

This mean looking hell-raiser, who had obviously just come from Brighton, proved a force to be reckoned with as he shouted abuse at sabs and, in a fit of temper, tried running them down.

Watch out for this new hunt secret weapon. We understand his undercover name might be 'Silver Dream Racer'.



Dear HOWL
I feel that I must write and protest about the recent statement in HOWL 15 under the heading "Appealing for Freedom". The last paragraph states 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 almost certainly lead to breaches of the peace, people in the animal rights movement are being censured".

This is patently nonsense. Given the circumstances of the most reactionary Tory government in recent history being in power and the consequent attacks on the working class, to state that the extreme left get away with actions likely to cause a breach of the peace is bullshit. Admittedly the police will go to any lengths to protect the interests of facist organisations, but no such protection exists for members of the far left (remember Blair Peach?).

Moreover you do not even need to be associated with the extremes of the political spectrum for your freedom to demonstrate or picket to be threatened. An example of this can be found in the conduct of the police at the lock-out of NGA members at the Express & Star, Wolverhampton where police and SPG made certain that the legal picket remained ineffective by arresting sufficient numbers to render action impotent in much the same way that sabs are pulled on occasion. These pickets could not be described as far left militants—some were even Tories.

So let's not have any more of this middle-road, moderate crap in HOWL please. OK.

Best wishes otherwise,
Peter Ling, W. Mids.
(No correspondence please—the writer of the article has replied. Ed.)

Dear Sir/Madam,
I've just received my copy of HOWL, Spring 1980. I would like to publicly denounce Roy Clinkard, of the Aldershot Beagles, and say that my family, although we must be related to him somewhere along the line, would all like to disclaim him. He makes me ashamed to have anything at all to do with him.

I hereby promise to have a medical check-up as soon as possible to ensure that I have none of his disgusting habits in my biological make-up.

Roy Clinkard, you are not as worthy as the hare that you have killed of holding our name . . .

Very sincerely,
Susie Clinkard, Suffolk.
pp. Susanne, Anthony and Lt. Com. Clinkard

Dear HOWL,
It's perhaps unwise of me to answer or rather comment of Peter Singer's letter in the Spring issue without having heard his original lecture but I do query, though in the friendliest way, his suggestion that an animal's capacity for realizing that it has a future 'and therefore has hopes or desires which are interfered with by being killed' makes a difference to the wrongness of killing. The human apprehension of the future is, I believe, a modification of or conscious extension of a biological urge to survive and propagate built in to the individual animal unit. This exists and is violated whether the unit apprehends the future or not. It seems to me that the argument that humans look before and after belongs more properly to the consideration of suffering rather than to the ethical questions attendant on killing. Perhaps this was Peter Singer's point. However whether hopes and desires are conscious or innate they are all interfered with rather seriously by death which is why we all, except in every special circumstances, do our best to avoid it!
Yours sincerely,
Maureen Duffy London SW5

I enclose my subscription of £1.

Also I didn't realise how bad my writing is, my name is TRUDI NEEDHAM, not TUNDI WEEDHAM.
Thank you.
(As we don't possess a Chemist's degree in handwriting we urge clear penning—as you can see we are very good at re-christening our members! Ed.)

MINK HUNTING

60 sabs from Bristol, Yeovil, Exeter and the E. Midlands had a successful day against the **Devon & Cornwall Minkhounds.**

As soon as the sabs arrived at the river that was being hunted the hunt supporters attacked, wielding long poles which are normally used for trapping mink and forcing them from any small holes where they may have taken refuge. However, as the sabs were in the majority the hunt eventually allowed them to follow unhindered—there would have been no way of stopping them anyway! The sabs were in control of the pack for much of the day, by the end of which much of the hunters' hostility had disappeared. Some of them actually offered sabs drinks and sandwiches. No mink were found.

On the 7th June 25 sabs from several areas assembled outside the **Culmstock MH kennels,** prepared to follow the hound van to the meet (the hunt haven't advertised their meets for 10 years for fear of attracting unwanted attention). As soon as he saw the sabs the van's driver promptly turned round and went back into the kennels.

A vicious-looking heavy then advised the sabs "you won't get away with it this time, cause we'll get the foxhunting boys down to kick the shit out of you". While 5 sabs were keeping observation on the kennels they saw 3 landrovers pull in and one pull out again loaded to the gunwales with heavies. The 5 observers decided to get back to the road and managed to reach it just after the remaining sabs had left and just as the heavies arrived (gulp!)

One heavy started to strangle a sab but was restrained by a hunt official. The police arrived seconds later and spoke to the heavies—no arrest for assault of course. Later in the day the police threatened sabs with arrest for "coming here and upsetting our people". They also threatened to circulate the sabs' car number to other police in the area.

On the 2nd August 25 sabs from the M'side, E. Midlands, W. Midlands, Chesterfield, Lincs and N. London groups spent the day outside the **3 Counties MH** kennels. Several emerging vehicles were tailed to no avail. The kennelman claimed that the hounds weren't kenneled there and that they had no main base but simply borrowed hounds from various foxhound packs for the season. A call to a neighbouring foxhunt pack soon established that this was a lie—their spokesperson made it plain that, because of their caginess the 3 Counties MH were losing loads of potential support.



GREEN GODDESSES?

Keep your eyes peeled when you are out for a Sunday afternoon stroll in the countryside. Surrey sab Colin Lewis was driving along the Hogsback, a local beauty spot, when he noticed, parked, the big double show unit of the BFSS, touting for members.

Quick thinking Colin made a few phone calls. Members of Guildford/Farnham group responded to his SOS. A flying picket arrived resplendent with banners and posters. Less than an hour after the sabs arrival with absolutely no takers the big green lorry rumbled off and was tailed by sabs deep into Sussex.

Public support had been terrific for the sabs with plenty of "thumbs up" from motorists responding to some well worded banners.

COUNCILLING SUPPORT

As a direct result of the Linlithow Hunt violence (elsewhere this issue) Lothian Region councillors voted by 26 to 5 to ban foxhunting on council-owned land at their Oct. meeting. The motion, raised by Education Committee Chairman, Cllr. John Young, and supported by councillors of all political hues, means that the hunt will now be deprived of its point-to-point course and hunting land they've been using since 1898.

West Lothian District Council has already banned the hunt from its land.

In Herts moves instigated by Cllr. Colin Hucklesby (Lab) to ban the traditional Boxing Day meet of the Aldenham Harriers on Redbourn Common led to a referendum being conducted amongst the village's 4000 voters on Oct. 18. This followed the previous failure of the council to agree on a ban.

Support for the hunt was based on the "pretty scene/nice dogs/well they never kill hares do they?" approach. Opposition stemmed from the chewing up of the Common by horseboxes and the general paganism of the whole thing.

The hunt had rejected any idea of substituting a drag hunt, arguing that their "members had joined to hunt animals".

Despite a strong campaign by the "Redbourn Vote No" committee, supported by the LACS, the high 30% turnout voted 747:580 to retain the gory ritual.

It must be stressed though that this was not a vote for or against bloodsports per se but simply whether the hunt should meet at Redbourn or not. In the event good ol' Christmas Tradition won over basic human compassion.

Meanwhile on the south coast Brighton Councillors voted overwhelmingly at their September meeting to ban foxhunting on council-owned farmland. The voting was approx 44:1.

The motion, instigated by Liberal Cllr. Frances Hix, attracted support from all political camps on the council. The HSA was heavily involved in keeping all the councillors fully aware of the anti-hunt issues. More than 20 submissions were received from anti-hunt organisations in comparison with one from the Southdown FH and a petition signed by 17 local tenant farmers.

The ban can't apply to existing tenants although their co-operation will be sought. The ban will, however, become operational as soon as each farm becomes vacant and a clause prohibiting hunting is inserted in the reletting agreement.

UP FRONT

T-shirt slogan spotted at Brighton in July—"I thought limpets were a kind of shellfish until I discovered Sea Shepherd".

BANKING ON CRUELTY

One would think with all our major banks up to their necks in apartheid in South Africa and investing in dictators like Chile's Pinochet they would by trying to improve their tarnished public image. Not so.

National Westminster Bank are now subsidising Point-to-Point races of the Heythrop Foxhunt. Nat West workers are not happy about this either. Recently in their staff journal, "Bankground", Susan Startlin of Feltham condemned the bank and asked Nat West to support a more worthy cause. The banks reply was that they like to help the life of communities in which they operate and the Point-to-Point is a major local event in an area where they have their staff training college. One wonders how far this blind support goes! Would Nat West support Badger baiting or hanging if it was popular locally? Who says the Point-to-Point is a local major event anyway?

Not to be outdone the Midland Bank has announced plans to sponsor the 1981 World Angling Championships, to the tune of £25,000. Further financial support is guaranteed by grants from the Sports Council (i.e. taxpayer's money). The event which will take place on the Warwickshire Avon at Luddington, will draw teams from 20 countries. 30,000 spectators are expected.

A Midland Bank spokesperson said "Midland is glad that in supporting the World Championships it will be helping to increase the prestige of angling and to promote the sport still further".

Dear Sir,
A leaflet has been pushed through my door about Foxes.

I say death to all Foxes, any way of killing. Last year I had 12 hens, the Fox got into the pen and bit all their heads off. You should have seen my hens and then you might alter your views.

I don't care how foxes are killed, the way they treat poultry and rabbits, seeing is believing.
Yours faithfully,
N. H. Beech, W. Mids

The article in HOWL 15 on "Routing the Royals" provoked the following letter.

From fighting one oppression, some sabs seem to be unaware of other oppressions, quote "Charlie Chukka Hunting, Stick to Girls" "Our banner-touting ladies". I find these sexist statements sickening.

From fighting one sick sport you assume women to be available for another. With a smile on your face.
Marian Wakelin, Rugby.

The banner-writer (male) replies—"With 24hrs notice of a chance to do a demo against our favourite Royal target, HRH Charlie—rapid decisions needed to be taken on a witty slogan for a demo at a polo match. At first I thought of "Chukka Hunting, Stick to Polo", then I thought again—polo isn't very nice to its ponies. No more ideas sprang to mind so, not intending to be of offence to the feminist movement, I put "girls". Trevor Scott.

The article writer (female) replies—"When I wrote that sentence I guessed it would upset someone, but I still wrote it! Why? Because they *were* banner-touting ladies. Sorry, no regrets-Ms. Wetton.

Dear Sir,
Please could you give me information on how to join the Hunt Sabs. I have been to one of the demos down in Cheshire at a Hunter trials but I would really like to become a member so that I can support the sabs better. I have a horse of my own, so I can understand the excitement people get out of hunting (although I would only go on a mock hunt myself). I don't think many of these people really stop and think about the fox they are hunting (especially children) but are more concerned about the long ride on the horses.

I'm going to enrol my horse as well and embroider on his rug 'I am a member of the Hunt Sabs., I don't agree with killing my pals", so that he can show it off at horse shows.
Marian Pinto, Lancashire.

Dear Sirs,
I have been given the name and address of a printing group which would appear to have strong hunting connections, and last year operated an international mail order scheme for Christmas cards showing the Duke of Beaufort and his hounds.

I thought members of our association would be very interested to know who they are: Quartilles International Ltd., 30 West Street, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex.
Yours faithfully,
Sandra Ireland, Essex.
(They are, in fact, trade members of the BFSS, Ed.)

HARE TODAY . . .

Despite bloodsporters' insistence that they're the best conservationists around the hare populations in both the UK and Europe continue to decline. They're now at the lowest level for over a century. In the Ukraine they are temporarily protected and in Poland shooting is restricted.

In an effort to overcome this unacceptable sporting deficiency some hares are being specially bred in captivity and then released, but most are imported live from Hungary and Poland to meet European sportsmen's needs. Between 1970 and 1975 France allegedly imported 850,000.

. . . GONE TOMORROW

Recently a miner on a clandestine midnight hare-hunting trip in Derbyshire with a dog and 3 other men carrying lamps, saw a car coming and leaped over a wall to avoid detection. He fell to his death 35 feet below on an old railway cutting.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP . . .

Members of the Animal Liberation Front have been waging war against David Smarts Super Circus permanently stationed in Battersea Park, South London. South London ALF received nationwide media attention when they warned all shopkeepers who advertised the circus in their shops would have their windows bricked. This has already occurred on several shops.

The "Supercircus" continues to lose cash although unemployed partygoer Princess Margaret recently praised the show after a visit. Free tickets no doubt . . .

PARVO-VIRUS & HUNTING

Further perils arising from fox-hunting and beagling have been revealed by the recent outbreak of canine parvo-virus which has caused widespread concern to owners and vets up and down the country. Large congregations of dogs, such as kennels, are most at risk from this disease. They also provide a sure-fire way of spreading the disease to other areas.

The disease, which has been found in America, Canada, Australia and Europe, but is thought to originate in America, first appeared in Britain in the autumn of 1978. It can lead to, at best, severe enteritis and at worst, to sudden death. The very young and very old are the worst affected. Young puppies may be infected by the mother within the placenta or immediately after birth through contact with infected faeces. In very young puppies the virus attacks the heart muscles causing sudden death and leading to a very high death rate for affected litters. Otherwise fit and healthy puppies may suddenly collapse with a short cry while playing; on other occasions death may be preceded by convulsions or difficulties in breathing. Little hope is held out for young puppies affected by the disease. Cardiac stimulants have proved slightly effective in the short term but, even if a member of the litter survives the first attack, it may die of myocardial effects at any time within the next seven months. Weaned puppies and older dogs usually show symptoms of severe gastro-enteritis which may also be fatal.

On average about 20% of a litter of weaned puppies may be affected. Vomiting—yellow and frothy—and foul-smelling gray and yellow diarrhoea, spotted with blood, are typical symptoms which may lead to rapid weight-loss and severe dehydration which can lead to death within 72 hours. Even if the dog survives, considerable damage will be inflicted on the intestinal linings. Moreover, the destruction of the white blood cells by the virus renders the dog vulnerable to secondary infections. Fluid therapy, anti-emetics and anti-diarrhoeal preparations may give some help, whilst antibiotics can be used to increase resistance to secondary infections, but will not attack the virus itself.

With such limited treatment available, the obvious answer is vaccination but there is no specific vaccine at present which can guarantee protection against the disease. Work on a new canine vaccine is being undertaken in Australia and America at the moment but, in the meantime, vets are using a series of killed feline vaccinations. However, recently supplies of the vaccine have run very low as the disease has spread and publicity on TV and in the press has led to further alarm and demand for vaccination. Even if one *can* secure the vaccine, problems may arise as little is yet known about its possible adverse effects on dogs. Such vaccinations are taken at the owner's risk with little hope of redress against the drug companies or the vets concerned.

But why should fox-hunting present such a danger to dog-owners? The main reason is that, whilst vets are unsure about the nature and origins of the virus, they do know that the incidence of the disease and its transmission are most likely in large congregations of dogs because of the difficulties of isolating the affected animals. In fact, one of the first cases of the disease was found in a beagle colony studied by Ralph Harcourt of Glaxo Group Research in September, 1978 (See *Veterinary Record*, April 12, 1980). Occurring first in one part of the kennels in September, the virus returned in March 79 and spread rapidly throughout the breeding area, affecting 250 dogs ranging from 3½ weeks to seven years. The use of beagles and hounds in so-called 'sporting' activities represents a particular threat to Britain's dog population since the hounds will cover an enormous area of land in one day and thereby risk spreading the disease. With the cubbing season getting underway in a particular warm September, the problem becomes even more acute. The fact that the disease has been reported simultaneously in so many different parts of the world suggests that it can be transmitted very rapidly either by dog-to-dog contact, via the excreta, or dog-human-dog contact. Although the disease does not affect humans, it can be passed on to other dogs by people handling the affected animals.

One might argue that the problem can be overcome by a complete vaccination of fox-hounds but, as we have already noted, supplies of the vaccine are very low. Moreover, the disease may well be established in a litter before it is recognised. Excluding the rare cases of profiteering, vaccination is a highly expensive business which may deter some unscrupulous managers. Indeed a recent case in Hertfordshire supports this point: the mid-Essex beagles were withdrawn from the Ashwell Exemption Dog Show because they had not been vaccinated. Apart from the expense of vaccination, the other preventative methods necessary to avoid the spread of the disease are extremely time-consuming.

Absolute hygiene in treating affected puppies is recommended by veterinarians: this would include complete isolation of the affected litter and bitch, thorough disinfection if handling the infected litter; special boiler suits and wellingtons kept in the affected area, care of the affected litter by an individual who has no contact with the rest of the dogs. It is certainly doubtful whether all kennels will undertake the necessary time and expense in following these precautions. Indeed, it would be interesting to find out just how many kennels have taken the appropriate measures.

To sum up, then, the kennels provide a haven and breeding-ground for this killer disease and point to yet another way in which fox-hunting and beagling can adversely affect the health of the dogs of supporters and critics alike.

Dr. S. M. Easton

GROUP NEWS

LUTON HSA's involvement with the LACS anti-bloodsports exhibition at the town's public library in July predictably upset local hunters. Whining BFSS officials were told by Bedfordshire Country Council that as the exhibition was legal, not of a political or religious nature and had not been financed by the rates they could go and take a galloping jump.

EAST MIDLANDS HSA raised £220 in their latest flag day in Derby.

DONCASTER HSA organised a successful Anti Hunt Ball in February which attracted 95 people. The following day the Badsworth FH was sabotaged by a large number of sabs. The Badsworth has been forced to change its meets on several occasions—it has lost a lot of support and is believed to be in a state of collapse. On one occasion a stray hound was taken to Doncaster police station after being fed with two tins of dog food and a packet of Bonio—it was subsequently collected by hunt lackeys.

Both these groups have been producing their own newsletters.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY sabs took an uncommitted University reporter with them on a sab of the Bicester & Warden Hill FH. After witnessing two dig-outs (one from an artificial earth) and getting a dose of good old "hunt follower hospitality" (he had the film ripped from his camera whilst filming them bullying sabs) he wasn't quite so uncommitted at the end of the day.

One of the day's dialogues went something like this—"Don't know why you're spraying round here old boy. Charlie doesn't like it and you're just doing us a favour by driving him back towards us!"

"Then why are you getting annoyed and trying to ride your horse over me?"

"I'm not trying to run you down."

"Well, then either you don't know how to ride a horse or else you're so used to riding over people you don't even notice when you do it!"

YEOVIL, EXETER & BRISTOL sabs have been spending much time with the Culmstock Minkhounds and the Devon & Cornwall MH. They hit two Pony Club indoctrination meets organised by the Seavington & South Dorset Foxhunts, unblocking earths and distracting the Stoke Hill & Beacon Beagles with rockets, so helping the hares to escape.

The Yeovil Group deserve a special mention for their excellent and persistent detective work in tracking down the Yetne Minkhounds to their latest Toller Porcorum kennels. The hunt have taken to zooming out of the kennels at 80mph in an effort to lose their unwanted tail. Significantly the hunt is hunting the same rivers as those hunted under its previous identity, the Courtenay Tracy Otterhounds.

Due to increased membership the **NORTH EAST** HSA has now split into two active groups—the Cleveland and the Tyneside. Both will be an integral part of the NE Federation.

The Tyneside HSA's Sunday League 5-a-side football team has just started training and should be ready for Wembley soon—the team's colours will be white HSA t-shirts and navy shorts with a navy HSA sweatshirt for the goalie. They lost their first match 10:6 to a Department of Health & Social Security team!

Both groups combined for a flag day in Darlington where £68 was raised from a very sympathetic public. More would have been gathered if a car-load of collectors hadn't "blown up" on the way there.

LONDON area sabs came together for a demo outside the Mansion House for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the BFSS in June. One BFSS member alighting from a taxi in a nice velvet jacket was asked politely by one person whether he was going to the "do". After replying "Yes, I am actually" he was told to "take that you bloody sadist" and splattered by a flour bomb!



EARLY CALL

40 sabs successfully forced the first official fox cub hunt of the season to be cancelled on August 2nd. The New Forest FH gave up the idea of subjecting their new season's hounds to possibly lasting disruptive influences and simply stayed at home that day after the sabs had assembled outside the kennels at 4am.

In a fit of pique kennel huntsperson, Albert Harris, claimed that the hunt would have been cancelled anyway, so there.

BILL POSTERS PROTECTED

Six Bristol area activists were arrested and charged with criminal damage after being caught by the police pulling Gerry Cottle circus posters down. The value of the posters was put at about £6 (£1.50 each). The activists were locked up for 14 hours and one was refused access to a legal representative or her family. They appeared before Bristol magistrates in May, pleaded guilty and were fined £20 on each charge.

Cottle's, however, have no more to fear from the anti-brigade, with debts of £200,000 amassed from a Christmas flop and £70,000 owed from the deposed late Shah of Iran they've been forced to close!

JUMPING ON THE BANDWAGON

America lifted its import ban on kangaroo products in July. Australian helicopters are currently driving the roos into waiting guns.

BAGS FOR EVERYONE

WAGBI's self-imagined air of respectability is crumbling faster than ever. They're now encouraging children and half-witted adults to kill birds and small creatures with catapults at their stalls.

At the beginning of the current wildfowling season they had the following advice for members of the shooting fraternity. "We ask everyone to bear in mind that if the weather is fine a great number of holidaymakers will be out and about and it is likely that many shooters will be under observation at least during the first week. A very great number of these "observers" know nothing about shooting or other country sports so it is essential that sportsmen adhere strictly to the Codes of Conduct and do not in any way indulge in unsporting shooting or make excessive bags."

Once the holidaymakers go home of course . . .!

SEAL SAGA

Paul Watson of the US/Canadian group Fund for Animals (and crew member of the Sea Shepherd) was fined $8,000 in February for violating the ½ mile buffer around the Magdalen Islands seal hunt and attempting to mark a seal pup's coat with red dye and jailed for 10 days for resisting arrest. 13 activists chained themselves to a local federal fisheries office in Toronto to demand his release and the repeal of the Canadian Seal Protection Act. He was released early, after going on hunger strike, into a snowstorm with no coat and no money—he had to hitch into Quebec City.

Brian Davis, Exec. Director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare was jailed for 14 days in July in Newfoundland for breaking the notorious Seal Protection Act in 1977 by flying in newsmen and landing IFAW's Blue Goose Helicopter within ½ mile of a seal during the seal hunt.

Meanwhile in the UK the fishing industry has been asking for 29,000 seals to be killed in the Orkneys this year. The Government's response to this figure is unknown to date. However, the Scottish Secretary, Mr. Younger, has authorised the killing of 2,000 seals over a period of 4-6 weeks, probably starting in November, even though fewer pups have been born than expected. The Sea Shepherd Fund are mobilising against the kill—they need money and volunteers for their Zodiacs—details from Dave McColl, 3 Rosehill, Torrance, Glasgow G64 4EW.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare presented a petition at Downing Street in August. The petition, containing 1¼ million signatures, called for a ban on seal products in Britain—so far the Government's only concession has been to enforce the "labelling" of seal products.



Photo by Andrew Varley

PEDAL POWER—

One of the aims of the British Field Sports Society is described as 'Wildlife Conservation'. Since their recent Golden Jubilee dinner however, this has been changed to 'Wildlife *Preservation*'. Not content with that, there are now plans afoot to change this to 'Animal Liberation'.

The Sinnington Hunt (left) have entered fully into the spirit of things by changing their four legged mounts in favour of two wheeled ones when out 'rattling the local fox population'. A hunt spokesperson stated "We do not wish to be involved in the exploitation of horses." When it was pointed out that bicycles may contain sperm whale oil, the spokesperson declined to comment.

A SCOURGE OF DIGGERS

An article entitled "Don't badger the Badger" published in Shooting Times last May caused quite a stir in the "letters" column, with lots of nice badger digging people writing in to say how much they liked old Brock.

According to these correspondents "they very rarely kill badgers" but "where killing is 'essential', it is carried out humanely" (terriers, sticks and spades—humane?)

What these amiable old badger diggers do, explained David Harcombe, in his letter to ST (19.6.80), is just to "move the badgers to less severely populated areas". He went on to say that "most badger sportsmen, however rough-looking they may appear, have a genuine respect and admiration for the animal and do more to assist its protection than anyone else"!

It does seem odd that ST should have bothered to print an article attacking the digging of badgers for sport in the first place, when exactly the same fate befalls the fox every week during (and out of, for that matter) the hunting season. Probably being carried out by the self-same terrier men who dig old brock.

The truth of what actually happens at a badger dig is a much more gruesome affair than those "true sportsmen" would have us believe, and the 'sport' is growing at an alarming rate.

In spite of this increase there hasn't been an appreciable increase in convictions under the "Badgers Act 1973". In fact less than 100 people have been convicted since its addition to the Statute Books, and at least 17 people brought before the courts charged under this Act have got off.



Pits left by Badger diggers

Thankfully, more and more vigilante groups are being formed around the country, many with the help of HSA members, in an effort to stamp out this debauched pastime.

More insidious than the foregoing is the British Field Sports Society's stance on the matter. Despite the fact that during the previous decade the badger population has declined by as much as 80% in some areas, on April 17th last, BFSS Chairman and Tory MP for Gainsborough, Marcus Kimball, asked the Junior Minister for Agriculture if he would "look again at the issue of reducing protection for badgers". This only goes to prove the hunters' total lack of concern for **any** animal species and only wish for the maximum freedom to indulge in their own perverse digging out operations, badger setts being anathema in hunt countries.

SAVE OUR STAGS NEWS

Ever since we first reported our intention to finish the Quantock Staghounds, during the middle of last year, the campaign has been gathering ever increasing momentum. From September until the end of the season in April they have been hit on every possible occasion.

For most of last season they had declined to hunt on more than one Saturday in a month, but we were able to arrange a fair number of mid-week hits, as well as every Bank Holiday.

On January 1st a good sabotage was conducted, after an impressive demonstration at the meet, which was held in the grounds of the 18th century Alfoxton Park Hotel. Other notable days included Easter Monday, when a group of saboteurs had a view of the now famous incident when the hunt shot an exhausted stag in full view of some 50 picnickers, including young children on a church outing. The most amusing day was during a Wednesday hunt, when no less than nine hounds founds their way to a local police station as "unaccompanied road hazards".

The final meet of the season on 26th April, from the Travellers Rest at Enmore, must have seen the final breaking point of their anger. For they drafted in an unusually high number of heavies. After drawing off the pack four times tempers flared and a vicious twenty minute fight ensued. Among the injured were Chris Williamson, HSA Press Officer, Leigh Perkins, Yeovil Group leader and Ian Pedler, SOS chairman. There was also an undisclosed number of injured stag hunters, including one with a suspected fractured skull.

To date the hunt committee has again failed to publish its financial report, though it is an open secret in the West Country that they are still in severe difficulties.

An appeal was made at this years HSA AGM in Derby for all groups to help us in this campaign and to date the phone calls have been very hopeful. As for the present season (August 80/April 81) plans have alaredy been finalized. Every Saturday and Bank Holiday hunt will be sabotaged. Saboteurs will also attend at least four mid-week hunts a month.

Therefore, would all group leaders and other interested people send full details of what they are able to do in the way of help to SOS HQ and we will send you a meet and hit list, as and when details are available.

One last word . . . we would like to say that the success of last season's campaign was only made possible by the marvellous support of various groups and individuals, the most notable being Flod Pamment, who mobilized the Western Federation on numerous occasions. Special thanks must also go to Chris Williamson and John Hale for all their help. But most important of all . . . the deer thank you.

Details from: Save Our Stags, Guernsey Avenue, Broomhill, Bristol BS4 4SH.

SOS EXTRA

A joint group of sabs, mainly from the Midlands and Doncaster, successfully routed the Quantock SH on 30 August, at the start of this year's season.

Redcoats were spotted disconsolately returning to the main Bridgewater/ Minehead holiday road after losing the deer they'd run to the beach. There were no kills.



WE NEED HELP!

We need all the active members we can get but if, for some reason, you cannot come out on sabs due to health or work commitments, there is another way you can join in the active fight against bloodsports.

You can help us through a donation, no matter how small. You can be guaranteed that every penny will go towards our active campaign, since we have no office or staff to cost us overheads.

Please send whatever you can spare, filling in the attached slip if you wish.

To: Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 19, London S.E.22

I enclose my donation of £.....Date.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

RABIES

A new book "Rabies & Wildlife", published by the Oxford University Press and written by David McDonald (one of the foremost authorities on the red fox in Britain today) argues that the best way to prevent foxes carrying rabies is self-inoculation.

This could be done, he says, by laying suitable palatable bait containing anti-rabies vaccine, as field trials in Switzerland have shown.

McDonald, who spoke at the HSA organised fox seminar last year, had made a detailed study of the social organisation of foxes and is convinced that no policy against rabies can be successful which ignores their "unbelievably subtle" society.

Area extermination, the only current method of 'control' disrupts the order of nature and invariably does nothing to stop the disease.

COURT CIRCULAR

Despite the increasing lobby against HRH Charlie Boy's hunting antics he is probably moving 'next door' to his sister Ann—to a house in Tetbury, Glos—the heart of Beaufort country!

This came to the attention of the world's press soon after Charles had celebrated his 31st birthday practising his favourite pastime. Yes, you've guessed it! A day out with the South & West Wilts.

Although local pub owner Alan Markham claimed that "We are all royalists around here and we will give him a right royal welcome" and the estate's caretaker was "thrilled", others took a different stance. Farmworker Alex Swanson said "I do not agree with Royalty, nor foxhunting".

Prince Charles is, of course
the man who fell of his hunting horse.
I did laugh, I did roar,
I bet his bum wasn't arf sore!

Janet Cotter

Whilst Anne has been furiously trying to sort out the family budget Mark has been busy kicking a horse which wouldn't enter a horsebox, so claimed an eye witness who was at the event held near Marlborough, Wilts. A report on the affair was sent to the DPP but eventually it was decided not to press charges.

Obviously still a little flustered over being interviewed by the police, Mark, the next weekend, managed to incorrectly fill in the royal couple's entry forms for an event held near Weybridge, Surrey, by entering the ages of the horses instead of their own! As a result they were judged best boy and girl riders in the Junior class and were subsequently presented with a model fighter plane and a little silver cup respectively!

At the recent standing conference on countryside 'sports' guest speaker Prince Philip oulined the reasons for his somewhat hypocritical stance on wildlife—President of the World Wildlife Fund on one hand and a patron of the Game Conservancy and WAGBI on the other.

After he and a few friends had blasted out of the sky some 6,500 semi-tame pheasants on the Sandringham estate last season, he stated that if he were contradictory then he was in good company.

His rules when shooting are—no endangered species; control pests to a minimum and treat game species as a crop.

A recent opinion poll conducted by MORI on behalf of the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) revealed that 66% of the population are opposed to members of the Royal Family foxhunting whilst only 17% approved. 36% said they disapproved strongly.

The poll of 1,941 people revealed that disapproval was greatest amongst women, those aged under 35 and among Labour and Liberal supporters. 59% of Conservative Party supporters objected.

Prince Charles' man told the LACS that HRH had no comment to make on their written suggestion that he desist from his bloodsporting pursuits. Princess Anne's equerry didn't even bother to reply.