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

HSW

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HUNTING CONSERVED

By John Bryant

'Wildlife Conservation is what one does when ones sport is threatened by there being too little wildlife to hunt and shoot.'

All right so no-one actually said those words during the Parliamentary debate on the Wildlife and Countryside Bill but it was the clear attitude of mind displayed by the Parliamentary Conservative Party throughout the Bill's progress.

Andrew Bennett M.P. (Labour) summed up his contempt for the Government's attitude to wildlife protection when he asked during the Committee Stage of the Bill, "What will happen if the hunting of mink and coypu is successful? Will hunters try to preserve some mink and coypu so that they can continue to hunt them?"

Anyone who believes that the decisions which affect all our lives are made by elected representatives of the people conducting reasoned debates, listening to all the arguments and then making up their own minds, would have had all their illusions shattered if they had attended any of the House of Commons stages of this Bill. All attempts to incorporate into the Bill, measures which would lessen the pain and suffering of wild animals and birds, were promoted by Labour M.P.s and thrown out by Conservative M.P.s. It was as simple as that!

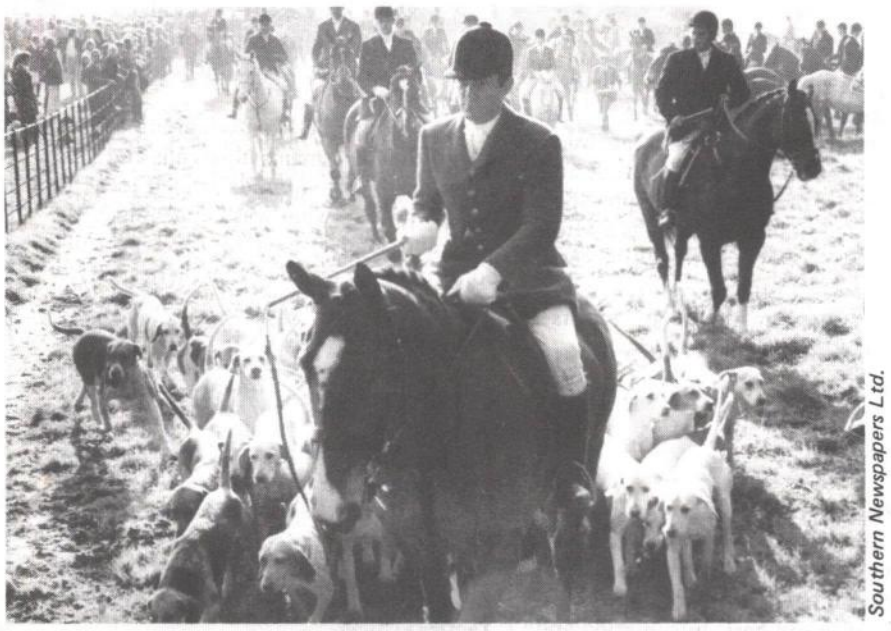
And now, with just one last throw in the House of Lords, likely to be a mere formality in a Chamber well tired of this Bill already, all has been lost. The Bill has finished up what the Tories always intended it to be – an irritating compliance with international obligations – a sop to the conservation movement which simply entailed writing in the unenforceable protection of a few butterflies and plants, the banning of machine-guns as a weapon against bats and hedgehogs and a few other such irrelevant provisions.

From the point of view of the nation's wildlife slaughterers, both 'sporting' and 'commercial' their pals in Parliament including Whitelaw, Heseltine, Monro, Kimball and Farr have done them proud. They have successfully fought off all attempts to ban otter hunting, to protect badger setts, to ban all snares, to stop Sunday wildfowling and to stop the use of airweapons against wildlife. And not only has their action been defensive! They have even found the opportunity to write into law a provision which permits someone to use otherwise banned cruelty to birds, as long as it is in the interests of a bloodsport – falconry.

The real tragedy is that the animal welfare movement, in particular the League Against Cruel Sports, has been forced, (because 'it was there') to make determined efforts to amend the Bill. Thousands of pounds have been spent sending every M.P. comprehensive briefs and lengthily considered amendments in an effort to make the Bill a realistic protection measure. These briefs have been used extensively and quoted from at length by Labour M.P.s in their attempts to get snaring and hunting banned. Indeed several M.P.s have expressed admiration for the League's professional approach to lobbying and the accuracy of the information supplied.

It is therefore all the more sickening that the hundreds of hours of debate, the millions of words in Hansard and the intensive lobbying by various pressure groups, have all been purely academic. The voting on every proposed amendment has been a party political basis. The Government has used the 'whip' with a ferocity normally reserved for such doctrinaire issues such as the protection of private enterprise or public schools and even Tory M.P.s with a twinge of conscience on such issues as snaring, soon agreed to 'toe the line' when the 'whip' whistled around their shoulders.

The odd Tory 'welfare' M.P. who did vote with the opposition did so quietly without fuss, indulging their consciences in the knowledge that because of the large Conservative majority, their actions would not embarrass the 'Party'.



Southern Newspapers Ltd.

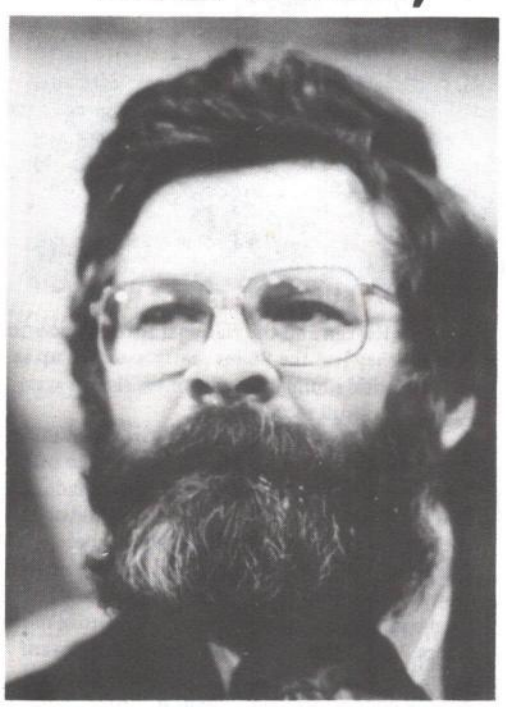
So has it all been a waste of time and money? Not entirely I suggest. A lot has been learnt about lobbying, the production of concise information for M.P.s and how to use parliamentary procedure to the best advantage. The Parliamentary Labour Party has responded well to LACS promptings – not only adopting their proposed amendments but also fighting long hours of debate for them despite the near certainty of defeat at the end. Leading opposition spokesmen have not only made themselves available to the League but have also offered much helpful advice.

But the main lesson has been, (if it was ever in doubt) that the Wildlife and Countryside Bill has demonstrated forcefully that whatever your general political bias, if cruelty to animals is your priority then you would be a traitor to the cause of animal rights if you voted for a Conservative Government.

We know now that there are no options. We have to fight, kick, gouge and scratch to get a radical, compassionate Government elected – a Government with a clear manifesto commitment to legislate against cruelty to wild animals. If we are successful in this, we shall probably have to fight, kick, gouge and scratch all over again to ensure that the promises are kept!

Meanwhile I vomit at the memory of Mr John Farr, M.P. (Tory of course) bemoaning the fact that hedgehogs were given a place in Schedule 6 of the Bill so that certain methods of killing such as electrical devices, poisons and machine-guns could not be used to kill them. What sort of human being is it that stands up in public and demands the right to be cruel to hedgehogs?

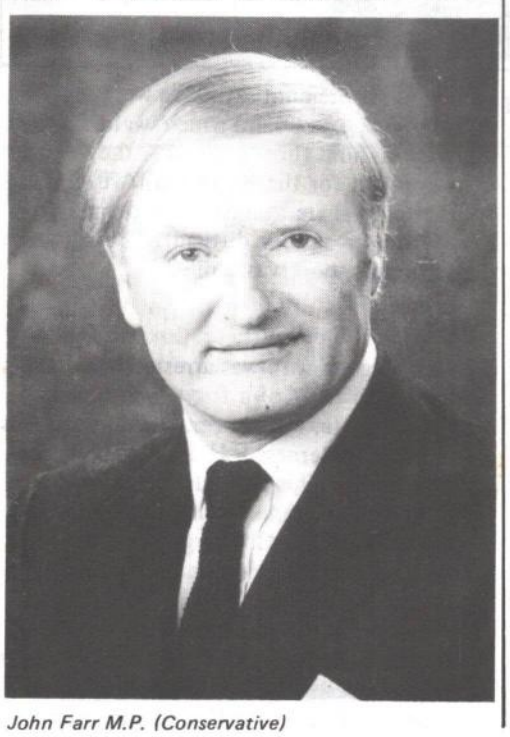
THE GOOD, THE BAD and THE UGLY



Andrew Bennett M.P. (Labour)



Marcus Kimball M.P. (Conservative)



John Farr M.P. (Conservative)

CO-OPERATORS AGAINST BLOODSPORTS

The campaign to get bloodsports banned on land owned by the Co-operative Society, some 38,000 acres, has reached a new turn with the formation of Co-operators Against Bloodsports at this year's Co-operative Union Congress. A group was also set up that intends to campaign against all animal exploitation. If you are interested in further details contact Mr. Sinna Mani, C.A.B., 83-87 Union Street, London SE1.

DERBYSHIRE BLOODSPORT BAN

The new Labour controlled Derbyshire County Council has decided to ban all bloodsports across their land. Councillor David Bookbinder, the council leader said "Killing animals for pleasure is inconsistent with decency". A none too happy Barlow Hunt secretary Geoffrey Tate commented to the Sheffield Morning Telegraph that its a pity "that these councillors haven't got better things to do". Well the councillors are welcome to come out and help sab whenever they like.

D'YE KEN KEN

The annual fox hound parade at the Greater London Council's horse show over the August Bank Holiday was cancelled on the orders of Ken Livingstone, controversial leader of the capital's new Labour Council.

The ban, which followed representations by the League Against Cruel Sports' Executive Director, Dick Course, certainly upset the hunters.

So-called show jumpers Ted Edgar and David Broome joined other fox killing horse-riders in pulling out of the show. Dick's statement, that "a parade of this nature by callous killers in front of decent, civilised working people is akin to a parade of Hilter's SS in Jerusalem", seems to have touched a raw nerve.

HEDGING THEIR BETS

More and more country sports fairs organisers are making no secret of their awareness that bloodsports are on the way out by including parades of draghounds. This year has seen more than ever before.

POWDERHAM & PEPPER'EM

Thirty nine year old Lord Courtenay has been peppering his neighbours with shotgun pellets whilst shooting on his Powderham Estate in Devon. When approached about the incidents he said that "it's one of the penalties you pay for living in the country."



Dear HOWL,

As an exchange student at Sussex University last year, I became involved in the Brighton/Worthing chapter of the H.S.A., and was incredibly impressed with the fortitude and persistence of its members. Assuming they are exemplary of the Association as a whole, I offer you my hope for continued success.

Furthermore, I wish to congratulate you on the professionalism that your editors display in HOWL magazine.

Best of Luck,
JIM WEIR
INDIANA, U.S.A.

Dear HOWL,

All active and otherwise interested sabs should now have a copy of the new H.S.A. tactics booklet (10p each), which comprises of 15 pages of useful basic information and advice.

Please note that we no longer use the old special mixture as a scent duller. Bob Martin's antimate and home made scent dullers based on herbal oils should be used instead, such as citronella, eucalyptus, thyme, rosemary, lemongrass, jasmin, camphor and garlic water.

Half a dozen garlic bulbs chopped and tied in a fine mesh bag will produce a strong scent duller if soaked in a container of water for a number of weeks. If you discover any new herbal mixtures please let us know.

A foxhunting cassette is available from H.Q. which explains both horn and huntsman's voice, price £1.00 including postage and packing.

Finally I would like each group to try and record the huntsman's horn calls and voice when speaking to hounds at their local hunt. Make a note of what was happening at the time and send a copy of the tape and corresponding notes to the Tactics Officer at H.Q. Don't worry about perfection, just have a go and see what you come up with. Please make it clear which packs you have recorded and give a description of the type of hounds.

If you have any comments to make, questions to ask or information to give concerning any aspect of tactics please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Hale
Tactics Officer.

TANDRIDGE TRESPASS

The Tandridge Mink Hounds claim to be catching one or two mink every time they go out. If the mink seek refuge in a tree they are shot and then hacked to pieces with an axe. They would clearly love to treat sabs in the same way and have already assaulted one sab with a shotgun (see Group News).

Sab activity has made them so paranoid about their activities that they actually tried to blame a non-existent "unregistered" pack for an incident at Chilworth, Surrey on June 27th. The pack was hunting a river bank owned by Guildford Borough Council that recently featured in a Thames T.V. nature programme. The hunt told local residents that they had permission to hunt there. The council denies this, a spokesperson said, "It was made quite clear to them that they should not hunt that stretch of the Tillingbourne that runs through Powdermills. It may have been that Mr. Stracey (T.M.H. secretary) misunderstood" (or was being deliberately thick). Stracey was "unavailable for comment".

Fellow bloodsporter Peter Parker, joint master of the Surrey Union F.H., didn't exactly back him up. "I have nothing to do with mink hunting" he said. Later he added "Look, I am sorry all this has blown up. Yes I was there, but it has nothing to do with the Surrey Union. It is all down to Mr. Stracey." Mr. Stracey was still unavailable for comment.

It is not known whether the council will take action against the hunt.

Tandridge Huntsman in 'action'.



COURT REPORT

ESSEX UNION HUNT THUGS BEFORE THE COURTS

John Ince, aged 24, of Fourth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex admitted assaulting Tim Moran. He was fined £35 with costs. A second hunt supporter who admitted punching Tim, Stuart Davidson, was given a conditional discharge. Davidson apparently has a friend called Barry Sturley who denied assaulting Tim. His plea was accepted by the court but he agreed to be bound over.

Davidson (who was given the conditional discharge) told the police: "I say they deserve what they get."

SPOILSPORTS?

Saboteurs who appeared in Court and were subsequently bound over after a successful sab against the Royal Rock Beagles heard a member of the hunt say: "We were involved in lawful sport on land which we had been invited to hunt (how unusual – they don't always wait for the invitation). We don't want to retaliate against these people but sometimes it is very difficult. The whole afternoon's sport was spoiled."

FOX THEFT

Frank Hughes, who was arrested (see HOWL 18) for the theft of a fox which he had picked up after it had been killed by hounds from the Holderness F.H. At 4 p.m. on the day preceeding his court appearance, Frank received a telephone call telling him that he need not appear. All charges against Frank have now been dropped and no action will be taken against him.

The triviality of the incident compared with the complicity of the Hunt in the death of the fox really is a case for asking that old chestnut "Have the police nothing else to do." Frank was held in the cells, questioned at length, encouraged to make a statement, lived on his nerves for a while waiting for the case to come up – and all along the police must have been well aware that they could not bring a successful action against him for "suspicion of theft of a fox carcase."

What a total waste of time and expense. And where is that fox now?

WALK-UP COURSER FINED

Anthony Brian Gaffney aged 20 of Sycamore Crescent, Teesville, was fined £70 by Northallerton Magistrates after he sent a letter to the court pleading guilty to trespass in search of game and without a game licence.

Gaffney was caught by police when they found him with two other men and four dogs coursing hares at Bankhead Farm, Northallerton.

A £70 fine will probably make him just a little more careful in the future.

COMPARED TO . . . . . .

Colin Mason was caught by a gamekeeper, Mr. De'ath, and subsequently arrested and charged with the theft of six snares.

Despite Colin's description of the cruelty and misery which are the result of snares which inflict indiscrimate torture, he was fined £140 including costs.

DEVON AND SOMERSET STAGHOUNDS SUED FOR TRESPASS

Having successfully sued the Devon and Somerset Staghounds for trespass, recovering £165 in damages and costs after an incident which took place in February 1980, the League Against Cruel Sports have repeated a warning to huntsmen that they will find themselves in court if they trespass on any deer sanctuaries in the care and protection of the League.

The League are currently engaged in an action against the Quantock Staghounds arising from an incident which took place on Easter Monday.

LEGAL DEPT.

After many months of negotiations, the NCCL have agreed to let us have a list of all NCCL observers throughout the country. The name and address of your local officer can be obtained from P.O. Box 19. If you have been having trouble with your local hunt it is well worth asking an independent observer to come out with you on a sab. The fact that they are an independent witness will count for a great deal and they will give you an unbiased and factual account of their observations.

"Release" at long last have also agreed to make available the list of their emergency solicitors and our Legal Officer will be writing to each of them to ask if they are prepared to represent sabs. So far the response has been sympathetic and enthusiastic. If anyone is arrested and detained at the police station we will be in a position to get a solicitor to the police station to see them within two hours.

If you know of a sympathetic solicitor please notify P.O. Box 19 so that all sabs can have the benefit of their advice.

If the Legal Officer cannot be reached the telephone No. for *"Release"* is: 01 289 1123 The Emegency No. 01 603 8654.

We now have solicitors prepared to take on H.S.A. cases in the following areas: Birmingham, Walsall, Crystal Palace, Surrey, Merseyside, Sheffield, Hereford, Edinburgh, Dunblane, Southampton.

BINDING OVER ORDERS

1. BINDING OVER is not a criminal offence, that is to say that it does not affect or constitute a criminal record.
2. One cannot be bound over to keep the peace unless one consents to the binding over.
3. If one does accept the binding over of the Court it usually takes the form of a stated period with a forfeiture sum attached should a further breach be found during the binding over period.
4. The terms are usually i e. to keep the peace for one year in the sum of £100.
5. In the words of one solicitor, the court is not stating that sabs should not demonstrate but are issuing them with a warning 'to be careful'.
6. A binding over may result either:
   a. Where the courts find that the individual has caused a breach of the peace.
   or
   b. where the courts find that the individual has shown by his/her conduct that a breach of the peace might have resulted i.e. action likely to cause a breach of the peace.

1361 Justices of the Peace Act

1. Under this Act anyone present in Court may be asked by the Magistrate/Judge to consent to being bound over.
2. This applies to witnesses either for the defence or the prosecution, defence or prosecution solicitors/barristers, observers in the Court, etc.

APPEALS

1. There is the right to appeal against a binding over order if grounds can be found.
2. On a solicitor's advice the binding over itself is 'nothing to get excited about.'

   The area to watch is where a binding over order has been made in respect of a breach of the peace, and a subsequent binding over order is made in respect of action likely to cause a breach of the peace. The Court should not order a forfeiture of the previous binding over sum:

   N.B. where one has been found to have committed a breach of the peace and is ordered to keep the peace for one year in the sum of £50, and during that year is found to have acted in such a manner as to have been likely to cause a breach of the peace, the first £50 should not be forfeited.

   The sum should only be forfeited where the second binding over order in the period is for causing a breach of the peace.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

1. In this instance contempt of court will arise where an individual refuses to accept the order of the court, i.e. the individual refuses to be bound over.
2. Comtempt of court does affect or create a 'criminal record' i.e. an individual's police record will state e.g. contempt of court, 7 3 months/6 months.
3. The maximum sentence for contempt of court is 6 months.

Types of Contempt Applicable to Sabs

1. A Magistrate's court cannot impose a specific term of imprisonment for contempt.
2. A Magistrate's court can only confine an individual to imprisonment until his/her contempt is purged.
   1. At any time after imprisonment the individual can inform the court that she/he will accept the binding over.

      This will bring about release from prison and the binding over order will stand.
3. Although a court cannot impose a fine or imprisonment for refusing to be bound over, it can impose a sentence for the contempt of court. That is to say that the refusal to be so bound becomes a contempt.
4. If a court imposes a sentence (i.e. anything to a maximum of six months) for contempt as soon as that sentence is served the binding over order ends and is substituted by the sentence.

   N.B. This is due to the fact that an individual cannot be bound where she/he refuese to be bound.

IT'S NOT CRICKET

When Ian Botham, the cricketer, gets tired of batting his non-sentient balls for six he enjoys knocking sentient creatures for six with his rifles and shotguns. Favourite targets include rabbits, duck, pheasant, partridge and deer.

"You have to be cruel to be kind in the animal world" says Ian.

PEACE, MAN

Ozzy Osbourne, ex-leader of Black Sabbath (favourite pastimes – shooting rabbits, pigeons and pheasants) spotted a dove sitting on a fence at a record reception in the States. He shot it in the head, gnawned the head off and spat it out on a table.

"I don't feel ashamed of myself" he said.

GUNS ON THE RUN

Cowboy Reagan and the National Rifle Association thought they had the States pretty well tied up as far as blocking humane anti-gun legislation was concerned. Until recently.

In June Councillors in Morton Grove, an Illinois town, voted to ban the sale *and possession* of handguns – local gun dealers were given 90 days to shut up shop. Private guns had to be handed in.

The community plans to keep ahead. Congressional moves have proved futile in the past. Now the plan is to get hundreds or thousands of local communites to copy the Morton Grove move where 70% of the 26,000 inhabitants don't want guns. The NRA has begun to combat the moves, but the councillors plan to fight it through county, State and Federal Courts.

HUNT INTIMIDATION

Former Mayor or Yeovil, Councillor John Cruddas, has been forced out of his Somerset home by the bully-boy tactics of local hunt supporters.

Twice in five days hunt thugs attacked his home, causing over £400 worth of damage. Two windows were smashed, in one case with a heavy lump of concrete which could have been lethal to anyone in the way. "Leave our hunt alone" was just one of the slogans painted on the house.

The Councillor's "crime" was to propose a motion that would ban fox hunting on a local beauty spot, Ham Hill. The area is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, and leased to Yeovil Council. Although they deny the attack, the only hunt that meets on the hill is the Seavington F.H.

The second attack, forcing Mr. Cruddas to seek police protection for himself and his daughters, came despite the fact that the motion had been defeated by 12 votes to 33. However the Councillor is more determined to point out the Council's duty to enforce bye-laws which make it an offence to kill or molest wildlife in the park.

Mr. Cruddas has said he will prosecute the Council if they fail to do so.



Western Daily Press.

HUNTS RIDE ROUGHSHOD OVER WILDLIFE

Despite a bye-law protecting wildlife at a country park near Yeovil, Mr. Bob Jones, the council's deputy clerk, has told the League Against Cruel Sports that any attempt by them to prosecute the Seavington Hunt if they ride over Ham Hill may be defeated if the Hunt argue that they have claim to a "sporting right".

FORUM

FORUM is designed specifically for individual members to express an opinion about subjects that interest them and the views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those held by the Association.

The R.S.P.C.A. who sponsored the Cranbrook Report into shooting and fishing have been very quiet generally on the fact that it has been established that fish do feel pain in the same way as any other sentient creature, (look at your constitution), in fact, since the Cranbrook Report, they have produced no leaflets and only one poster. The poster draws attention to the suffering inflicted upon swans who become caught up in line left by negligent fishermen. They have produced not one leaflet or poster concerning the suffering inflicted upon fish by millions of fisher people throughout the country nearly every day.

A statement was made on behalf of the League Against Cruel Sports to the Nottingham Evening Post on 4th July 1981 to say that the Leauge has not "given any active support" to the new Council for the Prevention of Cruelty by Angling, nor has it "taken any steps to oppose angling, nor does it have any policy about angling". A rather cowardly statement from the League in view of the fact that it's company name is the "League Against Cruel Sports" which angling and shark fishing undoubtedly is.

For those of you who are lying awake in bed at night unable to sleep because you fear that any activity against angling may provoke the fisher people to join forces with the British Field Sports Society you may rest quite happily now in the knowledge that if you can actually bring yourselves to look into the windows of angling shops you will find a great number of them are already trade members of the British Field Sports Society. So now you can sleep easy knowing that if you actively oppose angling you are saving lives, and that if you don't you can stay in bed on Sunday mornings in the easy knowledge that you are not pushing fishermen from the river banks, neither are you combatting the propaganda of the B.F.S.S. In fact one might be forgiven for suggesting that you are doing sweet F.A. about very much at all. Perhaps you should join the R.S.P.C.A. and the L.A.C.S. who want members just like you.

Julian Hopkins of the R.S.P.C.A. was forced to comment recently that: "There will be mounting apprehension and indeed revulsion that living creatures should be exploted in this way" when commenting on the stocking of a pool at Rhyll in North Wales with ten thousand trout for easy fishing by novice anglers.

Revulsion and apprehension from whom – certainly not from the animal rights movement.

Miriam Hollis

HSA BOOKSHELF

By the end of October this year the Hunt Saboteurs Handbook will be published by Pluto Press cost £1.50. Written by Phil Windeatt, an active H.S.A. member and regular contributor to HOWL and The Beast magazine, it traces the history of hunting and hunt sabotage. It describes the various forms of hunting and how to stop them. It confronts the arguments for hunting; shows who is involved for and against; where to find out more and what to read. In short, it is likely to be one of the strongest possible arguments in the fight against bloodsports.

The following is an extract from the book . . .

Julius Caesar noticed that the Gauls "coursed for sport rather than what they got" and it is in Ancient France that organized hunting emerged. Charlemagne while conquering most of the world upmarketed hunting the stag and thought it a fine way for his soldiers to train. Just as there was ceremony in war so he added it to hunting with hounds. Styles of dress and etiquette were formulated and the hunting horn emerged. So when William the Conqueror moved into the UK he brought these traditions with him and was most offened at the free and easy, anything goes style of hunting that existed then in this country. William tightened up the hunting laws in the most brutal way and levelled villages and churches to build the New Forest. Poachers were savagely punished by death, imprisonment and multilation (usually the eyes were put out). The 'Kings Game' was sacrosanct. William and his cronies, selected nobles, knights and clergy, chased game till they dropped with exhaustion then killed. Often they would hunt boar on foot with spears. Hunting was restricted to the rich and prosperous section of feudal society. It is the fourteenth century we have to thank for the rise of hunting literature. Edward the Second produced his 'Treatise on the Craft of Hunting' in which he gave his preferences of beasts of the chase. Buck deer, doe, fox then the marten and the roe deer. Interestingly Edward described the fox as "the thief in the wood". Yet the fashionable French culture of the time had little time for the fox. French tutors remained faithful to deer hunting. The standard hunting fare of the country gentleman was hunting bucks in the summer and hunting hares – with wild cats, martens and foxes – as equal second favourites in the winter.

For the nobility in sixteeth and seventeenth England the 'noble stag' remained very much in vogue. Weapons were being developed by now and a variant on straight deer hunting with hounds was originated. Deer were hunted around strongly enclosed parks for the sportsmen and women to shoot with a crossbow from hides and vantage points. Battue-style as it is called was greatly favoured by Elizabeth 1. She enjoyed shooting deer driven to her almost certainly with a crossbow and coursing them with greyhounds in her parks. She once watched 16 bucks pulled down by greyhounds and slaughtered for her after dinner amusement. John Selwyn the keeper of her park at Oteland, performed a feat in 1587 of leaping on the back of a hunted buck and guiding it with his hunting sword to the feet of the Queen where he killed it in front of her. She often carried out the ceremonial incision to the animals throat herself. Sometimes her crossbow was passed to her by a servant dressed as a 'nymph' with an orchestra playing in the woods. When she was sixtyseven Elizabeth was out hunting on horseback every other day. With hunting within the confines of a park, old Norman 'par force' hunting was discontinued. Hounds were big and clumsy and were judged not by speed but on hound 'music'. The Tudors matched their hounds not for size but for sound. The hunt would let loose a buck in the park, sometimes after deliberately laming it with a crossbow (to slow it down), then set their hounds on the trail. The hunters would then ride to a small knoll and listen to the sound of the hounds as they followed the trail. A great fan of this type of hunting was Charles IX of France who died at the age of 24 from pneumonia diagnosed as due to overmuch blowing of his hunting horn. Even the most virulant supporters of bloodsports belive hunting went through one of its most degenerate phases in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Game was starting to become scarce as well. The last boar in Britain was hunted and killed by Sir Richard Grobham in Wiltshire during Elizabeth's reign. So hunters were turning their attention to the plentiful fox which they once saw on a level with the badger as only fit for peasant diggers.

In France where hunting was centered around the King hunting slipped into further decadence. Lousi XIV invented 'La Curee' (The Kill) when with hunting horns trumpeting a special fanfare the lead dog was encoraged to sink its teeth into the cornered stags skull. The rest of the pack was loose to tear outs its entrails. Louis XIV hunted 'par force' but enclosed large areas of woodland so as the game could not escape. Broad rides were cut through thick forests so hunters could follow the hunt with the minimum of inconvenience. Louis once lit up a whole forest at Chantilly with torches so as he could hunt at midnight.

Phil has incurred around £200 in out of pocket expenses for legal fees etc. during the compilation of the book and would appreciate any donations to offset these costs. Cheques/postal orders should be sent to Phil Windeatt c/o Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH. Pre publication copies may be obtained from the same address for £1.50 plus 30p postage and packing.

IRISH STEW

Shanes Castle Estate in Co. Antrim, N. Ireland, sounds like a really mixed up place. Besides a farm and private railway it shares a deer park in conjunction with the Deer Society and a wild bird reserve in conjunction with the RSPB. It also has a 'first class' shoot! However this isn't so suprising when one learns that the owner of the estate, Lord O'Neill, is a keen supporter of the BFSS while the agent for the estate, John Beach, is the BFSS Regional Secretary, the sort of people who get on famously with the RSPB.

BLACK KNIGHT

British Field Sports Society claim Marcus Kimball MP's knighthood "is a great honour for the countryside in general" like DDT?

PRIVATISATION WILL HIT FOX KILLERS

Tecwyn Lewis, Vice-Chairman of the Farmers' Union of Wales who just happens to be Secretary of the Penllwyn Fox Destruction Society, has been protesting along with a number of other rural bully boys over the Government's decision to sell off parts of the Forestry Commission's land to private companies, because unlike the Forestry Commission they won't cough up £12 per day towards the £36 Lewis claims it costs the societies to "hire the hounds" resulting in increased expenditure for them. Let us hope some of these repugnant organisations will be forced out of existence as a consequence!

A.L.F. NEWS

The A.L.F. have been out in force on a variety of missions. Particularly making their point stick to fur shops of Glasgow. Powerful glue was squeezed into the door locks and anti fur trade slogans daubed on walls. Predictably, the shop owners were more concerned about being woken from their sleep with news from the police and spoilt door locks than for the animals which suffer at the hands of the trappers.

Members of the Albrighton Hunt at a cocktail party were treated to a car spray and electrics service. Either the paintwork wasn't dry or was not appreciated because their owners took taxis home.

Fines and a suspended prison sentence followed activists spraying the car and home of professor D.G. Melrose who experiments on rhesus monkeys. Not deterred versitile A.L.F. members turned their hands to decorating the London offices of Rochas, Lancome and Quant as a protest against painful cosmetic testing.

Much publicity was given to twenty activists who chained themselves together at Club Row Pet Market. Police cut them free and charged them with obstruction. In spite of fines totalling £200 the campaign will continue until the squalid market is closed.

A victory was scored when animals taken from a farm at Haywood Doncaster led to the court appearance of owner Mr. Ellis Fox. The "sanctuary" was better described as a hideous death camp, with rotting carcasses littering the yard. He had made a good living selling almost any type of animal for ritual slaughter and vivisection. Mr. Fox was fined £1,500 and banned from holding a pet shop licence for ten years. Most of the remaining animals were too sick to save.

Fifteen lorries were immobilised and daubed with blood-red paint outside Fraccenda Chickens at Brackley Northants. Damage was estimated at £3,000. A further £700 of destruction was carried out on farm buildings at Beckett and Sons Ltd., poultry specialists at Wythall near Birmingham.

HELP

VEGAN diabetic (juvenile onset) trying to control his diabetes by diet alone would like to contact vegetarians/vegans in same position – Ralph Finney, 90 Riverside Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6LU.

"NEVER MIND THE JORROCKS"

With more planning permission than sensitivity, Croydon Council have given the go-ahead for a bronze life-size statue of Jorrocks, a hunter best left dead, to be imposed outside an office development in the town.

He used to carry an iron headed hammer whip with him (perhaps he was after sabs?) and subscribed to the Surrey Hunt. It appears his only connection with Croydon was that he occasionally had breakfast there before hunting.

With the sort of mind blowing logic more akin to hunters than sculptors, the agent for the sculptor responded to outrage from anti-bloodsports people by comparing the statue of Jorrocks with that of Christ: "If the League (Against Cruel Sports) carried their views to their logical conclusion you would never have a statue of Jesus Christ on the Cross."

Meanwhile, Croydon Council have not confined rumours that it next plans to erect a statue of Atilla the Hun on the grounds that "he would have raped and pillaged Croydon – had he known it was there".

GROUP NEWS

Summer is the time of country fairs and shows – many H.S.A. groups have had stalls and may have appeared (uninvited) at agricultural shows, complete with banners, to accompany the parading packs of fox hounds.

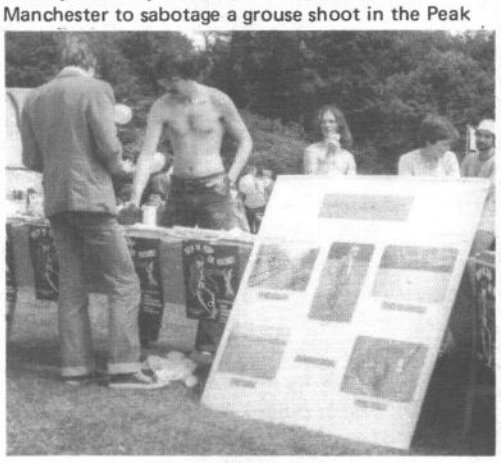
In Scotland 30 members of the **Clydeside, Central Scotland** and the Edinburgh based **Joint Action for Animal Welfare** staged a demonstration with placards and leaflets at an open day of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire Fox Hound kennels. The groups plan to disrupt the hunt from the beginning of the season.

Another open day, this time to improve the image of the fox, was held by **Shildon Animal Rights Group** in Darlington. Films on hunting and the fox were shown.

In Yorkshire, **Doncaster** sabs have been compaigning in the local press, while the **North Yorkshire** group hope for a spot on local radio. This group have bought their own mini bus with money raised from a sponsored walk and a summer fair. They have joined demonstrations at the Harrogate National Meat Trades Fair and the Town & Country Festival at Stoneleigh. They also staged a banner domonstration with sabs from the **Cleveland** and **Sheffield** groups at the Goathland Hunt Fair and were well received by the mainly local and rural public.

Radio Stoke interviewed a **Cheshire** group member after a stall against bloodsports at the Nantwich Show.

The **East Midlands** group have raised nearly £400 with flag days and stalls. A south Notts. fox hunt supporter who rammed a group member's car during the cubbing season last year was fined £238 and had his licence endorsed. In August the group were joined by sabs from Yorkshire and Manchester to sabotage a grouse shoot in the Peak



District. The sabs formed lines on both sides of the shooting butts and the normal "bag" of around 60 grouse was reduced to 4.

Meanwhile, in the West Midlands a new group in Stafford planned a hit against a B.F.S.S. Country Sports show "to start the season". Three **Luton** members travelled to Somerset to hit Quantocks Stag Hunt. After walking for miles they were just two minutes late to save a stag that was hunted, shot and disembowelled in front of them. During the sickening ritual they saw the slots (feet), heart and liver cut from the body and distributed by the huntsman to the local ghouls.

The **Oxford Animal Rights Group** demonstrated outside the Oxford Country Sports Fair, organised by a University Hunt Club. Many students opposed the association of their college – Christ Church – with the organising Beagle pack.

At an animal welfare fete in Southend **South East Essex** Hunt Saboteurs enrolled 20 new members. Photographs they displayed of a mutilated fox were reproduced in a local paper.

The group were joined by the East London H.S.A. in a run-on during a parade of the East Essex Fox Hounds in the Grand Ring of the Essex Country Show. After stewards invoked a special bye-law (created after a similar demo two years ago) to eject the sabs they sat in front of the British Field Sports Society caravan.

The H.S.A. Annual General Meeting in London last June attracted 140 members from afar afield as Scotland and Cornwall.

The Guildford group have organised a number of fund raising stalls and taken part in hits against two grouse shoots and cub hunting in the New Forest.

The **Wild Animal Protection Society** in South London have been campaigning against local circuses and have been concentrating on the newly formed Tandridge Mink Hounds, together with groups from **Guildford, Mid Sussex, Tonbridge/ Tunbridge Wells, Bexhill** and **Worthing.**

At a cub hunting fixture of the Crawley & Horsham F.H. hunt supporters put nuts and bolts into the engine of a sab's car wrecking it as a result. Although repeatedly bothered by hunt heavies on this first hit of the season the **Brighton** and **Worthing** sabs were successful in preventing any kills. Two foxes broke through the cordon of riders, but sabs managed to head off the hounds and foil the scent with anti mate.

The **Worthing** group have also been "trap spotting and snare snatching" in recent months and joined the **West London** group to hit the Devon and Cornwall Mink Hounds. To the amusement of the police both sides were complaning at one point that their vehicles were blocked in.

Maidstone and **Tonbridge** groups netted several new members at Animal Aid's "Animal Welfare and Conservation Fayre" in West Malling and the Tonbridge group joined sabs from Mid-Sussex and Worthing for a run on at the South of England Agricultural Show at Ardingly during the parades of fox hounds.

The **Hampshire/Surrey Animal Rights Group** set up three stalls at a 'Beauty Without Cruelty' event in Haslemere one of which was devoted to the H.S.A. The group are currently raising money for an "animal rights" mini bus, and have been campaigning to get hounds banned from meeting near motorways and major roads because of the danger to road users.

B.F.S.S. NEWS

B.F.S.S. member Paul Clifton-Ivall of Tithe Barn Drive, Bray, Maidenhead, shot a dog in January, mistaking if for a fox. He was fined £35 with £48.92 costs and expenses for trespassing with a shotgun. His four shotguns wern't confiscated. He's also Regional Info. Officer of the N.F.U.

Full time regional B.F.S.S. secretary for East Anglia, Chris Wells, " a keen shooting man", is also a member of the R.S.P.B.

A "rather small gathering of stalwarts" with remarkably few young faces among them, attended the recent B.F.S.S. AGM. They heard Chairman Kimball MP announce his long overdue retirement before he went on to urge a "modified closed shop" for the bloodsporting fraternity. He wants every fishing rent, cheque for a day's shooting and hunt subscription to carry with it a B.F.S.S. membership number – "we have got to prepare for the next round in the battle to preserve country sports (sic) by being as tough as our opponents" he added.

His suggestion has not had the support he'd hoped for. Some of his "Freedom-for-the-indivual" buddies clearly suspect Brother Kimball's politics. A Mrs. Bates, writing to "Horse and Hound", says his idea "smacks of communism and trade unionism . . . . For many people having to pay the B.F.S.S. subscription would be the last straw; it would make them have to give up altogether and even turn them "anti".

The B.F.S.S. membership currently stands at 55,000. Far short of the 100,000 target set 5 years ago when their numbers were also 55,000

B.A.S.C. TERRORISTS

There are 800,000 plus shotgun cerificate holders in the U.K. In a bid to attract more of them to its ranks and establish an even greater foothold in the ranks of the R.S.P.B. and other conservationist organisations W.A.G.B.I. (Wildfowlers Assoc. of Great Britain and Ireland), the largest individual bloodsport group in Western Europe with 60,000 members, has changed its name.

Out of a "massive" turnout of 102 members 81 voted to rename it the *British Association for Shooting and Conservation* (B.A.S.C.).

One of the 102 B.A.S.C. terrorists present was *Hector Monro*, Tory Minister for Sport – in his lecture he reaffirmed the Government's intention not to interfere with "legitimate field sports".

Chairman Major General David Lloyd Owen said that the new title reflected ". . . active and continuing concern for the conservation of wildlife *resources* and the countryside" (our emphasis).

One of B.A.S.C's freedom loving members claimed that "all who shoot should treat the foreshore and the access points as their own territory".

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

The B.F.S.S. and B.A.S.C. have been late comers to the Conservation scene. The retired majors and colonels constituting the bulk of their local secretariat have been mixing nicely with the ex majors and colonels who still unfortunately have too strong a grasp of more genuine conservation groups like the World Wildlife Fund and Royal Soc. for the Protection of Birds.

Incidents of mutual involvement this summer include a W.W.F. stand at the Gwysaney country sports fair in North Wales – money raised at the fair went to the B.F.S.S. – and an interesting quote in Shooting Times (28/5/81) "The bulk of the (R.S.P..B.) members, *with some honourable exceptions,* are totally opposed to wildfowling . . ." (our emphasis)

The hunting fraternity despises any organization not directly connected with killing creatures for fun but will clearly tolerate any such group if that group can help provide it with a more respectable image. Sometimes its contempt shines through. References to "dicky bird watchers" (the same Shooting Times article) and the fact that B.A.S.C. recently had to publish an apology to the R.S.P.B. for a potentially libellous statement clearly expose this scorn.

It's high time that the ordinary decent membership of organizations like the W.W.F. and the R.S.P.B. made it clear to their councils that they want no truck at all with the murderers of the B.F.S.S. and B.A.S.C.

BLAMED IN THE WRONG

Over 7000 sheep and lambs were killed by dogs in 1980 according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in May. A spokesman for the Ministry said that "Throats are torn, bellies slashed open, the whole fleece literally ripped off the animal's body. Make no mistake, any dog, however small, can be responsible for such mayhem". Strange how foxes always get blamed isn't it.

EXAMINING BLOODSPORTS

Sabbing's been hitting the examination scene.

This year's Scottish "O" grade English paper essay choice – "describe as vividly as you can one of the following: a colourful parade; a march or a demonstration etc." – attracted several descriptions of a day out sabbing hunts.

And a C.S.E. English paper posed the question "Blood Sports – should they be banned?" Easy!

POVERTY STRICKEN

Dover District Councillors last June rejected an application by the West Street F.H. for relief of rates on their kennels, claiming they were a voluntary organisation and therefore a hardship case.

BARE FACED CHEEK

Plasterer Adam Hewett objects to hunting and particularly the fact that the Queen condones it. As her motorcade passed his Roehampton house on its way back from the Derby he flashed his bottom. Sadly a policeman spotted his cheeky gesture moments before the Queen's car arrived. He gave chase and caught Adam when his car ran out of petrol. After being fined £25 for "insulting behaviour" by Kingston Magistrates Paul said "I showed my feelings in this way because it has recently become a craze for people to "moon" or flash their bottoms in protest".

BBC BIAS

The BBC are still at it. A pack of foxhounds was paraded at this year's televised Royal International Horse Show" – no doubt commentator Raymond Brooks-Ward's farewell gift as outgoing P.R.O. for the Masters of Foxhounds Association.

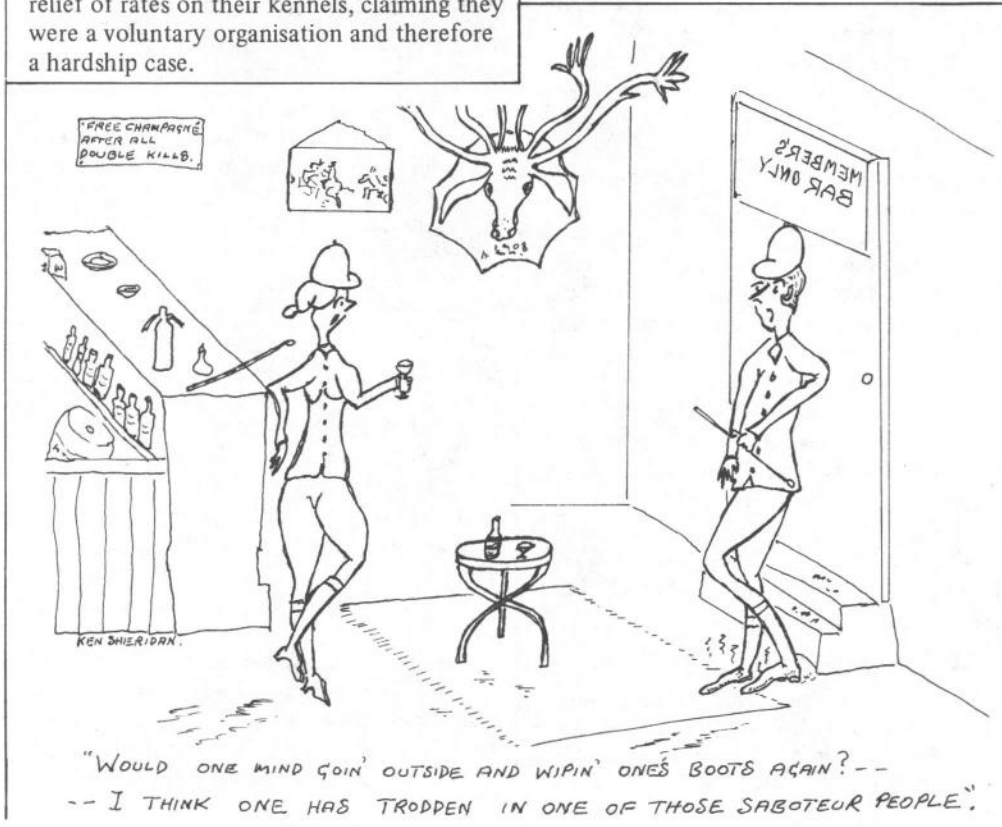
BBC BOOBS

A Radio 1 D.J., referring to the traffic jams around the recent Game Fair, suggested that his listeners "find an alternative route if you're not attending the games there". Wrong game mate!

LITTLE WHITE LIES

This year's M.F.H.A. Centenary celebrations produced the expected hot air. A delegate claimed that "one million people hunt regularly throughout the season". Divide that by the 240 foxhunts in Britain and Ireland and you get 4,166 out on every hunt!

Not quite right. Back to the calculator M.F.H.A.



SHOOTING TIMES Comic Cuts

PRETTY POOR SHOW

Interesting to note the antagonism aroused in the pages of the weekly boys' own hunting comic "Shooting Times" by the recent Brian Plummer film "The Hunting Man" shown on BBC2 T.V. Condemnation of the film, which showed a young rabbit being tormented in the training of a coursing lurcher, terriers being used to dig out badgers and foxes and a rat being baited in a cage, appeared in the form of letters from Robin Brockbank, Director of the so-called B.F.S.S. and Coursing Supporters Club supremo Sandy Mackenzie. The comic's own correspondent Carol Foster wasn't too happy either " . . . Brian Plummer will have done little to promote the field sports' cause. While we have no reason to be apologetic for our field sports, there is equally no need for them to be brashly forced upon an unsuspecting public" (OK to force the "pretty" side of hunting on them though at Boxing Day meets, country sports fairs etc.).

ILLEGAL HINTS

Strange then, with so much upset caused by this unpleasant man from Huddersford, Staffs, that the comic should choose to advertize his books on an almost weekly basis. Books like "The Working Terrier", "Modern Ferreting", "Nathan, a Pit Fighting Dog" and "Rogues & Running Dogs". Besides Plummer's books other illegal activity and poaching hint books are advertized – "Rebecca the Lurcher" by Andrew Simpson ("the fascinating account of a years coursing in Southern England, not always legal. Rebecca's story from puppy-hood to maturity and the close shaves she and her master had with the law"); "Working Terriers" by Dan Russell ("chapters include . . . digging foxes and badgers, badger hunting at night, . . ."); "A Poacher's Tale" by Fred Speakman, etc., etc.

CATCHING THEM YOUNG

Bloodsports fanatics are attempting more and more to corrupt the young. There is a small but dedicated number of pro-blood-sports teachers in the country like Gary Robinson of Littlemoss High School, Droylsden, Manchester who admits that bloodsports are taught at the school – films about falconry and hare coursing are often shown and mixed fox hunting and fishing weekends are organised.

The following letter from 12 year old Daniel Jolliffe of Seatown, Dorset to Shooting Times indicates the full extent of the influence which this sort of propaganda, home grown or school taught, can have . . . ". . . while checking my rabbit wires one morning in a field in front of my house, I discovered a large brown dog mink in one of them. It was still alive so I rushed home and got my father to shoot it. I would be very interested to know if this has happened before". Pleasant kid!

Coursing Review



COURSING STATISTICS

The following hare coursing table was recently issued:–

Season	Courses Run	Hares Killed	Kills to Courses
1977/78	1829	387	21%
78/79	721	152	21%
79/80	1816	369	20%
80/81	2040	430	21%

It's strange isn't it that, for a sport in which the object is "not to kill hares" (National Coursing Club Rules) the ratio of kills remains so consistent over the years?

The ratio ties in very closely with R.S.P.C.A. field-superintendent Marshall's observations – "Over the last five years, I have kept count of all the courses I have attended. Of all the hares I have seen coursed, 25% have been caught by dogs. Of that percentage 75% were killed outright but the remaining ones were still alive when the persons engaged to kill the hares reached the dogs. In some cases the limbs were broken when the hares were stretched between the dogs fighting for the hare when still alive. The time these hares are held by the dogs can vary from 15 seconds to 3 minutes. This, to me, is the unacceptable face of hare coursing".

"CAPTAIN CONSERVATION"

Readers will remember Captain Harry Birkbeck. Thugs from the Swaffham Coursing Club have regularly attacked sabs on his land when not killing hares. The Captain is not renown for restraining these attacks – he actually appeared on a charge of criminal damage himself following one incident.

Strange that a man who gets his perverted kicks from killing wildlife should be this year's winner of the Norfolk Farmland Conservation award granted by Norfolk County Council and the County Committee of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and sponsored by Anglia T.V.

The award was made "in recognition of Capt. Birkbeck's achievements in reconciling successful farming with a high degree of landscape *and wildlife conservation* at Abbey Farm, West Acre" (our emphasis). Conservation of hares no doubt.

COURSING VANDALISM UPSURGE

A plea to end hare coursing in Scotland has been made to Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish Minister for Home Affairs by Labour MP Norman Hogg. The plea follows a complaint by the Scottish NFU that an upsurge in the sport, mainly by unemployed teenagers with nothing else to do and the requisite low coursing mentality, has brought an increase in vandalism to farm property.

RABBIT COURSING

Hundreds of rabbits are being trapped and slaughtered by poachers and bloodsports fanatics in Hainault Forest, a 1500 acre GLC park. The live ones are then being coursed by greyhounds. Government imposed spending restrictions have meant that there are not enough keepers to catch the poachers.



Captain Harry Birkbeck surrounded by coursing cronies

FISHING FESTIVAL WRECKED

August 13th, 14th, and 15th saw the Birmingham Angling Festival at Edgbaston Reservoir, the final day of which was to be an Anglo- German competion. However cancellation stickers appeared on notices all over Birmingham advertising the events. Almost as fast as council workmen pasted up fresh adverts further cancellation notices appeared. The Birmingham Evening Mail has reported that "Worried council spokesmen have urged the hundreds of competitors to ignore the notices", but twelve of the junior competitors failed to turn up.

We have it on good authority that those involved placed sackfuls of breadcrumbs in the reservoir before the event and travelled around the edge of the reservoir throwing stones into the water to drive the fish away from the stakes. In fact one council security person astride a Honda 50cc asked those involved to stop throwing the stones "because it is driving the fish away and there is a competition here". Sorry!

COFFEE MORNING CLUB ATTACKED

The continuing tension between traditionalists and animal libbers surfaced yet again last June at the R.S.P.C.A. Annual General Meeting when an amendment to a motion that . . . "The Society actively campaigns against all bloodsports, and that it calls upon its patrons to disassociate themselves from all bloodsports, including fishing or resign from patronage" was refused a hearing by the Society's President Richard Adams (author of "Watership Down"). Had the amendment been successful it would have meant the Queen either resigning or coming out against the Royal family's favourite pastime. Gordon Newman, co-writer of the excellent television series "Law and Order", took the microphone away from Adams demanding that the amendment be discussed backed up by a noisy chorus of "Royals are cruel to animals". Veteran animal rights Campaigner Brigid Brophy seconded the motion. Repeated bitter allegations were again made that there were "fingers in the till" down at Horsham headquarters and the audit report for the year was not accepted by the members present, because incredibly it had not been circulated to all Council members.

FOREIGN NEWS

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, JULY 1981 – Pit fighting (one of Britains "old traditions"), setting bull terriers on one another is a growing sport in the Williamstown area of Melbourne. The dogs are often stolen from responsible owners. An informant ready to give evidence on the activities of these bloodsporters was beaten up badly by thugs before he could get to the Australian R.S.P.C.A. and has now been frightened off. Anyone caught pit fighting faces a £1200 fine or six months imprisonment.

FRANCE, MAY 1981 – Giscard, big game hunter loses Presidency to Francois Mitterand.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MAY 1981 – It is announced that dogs, probably beagles are to be given large doses of radiation in Canadian Defence Department labs to find an antidote to the kind of nausea and vomiting soldiers might experience in nuclear war. The experiments are expected to last three years, cost £75,000 and are being monitored by all N.A.T.O. chiefs.

PLOVDIV, BULGARIA – Last July The World Hunting Expo, held every ten years was organized. Visitors to the show were shown the many species that are bred to be shot on the nearby Balkan hills including red deer, boar, goats and wild ram.

PAMPLONA, SPAIN – An eighteen year old man man was seriously injured and nine people were hurt by the annual bull driving festival held in the city's streets. The bulls ended up (guess where?) – the bull ring.

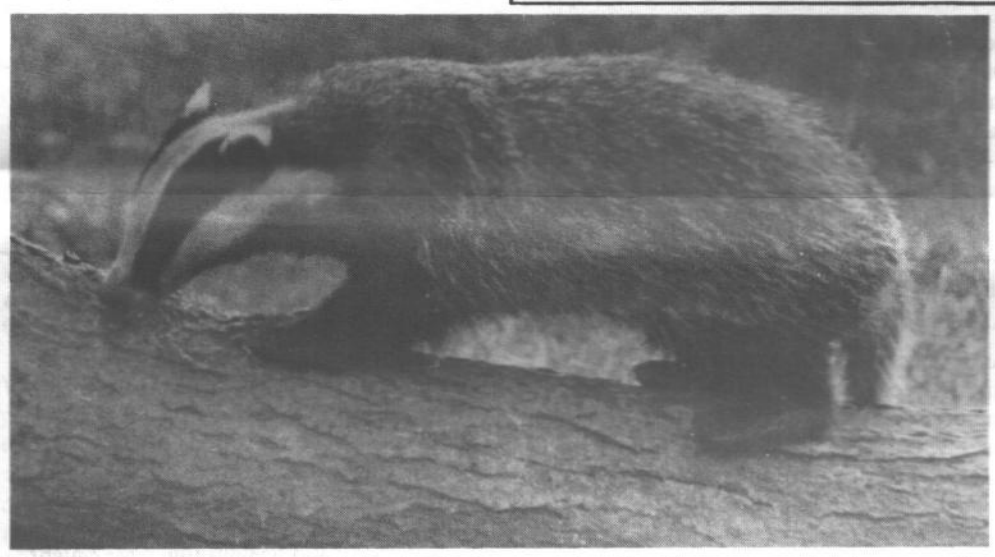
CHICAGO, USA, MAY 1981 – A ferret being used for medical research got even with a doctor who injected it with a virus. As the doctor bent down to check for watery eyes the ferret sneezed resulting in the doctor contracting the virus.

NEW DELHI, INDIA, MAY 1981 – Investment in India's project to save tigers from extinction is to be increased from £2.4 million to £5.9 million in the next few years.

T.B. or not T.B.

The badger remains on a devastating decline with the wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No bodies are recovered from the gassed setts, so no investigation is made into why some badgers contract bovine tuberculosis and others do not.

It would appear that few agree with Lord Zuckerman's report in attributing blame entirely to badgers for infecting cattle with



T.B. The tubercle bacillus attacks the badger's lungs and spreads to the liver and kidneys. Whilst the animal urinates, a highly infectious bacilli trail is laid. This contaminates the grass the cow will eat. However, extensive inquiries in an attempt to trace the origin of an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis in Dyfed was inconclusive and did not lead to badgers. Farmers have been inclined to remove or kill "just in case" as it is an E.E.C. offence to vaccinate cattle.

Research into badger life and habitat reveals that they dig latrines into which they deposit dung. Analysis of which shows that badgers are specialist worm eaters. The size of their territories depends upon the availability of earthworms. In poor earthworm country, territories are large, setts further apart and each one occupied by a sow living on her own. Boars seem to be very few and far between and each territory unable to provide food for male and female and the boars spread over two or three adjoining territories. The latrines also serve as territory borders, the more plentiful the food supply the smaller the boundary. Where worms are sparse the areas become much larger, occupied by one sow only. Boars become rarer, perhaps one will cover two or three adjoining territories to find enough food.

In spite of all this research, we simply do not know how bovine tuberculosis is spread, but the Ministry of Agriculture seems 'hell bent' on using the badger as a convenient scapegoat in its attempt to placate the dairy industry.

RIOT PRACTICE?

League Against Cruel Sports consultant, Raymond Rowley claims that farmers and landowners are using police marksmen to shoot deer on Exmoor for the lucrative venison market. He claims that some farmers in the Dulverton and Brushford areas are trapping the deer inside high fences before they're shot. The carcases can fetch up to £200 each.

Farmer Alan Littler, of Oakford, admits occasionally using a group of police marksmen from Barnstaple to "help control" the deer population, and Chief Inspector Roy Roberts confessed: "I know we have one or two officers who do some *sporting* shooting in their own time, but that is entirely their own business." (Our emphasis).

DEAR DEER

Not content with blaming foxes for crop damage, farmers in the Dulverton area of Exmoor are turning their attention to deer from the L.A.C.S. sanctuaries. They claim that deer congregate on the League's land and thereby increase the amount of damage caused on ajoining farms. In an effort to calm the irate farmers, the League have offered to pay compensation for any damage caused on condition that they leave the deer undisturbed and allow a two year survey to be carried out to establish the facts.

FAIR COP?

North Yorkshire sabs should watch out when in the Morton-on-Swale area, because local policeman Joe Scott is heavily into shooting and ferreting.

THE HAILSHAM CONNECTION

5 antis & 2 hunt supporters found themselves charged with breaches of the peace at Hailsham, Sussex, magistrates' court on 8th July.

The incident leading to the original arrests occured on 14th March. The antis- Julian Blundy, Ian Startup and H.S.A. members Alan and Roy Haycock and Keith Bird – had been unsuccessful in locating a local foxhunt and had retired to an inn for some liquid refreshment. They were wearing H.S.A. teeshirts. The behaviour of two couples in the pub made them suspicious. When the couples left one sab tailed them – he found one of the males, **Tristan Maarten Voorspuy**, tampering with the sab van's tyre valve. His companion, **Robin Nigel Bruce-Knight**, and the two girls were in Bruce-Knight's black VW Golf, revving up. The four made off. While the sabs were checking their van for damage the VW returned and Voorspuy tossed an explosive at them. Although accepted as a crow scarer at the trial its description (a foot long and fizzing) makes it sound more like a thunderflash. It exploded with a loud crack fortunately without injuring the sabs or a small child standing nearby.

The sabs gave chase but lost the VW. However, it was shortly spotted turning out of a garage. The sabs blocked its exit and Alan went over to ask them what their behaviour was all about. Voorspuy and Bruce-Knight simply grinned, reversed at speed and drove straight at the sabs. The sabs had had enough. In their anger they kicked and dented the car's sides and top, smashed the windscreen and ripped off the aerial and the rear windscreen wiper. Estimated damage – £450.

Voorspuy and Bruce-Knight were no longer grinning.

Court

During the court case it became clear that they had nothing to do with the original hunt being sought.

Voorspuy's defence was that he threw the "crowscarer" at the sabs "to smarten them up a bit". They'd recognised the sabs by their teeshirts and conversation. At the garage Voorspuy had "attempted to apologise".

After the assault Bruce-Knight had driven off and parked in a hidden place for 10 minutes.

Both were defended by **John Ball**, solicitor and joint master of the Pevensey Marsh Beagles.

Despite the fact that they were both patently more guilty than the sabs of "action likely to cause a breach of the peace" they were only fined £25 each. The sabs were fined £40 each.

The matter of compensation for the damage was referred to a civil court. Voorspuy was fined a further £25 for throwing a firework in a highway contrary to the Explosives Act 1875.

The South African Link

Both of the hunters have strong army links. Bruce-Knight, 26, of 14 Fullerton Road, London SW18, a self employed tax consultant "earning £25 per week after deductions" and paying £25 per week rent, was once in the Queens Royal Hussars.

Voorspuy, home address believed to be Folkington Place, Polegate, Sussex, is a serving lieutenant with the Blues & Royals and is currently based at Knightsbridge barracks. He has two tours of Ulster under his belt. He was born 26 years ago in Johannesburg.

He currently earns £400 per month after deductions and, like Bruce-Knight, received his military training at Sandhurst academy. He is clearly in a very handy position to obtain army thunderflashes, paid for by public taxes, for use against civilians in order to "smarten them up a bit".

One would have thought that a man found guilty of "breach of the peace" and of contravening the Explosives Act is scarcely the sort of officer material Her Majesty's Forces need.

The Plot Thickens

Besides his more direct style of attack Voorspuy would appear to have been indulging in a more subtle attempt to get at antis.

Lord David Westbury of Borton Cottage, Malton, Yorks supports cruelty to animals. He voted against the Hare Coursing (Abolition) Bill. Besides working voluntarily for the St. John Ambulance Brigade he is a Commander in the Order of St. John, an order of chivalry founded almost 1000 years ago and only 7th or 8th in line to the Crown.

During the summers of 1979 and 80 he purchased 14 or 15 sky blue H.S.A. "For Fox Sake Stop Hunting" sweatshirts direct from an H.S.A. member working at the St. John HQ in London. The shirts were all extra large ones. He refused point blank to make out a cheque to the H.S.A., preferring always to pay cash. On one occasion though he was in the HQ office with a smartly dressed young man. He got that man to make out his own cheque to the H.S.A. for another shirt. The name on the cheque? T.M. Voorspuy.

Both Westbury and Voorspuy are members of the B.F.S.S.

So what's going on? Why do they want 15 of our sweatshirts? Perhaps we're being paranoic but could it all be part of a jigsaw? A B.F.S.S. plot perhaps to discredit the anti bloodsports movement by using a 15 man commando squad of heavies in H.S.A. sweatshirts led by a South African born quartermaster with apparent access to army explosives to carry out some foul deed which could alienate us from the support which we now command from the majority of the public? We'll probably never know as Voorspuy's little fit of over-ebullience in Sussex last March has inevitably prejudiced any such planned move.

Appeal

An Appeal has been set up for the 5 sabs involved in the case. Their total costs so far amount to £380 (five £40 fines plus £180 legal costs). All donations will be gratefully received. Anyone wishing to contribute should send their donation to The Hailsham Five, c/o H.S.A. PO Box 19, London SE22 9LR. Cheque and PO's should be made out to the "H.S.A. Legal Fund" – receipts will be sent on request.

OBITUARY

Bent Justice

Circuit Judge William Harrison Openshaw (1913-81) didn't appear to have much talent for making friends.

In February 1977 39 sabs were arrested for trying to prevent hares from being coursed at the Waterloo Cup. After a 12 day hearing costing the H.S.A. £1400 in legal fees Ormskirk magistrates found 31 sabs guilty of "action likely to cause a breach of the peace" and bound them over. We were advised to appeal and legal aid applications were lodged with Preston Crown Court. Despite several sabs being students and clearly eligible for legal aid all the applications were refused . . . . by Judge Openshaw.

As he was to be the presiding Judge the Appeals were dropped as his partiality had begun to show through.

The other three sabs, represented by a solicitor offering his services for free, had their appeal heard by Preston Judge Dewhurst, Openshaw being on holiday. Dewhurst dismissed the police prosecution's evidence without even bothering to hear the case for the defence. Result – full acquittal.

The remaining 28 sabs were still 'guilty' of the same offence only because they had been unable to afford the court costs. There was no chance to reopen the appeals.

B.F.S.S.

Only then was it discovered that Openshaw was a member of the B.F.S.S. He had never admitted this and should never have touched the case. So much for blind justice.

Murder

He clearly upset other people too. In May this year he was stabbed to death. A disgruntled prisoner is believed to have been charged with the murder.

Sympathy

Our fullest sympathies go to his family, especially his two sons, C. Peter Openshaw (former joint Master of the Kendal & District Otterhounds) and D.J.A. Openshaw (a Wigan Based B.F.S.S. Hon. local secretary).

ALL PART OF THE GAME

An interesting conflict of interests arose at a fox dig recently. The dig took place on a game shoot. Terriers went to ground and the earth was dug out. Two terriers were lifted out but a third was found dead with a game-keeper's snare around its throat.

RUNNING OUT OF SPORT

Remember how the hunters are always suggesting that "the only good fox is a dead fox"?

Then what do you make of this snippet from Bill Galpin's "Terrier Talk" page in a recent issue of Shooting Times? . . .

"A reader from the north wrote to me protesting at the shortage of foxes in his area. He believes that, whilst the urban development and motorways were partly to blame, far too many good working terriers are in the wrong hands. Hunt terriers, as we know them today, were developed for hunt work, but there is no doubt that they are being used to help in the destruction of the very sport for which they were bred".

SABS SPIKE GUNS

Grouse shooting in the Peak National Park was underway as usual on the so-called "Glorious Twelfth" in spite of reports that the grouse population on Park moors is 100,000 lower than in the 1930's.

Moorland fires in April and May affected 3500 acres in the Park area, which hit the nesting period and heavy snow later caught the second brood.

However, local sabs have made several successful visits to the area and saved many of the remaining birds.

Meanwhile, the Peak Park Planning Board are likely to implement a bloodsports ban on land owned or controlled by the Board when they meet on October 30th.

LIGHTS IN THE FOREST

Forestry Commission rangers have experienced some difficulties in this year's deer cull, the most bizarre disruption seems to have come from health fanatics sprinting along forest rides at dawn, or even in darkness with torches strapped to their torsos to light the way.

FOAL FARM

John Hicks former Chairperson of the H.S.A. and his wife Jo have both been sacked from their positions as managers of Foal Farm Animal Rescue Centre. A catalogue of differences of opinion with the existing committee came to a head when John and Jo insisted on taking care of foxes that had been rescued as cubs from the hands of the hunt. They are determined to battle on to protect the interests of all the animals at the farm, including four foxes and a badger. Letters of support to John and Jo Hicks, Foal Farm, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent; would be welcome.

BFSS GOES TO GAOL

Besides setting up country fairs and giving talks to universities and schools the West Midlands BFSS is now going into prisons to promote their activities. We understand the number of prisoners 'going over the wall' as a result has rocketted.

Kills on Film

THE ANIMALS FILM, a 136 minute major documentary for the first time exposing society's mass exploitation of animals gets its world premiere at the London Film Festival at the National Film Theatre in November.

Narrated by Julie Christie and two years in the making, the film reveals what is happening to animals behind the locked, closed doors of factory farms and secret scientific laboratories both here, the USA and across Europe. Radical pro-animal groups are portrayed like the Animal Liberation Front both here and in the USA. In the wildlife section of the film the Hunt Saboteurs Association are featured in action in the field and there is **previously unseen footage of stag and fox kills.** Robert Wyatt (formerly of 'Soft Machine' and 'Matching Mole') has written an original music score. This is the first time in a major film that animal liberation has been taken seriously and has been a mammoth struggle to complete. The film makers hope it will win many more activists to animal lib.

It is vital that the film's premiere is a tremendous success which will then ensure the film gets international TV and cinema distribution. It is expected that the film will sell out as it is only being screened once at the Festival (Provisionally set for Sunday November 8 at 6.15 p.m.). So contact the NFT box office (Tel: 01-928 3232) well in advance. It is expected that The Animals Film will do for animals what "China Syndrome" did for the anti-nuclear movement. See you there.



Scene from the film showing rescued cat

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.....

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