HOWL

No. 2

5p

Hounds off our wildlife

MAGAZINE OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 130 KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES SURREY

ANTI-BASHERS RUN AMOK!

Hard on the heels of queer-bashing and paki-bashing, Britain is now subject to an even more widespread scourge – anti-bashing. Hardly a week goes by without a report reaching us of antis being brutally assaulted and beaten up. Several antis have suffered serious injuries, necessitating hospital treatment. Cars have been badly damaged also, including being rammed by landrovers, tyres slashed, tanks sugared and windscreens smashed. Hunt supporters have admitted to the press that they are 'arming themselves with coshes' to ward off antis; yet there has not been a peep out of the police about carrying offensive weapons or conspiracy to assault (the current police favourite for dealing with violence from other quarters.) Information has reached us that if certain hunt supporters catch an anti, they will tie him or her up with barbed wire and leave them in a ditch overnight.

In the historic Dorchester prosecution of 1972, four antis and four huntsmen (including the master) were summoned to face binding-over orders after saboteurs were roughed up by hunt heavies and kicked by horsemen at Piddletrenthide. Three of the 'Piddletrenthide Four' (!) were bound over by the court whilst their assailants were released due to 'lack of evidence'.

Since then it has been the same disgraceful story: antis being beaten up, and often prosecuted as well, while their assailants are allowed to get away scot free. Often there is a considerable element of local policemen allowing hunt supporters to continue harassing antis, and even turning a blind eye when antis are physically attacked.

When the sadistic instincts of the huntspeople are not vented through a successful 'kill', they are prone to taking out their anguish on the nearest available 'hate object', ie us. The following recent examples will illustrate.

27.10.73 *Old Berkeley Beagles at Cuddington, Bucks.*
One Sab forced against wall by hunt follower – suffered slight cuts and bruises. Another sab thrown across bonnet of a parked car. Can of anti-mate stolen. Sab's car tyres let down.

13.11.73 *Southdown at Woodmancote, Sussex.*
Sab pushed about by redcoat. Anti-mate can stolen. Thrown into ditch by redcoat who grabbed hunting horn and foghorn, broke both and threw them away. Hit several times by female hunt supporter with stick. Whipped by redcoat. Yet another anti-mate can stolen. Run into by supporter's landrover. Sab's car tyre deflated. Total cost of day's damage – £6.30.



Having destroyed his horn, a hunt heavy roughs up a lone sab and steals his spray while a red-coat looks on approvingly. *Southdown Fox-hunt at Woodmancote, Sussex. 13.11.73*
Photo Courtesy of Brighton Argus

17.11.73 *Tickham Hunt at Rodmersham Green, Kent.*
Punched by supporters while trying to argue peaceably. Whipped by redcoats. Beaten on head with whip-handle. Cars whipped and kicked.

24.11.73 *North Bucks Beagles at Little Houghton, Northants.*
Sab thrown to ground by supporter, held there while another punched him in the head. Spray stolen.

26.12.73 *Bisley & Sandhurst at Pirbright, Surrey.*
Whipped by redcoat. Jumped on by three heavies. Thrown to ground and kicked in face. Spray stolen. Horn broken. Whipped again. Returned to car to find huntsman tearing off sparking plug covers and deflating tyres.

Although in most cases there was sufficient numbers of police present to maintain 'law and order' their activities were largely directed towards checking antis' vehicles or giving aggressive lectures about 'coming down here and interfering with people'. In several incidents the police themselves have aided hunt supporters by handing over to them sprays or horns confiscated from sabs.

The time has come to make a determined stand against this blatant hunt brutality and general police partiality.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association is a non-violent organisation dedicated to actively campaigning against bloodsports. We do not physically attack hunts people or supporters. We do not injure or persecute any creature, either wild or belonging to the hunt. We take the utmost care in avoiding damage to the countryside, and often make-good damage done by hunts.

The hunts people on the other hand, are per se devoted to the persecution and destruction of wildlife, for amusement. Practically every week there are incidents of assault and battery, when irate huntsmen attack antis, often picking on youngsters or girls. Besides destroying wildlife, there are frequent accounts of hounds and horses being maimed or killed in hunting or traffic accidents. Hounds belonging to many hunts are badly treated, being starved the day before the hunt and viciously whipped when they don't obey the huntsman's horn. Hounds are usually destroyed between the ages of six and eight when their 'useful' life is over because 'they don't make good pets'. Also their carcasses are often fed to the rest of the pack. Hunts frequently do irreparable damage to the environment, breaking down fences, worrying sheep, leaving gates open and generally disrupting the rural calm with commotion and traffic chaos.

Some rural police forces however, have chosen to side with the forces of sportive destruction. No matter how much they bumf-up their own 'impartiality' when they arrive at the scene, bitter experience has shown that the police will side with the hunting fraternity nine times out of ten. It is not difficult to see the reasons for this. Primarily, rural police resent 'foreigners' from the cities 'interfering' in the country. It is also natural for the police to side with 'simple country-folk harmlessly amusing themselves', even though many huntspeople today are hunting 'commuters', driving out from the nouveau-riche suburbs to partake in their weekly hunting-squire fantasy: we on the other hand are told to 'get back to our concrete jungle/slums/ghettos etc. etc. The police want, above all, a quiet life, and will turn their backs on hunting vandalism, providing it is part of the status quo, and there will not be too much trouble from the local yokels.

Since most of the locals don't dare open their mouths against the hunt there is never too much local opposition. Of course the most important reason for the police partiality is the influence of the hunting set. To hunt three times a week requires some pretty heavy bread, and bread talks. As often as not the master of the hunt will also be chairman of the local authority, a member of the county council or even an MP. Now, put yourself in the policeman's position – who would you lean on, the local MP or a crowd of hairy 'students' from the 'city'?

However, the worm that has taken so much punishment has finally turned. From now on the hunt will no longer get away with it. Just who do these people think they are, bludgeoning their way through the countryside like a bunch of Chicago gangsters? From now on, any time a saboteur is assaulted, he or she should take the following action:

1 *Take the names and addresses of all witnesses.*
2 *Attempt to take photographs of the incident, the assailants, and their vehicles.*
3 *Make out statements of the incident and send copies to HQ.*

If sabs follow this course of action we can take up the case in two ways. Firstly, if there is enough evidence we can help with a civil prosecution. Secondly, we can compile all the evidence of these assaults, and subsequent police (in-) action, in order to present a fully documented dossier to the press and to members of parliament, several of whom are sympathetic.

Naturally such a course of action requires money, and we haven't got any. If any reader is concerned that such a situation can exist in this so-called democratic society; if any reader is determined that hunt sabotage must continue at all costs, then we need your help. We need money to fight court cases. We need money to get justice done.

Your help is vital.



A saboteur has been kicked and punched to the ground. Fists clenched, the hunt thugs move in for the "kill". *Vale of Aylesbury Foxhunt near Whipsnade, Beds. 16.12.73*

Hi there!

HOWL certainly got off to a flying start with national publicity covering the first issue, including a mention in the 'Guardian'

> I WELCOME to the ranks of the British media a magazine called HOWL, which stands for Hounds Off Our Wildlife and which comes from the Hunt Saboteurs' Association.

The first issue sparked off a certain amount of controversy and some people tried to suggest that HSA was connected with a political party. Just for the record, the HSA is made up of members from all areas of the political spectrum, but is not affiliated to or run by any particular group.

We welcome criticism and comment but please make any criticism you have positive so that we can act on it or include it in subsequent HOWLs.

Dave & Hilde

PERSONALITIES

The following well known people are all known to have taken a stand in favour of fox-hunting. You are requested to use every opportunity to point out to them the error of their ways. Please notify any additions to HQ.

Jimmy Edwards (actor)
Jilly Cooper (journalist)
Reginald Paget (Labour MP)
Enoch Powell (ex-MP)
Princess Anne (unemployed)
Mark Phillips (part-time soldier)
Duke of Beaufort (toff)
Sarah Miles (actress)
Jimmy Hill (sportsman)
Dorian Williams (TV Commentators)
Raymond Brooks-Ward
Lord Diplock (judge)
Giles (cartoonist)
Harvey Smith (horseman)
Marcus Kimball (Tory MP)
Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen (onetime Lord Mayor of London)
Marilyn Coles (exhibitionist)

Foxhounds savage deer

Sussex foxhounds are so well trained it seems, that they don't know the difference between foxes and deer. Foxhounds belonging to the Chiddingfold Leconfield & Cowdray hunt chased and savaged an already wounded deer near Midhurst in early February. It is not known how the deer was originally injured, but the foxhounds were easily able to corner and attack the unfortunate animal, whilst running out of control. The deer was so badly mauled by the C-L & C pack that it had to be shot by some nearby pigeon-shooters.

Lady Nathan of Lickfold, Petworth, C-L & C joint master declined to comment on the incident to the 'Brighton Argus', and the whole affair would undoubtedly have been hushed up but for the insistence of Doreen Puncher, a local HSA supporter who complained to the League Against Cruel Sports. The League have included the incident in a blood-sports dossier to be presented to MPs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kosher slaughter

The Council of Christians and Jews
41, Cadogan Gardens, London, SW3 2TD

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article on 'ritual' slaughter, (HOWL No 1) I have the following comments to make.

There is not one single accurate statement. Shochetim do not 'parade to the killing' (either 'holding their knives before them' or 'muttering Hebrew phrases'). The 'killing room' is the ordinary abattoir. The animal is not 'shackled with irons'. The Shochet does not 'gouge out its eyeballs' (how fantastic can one get! Why should anyone want to?). He does not 'slash fiercely at the animal's throat'. Such loaded terms as 'killing room', 'gouge', 'slashing fiercely', 'incantations' are a total misrepresentation of the Jewish method of slaughter, which is as precise, disciplined, painless and instantaneous as the taking of life can possibly be.

The animal is slaughtered by a single cut to the neck which severs the carotid arteries and jugular vein, so that it loses consciousness immediately – its death being, therefore, painless. The operation is more certain and accurate than those involving the possibility of what are termed 'missed shots' in the ordinary stunning method. It is, of course, the blood-letting aspect of Shechita – the use of a knife to cut the throat – which arouses emotional prejudice. We ought to be clear about this and it is exceedingly important to consider whether, in condemning the Jewish method of slaughter, those who do so are not ministering to their own feelings *at the expense of* animal suffering. 'Stunning' sounds so much more comfortable, but may, in fact, be more painful for the animal.

During the process of slaughter, the animal is immobilised within what is called a 'casting pen', an apparatus entirely encasing it, which prevents the panic plunging of a roped or shackled beast, as in the case of stunning. It is a prime duty, as Jewish authorities have pointed out, to ensure that animals about to be slaughtered are treated with consideration – a duty not always recognised by abattoir attendants, but very much at the forefront of the Shochet's attitude, where he acts in strict accordance with religious ideals and disciplined teaching. 'A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast' (Proverbs 12, 10) is the basis of the Jewish approach to all animal life – and to their deaths as well.

I enclose a pamphlet which gives the exact facts about Shechita and will gladly send a copy to any of your readers distressed by the article.

Yours faithfully,
Joan Lawrence (Mrs)
Publications Officer.

Sabotaging in 1945

Dear Sir,

I recall that it had fallen upon my lot to make a sabotage of the Croome Hunt away back in 1945. I was stationed with a small group of ATS in a country house approximately two miles from Worcester. Our area commander was the Countess of Coventry who at that time was the Master of the Hunt.

She telephoned me one Wednesday morning and informed me that the Hunt was coming round on the following Saturday and would I leave the main gate at the lodge to our establishment open from 11am to give a clear passage to hounds and huntsman.

The Countess knew we had a vixen with three cubs and also an old dog fox – they were living in a den well hidden by thick brambles and bordering on the old tennis courts which several of our rooms overlooked.

It was the joy and pleasure of my girls and myself to watch this lovely family at play and often sunning themselves on a bank beside the lawn.

My immediate reaction was – NO GATE will be opened and we must prevent the hounds getting a scent. (I don't remember the quantity of Jeyes fluid we mixed up – probably all our allowance for three months).

The girls were livid and evolved their own plan to run amongst the hounds and scatter them. I did not deter them! We decided also to put a 'fluence' upon the hunt! On the Friday not a fox to be seen. Saturday came and went – no sign of a fox. The following Tuesday, Father, Mother and three children played together as before.

All power to you. I always feel glad to think that there are still people around to help the foxes.

Yours very sincerely,
Elizabeth Young,
Angmering, Sussex

Veganism

Dear HOWL,

With reference to the article in HOWL No.1 about meat eating, I would like to point out to Dave McCalden that he has the facts wrong about the anatomy of human beings.

Also concerning the point he makes about there not being enough land to grow crops to feed humans; on the contrary, there would be plenty of land if it were not wasted in producing foodstuffs for domestic animals. Millions of these animals are *bred* purely for food, therefore if we did not eat meat these animals would not be alive.

Leaflets expanding these points are available from the Vegan Society.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Smith,
Higher Street, Cullompton, Devon

MOBY GREENPEACE

A campaign against the killing of whales has been initiated by the Greenpeace Foundation of Canada. The Stop Ahab Committee has been set up to promote a ten-year moratorium on whaling. The Committee plan to sabotage the massive Japanese whaling fleet by obstructing their operations near schools of whales. Attempts are also being made to scare off the whales through ultrasonic underwater radio beams. Co-ordinator of the Committee is **Zoe Hunter, 4537 Welwyn Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.** The Committee needs finance to buy or rent a ship; all donations would be greatly appreciated.

COSMETIC VIVISECTION

A letter from Dr. Kit Pedler in the Times (17.12.73) points out that a rapidly diminishing proportion of vivisection, licensed by the Home Office, is now for medical research. And much of it now consists of 'animals being subjected to suffering to test cosmetics of no theraputic value'. Dr. Pedler is Chairman of the Animal Experimentation Advisory Committee of the RSPCA.

CRUEL FILMS

The following films are believed to have involved actual cruelty to animals. ISPA is endevouring to arrange with film companies for representatives to be present where animals are used on the set, but until this comes about, readers are requested not to patronise such films.

The Godfather	Waterloo
Mondo Cane	A Gunfight
Patton	El Condor
Soldier Blue	Macho Callahan
Valdez is Coming	Ulzana's Raid
Walkabout	

COCKS 1 : REFEREES 0

The referee of a cock fight died from two deep stomach wounds after one of the birds wearing razor-sharp spurs turned on him at Zam-boanga, in the Phillipines last August.

SEMANTIC FACT

The origin of the word 'berk', meaning an idiot, is not, it seems, derived from an Irishman with a similar-sounding name. Apparently the term is shortened Cockney rhyming slang. The full name is 'Berkeley Hunt' and rhymes with a rude name for a certain part of a lady's anatomy!

WAR ON THE COYPU

A £30,000 campaign to destroy thousands of coypu, which are believed to destroy river banks causing flooding, and eat farm crops, has started in East Anglia. The animals, which look like large water rats, and were introduced from North America, are being trapped at the rate of 800 a month.

ACTUALITIES

Bath
Following a phone call from the Beaufort huntsman, Major Gerald Gundry, *Bath Group* accepted an invitation to have a look around the hunt kennels and stables. Sabs were introduced to each of the 59 hounds by name and took them for a walk around the Beaufort grounds – very impressed with their cleanliness – then on to the stables (50 beautiful horses) and saddle room. One sab expressed special interest in the Major's daughter. All round, an extremely interesting visit.

Mid-Wales
Mid-Wales Wildlife Conservation Group's anti-otter-hunting activities received good coverage in the Observer Colour Supplement 'Whistleblower' section on Sept. 7th. The group have been active in local conservation projects and put on a display at a Shrewsbury Conservation Fair in November. One member has set up an Animals Rescue Society designed to rescue stray or unwanted dogs, whilst other members have been helping to paint a sanctuary belonging to the Animal Defence Society. Such concern is not, however, shown by the hunts people. The group learned from the kennel huntsman of the David Davies Hunt that worn out foxhounds from local packs are sold to vivisection laboratories at £2.50 each.

Yeovil
A *Yeovil Group* member's pet rabbit was found stabbed in the head with a spike in December, following threats by local supporters of the Cattistock Hunt.

ALBUM REVIEW

The Two Sides of Tony McPhee
by Iain McNay

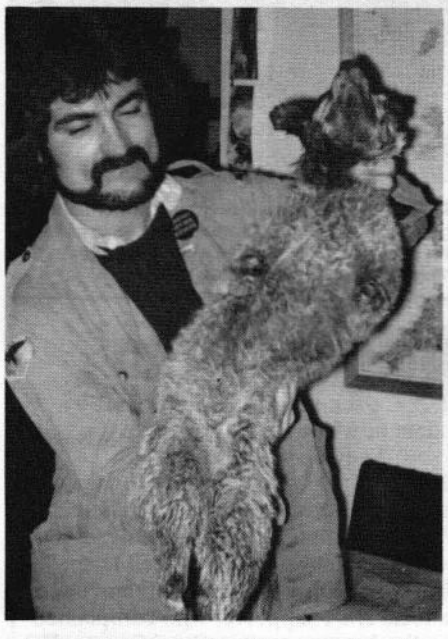
Tony has been around on the music scene for many years. I gather that the first band he played in over 10 years ago had on bass guitar our very own Dave Wetton. It was Tony who convinced Dave to become a vegetarian.

Tony McPhee is better known these days as leader of the **Groundhogs**, a three piece rock group whose best selling album 'Split' featured in the music charts three years ago. Recently they released 'Hogwash' which sold steadily amongst Groundhog fans but failed to reach a wider audience.

Anyway, Tony has now reached the stage in his career when he feels he can express himself better through a solo album. His 'Two Sides of Tony McPhee' should be of special interest to Hunt Saboteurs as it contains a whole side devoted to a number entitled **The Hunt**. This includes an interesting selection of sounds, some of which can be readily identified with a hunt and some which can't. However, by far the most interesting part of the work are the lyrics which express Tony's hatred of hunting. He has obviously been on hunts with the HSA and knows how we feel.

The other side of the album consists entirely of country blues songs which shows that the two sides of Tony McPhee are very, very different.

BFSS SAT ON



Dave Wetton exhibits the dismembered fox at the BFSS sit-in.

Westminster office workers came face to face with the barbarity of hunting on the 2nd of January, when London antis staged a sit-in at the offices of the British Field Sports Society. Sabs exhibited a dismembered fox which had been murdered and mutilated by the Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt (joint master, Jimmy Edwards).

The main purpose of the visit was to obtain an assurance from the BFSS that no more otters would be hunted or killed, as the otter is in danger of extinction. Since the hunting cadre had somehow got wind of the exercise, and had locked themselves in, we were only able to gain admittance through Hilde posing as a Country-type hunt supporter.

One distraught BFSS official refused to even discuss the proposed 'New Year's Resolution'. However, the society's secretary, General Sir Richard Goodwin appeared more calm, and put up the usual smokescreen of 'conservation' etc. When we finally nailed him down, he insisted on us leaving at once, or the police would be called.

At this point the dismembered fox was produced, much to the embarressment of the BFSS officials. The unfortunate animal had been marked to earth on Boxing Day, dug out, shot, and then its brush and pads (feet) cut off. The pads were distributed to onlookers as souvenirs.

The gruesome remains were exhibited to reporters as an example of the carnage that the BFSS promotes.

By the time the police arrived, the Field folk had become most irate, what with antis flying banners out of their windows and telephone calls of support blocking their switchboard. One was so frustrated at continually having his pro-hunting arguments flattened that he resorted to physical violence!

When the police did finally arrive, the antis left in an orderly fashion to join pickets outside in a poster demonstration. (This was in fact the second time the police had come. The first time they had driven round from nearby Scotland Yard, spotted the four pickets, and driven off again assuming that was 'it').

Passersby displayed horror at the appalling results of hunting, and many bought HOWL badges and magazines. Neither did the demonstration escape the attentions of the Special Branch, whose photographer snapped a clandestine picture, from the other side of the street. However, he was unable to effect an equally clandestine return to the Yard, since a camera-toting anti managed to snap a very unflattering mugshot, (rather a neat quid pro quo!).

The demonstration ended at 1.45pm with a live ten minute interview on London Broadcasting radio station. This was also repeated five times on news slots that evening. Mention was also made on Capital Radio, and the next day the 'Sun' gave us good coverage too. The event was a resounding success, with 100% public sympathy including some of the police. The hunting fraternity are undoubtedly still recovering from the shock!

The unfortunate fox (a vixen), was laid to rest that evening beneath a laurel bush in a London Cemetry – another statistic in the war against cruelty.



Save Our Seals

Plans for the attack against the annual slaughter of seals, due to start this July are well under way and donations and offers of help have slowly been reaching the **Save Our Seals** campaign HQ.

This year the campaign has an inflatable power boat and the use of an ex-RNLI lifeboat which will be used as a mother ship. Volunteers sabotaging this years cull will be in a fairly strong position to stop most, if not all, of the killing.

Fenland Wolf, the 14ft. inflatable boat has already been tested in the Wash last November under rough conditions and stood up very well to the constant buffeting from waves and to the stresses from high speed turns. The next training and survey exercise is planned for March 31st.

This years attack will be expensive and a further £945 is required, made up as follows: balance of payment on Fenland Wolf £380, diving equipment £105, life-jackets and signal flares £10, fuel and sabotage equipment etc. to cover the 14 days of the cull £100, 25hp engine to replace the existing 12hp which will be used as a spare £350.

It is now realised that a 25hp engine must be used in order to keep up with the seal hunters.

Please help to raise this money either by organising coffee evenings and jumble sales etc. or by sending donations to: **Save Our Seals, 65,Lower Thrift St., Northampton.** Vounteers are still needed both for work on land and for relief boat crews.

Remember **Save Our Seals** is the only group taking direct action against seal hunting, remember also that the boat can be used again for the Farne Island cull and will together with the diving equipment be useful at otterhunts.

FORUM

Each edition, we will be devoting part of HOWL so that individuals can air their own views on different aspects of animal welfare. The idea is to stimulate wider interests amongst our readers and to promote correspondence in the letters column. If you have a particular hobby-horse, then let's hear about it. (Forum has no connection with publications of a similar name, living or dead!).

POSTSCRIPT TO FEATURE ON VEGETARIANISM

by Monica Hutchings

There is a cult that we need meat for virility! The Americans particularly make a fetish of their steaks – the rarer and bloodier the better – or more health and zest giving. Yet this is all a fallacy. Cheese and even soya bean has as much protein (and more pound for pound than steak). The Western world has fostered this reliance on meat for economic reasons.

It is not correct to say that meat eating is a less wasteful way of using the earth's resources than vegetarianism. The exact opposite is true. Direct food – ie. grains, fruits etc. are the most economical way of gaining nourishment direct from the soil. In this country we feed barley, oats and imported grains and cattle cake to fatten beasts we then eat. This is a most wasteful way of using land and maintaining population. It would be far better if we stopped the intensive breeding of cattle for meat and ate the grains direct. Present day meat is force fed (most of it) particularly pork and beef and we might just as well eat the original product!

One does not have to eat meat to be fit. In the past great names who were vegetarians include – Leonardo da Vinci, Plato, Pythagorus, Shelley, Thoreau, Swedenborg, Gandhi, Sweitzer, G B Shaw and today such diverse characters as Pete Murray and Yehudi Menhuin, are strict vegetarians. Even Olympic athletes have been known to be nonmeat-eaters and still be fighting fit. Among my own circle of friends are *farmers*, artists, a builder and many very fit older people who have always been vegetarian and who do *not* suffer from colds, cancer or hearts – all so prone in our present society.

Savage man ate his enemies – not as food (cannibals always had a good food supply) but to imbibe the strength of his vanquished foe. It was a fetish, like eating rare steaks today. I truly believe, that one day it will seem as unthinkable for us to eat our fellow creatures, as it is now is to eat our fellow man.

Our nearest relations are the great apes and they are vegetarian, they are strong and intelligent and far more likely to survive than the carnivores. There is food for thought here!

Those who work for animals are themselves frequently guilty of discrimination, and we in the Hunt Saboteurs Association are no exception. Speedy hares, bright-eyed foxes, graceful deer all qualify for our protection. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the countryside, marauding gunmen murder, maim and wound pheasants, wildfowl and other birds in countless numbers, and on our riverbanks, in his thousands, sits the patient torturer, drowning worms so as to impale myriads of gentle fishes on his cruel hooks.

Are birds and fish any less important than the mammals which we seek to save? For our feathered friends, it seems, we have some slight measure of sympathy, but against our underwater cousins we still seem to practice inter-species prejudice. The growth of the 'I'm-a-vegetarian-but-still-eat-fish' cult, though better than carnivorous omnivore, is a glaring example of this illogical discrimination. Why not go the *whole* way, baby?

So I propose that the HSA should make it its policy to disrupt *all* types of bloodsports and that as soon as possible we should make efforts to formulate methods of disruption of the so-called sports of shooting and angling (which shouldn't be too difficult) and put them into practice at the earliest opportunity.

Cries of horror–'So many people take part in angling that public opinion will turn against us!' So do we let the ill-informed opinions arising from the bingo-playing, telly-addicted mentality of the carcass-crunching herd divert us from our task as guardians of the weak and helpless?

More cries of horror–'If you attack shooting and angling the participants will all rush to join the BFSS!' But will they? Even if it had a million members the British Field Sports Society would still be helpless to prevent the breaking up by direct action of the barbaric activities which it seeks to promulgate. The occupants and lackeys of the fourth floor of 26 Caxton Street (itself not immune from direct assault) can only campaign on the level of parliament and propaganda–and it seems, sadly, that shooting and angling will not be challenged in the House for a long time yet. Even if a smattering of broken rods were to precipitate the adherence of a few extra members to the ranks of the Westminster-based terror gang it would surely not be right for us to sacrifice the lives of innocent creatures for political expediency–bearing in mind that disrupting a shoot or fishing contest would save many more lives than sabotaging a hunt.

So, remember the forgotten ones, the birds and the fishes,–it is our duty to protect them also. If never challenged the gunslingers and angling bullies will never be converted. At the moment they rejoice in an atmosphere of total security as they perpetrate their cowardly atrocities on helpless beings. Don't let them get away with it!

THE FORGOTTEN ONES

A Personal View by Ronnie Lee

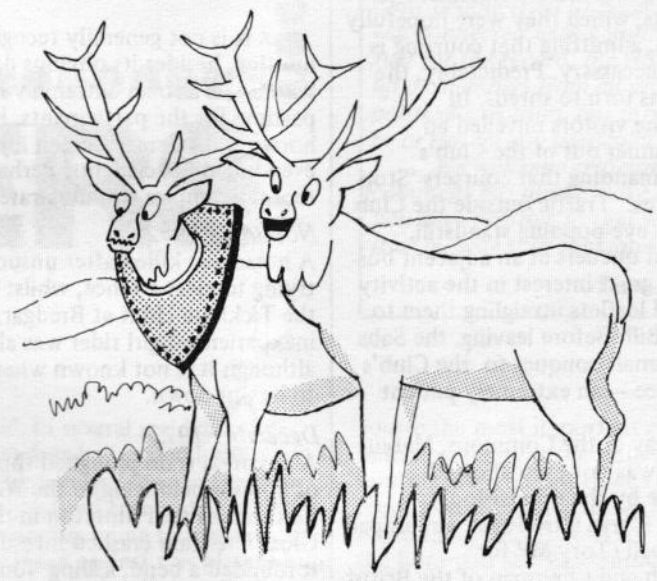
Man, two-legged tyrant and usurper of the Earth, has always regarded animals as two-hundredth class citizens. But in his selfish bigotry, he discriminates amongst his fellow creatures as well as against them. Dogs and cats have been comparatively lucky; not so the rats and mice, poisoned, trapped vivisected in their millions–the 'fall guys' of the animal creation.

FOX/OTTER HUNT SABOTAGES 1972/3

Fully detailed 18 page report available from HQ. A 'must' for all active members. Send a stamp.

SALES DEPT

'Hounds Off .....' badges – 5p each
'HSA' badges – 5p each
Posters – free



'You really must snap out of this fatalistic attitude'

INNOCENCE AT BAY

Enduring a five hour journey in our battered old landrover the five of us finally reached Exmoor just before a recent meet of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds. We were greeted by a scene resembling Wembley on Cup Final Day. The roads were jammed with cars queuing to get into the 'car parks', attendants patrolled these queues collecting the cap (a minimum of 10p bought a red DSSH sticker to put inside the windscreen).

Accordingly, we paid the entrance fee, parked the landrover, double-checked that we had no HSA badges on and wandered over to the scene of the action. As you would expect, when the hounds arrived they proved to be the focus of attention for the vast crowd, however, a small group of the all too common 'hunt heavies' made sure that no-one got too near the hounds. After the customary pre-hunt greetings the real business began. The hounds were returned to their van and the tufters sorted out and removed. (The tufters incidentally are the most experienced and reliable hounds, they are used to flush out the deer initially from the wood it was harboured in, the rest of the pack being laid on soon afterwards).

Once the tufters were on the move the supporters rushed for their landrovers in a manner resembling a Le Mans start, and off they went, straight over the moor with us trailing behind. We quickly reached the wood where the hinds had been harboured during the night and then it was a matter of waiting. Having selected a suitable spot from whence to view the proceedings the supporters could now relax. This was the time to get out the sandwiches and vacuum flasks, to play ball with young 'Jimmy' or just to sit back and read the paper. Suddenly, there was a clamour of excitement – something had left the wood – binoculars quickly trained on the valley – but – no, it was a stag (out of season now so safe for a while).

'Wait, there they are!' four hinds had broken cover and were ambling across the hillside, a few minutes later the hounds appeared. Some supporters stopped to watch, others were busy turning their landrovers round ready for the chase.

Soon afterwards the rest of the pack was laid on – the scales were tilting against the chosen hind. At this stage she was accompanied by a youngster which, I gathered, was too young to be killed so the huntsman would hope to split them – though supporters freely told us that 'accidents' often occur. From the road we caught a fleeting glimpse of the hind and her yearling fleeing through the bracken with the hounds strung out barely 100 yards behind, but then we lost them, and for the next half hour we were stuck in traffic queues on the moor.

Eventually, we found the hunt and at first feared that they had killed but luckily they had not. The hind had sought refuge in some gorse (into which hounds hate to go) and could not easily be flushed out. Eagerly some local Yobos formed a line of beaters and swept through the area. In due course the hind got up and began running frantically in circles, but the supporters had formed a cordon which she couldn't break. Whenever she tried to escape one of her tormentors would swing his boot at her yelling something like 'get in yer bugger!' However, for some reason or another she was granted a stay of execution, because the hounds were called off and cast in another direction. At this point we really did lose the hunt. Some supporters tried to follow the hounds, some stayed put and the others headed for the nearby river. An exhausted deer will, in many cases, run to the protection of a river and the supporters know that if they gather on a suitable bridge the hunt will drive the deer towards them and kill it on the nearby riverbank.

Listening to supporters discussing previous hunts the dominant theme seems to be 'Did you see the kill?', 'Did you get something?' (ie. ear, hoof, liver, etc.) It definately seems that in Staghunts, unlike Foxhunts, presence at the kill really does matter. Fortunately, I gather that on this occasion there were a lot of disappointed supporters because the hind finally managed to elude her pursuers.

I must point out that there are still plenty of deer in the area but do they, in all honesty, deserve the barbaric end they meet. It certainly is not a quick, clean kill – hunt followers were talking about 30 mile points being registered. Then, as if that's not bad enough, at the end, when the exhausted deer seeks refuge in mid-stream, some trigger-happy supporter is allowed to take pot shots at it, with a shotgun before an official arrives with a humane killer or knife to put it out of its misery.

Man sits on top of the evolutionary pyramid, his intelligence reigns supreme, and yet what reason can we give to justify these squalid and callous atrocities against fellow life forms. Is it because the deer are supposed to damage agriculture or is it, more simply, because to some people killing deer is good fun – good sport?

The Wanderer

HARE PROTECTION BILL JUGGED!

Eight Hunt Saboteurs descended on the offices of the National (Hare) Coursing Club in Borough High Street on January 31st. to publicise the appearance in Parliament next day of a private member's bill to outlaw this mediaeval practice. Sabs presented a statement to the occupants, which they were hopefully going to sign, admitting that coursing is cruel and unnecessary. Predictably, the statement was torn to shreds. In retaliation, the visitors unveiled an enormous banner out of the Club's windows, demanding that coursers 'Stop Splitting Hares!' Traffic outside the Club ground to an eye-popping standstill. Passersby and queuers at an adjacent bus-stop showed great interest in the activity and accepted leaflets inveigling them to support the Bill. Before leaving, the Sabs presented a small bouquet to the Club's only employee – an extremely patient receptionist.

Next day at the Commons, Marcus Lipton's bill was not even allowed debating time by the opposition. Immediately it was introduced up jumped Marcus Kimball (Tory MP for Gainsborough and Chairman of the British Field Sports Society, and member of the RSPCA) to shout 'object', so bringing the bill's discussion to an immediate end.

Another 'democratic kill' for the hunting fraternity.

Determined that wildlife would not suffer through the machinations and sleight-of-hand at the Westminster Temple of Babel, London and Oxonia Hunt Saboteurs resolved to mount a major counter-offensive. Next day at a Hare coursing meet near Oxford, sabs prevented the deaths of several innocent creatures when clouds of smoke somehow billowed over the course. Naval fog-horns added to the effect as handlers rushed to secure their confused greyhounds. The coursers were not as violent as was anticipated, although there was a certain amount of cursing from the coarser coursers of course Unfortunately, after the smoke cleared, they got down to business again, and at least a dozen hares were killed. Sabs gathered valuable information however, and saw with their own eyes, hares getting up wounded for second and third times – so much for the 'instantaneous death' myth

The activity was well covered by the media, including two TV cameras, six or seven pressmen and a radio reporter. Features later appeared on Radio Oxford, in the 'Observer', and the 'People' and on both BBC 1 and BBC 2 TV news nationwide.

Reports that the meet was held on Oxford County Council land are still being followed up. If this information is correct, pressure of the strongest kind must be brought to bear on this authority, since it would be facilitating and encouraging probably the cruelist bloodsport of the lot.

CANADANTIS

Following Bob Hunter's excellent article on us in the Vancouver Sun we welcome to the ranks several new Canadian members. Two of these recently upset some Alberta huntsmen, who, in true sporting fashion, were lined up along a river bank waiting to shoot the animals as they came down to drink on the opposite bank. The 'sabs' drove past them with the car horn blaring to scare the animals away and got some real dirty looks in the process.

CHAOS & CARNAGE

It is not generally recognised that hunting, besides its obvious dangers to wildlife, is also an extremely hazardous pastime for the participants. Hounds, horses and riders are often injured or even killed in accidents. Perhaps a few recent examples will illustrate.

November 1972
A horse was killed after unsuccessfully trying to clear a fence, whilst out with the Tickham Hunt at Bredgar, Kent. Its inexperienced girl rider was also injured, although it is not known whether she had to be put down.

December 1972
An express train ploughed through a pack of hounds belonging to the Warwickshire Foxhounds near Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Glos. The train crashed into the pack as it rounded a bend, killing four hounds instantly and injuring another that had subsequently to be destroyed. The engine was damaged and had to be changed at Oxford.

Boxing Day 1972
A hound belonging to the Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt, led by comedian Jimmy Edwards was killed on the busy A22 London to Eastbourne road.

February 1973
A hound was run over near Chilfrome, Dorset, when the Park Beagles pack rioted after deer.

January/March 1973
The whipper-in of the Albrighton Woodland Foxhounds has frequently illustrated his love of horse and hound. Worcestershire press reports confirmed a sab's report of hounds being viciously whipped to the ground. In March his horse was badly injured when he forced it over a gate which it couldn't quite manage. When it got stuck straddling the gate, he attempted to push its back legs over himself.

Through sheer shortage of space, the above are only examples of the needless cruelty that is inflicted every week. Hounds have also been killed on the M4, and the M8 in Scotland. Recently an airliner had to divert when hounds ran across Gatwick runway – the Master was reported as saying "Country sports were here before jets old boy".

Are the police and local authorities aware of the disruption and chaos hunts-people inflict on the countryside? Or is there one law for the hunting fraternity and another for the ordinary citizen?

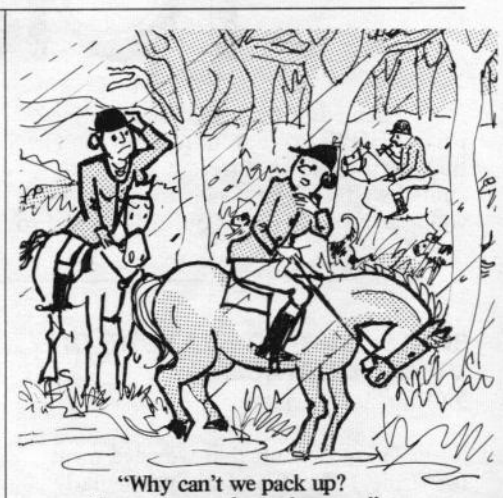
EASTERN COUNTIES ON THE ROCKS

The 1973 AGM of the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds was held at the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, last April. There was some confusion at the start of the meeting when the chairman opened the proceedings by tendering his resignation. The master, Stafford Babbage, proposed as chairman, his friend Ian Hale, but he declined. Ian Alexander was then proposed, but he was reluctant to accept, without the support of the master. Since there were no further nominations Alexander was elected, with the Babbages and the Hales voting against. After the in-fighting was over, the main item for discussion was the hunt's grave financial position. The ECOH needs to find another £3,000 pa to continue hunting. After more confusion the meeting resolved to organise a Hunt Ball to raise the necessary cash.

The Last Round-up

Mustangs, which still roam wild in parts of Idaho were rounded up last winter by ranchers to be sold to pet-food manufacturers in Nabraska. The horses were first introduced to the continent by the Spaniards and fifty years ago there were as many as two million running wild in the western plains. Today there may be as few as 9,000. Last February a group of ornery ranchers rounded up 50 of the critturs using helicopters and snowmobiles. They claimed that the mustangs ate all their cattle pasture. The herd was corraled on top of a cliff, and before leaving them overnight the cowboys wired shut their nostrils to make them less nervous. However, next morning seven of the horses were found dead at the bottom of the cliff. Eventually the remaining mustangs were trucked 850 miles to the dog-food factory at North Platte, Nebraska. Shortly before they were to be 'processed' they were rescued by a government official and returned to the wild.

At present the round-up is the subject of a legal battle. The ranchers claim they had government permission to sell the horses, whilst the government department maintains that this is impossible, since wild horses are protected throughout the USA.



"Why can't we pack up?
The antis went home long ago"

SEABIRDS IN DANGER

Naturalists are appealing for public support in an effort to stop indiscriminate shooting on marshes near Oulton Broad, Suffolk. They report the killing of swans and herons, and say that one extremely rare species is in danger. A similar problem at Breydon Water, Norfolk, was solved by creating a nature reserve, albeit with controlled shooting.

The government, meanwhile is planning to finance the extermination of 11,000 oyster catchers at Burry Inlet, near Llanelly. They intend to pay 25p a head, since cockle gatherers are complaining that the birds are damaging their livelihood.

ROYAL FAMILY SET DISGRACEFUL EXAMPLE

Amidst all the billing and cooing over Princess Anne's ceremonial nuptials nearly all commentators have somehow forgotten that one of the chief interests she and her husband have in common is the barbaric savagery of fox-hunting. The controversy over their hunting fetish died down just in time for the build-up to the expensive spectacular of their wedding. When interviewed on television about anti-hunting people Anne explained that antis 'just didn't understand hunting'. Well, we are still waiting for a valid justification for this so-called sport. Perhaps Princess Anne can tell us where we have been going wrong!

Meanwhile her brother, Prince Charles, and father, Prince Philip prefer killing on a grander scale. In a five-hour shoot at Sandringham after Christmas, the dynamic duo dispatched 200 Royal pheasants – 'a great improvement over last year's lean figures' according to the Sunday Times. The Duke of Edinburgh also has a penchant for deer shooting in Scotland. His hunting activities do not, however, preclude him from patronising organisations like the World Wildlife Fund and the International Society for the Protection of Animals.

It would seem to be about time that the Royal family followed the example of the Queen who has nothing whatsoever to do with hunting. She long ago ceased to patronise the Eastern Counties Otter Hunt, and is believed to have given away many of her fur coats.

WE NEED HELP!

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

50p will cover your membership.
£3 will buy us 10 cans of anti-mate.
£4 will buy a foghorn.
£8 will rent us a minibus.
(£4 will put some petrol in it)
£25 usually covers legal costs in court cases.
£200 will buy one of our branches a minibus.

Please send whatever you can spare, filling in the attached slip if you wish. We will do our best to spend the money in any way you may specify.

- -

TO: HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
P O BOX 130
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY

I enclose my donation of £_____, and would hope that you can spend it on

_____ in the active fight against bloodsports

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____

COUNTRY LIFE

Around April or May one of the countryside's most peculiar species arouses from its winter slumbers; the common or garden otter-hunter. The species can be identified by its characteristic plumage; navy-blue gaiters and uniform. Although on first sight naturalists may find difficulty in differentiating between male and female, the answer lies with the unique head gear. On males it is flat and on females rounded. In both cases, however, the head-gear is a bright crimson – no doubt as a warning signal to parakeets or mocking-birds who might otherwise unwittingly attempt to mate.

The otter-hunter can be encountered in all sorts of peculiar places during the summer – by riverbanks, plunging through hedgerows or even on the roadside as illustrated. Although the creatures are usually quite docile, they can turn nasty if aggravated, especially if the naturalist is of the younger, longer-haired variety. Usually such situations can be sensibly avoided, unless of course you have unwittingly disturbed the creature assuming it to be a scarecrow.

