"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

HOWL

15p

ISSN 0308 2709 | Magazine of the HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION, PO Box 19, London S.E.22 | No. 20 Spring 1982

Scent of Victory



Scenes like this will no longer take place on Co-op owned land after June 1st this year.

In the last edition of HOWL we reported the formation of a new pressure group within the Co-operative movement to campaign for a bloodsports ban on Co-op owned land – some 38,000 acres. The campain was so successful that a decision to ban bloodsports has already been taken and comes into force this June. In some areas the ban will have an extremely detrimental effect on local hunting activities.

There have been many other bloodsport bans around the country in the last months with numerous local authorities coming out against hunting and shooting. Since the County Council elections last May Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, East Sussex, Lothian, Berkshire and the Peak Park Planning Board to name but a few have all banned bloodsports on land owned or controlled by them.

Leicestershire could be next on the list. The Labour group on the Leicestershire County Council is threatening a ban on fox-hunting over farmland owned by the council. This would effect farms covering 8,000 acres.

The British Field Sports Society (B.F.S.S.) have made a few pathetic attempts to organise an effective lobby against the humanitarian steps being taken by some local councils but their efforts have paled into insignificance against the support from local inhabitants for the campaign to get rid of bloodsports on public property.

The next step is to secure a government at the next General Election with a working majority in the House and a clear manifesto commitment to the abolition of these barbarous activities.

At the moment the Labour Party look the best candidates to include such a commitment in their manifesto. However, with the formation of the Liberals and Social Democrats Against Bloodsports (see the letter column this issue) there is a strong possibility they too might include a similar commitment in their manifesto. Time will tell.

PRACTICAL STEPS

Obviously the Co-op ban has caused much upset amongst the opposition. Tory M.P. John Farr (you will remember him from the front page of the last edition of HOWL) said of the ban "I shall be consulting some of my friends at Westminster to see what can be done about it".

Meanwhile Colonel G.A. Murray-Smith Master of the Fernie F.H. has taken more practical steps. After 10 years with the Co-op he has decided to cancel his morning pinta.

YOUR CARING, SHARING CO-OP

The decision by the Co-operative Wholesale Society to ban fox-hunting on all their farmland means the Fernie F.H. will lose about one tenth of their hunting country. The joint master of the hunt, Colonel G.A. Murray-Smith said "It is very said, I don't think it will be at all popular with the people on the land or who live in the area because the foxes which we do our best to control will now be on the increase".

YOUR CARING, SHARING HUNT

Meanwhile during the bad weather around Christmas Leicester sabs found evidence of bales of straw placed deep in coverts (presumably by the hunt) for foxes to take shelter from the sub-zero temperatures. There was obvious signs that foxes had taken advantage of the hunt's hospitality.

NO OTTER, BUT PLENTY OF MINK

This is the message being shouted by all and sundry. Once upon a time, in the bad old days of otter hunting it used to be said the otter was vermin. (Isn't that what they say about most British animals and birds.) Now of course, it doesn't matter because there's too few left to bother about – approximately 100 in England and Wales. Nowadays we hear tales of destruction as wild mink attempt to take over the English countryside.

One story that appeared in a Lancashire daily newspaper alleging mink damage was accompanied by a photo of a very dejected gamekeeper who must have slaughtered more animals in his time than all the mink in Lancashire.

However, these allegations are usually very haphazard, lacking in facts, and often exaggerated. It is obvious that some people are attempting to liken the entire mink population to the much maligned fox, with the obvious answer "Oh they must be controlled". Organised mink hunting needs an excuse – and the mink hunting fraternity are fabricating one.

The reasons for the otter's decline have been argued for years but it's interesting to quote Graham Roberts of the Hants and I.O.W. Naturalists Trust "otters avoid man at all costs".

So how do mink hunts justify their miserable existence in view of the fact that mink live in the same habitat as otters?

After all they're always telling us that they're conservationists really, and yet the last 12 months has seen three new mink hunts spring up – the Tandridge (Surrey), West Wales (Dyfed) and West Yorkshire M.H. with the prospect of more to come.

THE FACTS ABOUT THE QUARRY

The Mink *(Lutreola vison)*, a relative of the weasel was introduced into England from the United States in the late 1920's to be bred for its fur. Over the years numbers have escaped and bred in the wild.

In the mid 1950's the first wild mink were reported on the River Teign in Devon. Since, they have become established in many areas of southern England, parts of East Anglia, the north midlands, south-west Dyfed and southern & eastern Scotland.

The mink grows to about 18 in. long and has a 6 in. tail. Wild males weigh 3-4 lbs, about twice as much as females. Their coat is brown in the natural state but 'ranch-bred' mink can range in colour from white to almost black, and this is reflected in British wild mink.

They nest in tree roots or tunnel into steep banks, usually near water, in the spring and produce five or six kittens. They grow to be very strong swimmers and consequently their main diet is fish but they can also eat game birds and poultry which has given them the reputation of being *"vicious killers that will kill even when not hungry"*. (Sounds just like a fox!)

MIND BENDING

In a recent BASC column in Shooting Times the "If hunting and shooting were banned" domino theory was outlined.

Gamekeepers, pheasants and partridges would be the first to go. Foxes, crows, magpies, rats, stoats, weasels, grey squirrels and other predators would proliferate and would clear out the wild populations of pheasants and partridges.

Next to follow would be songbirds, 'cos with the vast increases in predators few eggs would ever be hatched. Grouse next, and in time, all hawks, falcons and owls because they'd have to compete with ground predators.

Then every deer on arable land would be eliminated by farmers and any unproductive woodland would be grubbed up. Finally eagles would be exterminated by farmers jealous for the lambs that would be the only prey left for these feathered hunters.

With such a vivid imagination, how does the writer sleep at night?

HOT SHOT

Christopher Jary from Kings Lynn, one of the country's brightest prospects for markmanship in the next Olympics, was found guilty of poaching.

He was stopped by police after he had been seen speeding. An officer saw him throw something over a hedge and on investigation found it was a 12 bore shotgun. In the back of the car he found 6 pheasants. Jary was fined £75 but allowed to keep his shotgun certificate so that he could continue his intensive training for the 1984 Olympics.

REDCOATS CUT THE COST OF HUNTING

The traditional "Red Hunting Coat" costs £200-£300 a lot of money you're probably thinking, but it wouldn't be half so economical to wear any other colour, "think of the cleaning costs for removing all those blood stains old boy!"

YOU CAN'T WIN

Foxes after years of being blamed for raiding chicken coops have obviously got the message. In Milton they have decided to improve their public image and gone vegetarian.

They have been raiding the local allotment and eating sweet corn and peas. The allotment association Secretary is quoted as saying "I personnaly think the foxes are keeping down vermin because we did have a lot of rats on the site". Other members are in favour of shooting or poisoning.

MAJOR UPSET

Major Booth Jones chairman of the East Somerset branch of the B.F.S.S. was found guilty of assaulting a policeman at last year's Wylye International Horse Trials. He lost his temper when police ordered that cars leaving the event should have their tyres hosed free of mud at the exit gate. An argument developed and he fell to the ground with the police officer. It took 3 policemen, handcuffs and an ambulance man bandaging his legs together to calm him down. In his defence he is quoted as saying ". . . The police were totally unco-operative. They were thoroughly thick and unintelligent". He also told a policeman "You are part of a left wing organisation. This is not Czechoslovakia".



Dear HOWL,
HOWL 19 carried a news items on ALF, the members of which are obviously very militant. It is right that Howl should report such matters, but what worries me is the way in which the article seems to glorify such wantonly destructive and aggressive acts. Acts which are completely against the HSA Constitution as I understand it.

An earlier HOWL 14, reported that an HSA group tried to break up a church service – Holy Communion, no less – because of the unsavoury habits of the vicar. Disturbing innocent churchgoers at worship is surely just as mindless as hunting itself, and will only serve to alienate ordinary people from our cause. I hope those involved have been reprimanded by the Committee. These items, and other of lesser importance, indicate a gradual tendency (with apparent encouragement from the pages of HOWL) towards violence. Please can the non-violent aims of the Association be emphasised again and again, lest some of our members be tempted to lower themselves to the level of the hunters.
Yours faithfully,
J. Warner.

Dear HOWL,
To take pleasure in the infliction of suffering and pain is a grievous sin and it is the job of the church to state this.

I have many hunting friends, all delightful people. They cannot be blamed for not realising that they are sinning before God, for the church has not told them this.

As a priest, I would stress that though suffering may need to be inflicted, as in the case of punishment, it is completely unchristian to take pleasure in inflicting it.
Yours,
Rev. Ronald Atkins

Dear HOWL,
I don't know if my idea is feasible amongst Animal Rights people (I know its illegal) but how about a simple slogan written on every £1 (or £5 if you're rich) note that passes through your hands. "Hounds off our Wildlife", "For Fox Sake etc." anything that makes the point CLEARLY and isn't too long. I'd be interested to hear what others think.
Carole Whitlock

Dear HOWL,
I am writing to you after receiving a rather disturbing reply to a letter I wrote recently. I wrote the letter to Mr. Gerald Priestland, of the Religious Department of the BBC, after seeing him on the programme 'CHOICES', one Sunday night recently. On the programme Mr. Priestland expressed the view that he supported hunting.

I wrote a polite, but sarcastic, letter, to him, implying that he had been misguided into thinking there was nothing immoral in bloodsports, and gave him a few facts as to why so many people are opposed to it.

My reply from him was as follows:
"Yours was a polite letter, compared to most of those I get on the subject of hunting. My basic stand is that I simply do not feel personally called to join that campaign. But I have only to say that to receive a torrent of mail of such violence and vileness that I end up vowing to leave a fat legacy to the Field Sports Association. If love of animals calls forth such hatred of human beings, I would sooner donate myself to other causes".

I was sorry to receive that letter because whatever chance there was of converting Mr. Priestland has been spoiled. I do not know whether any of these letters were written by HSA members but we can learn by this. We must not make enemies of those who do not oppose hunting. What we can do is politely point out why we are opposed and how we feel supporters must have been deprived of the cruel facts about hunting. Could you please print my message in your next magazine as I think it very important.
Yours sincerely,
H. Vester-Hodgson (Miss)

Dear HOWL,
ALLIANCE AGAINST BLOODSPORTS
Those who read the newspapers will know that the new Liberal/Social Democratic Alliance is now firmly established, and may at least hold the balance of power after the next General Election. It is essential therefore that the Alliance leadership is made aware of the growing public opposition to all forms of hunting with hounds.

Already a group has been set up to co-ordinate the efforts of those Liberals and Social Democrats who are anti-bloodsports. L.A.S.D.A.B. (Liberals and Social Democrats Against Bloodsports) has already succeeded in persuading several influential M.P.'s to declare their opposition to hunting and coursing. This is only the start of what must be a concerted campaign up to the General Election.

If *YOU* are either a potential supporter or current member of either the S.D.P. or the Liberal Party, do please give L.A.S.D.A.B. *your* full support.
Peter Chegwyn, Director, L.A.S.D.A.B., Gosport, Hampshire.

Dear HOWL,
The hunting fraternity often claim that they enjoy hunting because of the thrill of riding a horse through open country. They also claim the kill is secondry to the thrill of the chase. With this in mind how is it that numerous packs of foxhounds went out on foot during the cold spell in December/January when the ground was frozen and unsuitable for horses, killing numerous foxes in the process.
Yours sincerely,
Mark Turner.

Dear HOWL,
I suppose it is scarcely to be wondered at that the Government's Wildlife and Countryside Act is little more than a toothless apology. One has only to note the 3 million unemployed and the casualty-list of the N.H.S. to see the Government's criminal intransigence and general 'ecological' unawareness. I mean some 200 children die each year, quite unnecessarily, from renal failure. Some 5,000 babies die at birth and a further 5,000 suffer some kind of brain damage. Again quite unnecessarily. All that is necessary to save these children is an investment amounting to a minute fraction of the G.N.P. in the N.H.S. Of course successive governments have neglected the Health Service but the present Tory Government has been particularly vicious in its retrenchment. And of course there is the question of environmental lead-pollution which dangerously overshoots safety levels of which the Department of Environment appears to be completely oblivious.

So if the Tory Party is quite prepared to write people off as a mere statistic what chance have defenceless animals got? It is unfortunate that the history of the Conservative Party, in many instances, is stained with the blood of human sacrifice to the false gods of vested interest and elitism. The current Tory sacred-cows are quasi-monetarism and industrial Natural Selection. Yet all is not lost. It is odds on that the Tories will be wiped out at the next election. The Minotaur will have been slain. Then the Conservatives will really know what it is like to be an endangered species.
Yours sincerely,
John Wilkinson

The following is an extract from just one of many hundreds of letters we received in response to the adverts we placed in the Daily Mirror, last Nov/Dec.

Dear HOWL,
Please find enclosed an application form for my husband and I to join the Hunt Saboteurs Association. We were both thoroughly sickened by the pictures and write up in todays edition of the Daily Mirror, and felt we must join your association.
Yours faithfully,
Ruth Keeler (Mrs)

PERSISTENT PESTICIDES

In spite of voluntary controls introduced 10 years ago to restrict the use of persistent pesticides that are a hazard to wildlife and to the human food chain, these substances are still affecting animal populations.

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology has produced a report on the damage done to various species. One extensive piece of research concerned the cause of death among sparrowhawks, which is under full legal protection. The carcases of 341 birds were examined and substances found were DDE (a derivative of the insecticide DDT), the PCBs from the industiral polychlorinated biphenyls and HEOD which comes from the insecticides aldrin and dieldrin.

Even though the sparrowhawks are protected by law 37 of the birds had been shot.

ANIMAL LOVER?

Mrs. Few of Mamingtree, Essex was fined £500 and banned for 2 years from entering show-jumping competitions. The British Show-Jumping Association heard that she beat her pony with a riding whip after it has thrown her daughter into 2 fences. After the beating Mrs. Few said "I love animals and never intended to hurt the pony'."

RABID ROCKER

Old Ozzy Osbourne (of Black Sabbath fame) is at it again. Only now he's taken to biting the heads off bats instead of doves. However our readers will be sad to hear that he is undergoing "very deep and painful injections" due to a rabies scare when one of the critters sank its teeth into him.

TERRIERS OF TERROR

Sammy, a twelve inch Northolt terrier, has proved that this breed of dog not only terrifies foxes but people too. He recently penned a postman in a corner for twenty minutes, much to the annoyance of eighty-five local residents who did not receive their mail!

WHO SAID FISHING ISN'T A BLOODSPORT?

Tommy Wadsworth aged 69, a retired Leicester fishing tackle dealer and match fisherman was presented with a commemorative scroll by the British Field Sports Society in recognition of a lifetimes service to fishing and 'field' sports. Awards of this type are very rare and usually presented to members of the hunting fraternity.

GOT IT TAPED

Poachers have been tape recording the cries of hares and rabbits whilst torturing them. The tapes are then played back on portable stereo equipment to lure foxes to their death. One poacher who operates in Northamptonshire said "I agree it's a horrible sound and I know the rabbits are injured to make them squeal but there is no doubt that they are damned effective. The foxes come running."

A.L.F. NEWS

The A.L.F. have conducted a wide range of missions recently, and following attacks on a furrier's, a butcher and a pig breeding and exporting company they have been denounced as "mere vandals" by the shop owners, none of whom could work out why they were targets.

Following a raid by nine A.L.F. members on Highfields farm, near Doncaster, where all kinds of animals were kept in death camp conditions, Nottingham animal rights campaigner Sue Merrikin appeared at Doncaster Crown Court charged with robbery.

Judge Michael Warner instructed the jury to return a not guilty verdict after she agreed to be bound over in the sum of £200 to keep the peace for one year.

After the case Sue said she was delighted with the result, and added that the mission had been carried out as local groups strongly suspected that animals, at the so called sanctury, were stolen.

Enterprising A.L.F. members have dug out yet another horror farm where chickens were kept in sickening conditions.

Eighty raiders found 2,500 chickens with their beaks removed and crammed seven to a cage, as well as pigs chained by the neck in narrow pens, at the Bibby nutrition, research and advisory centre in Cheshire.

Farm manager Max Little commented: "There is nothing unusual here, and the break-in has done the animals no good at all."

Animals kept in squalid conditions were also discovered during a raid at Ingham Hall near Norwich.

Ingham Hall supplies animals for vivisection to universities and laboratories as well as for sale at street markets such as Club Row.

It is suspected that the institution is the central point for a big pet stealing racket.

Four poodles, all in very poor health and suffering from rickets and mange, were rescued, but sadly A.L.F. members were unable to get into a caravan containing 40 to 50 cats.

The woman who runs the business is not, in fact, licenced to run kennels, and it is hoped that the R.S.P.C.A. and the Public Health Dept. will make every effort to close it down.

Eleven members involved in a raid on one of Britain's biggest cat breeding farms, Hill Grove Farm, Oxfordshire, have now been charged with attempted burglary.


Rescued dog.

The farm supplies six-month old kittens, for between £25 and £120 each, to laboratories for vivisection. The A.L.F. state that they are kept in factory farming conditions, and many kittens are delivered by caesarian operation, and the mothers killed shortly afterwards.

A defence fund has been set up for the raiders, and any donations should be sent to Hill Grove 11 Defence Fund, c/o Box 190, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

ALF STATESIDE

The Animal Liberation Front, pioneered in Britain, has now moved onto an international level with activist groups on the continent and stateside.

In Canada laboratories and animal breeding centres have been daubed with slogans; a huge hoarding advertising meat covered with a large "Meat means murder" sign whilst another advertising furs was damaged so badly it had to be removed. The premises of a battery hen and rabbit farmer got a spray job and in America two rabbits rescued from the vivisection lab at Massachusetts Univ. were found good homes.

SAVE OUR STAGS NEWS

As with the last three seasons the Quantock Staghounds have not been hunting on Saturdays which has made effective sabotage very difficult. On the few occasions when it has been possible joint hits have been arranged but both proved disatrous. The first of the season, 24th October at Miltons Farm, Bagborough drew approx. 40 sabs but due to torrential rain and dense fog the hunt was called off at 1 p.m. The only trouble of the day came after the hounds were boxed when a number of hunt supporters attacked a couple of sabs and tried to damage their hired landrover. Luckily the police intervened and prevented any serious trouble. It was then decided to move on to the Ilminster Beagles where a thoroughly wet but successful afternoon was spent. The second joint hit on January 1st also proved a problem due to transport difficulties. Contact with the hunt was kept until 3.30 p.m. when weather and terrain forced the sabs to leave. Needless to say that the local S.O.S. groups have made their presence felt on numerous occasions. Interestingly, the Quantock Staghounds Hunting Report is no longer published.

POACHING

Following much publicity on the poaching problem, we now have a comprehensive file on most of the Quantock/Exmoor poachers. We've been amazed by the amount of information received from local people. *Volunteers now required to take appropriate action.*

ALFOXTON WOODS

The most significant factor of 1981 has been the purchase of Alfoxton Woods by the League Against Cruel Sports. (Saboteurs who attended the January 1st 1980 joint hit will remember this place.) The acquisition of this wood has effectively curtailed their activities in the Holford/Hodders Combe area which many sabs will remember as being the scene of the spectacular hind rescue on January 1st 1981.

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 Queen did it at 20, Prince Charles did it at 13, and Princess Diana at 21. Masterbated? Talked to a member of the public? Condemned apartheid? No of course not, nothing constructive – they all shot a stag for the first time. Last October "lovable, sweet" Princess Di blasted away with a shotgun, hit a deer in the stomach and according to local game hunters caused it "unnecessary suffering". The 'News of the World' stated at the time that the fairy princess's reaction were a mixture of surprise, delight and eventually sorrow for the animal! (Good for her.) Seemingly she slipped off before the unfortunate animal was disemboweled and cut up. Then four months later ROYAL BUST UP as "soft hearted" Diana verbally attacks Charles in the middle of a pheasant shoot complaining that she did not really want to come a 'blasting'. The Sun carried out a survey of its readers to find out if the public supported Di's stag activity. The newspaper respectfully reported that the public (very 'umbly) did not.

Animal welfare condemned the kill (except the RSPCA) but all seemed a little confused on how to handle little ole Di. The LACS warbled on about the "Princess with a sweet smile" and being "loving and caring". Sounding like rejected lines from a Barbara Cartland novel. Even Animal Aid went do-lally, describing Di as a "warm, caring and loving person". Yukkity yuk. The best response came from the Socialist Worker newspaper's Christmas cards depicting Diana blowing a stag to bits to words from the carol "Holly and the Ivy". Of course this was too strong a criticism for The Sun who described it as a "cruel jibe" but the relevant cartoonist Phil Evans stated: "Princess Diana is presented as a kind-hearted soul, but she is prepared to stomp the moors shooting harmless animals". Quite right mate.

The rest of the Royal Family have not been idle or leaving all the fun to dead-eyed Di. Charles has been out a'hunting with the Vale of White Horse, having a change from his favourite, the Beaufort. While the other great humanitarian Princess Anne, who opened a new slaughterhouse in Edinburgh recently, was reported to have watched a tiger attack a tethered buffalo while on a tour of India. It was stated that Anne and hangers-on waited "several hours" to see the tiger take the bait. The Queen is out regularly shooting stags in the hills near Balmoral. While Prince Philip warbles on about conservation and shoots anything that moves, we now hear that other pair of "public servants" the Prince and Princess of Kent are desperately keen to join the Beaufort F.H. and have bought a modest little property (about £300,00) in Beaufort country.

There are even unofficial reports that the Royal Feotus will come out of the Royal Womb a'shooting and is already a member of the British Field Sports Society. Such a sweet, loving family aren't they?

Phill Windeatt

BOOK & FILM REVEIW

THE ANIMALS FILM
A review by Liz Varney

The 25th anniversary of the London film festival provided a fitting occasion for the premiere of a remarkable new film on the mass-exploitation of the animal kingdom by man.

The 2¼ hour film, directed by VICTOR SCHONFELD and narrated by JULIE CHRISTIE, has been funded by major Animal Welfare Societies both here and in the United States. It examines a wide range of animal abuse, from the destruction of wildlife by hunting with hounds for sport, to the use of animals as targets for military training, weapon testing and nuclear research.

The cameras take us into the twilight world of intensively factory farmed animals. Pigs, confined in steel cages are forcibly serviced and give birth on cold concrete floors. Their young have to feed from their mothers between the steel bars. Veal calves, confined to eternal darkness, are fed on a milk slurry to produce the desired white meat.

In the United States the farms expand to nightmare proportions and we are shown steers led on automated chains for exercise and fed on a diet consisting of cement and their own recycled excrement. The film shows a "sea" of chickens, crammed into cages that stretch from floor to ceiling. ("50,000 chickens can be tended by one farmer"). All to improve productivity and to feed the richer western countries more cheaply, while the third world watches its valuable grain being exported and slowly starves.

The film reveals the reality behind the glamorous facade of the fur industry, and looks at the plight of stray cats and dogs, victims of the pet population explosion and mans misguided sentiment.

A searching look is taken at the use of animals in research, and the argument of animal experiments benefitting mankind, as a justification of their suffering, wears thin when we are shown previously restricted footage on government funded testing of nuclear weapons. One harrowing scene shows sheep, goats and cattle being strapped to the deck of a ship. They are subjected to the full blast of a nuclear explosion. The horrific effects are then observed by scientists who draw a parallel with the weapons' effectiveness on human beings.

Medical research is big business and the competition for profits between the drug companies mean that knowledge is not shared, and this results in experiments being endlessly repeated. One of the experimental scientists interviewed comments, "most experiments are not worth doing and most findings not worth publishing". The film is the first to show clandestine raids carried out by the Animal Liberation Front to rescue animals from laboratories and factory farms, both in Britain and the U.S.

The Animals Film aims not to shock, but to inform, to show what really goes on behind closed doors. It does not preach vegetarianism but presents the facts and allows the viewer to draw his/her own conclusions.

Director, Victor Schonfeld, sees the film as putting the issue of human use of animals on the map of social and political issues. "It aims to provoke and unsettle our attitudes towards animals, to offer alternatives and to seek to inspire activity and change". He feels that it is important for what it reveals about ourselves - hence the sequence in the film of the military use of animals, "a preparation for what will be done to people".

The success of THE ANIMALS FILM now depends on its distribution and acceptance by the media. The new television channel 4, has shown great interest and plan to screen it in November, and Mr. Schonfeld hopes to see the film on the cinema circuit. In the meantime, help is needed with publicity and distribution in all parts of Britain. If you think you can help in any way, contact:-

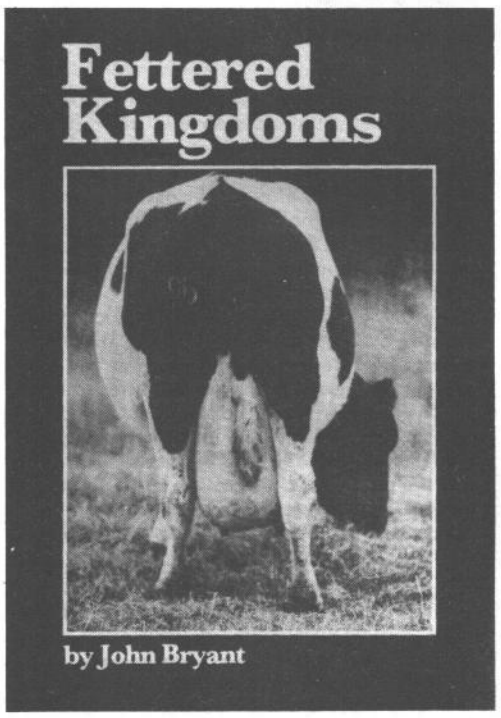
SLICK PICS INTERNATIONAL
INCORPORATED 01 278 6783

STOP PRESS

The Animals Film has succeeded in gaining a London cinema release. It will be opening at Gate 2 (Bloomsbury) cinema, Brunswick Square, London WC1. (Opposite Russell Square tube) on April 8th for an indefinite run.

EMI cinemas have also expressed an interest in releasing The Animals film nationally, provided the film proves itself at the Gate cinema. This will mean good attendances for at least the first two weeks. Make every effort to see it (even if you've already done so!) and take your friends and family along too.

If you live within range of London and are willing to stick up posters advertising the film between now and April 8th or distribute leaflets between April 5th - 12th contact Slick Pics on 01 273 6783



"FETTERED KINGDOMS" by John Bryant
a review by Dave Wetton

I tend to regard John as the Tony Benn of the UK animal rights movement – an uncomprimising controversial campaigner who resigned his Vice Chairmanship of the RSPCA because he couldn't take the Council's pussy-woofers any more; but not before he'd utilised the position to denounce Prince Charles as "Hooligan of the Year" (1978) for shooting wild boars, hares and pheasants on a visit to Austria.

Many people are still unclear as to what constitutes an Animal Rightist, a Welfarist or a Conservationist. John's totally absorbing book sets it all out for you. He explains the difference in attitudes between Greenpeace conservationists, concerned with the survival of a species as a whole, and H.S.A. activists, concerned with individuals within the species, when both seperately confronted the Orcadian seal killers in 1978. Should an endangered species be allowed to die out? John says "yes", in certain circumstances. The book explains why.

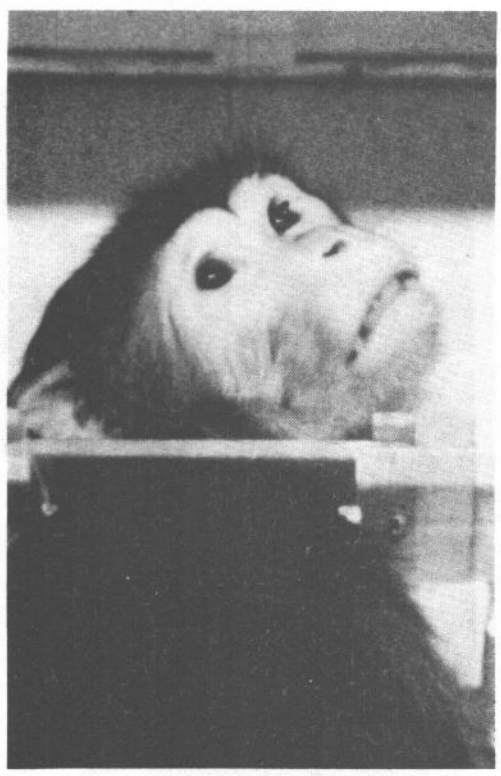
He compares a traditionally welfarist RSPCA branch which barbecued a steer in order to raise funds for new kennels, with an Animal Liberation Front group who sank a seal killer's boat, rather than burn it, in deference to the barnacles on its hull. Besides throwing new thoughts into the debating areas of hunting, shooting and vivisection 'Fettered Kingdoms" also opens up a number of less regularly discussed topics – the logic of turning vegan rather than vegetarian on the basis of the longer term suffering involved in the dairy industry; the strange coincidence of the highest crime rates occurring in towns with the largest slaughterhouses; the concept of caging animals in zoos and the number of gorillas that had to die in order to imprison Guy for life in London Zoo; the clubbing unconcious of goats at Windsor Safari Park in order to feed the big cats; the belief that by openly attacking angling, rather than avoiding the issue, we would actually hasten the demise of other bloodsports.

John credits the H.S.A. activists of the 60's and 70's for the birth of the British Animal Rights movement – the unifying influence of Co-ordinating Animal Welfare (CAW) comes in for high praise and John makes it clear that he'd like to see an expanded Animal Aid – the radical anti vivisection group – become the standard bearer for a confederacy of this country's animal rights group.

He admits that he's still far from satisfied with his own thoughts on the Human/Animal inter-relationship but he's "working on it". It took him 10 years to switch from a "welfarist" to a "rightest" role. But then he didn't have the benefit of having this book to read – You do.

For the price of a couple of pints an evening spent reading "Fettered Kingdoms" could, quite simply, change your whole attitude to life.

"Fettered Kingdoms" costs £1.25 (inc.p.+p.) Cheques should be made out to John Bryant and sent to the publisher at, FERNE HOUSE, WAMBROOK, CHARD, SOMERSET.



Slick Pics. Scene from the Animals Film.

GROUP NEWS

SOUTH EAST

A banner demo and sab was held at the opening meet of the Ashford Valley, Kent by 25 members of the **Tunbridge Wells, East Kent and Weald groups.** The hunt, it seems, are now using silencers on the hounds — two kills were claimed — made without a sound.

Although it has taken some while to get Kent groups off the ground, this season has shown a marked improvement. Local contacts have had a meeting and joint hits have been arranged to let new groups gain a bit of experience and confidence.

There have been hits on the Ashford Valley, East Kent, Tickham, West Street and Old Surrey and Burstow fox hunts and the Blean beagles (who packed up within ½ hour of sabs arriving).

The latest story in Kent is that sabs not only get £10 a day but a "lunch pack" too. Wow!

The Mid-Sussex group held a rock dance in October and made £82.55 with the help of two local bands, Quicksand and Ground Level, who played for free as it was such a good cause.

A 'Wellies & Co" (all female) sab of the notorious Crawley & Horsham F.H. at West Grinstead, Sussex, in November, claimed a "silent and deadly" success when the hunt failed to kill their fox. Members of the hunt said that they were unaware of the girls' presence and added that the sabs "could not be *completely* responsible for the lack of a kill".

Brighton & Worthing group is having another good season. Beginning with cub-hunting the group attended meets of the Crawley & Horsham. Mr. Goshen's, Chiddingfold Leconfield & Cowdray, Old Surrey & Burstow and the East Sussex & Romney Marsh. (The very nature of cub-hunting makes sabbing extremely difficult unless you can get into the woods before the hunt arrives. As cub-hunts meets are not widely advertised this can be a problem. Later in the season when cubs are allowed to leave the woods normal sabbing is possible).

During the main season the group has found that splitting into smaller groups ensures that at least one section keeps tabs on the hounds.

In November, at a meet of the Crawley & Horsham, the group was joined by members from London. Soon after the meet a hunted fox was bolted from its sanctuary by terrier men — fortunately it later escaped. The rest of the day proved fruitless for the hunt until dusk when one group of sabs found remaining members of the hunt by a drain at the side of the road where two foxes had taken refuge.

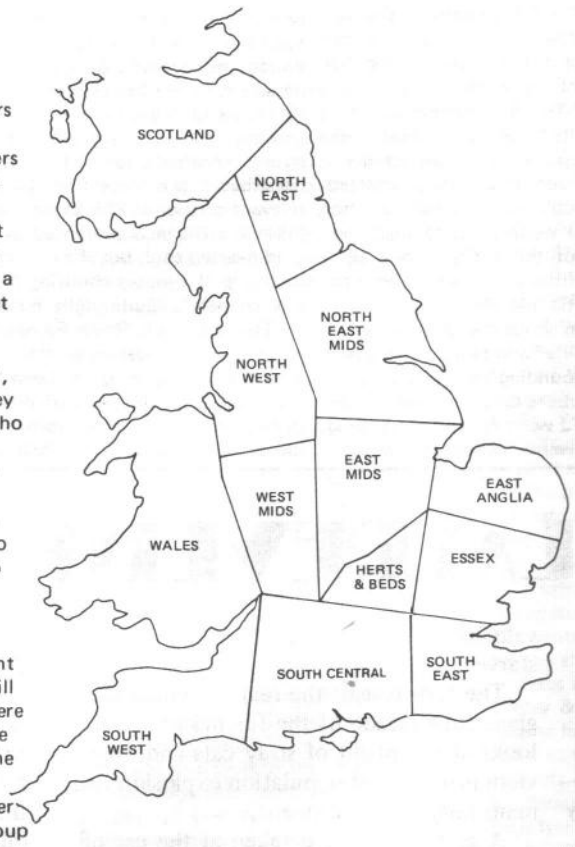
Just as they arrived one fox was bolted and the hounds gave chase. The second fox was left to the terrier men. Sabs kept close to the drain in order to cover the fox's escape, however as it got darker the terrier man gave up and fired the 'humane' killer into the drain and left. On examining the drain sabs thought the fox to be dead, but upon returning to inspect it the following day found the fox gone.

In January terrier men of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray bolted two foxes, the first was chased by hounds who returned to kill the other on the spot.

Meets of the South Down are still proving difficult with local heavies Psycho and Son of Psycho being aided and abetted by anti-sab police.

During the beginning of the season A BBC2 crew filmed the group for their series 'Forty Minutes'; and group members plus sabs from Hastings were featured on the first local news broadcast of TV South whilst out on a hit against the Brighton & Storrington beagles. Of course there'll be no talking to them now!

The group publish their own newsletter and are encouraging local non-active HSA members to help with fund raising. Worthing members raised £50 at a coffee morning and local musicians are willing to help with benefit gigs.



WEST MIDLANDS

Approx 22 sabs running on during hound parades at the Stoneleigh Country Sports Fair were described by Shooting Times as "specimens" (noun not qualified!) and thanked them for proving "splendidly unpopular with the largely urban crowd". The Rugby Advertiser, however, described the crowd as "taken aback".

Sabs from **Cannock Chase** gathered signatures in Hednesford shopping centre in August for a petition against the ritual slaughter of sheep at the local abbatoir. Ritual slaughter involves slitting the animal's throat without pre-stunning — the usual British method.

There is a strong group at **Birmingham Univ.** counteracting the Country Sports Society run by BFSS members.

In Decemebr they teamed up with sabs from **Wolverhampton Poly and Worcester groups** at a meet of the Albrighton F.H. near Stafford. During the day 3 sabs were taken to hospital after being ridden down and assaulted by members of the hunt. The police later took statements.

At another meet a rider trying to whip sabs fell off his horse, chased a sab and then hit a hunt supporter mistaking him for one of ours!

Worcester sabs are also getting support from the Worcs College of Higher Education.

In November eleven members of the **Worcester group** were arrested after hunt supporters had accused them of deliberately driving their mini bus into 2 hunt cars at a meet of the Worcester F.H. near Droitwich. The eleven were later released on bail. Two gamekeepers who punched a sab in the face were not arrested. The sab had simply been laying a false scent at the time.

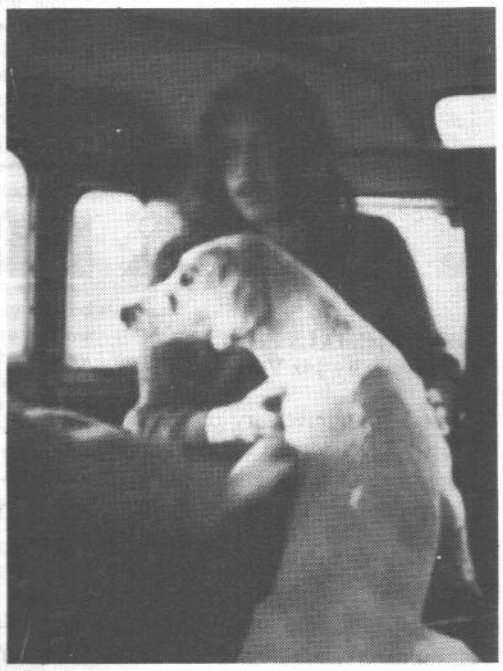
WALES

The S. Wales Argus left a little too early from a meet of the Tredegar Farmers when 4 sabs, from the newly formed **Gwent group,** made a very good effort on their first outing by "disorientating" the hounds. Their plans to sab the hunt were described by the paper as having "petered out".

EAST MIDLANDS HSA

The **Leicester group** with members from Kettering, Corby and Leicester University have been out every week this season hitting either the Fernie, Cottesmore, Pytchley, Atherstone and Woodland Pytchley fox hunts, occasionly 2 hunts on the same day. By keeping a 'low profile' with the use of their own Land Rover they have avoided police/heavie confrontations which has enabled them to concentrate all their time on sabbing. Tactics have included the use of fox-scent impregnated rags for false trails.

When hitting the Cottesmore, they collected a stray hound and drove it 10 miles to the nearest police station. The hound with bloody face and paws, consumed a University packed lunch in 30 seconds flat, then proceeded to climb onto the drivers lap to get at the fox bedding hidden under his seat.



Stray hound gets a lift from sabs.

Whilst sabbing the Atherstone a fox was chased into the town of Barwell where it took refuge in outbuildings, the hunt proceeded to bag the fox and later it was killed.

During the bad weather prior to Christmas the Fernie F.H. hunted on foot in deep snow. 12 couple of hounds were taken out by the huntsman, one whipper-in and two helpers. After drawing a covert for 1½ hours, the hounds were taken to a haystack. Two terriers were put in and a dog fox was bolted.

The East Midlands Group has had a relatively quiet season with very little trouble from heavies or the police. They have been concentrating on the Quorn and Meynell S. Staffs hunts with occasional forays against the Belvoir and South Notts. F.H.'s

All their local hunts were out of action between early December and mid January owing to severe winter conditions. The group is planning several fund raising activities for the summer months to enable them to continue running their landrover.

In Northamptonshire a group has been formed. Based in **Wellingborough** the sabs will concentrate on the Pytchley and Grafton fox hunts.

NORTH EAST H.S.A.

The Tyneside group have been having good hits against the Braes of Derwent F.H. and have used the horn to good effect.

The **Cleveland and Durham group** was turned down three times by Stockton council after applying for a licence to hold a Flag Day in the towns high street. Although collections have taken place in neighbouring Darlington and Bishop Auckland without mishap Stockton council decided that the group was too controversial, a decision based upon submission from the local cops.

SOUTH WEST

During the summer months the **Bristol** and **Yeovil** groups concentrated on mink hunts in their area. The Ytene tried to remain illusive but were sabbed on a number of occasions. The reaction of hunt members was hostile and sometimes violent. They also had a successful day against the Devon & Cornwall Minkhounds.

During the first draw of the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale F.H. near Shepton Mallet in November a supporter let out a massive scream of "there 'e goes" as the fox left the wood and ran ten yards from sab. To the supporter's amazement they leapt over the gate into the field covering the fox's scent with antimate. Pursuing hounds lost the scent.

Later in the day they came in for a 'bit of stick' when an elderly man attacked sabs with his stick. He was described as "foaming with rage" when he hit one of the sabs badly about the head and then dented the boot of a car. The man's son told sabs that his father "Hates you people". Seven of the sabs, according to one farmer, "were reasonable, but three could only be described as abysmal members of the human race". Could the seven please be more careful in the future!

The huntsman of the Chilmark Beagles has had to keep close tabs on his hounds as sabs have made a habit of seducing them away every time he had the temerity to cast them. At the end of one day a sab was attacked by a farmer. After a scuffle the police were called and when sabs refused to give their names (they were surrounded by 40 hunters) all 4 were promptly arrested for attacking the farmer! However charges have been dropped. Policing on the hunt has been very biased and occasionally laughably overmanned — 3 police cars and one police van with dogs : 9 sabs.

The groups have also given their attentions to the Avon Vale and Seavington F.H.s, Park and Ilminster beagles and the Clifton Foot Harriers.

Members from all groups in the West Country are involved in the anti badger-gassing campaign and have given up much of their spare time to guard setts in danger of abuse by Min. of Ag. henchmen.



Sabs studying map.

The **Exeter group** have noticed the increase in violence from hunting supporters. On a recent sab of the Crealy Bassets one hunt thug was carrying a 3ft iron bar.

During the day after getting between hare and hounds the sabs (on the public road) were attacked by the heavies. One punched a young sab repeatedly around the head, took wild swings at others and head-butted another. One of the sabs kicked back and was severely beaten, kicked and stamped on as he lay on the ground, the thug's colleague in crime kept other sabs at bay by swinging at them with the iron bar uttering threats.

The police arrived (a police helicopter had been spotted flying nearby) and the heavies ran away to hide the iron bar. The sabs' injuries were inspected and the police took the trouble to find the two heavies. "Of course we'll prosecute them", said police "and you'll be charged with action likely"!!

The Exeter police have a standing joke that they're "just pigs in the middle".

Exeter Univ. Sabs were attacked by drunks whilst posting up anti-seal cull posters.

In Exeter, university contact Ralph Cook has formed a **Wild Animals Protection Society (WAPS).** Members hope to organise a pro-badger publicity campaign in the area so the subject of gassing and persecution by the hunt is kept in the public eye. Ralph used to snare rabbits and once shot a bullfinch with an airgun for a bet. However the bullfinch episode made him realise that intelligent people have better things to do with their lives. He was arrested in January for obstructing a highway with a WAPS stall for which he had permission!

A new group has been formed in north Devon and have been out against the Torrington Foot Harriers who have a mixed pack of beagles and harriers.

Sabs spraying



SCOTLAND

During the close season Scottish groups remained active.

In May two Glasgow restaurants owned by Grant Forrest, secretary of the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire F.H., were picketted by members of the **Clydeside group.** Later in the year they joined an anti-vivisection demo at an animal lab in Edinburgh which was being opened by the Duke of Edinburgh.

In August an Open Day at the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire F.H. kennels attracted good publicity for **Clydeside and Central groups** who were picketing at the time. During the day police were investigating an assault complaint on a sab.

Circus Hoffman received visits from demonstrators at venues throughout central Scotland. After one demo in Glasgow the lion-tamer and the elephant expert were arrested on charges of assault and breach of the peace.

During cub-hunting the **Clydeside group** tailed the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire F.H. from the kennels. The sabs had a great measure of success. Unfortunately at one meet a sab was pushed into a ditch and another punched in the mouth suffering facial injuries and concussion. In October the hunt was cancelled after 40 members from **Clydeside, Central and Edinburgh** were discovered outside the Kennels.

Local police activity has been consistently and heavily pro-hunt. Sabs have been told that the police would take no action if hunt supporters shot at them. They have also been told that their vehicles would be systematically searched until something illegal was found.

In December this biased attitude of the Central Police Force was highlighted by local Labour M.P. Dennis Canavan during a protest in Parliament. He called for even-handed treatment by police after claiming that a mounted policeman, who appeared to be hunting, was also taking orders from the master of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire. (Imbecilic cries of "tally ho" from the Government benches.)

Mr. Canavan asked what criteria was used to prosecute people for incidents arising from fox-hunting. Nicholas Fairburn (ex Scottish Solicitor General) claimed that there was no prejudice and that each case was judged on its merits. Fairburn reminded the House that the case (10 sabs arrested for breach of the peace) was sub-judice, but added that the dogs had been "sprayed with solvent".

NORTH EAST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

The **Huddersfield Students Against Bloodsports** group has been formed at the town's polytechnic with 20 active members. They have suceeded in getting the Students Union to pass a motion supporting direct action against bloodsports, seal culling and whaling and members were involved in the direct action against seal killers in 1980. They regularly go out sabbing and invite local sabs to join in, the group can be contacted through the Students Union office.

Sabs in Yorkshire are having a good season saving foxes and hares. The Catterick beagles (army pack) had a lovely day out getting lost and a villager in Downholme (nr. Richmond), where the hunt met, said the activity at the meet was the best entertainment since the Jubilee! The pack was constantly split and reformed, only to be split again and a puzzled policeman told the local paper "My money's on the hare — and you can quote me".

Hunters were heard to gasp "Oh god, this is stupid", "Sod it", "What now" and finally a frustrated "Kick the bastards' heads in". Needless to say no hares were caught and the hunt finally stopped for a stiff drink.

A month later found sabs creeping up on a bemused hare who'd just sat down for a think, with the beagles hot on its trail. With a loud "boo" it shot off and a splosh of home-made antimate killed the scent. At another point sabs lay flat after they saw hare and hounds running towards them. After the hare passed over them they stood up stopping hounds dead in their tracks and made the huntsman stamp his foot!

Unfortunately the season turned sour when **Sheffied** sab Shane Kind was cornered by five thugs from the Rock Wood Harriers and repeatedly kicked in the head by two of them whilst the others held him down. The thugs only ceased when some children started screaming. Shane ended up with a broken nose, stitches in his head, bruises and two black eyes. Of course the hunt was not available for comment.

NORTH WEST

Merseyside HSA have been sabbing all five local hunts this season but concentrated mostly on the Holcombe Harriers and Cheshire Forest F.H. Although most hunts are secretive about meets the group still manages to find them.

The sabs have been perfecting a method of clearing coverts of foxes which is working very well, and selected use of very large air-horns has brought some spectacular successes in calling off hounds in full cry.

The group has had two cars rammed but although the police were supplied with photos and car numbers they have yet to take action. However the police did find time to charge two sabs with parking dangerously whilst they were having their cars kicked in!

The **Manchester group** has also re-formed and is joined by a group from **Manchester Poly.** They've already raised £35 in 2½ hours at an information stall.

Havoc Hunt Havoc Hunt Havoc Hunt

Hounds of the West Somerset F.H. made a horrifying start to the season recently by savaging a terrier being taken for a walk which was lucky to survive the incident. The master of the hunt claimed it was "merely a dog fight."

A six week old kitten called "Christmas" was torn to pieces by hounds being exercised by a Shropshire hunt. The pack, under the 'control' of a huntsman and two whippers-in, pounced on the kitten as it played in long grass next to road. Mr. Andrew Brayne, of Longden, had given the kitten to his mother, who was "terribly upset" by the horror. Mr. Brayne said it was the second cat to be killed by hounds in recent months.

Four people ended up in hospital after being involved in a hit-and-run accident in Hertfordshire. The four were amongst a group of 20 people who had got drunk at a hunt point to point meeting at Northaw. Deprived of antis, the group started fighting amongst themselves, both at the race and later at a local pub, where they smashed glasses and wrecked furniture. After being ejected from the pub the group broke the headlights of a car and forced a bus to stop. The collision, believed to be deliberate, occured when they got off the bus in Potters Bar.

September 1981 – The North Cornwall Foxhunt kill a Persian cat belonging to the Mussell family at Blisland, Bodmin in front of the children. The secretary of the hunt Peter Key stated that the hounds "were on a scent of a fox and would not have stopped to kill a cat. The cat might have died of a heart attack".

A Yorkshire terrier belonging to Mrs. Sheila Elston of Withycombe was badly mauled by hounds of the West Somerset F.H. Mrs. Elston said she never had any opinion for or against hunting but she is now leading a campaign to get the hunt banned from the village. Mr Geoffrey Bosley, Master of the hunt said he will not be taking any further precautions to prevent a repetition of events, although he did pay for the Yorkie's vet bill (big of him).

November 1981 – Front page of the Daily Mirror shows the Berkeley F.H. in the village of Berkeley killing a fox. The Mirror editorial calls for a ban of bloodsports. Our congrats to camerawomen and writer Vanessa Chapman for this excellent expose.

Holcombe F.H. riding roughshod over the villagers of Horwich, near Bolton. The residents claim that riders thunder along narrow lanes without due care to pedestrians and children, frighten domestic animals and pet horses, trespass and disturb farm animals. One resident Mrs. Aldcroft said: "We tried to be reasonable with the hunt people but they are just impolite. They come charging in without any regard for anybody".

Eton College Beagles chase a hare across the White Waltham Airfield in Berkshire. The West London Aero Club demand an apology from the school for such a dangerous and irreponsible action.

In February the New Forest Buck hounds chased a deer into the garden of Eric Ashby who has been feeding wild deer throughout the winter. The deer got caught in a fence and the hunt had cut it's throat. Their Joint Master Mrs. Anne Millar, said "It was not the buck we were hunting. It was a fresh deer that crossed the line and six of the hounds went with it". "I apologized to Mr. Ashby on the spot". "I know its a contradiction in terms but I like deer".

Hounds from the Berkeley Hunt first cornered a fox in a mobile home park. Then they turned on Budge a 15 year-old tortoiseshell cat and tore it to pieces.

Mrs. Ridgway of Irthlingborough, Northants., who was recovering from a serious operation was nearly knocked down as she stepped out of her house, by a charging horse of the Woodland Pytchley F.H. Previously the same hunt have tresspassed in her garden and broken down her fence.

December 1981 – The Sinnington F.H., North Yorkshire, chased a fox into the house of Mrs. Clifford of Great Albion. She saved the fox, which hid behind the fridge, but the hunt caught and killed it when she released it later on thinking the hunt had gone. Mrs. Clifford stated: "I have never objected to fox hunting before until I saw the poor thing in my house. We had to watch as the fox was literally torn to pieces by hounds".

Mrs. John Cooper of Treswigga Farm, Blisland claims she saw hounds of the Temple F.H. savage a sheep and eat it alive. The sheep died after 45 minutes, before the Master could shoot it. A hunt follower Mr. D. Dominy of Fairborne Road, St. Austell counterclaimed that the sheep was killed by a "single bite" (like fox kills no doubt) and it did not suffer anymore than in a slaughterhouse!



H.S.A. Stall

Sabs at unsuccessful dig-out.



SEA SHEPHERD NEWS

During the months of November and December 1981 and January 1982 the Scottish Office ordered the massacre of 2000 Grey Seals – 1200 in the Orkneys and 800 on the Western Isles. Twelve licences were issued to local islanders to allow them to kill on certain islands.

This year the Sea Shepherd organization decided to confront the killers after representations to the Scottish Office to call off the kill failed. Sea Shepherd is represented on the Scottish Grey Seal Group which is a committee representing various animal welfare and animal rights groups in Scotland. This group came to the conslusion that the seal kill was only being carried out to use the seals as a scapegoat for the Scottish Office's disastrous fishing policy in the North Sea which has seriously depleted the number of fish.

As well as these groups opposing it, the kill was also opposed by the majority of Orkney fishermen. Their feelings are best summed up by a quote from the fishermen's leader, Joe Malloch. "Most of us rely on shell fishing. I don't care what the scientists say, seals feed on squid, squid feed on baby lobsters. The disastrous result if we kill the seals is obvious".

The first confrontation between Sea Shepherd and the seal killers was on 30 October on the uninhabited Orkney island of Rusk Holm. A team of Sea Shepherd members had been spraying seals on the island of Faray with a blue dye which would make the pelts commercially worthless – the pelts are made into toy seals which are sold as tourist trinkets. Suddenly, a killer's boat was spotted – the 'Guide Me' – which belongs to a Mr. Tom Bain who lives on the island of Westray. He is a farmer and is also a part-owner of the island of Rusk Holm. None of the killers encountered were fisher people. If, as the Scottish Office says, the seals are being killed to preserve fish stocks, why are those involved in fishing not carrying out the killing?

When Bain's vessel was spotted, the protestors chased after him in a Sea Rider which is a high powered speed boat – fast enough to outrun anything including the police launch. The 'Guide Me' was heading towards Rusk Holm and the Sea Rider managed to beat the killers to the island. The seals were quickly sprayed with dye and the demonstrators then waited for Tom Bain and his

Continued overleaf

friends to arrive. Bain managed to kill four seals with his .22 rifle but was unable to kill anymore as the demonstrators put their bodies between the rifle and the seals. Mr. Bain then signalled for police assistance and they cleared the island of killers and protestors. This stopped anymore seals being killed that day. Bain later said in the press, "I signalled to the police to come ashore because these people were interfering with the cull and I didn't want to see anyone get shot accidentally". Nice chap!

After the victory on Rusk Holm, it was decided that teams of a dozen activists should be placed on islands with seal colonies – these teams should stay there until the kill was stopped. Each team was well equipped with radios, boats and enough food for weeks. The team on the island of Faray had the next encounter with the killers on 2 November. However, even before the sealers arrived, the team had already gone through quite an ordeal. After setting up camp in a deserted boat house, they were awoken by a banging on the door. This came as quite a shock as the island was deserted except for the Sea Shepherd team who were all present at the time. The door was opened and three people staggered in. One was obviously suffering from hypothermia.

These three were other Sea Shepherds who were in charge of the Sea Rider whose job it was to patrol the islands checking on the teams on various islands. The fuel line had fractured and they had rowed three miles to our island to find help. The weather was very bad that night with force seven gales and driving rain. The man with hypothermia was dried and put in a sleeping blanket, and gradually warmed by two people who got into the bag with him.

Whilst this was going on, the other two had gone back to the Sea Rider to secure it. Several hours passed, and when they did not return, it was thought that they were in trouble. As soon as the man with hypothermia was brought to the boat house, distress flares had been let off to attract the coast guard. It took over four hours for them to arrive. They searched the island and finally found the two who were standing waist deep in the water, physically preventing the Sea Rider from being dashed to pieces against the rocks. After the vessel was secured, the coast guard gave the Sea Rider crew a lecture on not going to sea in an untrustworthy craft. They then left the island in their inflatable to rendezvous with their main vessel – on their way back they broke down.

Several hours later the seal killers arrived. The Sea Shepherd team minus the one with hypothermia and another who had gone to look after him (the coast guard had taken him to hospital where he recovered) were there to meet them.

There were seven arrests on the Isle of Faray – all of them being Sea Shepherd members. Charges ranged from breach of the peace, assault and charges under the Seal Conservation Act (it is illegal to stop a seal being killed if it is authorized by the and it would be unwise to make further comment until the outcome of the trial is known.

Three people who eluded capture on Faray were left behind by the police who later returned to pick them up after they were contacted by other Sea Shepherds in Kirkwall on the main Orkney Island.

When these three were returned to Kirkwall, they found out that several Sea Shepherd inflatables had been damaged in separate incidents on different islands. Sea water had been put in the petrol tanks – this could not have been a coincidence and it is thought that the seal killers were responsible. This irresponsible action could have resulted in the deaths of Sea Shepherd members – as it was, one team of twelve were stranded on the Isle of Eday for five days, until they were rescued.

The next confrontation took place again on Faray. This time nine Sea Shepherds were arrested and charged with assault, breach of the peace and under the Riot Act. The last person to be sentenced under the Riot Act on the Orkneys got nine years in prison. These nine were kept in custody for three days and they are pleading not guilty.

Whilst they were being held, those who had not been arrested chartered a fishing vessel for two days to try and find the killers. This team was the most experienced – all seasoned Hunt Saboteurs, and used to working as a team. It was decided that they would take the rifle off the next seal killer seen and it would be flung into the sea. This is in fact a similar gesture to that which led to the formation of Sea Shepherd.

A director of Greenpeace, Paul Watson, physically removed a seal killer's club during a seal kill in Canada. This led to Paul Watson being expelled from Greenpeace, as this type of action was thought to be unacceptable. He then set up Sea Shepherd as a more militant alternative to Greenpeace. Since then, Sea Shepherd have claimed responsibility for the sinking of the pirate whaler, Sierra, and two Spanish whalers, the Ibsa I and II.

It was thought that throwing the rifle into the sea would be seen by the media as a covert threat, as what might happen if the seal kill was allowed to continue in forth coming years.

The first day the killers were spotted on the Holm of Faray, they were loading dead seals on their boats and they had already killed all the seals. Film was taken of this and it appeared on the BBC television news. The second day, the weather was very bad – force 8 to 10 gales and the Sea Shepherds returned.

Due to lack of money, Sea Shepherd decided to leave the Orkneys. Other factors considered were that the sixteen people arrested were unable to go out again and these included those most experienced at handling boats and, also, with the weather closing in, the Sea Shepherd vessels were considered not to be suitable for really bad weather.

The seal killers on the Orkneys killed 1200 seals, but as their pelts were sprayed, they did not make as much money as they had hoped for.

Sea shepherd will return to the Orkneys next year with a much better equipped team. The people there will have gained a great deal of experience by this time, which will help in the disruption of not only the seal kill in the Orkneys, but ones in the Farnes and the Ouse Washes. Anyone wishing to obtain more information should contact: Sea Shepherd, 3 Rosehill, Torrance, Glasgow, Scotland.

Christmas Crackers

Boxing Day meets, those gift-wrapped treats for the ever-gullible public with the glare of Christmas lights in their eyes, were yet again endorsed by the presence of elected representatives of local rate payers who paraded with the hounds dealing out bon homme with a traditional blind eye.

In many parts of the country ice and snow prevented hunts going on after the meet and some sabs found themselves able to enjoy the unusual sensation of drifting to the nearest pub for a stirrup cup.

Although the Portman Hunt was invited to Wimbourne Square (Dorset) by the President of the Chamber of Trade (obviously a big voice in local affairs and spending) it was the Mayor, Cllr. Minna Harvey, who welcomed the hunt. "The hunt were there as guests of the town and as such they must be welcomed by the Mayor. Any guests who behave as impeccably as they did are welcome". Cllr. Harvey added that although she didn't condone the killing of foxes there were more atrocious acts of cruelty committed towards animals.

The President of the Chamber of Trade who was "brought up in the country" said that she didn't think the protestors fully understand what hunting is about. "It's very rare for a fox to be torn to pieces alive. I have only seen one killed. . ".

The meet was attended by groups representing HSA, LACS, Animal Aid, FOE and the Southern Wildlife Group.

Meanwhile in Leicestershire the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood shared a jolly punch with the joint master of the Quorn, Ulrica Murray-Smith, and in Berkshire the Old Berks Hunt were entertained by Abingdon's mayor, Ada Dyson.

Back in Dorset there was a great deal of pre-meet publicity in the local press about Bridport Labour mayor, Joe Jeanes, defending his position in upholding the traditional Boxing Day meet of the Cattistock hunt. Mr. Jeanes is apparently opposed to fox hunting and considers it a bloodsport but he "doesn't want to be remembered as the man who put a stop to a popular public event which has been in existence for over half a century".

The protestors were supported by ex Conservative mayor of Yeovil, John Cruddas, who presented Mr. Jeanes with a letter putting forward their views. However good old anti-bloodsports Joe decided that it wasn't worth reading and tore it up!

Saboteurs from Yeovil, Bristol and the surrounding area held an inspired street theatre at the meet and later went on to split the pack so successfully that the police were called! They confiscated every antimate can and a hunting horn. Mr. Jeanes must have been delighted to see a letter of support in the local paper from a member of the BFSS.

Eastward, in Kent, the Eridge F.H. (lately amalgamated with the Southdown) was welcomed by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, Cllr. Barbara Sandford. She was assisted by two council workmen, complete with council donkey jackets, who had a glass of cheer" presumably to warm their "double-time" toes. Mrs. Sandford told demonstrators that she was non-partisan but dashed off mid-sentence to welcome the joint masters with a steaming glass from the back of the council landrover.

In Surrey 15 members of Guildford Borough Council voted to allow the meet of the Surrey Union to take place yet again, even though the vote wasn't taken at a full council meeting, 20 members either absent or abstaining. The meet was attended by local sabs. Curiously enough the hunt completely missed the meet in the city centre and went straight out on foot to the Pewley Downs.

Sabs went on to a meet of the Surrey & North Sussex beagles and despite heavy policing went onto the fields to finish the hunt in two hours. The less exhausted went on to help the Aldershot beagles lose the hare in their last hour of hunting!

At least one town wasn't so accomodating . . . . The meet of the Grove & Rufford, outside Retford town hall, was met by 20 demonstrators organised at short notice. Although the hunt met in the Square as usual the sabs were backed in principal by the local Bassetlaw Council who decided that the hunt would not be invited for the traditional stirrup cup because the ruling Labour group oppose hunting.

At Maldon 50 sabs demonstrated at the meet of the Essex Farmers and HSA members at the Battle meet of the East Sussex & Romney Marsh were told that they "should be ashamed of themselves". Local papers also picked up banner demonstrations at the Suffolk hunt, Bury St. Edmunds; the Crawley & Horsham, Horsham, Sussex and the East Essex at Frinton.

In Bournemouth the HSA were joined by LACS, Wessex Anti-Bloodsports Council and Animal Aid members to picket the Queens Hotel from whence two coachloads of guests were dispatched to attend the meet of the New Forest hunt at Brockenhurst. The hotel is run by Baptists. The Sabs later went on to disrupt the hunt. The local sabs plan to publicise hotels in the area who openly support hunting, last year they highlighted the Studland Dene Hotel.



Sabs dressed as vampire huntsman

At Redbourne, Herts, the media-favoured demo at the meet of the Aldenham Harriers attracted a counter attack by hunt supporters.

Shooting Times decided that the anti demo was a "fiasco" with "less than 200 antis" (police figures 300), and declared that it was the "usual rent-a-mob" even though (the previous month) they'd positively encouraged hunt supporters not to let the Harriers "face the mob alone".

Bitching about the LACS bringing in speakers seemed odd after Horse & Hound revealed that top bods Dick Tracey (BFSS PRO) and the public relations advisor to the Masters of Harriers and Beagles Assoc. had been drafted in to "answer queries from press and television reporters". Suffice to say neither was quoted, or, it seems, listened to, as the news item on ITN exemplified by getting it all confused with hare coursing and foxhunting!

A reader of Horse & Hound later complained of the hunts' performance in front of the cameras and asked "Where was the BFSS public relations officer? Why was no experienced, articulate representative there to present the case for hunting with the necessary authority and vigour . . .?"

Well 'you pays yer money, . . ."

There was good publicity for the Meresyside group at the meet of the Royal Rock Beagles in the Wirral. Attempts by the hunt to keep sabs out of the fields failed miserably and they crawled off home after only 1¾ hours. Only 200 people turned up at the meet compared to 1000 two years ago.

Two days later at the Cheshire Forest F.H. traditional meet in Burton 60 sabs were there to greet them, supporters numbered 100. (In the past the hunt have claimed 2000 at the meet!) As the hunt entered the first covert 50 sabs followed on . . . twenty minutes later hounds were back in the hound van going home! According to the hunt they "found a brace of foxes but we did not kill" and they found the antis "a bit of a nuisance".

The Exeter group had a banner demo at the meet of the East Devon F.H. and went on to sab the hunt.

By 1.30 p.m. the hunt had failed to find a scent and when sabs heard the sounds of digging out realised a fox had been marked but not chased. They decided to intervene and for half an hour there were scuffles until the terrier men succeeded in getting two terriers into the large earth. The police arrived, warned the hunt about violent behaviour and went away again. More heavies arrived and tried resoning with sabs who were still guarding the earth. The fox was to be bolted but by now the hunt had moved off.



Councillor Cruddas presenting letter to Bridport Mayor



Anti bloodsport demonstrators at Redbourne.

'HUNT CUISINE'

At the opening meet of the Fernie F.H. a young 'deb' was observed practicing the height of good grooming; eating fish and chips out of newspaper with a silver knife and fork set.

LAME EXCUSE

Businessman Dennis Anstey is not a happy man due to the fact that his 16 year old daughter spent all her savings on a horse that turned lame. The seller? The Pytchley Hunt (well times are hard old boy!)

FOREIGN NEWS

A naked Russian hunter swimming after ducks in the Kazakhstan hunting reserve returned to find his clothes being trampled into the mud by an angry elk. The duck shooter had to hide in the reeds until dark when the elk left.

Meanwhile, in Italy, shooter Attilio Boata had his neck broken when the startled stag he'd just missed leaped off the 15ft ledge and landed on his head.

And in S. Africa, nightwatchman Ben Sithole was squashed to death by a hippo. The police said that the animal "apparently ignored warnings to stop" and that "there were signs of a fierce 'struggle between Ben and the hippo".

Two of the rare mountain gorillas highlighted on the "Life on Earth" series by David Attenborough were killed by poachers at the end of last year. A few days after the two went missing a dealer was arrested whilst trying to sell one of the heads as a tourist trophy.

Last year Canadians were invited to put their names down in a draw for the "Greater Snow Goose hunt". The 240 winners would be entitled to shoot the geese at the world's only colony of these majestic birds of the St. Lawrence river. Cheques were to be made payable to the Receiver General for Canada.

A recent study in Japan by 100,000 Environmental Agency officials has disclosed that, as a result of the country's post was expansion, industrial pollution "will leave a permanent scar on wildlife". The main threat comes from water sources contaminated by industrial waste and many animals, birds, reptiles and insects are now extinct or face extinction.

The Canadian Department of National Defence, in an effort to find a cure for nausea brought on by nuclear fallout, plan to expose laboratory dogs to massive doses of radiation. The development of any drug arising from these experiments would enable soldiers to continue killing people. The executive director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, Dr. Harry Rowsell, said that his first reaction was "no way" but on reflection decided it would be good for vomiting cancer patients and travel sickness.

Copenhagen Zoo recently killed three Bengal tigers because there was no room to let them roam freely. *50 other zoos were offered the tigers for free but there were no takers. Apparently there are as many in zoos as there are in the Indian forests where they are a threatened species. Makes conservation an even dirtier word.

And talking of 'conservation' the World Wildlife Fund (International), that paragon of virtue, has teamed up with the Swedish Fur Trade Council "to deal" with the trade in rare animals. They jointly drew up a list of those fur-bearing animals not threatened with extinction and decided that "garments could only be made from animals known to be plentiful". And, as if that wasn't enough, participating shops are allowed, for a small fee, to display in their windows *a sign with the WWF panda on it!*

Still, a society that boasts the Duke of Edinburgh as its President could hardly do better. The WWF in Britain currently contributes about a quarter of the income of WWF International.

Humans kill cattle, and in America cattle eat hay and alfalfa, unfortunately the jack rabbit likes a nibble too. This is too much for Idaho ranchers who have 'solved' the problem by beating the brains out of an estimated 70,00 rabbits.

Up to 500 people, many of whom drive out from the city to take part, drive the rabbits into a pen where they are bludgeoned to death with baseball bats, pieces of wood and golf clubs. There are no age limits and gleeful 10-year-olds have been spotted enjoying the carnage.

Following the rapid decline of wildlife in Pakistan the government has ordered a halt to the hunting, trapping and exporting of all animals and reptiles for three years. The ban is backed by harsh punishments in an attempt to stop unscrupulous hunters who are threatening extinction to 34 species of mammals, 20 birds and 5 reptiles.

However the wild boar has not been included in the ban. Apparently it is so hated as a destroyer of food crops that orthodox Moslems will not even mention its name!

Hundreds of sensation-seeking sightseers gather every Sunday, in S. Africa's Nwanedi game reserve, to watch a truck-load of live donkeys being devoured by lions.

After protests from local conservationists it's hoped that the spectacle will be banned.

After a crisis meeting at Oxford University thirty of the world's leading tortoise experts have launched a campaign to save the creature. The main areas of concern are loss of habitat and the pet trade which will probably result in extinction for ten of the world's 40 species of tortoise by 1986.



Frank Spooner pictures.

Jack Rabbit massacre in the U.S.A.



Recently 100,000 tortoises were destroyed in Northern Greece when heaths on which they lived were ploughed up and in the southern states of America 70 per cent of favoured desert habitat has been destroyed by joy riders on motor bikes and dune buggies.

British pet traders are condemned by the experts for importing 100,000 tortoises into the country every year, not only because thousands die in transit but because the creature is physically unsuited to the climate producing an 80 per cent death rate per year.

FOX PAYS VISIT

Whilst the Cottesmore F.H. were hunting near Melton Mowbray, a fox, disturbed by the antics of the hunt, hid in the outside toilet of the home of accountant Mr. J. Bennett. He had returned home from a day's shopping to see the hunt finishing for the day. When he went to pay a visit to his toilet he found the fox crouched behind the lavatory.

Mr. Bennett locked the fox in and waited till nightime to release him back into the countryside.

BILL PITT S IN

Bill Pitt the new Liberal M.P. for Croydon North West will be a useful addition to parliament. In a recent speech he said that he was opposed to animal experiments for cosmetic purposes, whaling, fox-hunting, seal culling, animals in circuses, fur wearing, factory farming and all animal sports except perhaps horse racing on the flat.

When asked why legislation to ban these activities was so slow he replied, "Enough powerful people like fox-hunting to allow it to continue. And there is a very powerful political and financial lobby from the drugs industry to allow experiments to continue."

He added that animal campainers would get their way if they kept up the pressure.

DRAIN DAMAGE

Earlier this season Essex based sab Kevin Chapple noticed the terrier men of the East Essex F.H. digging out a fox which had gone to ground in a roadside drain. In their frenzied rush to evict the unfortunate creature they smashed a hole in the drain pipe. Kevin decided to write to Essex County Council to complain, which resulted in the Highways Department recovering the cost of repairing the damage from the hunt and instructing the master to tell members and supporters of the hunt not to interfere with the road again.

COURSING CHIEF BLAMES POACHERS

After a disappointing first day of hare coursing by the Coquetdale & Border Club's meeting at Farnham, Chairman Norman Donaldson blamed the poaching fraternity for the acute shortage of hares. He went on to blame the increase in poaching on the high unemployment rate in the area " . . . these people spend their day sleeping, drinking and collecting their dole. At night they go poaching and catch enough hares to get their beer money for the next day."

FIVE YEAR WAIT

It is hoped that fishermen will take notice of a request from the Government asking them not to leave toxic lead weights on banks where they are frequently swallowed by swans.

And the Nature Conservancy Council has also asked that the weights be phased out within the next five years.

During that time the weights will cause the death of about 15,000 swans, who eat the weights mistaking them for grit which the swans need to aid digestion.

WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF .....?

British Airways has taken over the sponsorship of the Hunter Trial Championships from Abbey Life. The year-long sponsorship is reputed to be worth around £50,000.

ONE LESS

Major Roche, master and owner of the 250-year-old Ynysfor Hunt in North Wales shot his pack of hounds and closed the hunt. He shot 24 of the 25 specially bred Lakeland mountain fox-hunters, saving only his favourite, 'Gameboy'. His decision was taken due to financial difficulties.

HUNT SABOTEURS HANDBOOK

Publication has been delayed because of legal problems with the text. This means some rewriting and updating so please be patient. All those who have sent in orders and cash will receive a copy hot off the presses. The book will be released as soon as we can.

GET HIM OUT

As sitting Labour MP's now have to be re-selected for General Elections one barrister Labour MP that deserves the humane killer is John Ryman. He is quoted in the Daily Telegraph recently stating he has no problems with his constituency party who "arrange dates of meetings to fit in with my hunting commitments".

SAVED BY A POLICEMAN

Rather than call in someone to kill an injured fox found in the middle of a road (which is normal police procedure), P.C. Steven Lodge took the fox to a vet and offered to pay for the treatment himself. P.C. Lodge intends to release the fox when it has recovered, near the woods where he found it.

SHOOTING

SHOOTERS AND HUNTERS

The traditional rivalry between hunters and shooters reared its happy (for us) head again at this year's A.G.M. of the British Field Sports Society. Comments were made that shooting types would be better off by joining the Wildfowlers Association of Great Britain and Ireland (WAGBI now B.A.S.C.) and not the B.F.S.S. Robin Brockbank, Director of the B.F.S.S. commenting on a Shooting Times editorial which gave some credence to the dissenting WAGBI voices called it "divisive and hardly in the best interests of field sports." Now, now children, behave.

COURT RULES AGAINST LOADED FIREARMS

The High Court in London has ruled it an offence to carry a loaded firearm in a public place, even if the owner possesses an unconditional firearms licence.

The ruling came after Barry Collins was aquitted by Barking Magistrates following an incident where he shot at ducks and seagulls from his boat on the Thames.

It is hoped this ruling could have wider implications on shooting parties throughout Britain.

THEY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED OUT

"Incidentally if you see a flock flying low, fast and straight they are almost certainly racing pigeons. *Do not shoot them*" (our emphasis). Shooting Times actually had to give this advice to its readers in an article about woodpigeon shooting. If the comic's readers are so dumb that they need this advice, effective gun legislation is even more overdue than we thought.

SHOOTING BAN

During the severe weather conditions at the new year, the government imposed a 14 day ban on the shooting of wild fowl. After the lifting of the ban, Lord Margadale, President and Marcus Kimball, Chairman of the B.F.S.S. were out together on the Lord's estate shooting away.

However Donald Callender, Scottish spokesman for the B.F.S.S. said "There has been no great rush to resume shooting. We have not been shooting the poor things because they are so easy to shoot in this state. Our people do not want to go out and just slaughter the damn things."

Meanwhile in North Wales shooters continued to slaughter birds despite the ban. Ken Williams the director of Penros Nature Reserve at Holyhead said he was appalled at the behaviour of these so-called sportsmen. The heaviest shooting parties were in Anglesey.

HUNT BLOCK SETTS

HUNT BLOCKING SETTS

ERIC ASHBY, the television wildlife film-maker, is stepping up his efforts to protect the New Forest's resident badgers.

He claims hunting has caused the badger population to more than halve in the last 30 years.

Mr. Ashby, speaking from his home, Badger Cottage, at Linwood near Ringwood, said he wants to see a complete ban put on blocking up active setts with soil prior to hunts.

And he's also angry that, despite a Forestry Commission ruling, terriers are still being sent down occupied setts.

"The badger is an extremely sensitive animal.," he said.

"Even when a person simply walks past a sett during the day, the badgers will detect the human scent when they are ready to emerge that evening and stay underground for an hour or two longer, thus reducing feeding time.

"Now imagine the effect of men attacking the sett's carefully scraped out entrances with spades and unearthing them. It can cause desertion, especially in smaller setts."

Mr. Ashby adds that a soil-blocked sett is rendered unhealthy.

"The ventilation is gone and the risk of disease rises."

"Even after the hunt, only one or two of the holes are opened up again. The sett remains unhealthy."

In the New Forest, soil is the most convenient and commonest ingredient for blocking badger setts, although thanks to the local Badger Protection Group, of which Mr. Ashby is a member, a handful of major setts can now only be stopped using paper sacking.

Mr. Ashby claims that terriers entering an active sett can prove lethal, especially if babies are present, or even due.

"The sow badger can react to the intrusion of her privacy by aborting or, if she has already given birth, devouring her own cubs. It's a nervous reaction not uncommon in some domestic animals.

KENNEL RAIDERS SENTENCED

On Thursday, March 4th, eight people appeared at Hereford Crown Court, for sentence in connection with a raid on Harewood Park Kennels, Harewood Park, Near Ross-on-Wye. Bob August (H.S.A. Secretary), John Hale (H.S.A. Tactics Officer) and Aubrey Thomas (former H.S.A. Treasurer), were given twelve month prison sentences, suspended for eighteen months, and ordered to pay a £50 fine and £150 compensation each. Anne August, Dave Callender (H.S.A. Contact Liaison Officer), Rick Ferry, Nigel Kennet and Lynne Matthews were each given nine month prison sentences, suspended for eighteen months, together with various fines and costs.

Commenting after the case, Bob August said that the ten Beagle puppies which were rescued, were all now homed as family pets, and that there was no possibility of them being traced and returned. He also said that while the suspended sentences could cause individuals to curtail their activities, a growing number of people were more than willing to take their place, and that raids on Vivisection Laboratories and Breeding Establishments would continue.

An appeal fund to cover fines and legal expenses was launched when the arrests were first made, and anyone wishing to contribute, should send their donations to "Ross Beagle Appeal", c/o P.O. Box 19, London, SE22 9LR. Thanks must go to those people who have already made a donation.

FOX SNARING

According to the League Against Cruel Sports at least 100,000 foxes were killed by snaring last year. The figure could be exceeded this winter when their furs are at there most valuable. Up to £35 is being paid for a top quality skin. Snares cause untold suffering to foxes and other animals caught in them. All members are urged to keep a look out for snares and traps whilst out sabbing and act accordingly. These devices do more damage than a pack of hounds.

BOROUGH COUNCIL L.A.C.S. SYMPATHY

Conservative controlled Erewash Borough Council's environmental health committee was criticised by one of its members for refusing to allow the League Against Cruel Sports to hold a street collection in the borough. The request was refused regardless of the fact that the dates asked for were vacant. Labour Councillor Howard Griffiths commented that the decision of whether to donate to a charity should be left to the public, but that the environmental health committee seemed to have made the decision for them.

FISHING FOR GRADES

The campaign against fishing as a bloodsport has taken a knock backwards, because the so called sport has been approved as a suitable subject for a C.S.E. exam.

Twenty boys at a London school have started the course, and are hoping to gain a certificate in two years.

It is doubtful whether the curriculum will include the facts that it has been scientifically proven that fish feel pain and therefore angling is a cruel sport.

TRAINED TO KILL

Jobless teenagers Peter McNeill and Joe Joyner had always been interested in animals so they jumped at the chance to take a course on Animal Care as part of the Youth Oportunities Scheme. Instead of being instructed in animal care, they were taught how to kill mice by holding a ballpoint pen against the back of their necks, then pulling the tails to break the necks; snip the heads off newly-born rats with scissors because they were not needed for experiments; break the legs off dead dogs so that they would fit into an animal waste disposal unit.

The course was supervised by the Government's Manpower Services Commission.

JEREMY GETS BLASTED

New Forest Huntsman Jeremy Whaley must have thought there was a sab sniper after him as he gleefully watched a fox being dug out recently, when the bloke behind him holding a shotgun got a bit too excited. Bang! Down went Jeremy, clutching his knee. Red-faced hunt officials are saying nothing. Mrs. Nicki Whaley was reluctant to chat when a local paper phoned her.

"I've been told to say nothing." she said. Now the New Forest hounds are running amock under the inexperienced guidance of new joint master Tony Taylor.



A smiling Jeremy before the incident.

JUST IN CASE

Maidstone councillor Tommy Thompson says "Foxes are becoming a problem in this country and they would cause serious problems if we ever had rabies here". This year the council has purchased a double-barrel shotgun and ammunition to shoot their urban foxes now, just in case.

SHEEP-WORRYING

Dog-owners should be forced to take out third party insurance cover for their pets, say farmers in the south-east angry about the growing problem of sheep-worrying. Between 4,000 and 6,000 sheep are killed each year by dogs. The farmers think that dog licences should only be issued on condition that owners have suitable insurance covering any damage their dogs might do.

The National Farmers Union says the new Wildlife and Countryside Act also makes it an offence for a person not to have a dog on a lead in a field where there is livestock running free.

Hunts take note.





CARTOON OFFER

The cartoon above by Keith Waite originally appeared in the Daily Mirror last year. A full sized print of the cartoon, (11 in. x 14 in.) *personally signed by the artist* has been kindly donated by the newspaper to the Leicester H.S.A. group.

To raise funds the group has decided to auction the print to H.S.A. members. A bid of £10 has already been received. If you would like to own this original and amusing print send your bid (no money) to the Leicester H.S.A. c/o P.O. Box 19, London SE22 9LR. Offer ends June 30th.

Quotable Quotes

"If I were a stag I would be proud to be shot by the Princess of Wales" – Auberan Waugh.

"Obviously it is possible that cruel and stupid foxhunters exist" – Ian Coghill, B.F.S.S. Hon. Local Secretary.

"I'm delighted the Princess has been stalking. It's traditional in Scotland and a valuable source of income to the area" – Major General Robin Brockbank, Director of the B.F.S.S.

"It is a very dangerous precedent to say that because a bird is charming and pretty and makes a nice noise you should shoot it" – Marcus Kimball former Chairman of the B.F.S.S.

"Foxhunting's greatest contribution to the preservation of foxes at an acceptable level is the encouragement in the maintenance of fox coverts where the fox may breed" – Michael Clayton, Editor Horse and Hound.

"I am convinced they (sabs) couldn't care less about cruelty to animals. What is more cruel than spraying chemicals on hounds or catching a bird and spraying it before the hunt, which is what they have been known to do" – Walner Robbins, Quantock Stag Hounds Master.

"We all have a primative streak and isn't it better to express it in this controlled way?" – Major Sandy Cheyne, Master of Pytchley F.H. referring to fox hunting.

"I have always tried to keep out of public dispute on bloodsports because I'll admit it, in the last analysis I believe them to be 'Indefensible' ". – Town Gud alias Colin Willcock of the Shooting Times magazine.

"Coarse fishermen obviously need to be careful of losing lead in shallow water. But my feeling has been for some years, that some areas have been seriously over-populated with swans. And over-polulation, as we all know, leads to shortage of food and disease." – Tom Hook in the Tonbridge Courier, 12.12.80.

URBAN FOXES

Bristol University's Zoology Dept. has over the past 2 years carried out a survey of the number of foxes living in Bristol. The number far exceeded any previous census figures: 211 breeding pairs producing 1,013 cubs a year plus 74 barren vixens. The foxes have been making their homes in basements and outbuildings and scavenging for food from dustbins. In derelict areas where there is less chance of human disturbance they have been helping the local council by controlling the rodent population.

It is calculated that at present there are 13 foxes per acre in town and only 8 per acre in the surrounding countryside. The reasons put forward for this exodus have been loss of safe cover due to hunting and modern farming techniques.

BEAR SKINS

100 American Black Bear skins are used on average each year for the bearskin hats of the British Regiments of Footguards.

No need to get upset though folks! The Information and Conservation Dept. of the World Wildlife Fund assure us that it's OK because the bear is fairly common and isn't on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). So that makes it alright doesn't it?

COME TO THE BALL

The League Against Cruel Sports have appealed to all members and supporters to ensure the maximum possible turnout for the 'Anti-Hunt Ball' which takes place after their AGM on May 8th. There will be a disco and vegetarian buffet. For further details contact L.A.C.S., 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG.

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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