"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

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HUNT ATROCITIES REVEALED



For those of us who still hold doubts about whether or not the practices described by Robert Churchward MFH in the mid 1960's still persist in modern foxhunting, the revelations of Paul Woodhouse detailed in the News of the World in October 1982 provide considerable weight to the generally held belief that they do. Paul Woodhouse had been a hunt servant for some twelve years; born into a hunting family and blooded at the age of seven, he seemed destined for a life-long career in hunt-service. He claims, however, that:

"In every hunt there are always one or two people, particularly the terrier men, who get a sadistic pleasure from torturing foxes.

I regard such people with disgust and have vowed never again to have anything to do with them or the so-called 'sport' of foxhunting."

Working on information Woodhouse provided, a fox, named Tag, which he claimed was regularly baited with terriers by the Derwent hunt's terrier man, Fred Jackson, in order to train his terriers, was liberated from a garden shed where Jackson had kept it for eight years. Tag is now safely lodged at a sanctuary in South-west England.

Woodhouse went on to tell of the brutalities that he had witnessed and even participated in while acting as a hunt servant. Principal among those involved claimed Woodhouse was the former Joint-Master of the Derwent, Mr. Roderick Ando. On one occasion, while out cubhunting near the hunt's kennels at Snainton near Scarborough, a fox which had gone to ground was dug out and on Ando's orders its' paws were cut by Mr. Jackson and the animal released – it ran for only 200 yards before being pulled down by the hounds. Worse still, Woodhouse claimed that this was a regular practice of the Derwent hunt during Ando's Joint-mastership. Cutting a fox's paws was a practice also described by Robert Churchward in the 1960's.

On another occasion, a fox which had gone to ground was captured in a net on Ando's orders and thrown live to the hounds. From a foxhunter's point of view, it is important to let hounds taste pumping blood, especially during cubhunting since hounds tend to exert more vigour and show more savageness when dealing with a fox that they have killed, rather than one which has been dug out and killed for them.

Woodhouse also brought the name of Prince Charles into his statement. He said that the Derwent and in fact all six of the foxhunts that he had worked with, all dropped bagged foxes in front of hounds when there were visiting dignatories present in order to show sport and give them a good day: on the occasion when the Prince visited the Derwent for a day some years ago, a fox was dropped, although Woodhouse adds *"He, (Prince Charles) of course, would not have been aware of this and he probably went away saying he'd had a good day's sport."*

Bagged foxes are captured from the wild a day or so before they are required and are then released at a suitable moment in front of hounds; they may be used at times when a hunt has had a particularly poor showing of sport over a period of time in order to maintain the interest of hounds and fee-paying supporters.

'Dropping' bagged foxes Woodhouse said *"is particularly cruel because the fox is a territorial animal, familiar only with its' own home range. When released on strange ground, it has no idea where the hiding places are and doesn't know which way to turn. Sometimes it is soaked in strong-smelling liquid to make it even easier for the hounds to track. I've never seen a dropped fox survive longer than 20 minutes."*

Woodhouse also described how Fred Jackson the terrier man would remove a fox from a drain or earth when it refused to bolt. He *"would entangle it in barbed wire wrapped round a long pole"* and then *"pull it out of the drain, drop it in front of the pack and leave it to its' ghastly fate."*

The role of terriers is often forgotten by those who oppose hunting, yet this is often the cruelest part of 'correct' foxhunting. When terriers are used to locate foxes which have gone to ground, they are effectively baiting the fox. Since this is carried out underground and is rarely seen, there is little condemnation of the practice even from 'decent' foxhunting supporters.

The training of terriers is a particularly nasty business both for the victims and often for the young terriers who can sustain nasty injuries from foxes. Woodhouse described how young terriers are first introduced to rats and after they have killed these, are put to work against foxes. *"Being a wild animal the fox will instinctively fight off any aggressor. The terrier is faced with the choice of fighting back or retreating."*

Like all foxhunters who knows anything at all about their quarry, Woodhouse knows that the fox is not really the pest the hunting fraternity would like us to believe it is and of this he says *"Of course foxes will kill poultry if you can't be bothered to shut them up securely at night. But they don't kill lambs. They may take away dead lambs or attack one which has been deserted and is sick, but they certainly do not cause havoc among healthy flocks."*

Important as his revelations are, they do concentrate on methods employed by the Derwent Hunt. It seems likely, however, that such practices are widespread despite the protestations of the Master of Foxhounds Association, which has instituted an 'investigation' into Woodhouse's allegations, however, in view of the damage that a public hearing could do to hunting the MFHA has wisely decided to hold the investigation in private.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that cruelties contrary to the rules of the MFHA are inflicted on foxes every day by hunts throughout the country and will continue until hunting is abolished. Only in September 1982 the Master and Huntsmen of Devon's Silverton Foxhunt gave a fox live to his hounds while out cubhunting. The LACS is at present investigating the possibility of prosecuting the hunt for this action.

HOUNDS POISONED

Two Clifton-on-Teme F.H. hounds were killed in November and three others became ill after picking up strychnined bait on farm land in Hereford. Often lamb and rabbit carcases and hens' eggs are injected with the poison to kill wild animals. Strychnine causes agonising death, but is nevertheless condoned by the NFU - all they urge is that farmers take every precaution when using it.

A farmer was the obvious culprit. Joint master Ian Haines decently dismissed the suggestion that sabs may have laid the poison, adding "It wouldn't be them because they would not want to hurt animals."

FUR TRADING

Any HOWL readers wanting a fox fur coat might try contacting one or more of the following Liverpudlians - Peter Dobbs of Newman Street, Stephen Mouat of St. Ambrose Court and Stephen Kendrick of St. Oswalds Lane. They were recently cleared of killing a badger, but each was fined £70 for damaging public park property whilst digging for badgers. They boasted that they lived for killing foxes and that they go out every day for them. They admitted killing 400 foxes, enough to make their wives several fur coats.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

(i) 'Seven million people are involved in field sports' - *Michael Whittaker, Regional Sec. BFSS North West (November 1982)*

(ii) 'Six million people take part in hunts' - *Derek Bingham, editor of The Field (November 1982)*

(iii) 'Present research suggests:
293,000 people regularly enjoy hunting either mounted or on foot
2,500 take part in coursing
4,000 are involved with Highland stalking
2,000 are involved with falconry
3,400,000 fish, either game, coarse or sea.' - *Stephen Hastings, Chairperson of the BFSS (December 1982)*

(That's a total of 3,701,500 - 301,500 if you exclude the anglers. Even with 785,000 shotgun certificate holders it's still less than 4½ million total)

Hopefully Santa Claus brought them all calculators for Christmas!

HOT SHOT

One of Britain's biggest landowners, Viscount Mountgarret, has been questioned by North Yorkshire police after shots hit a hot air balloon flying over his land. The shots allegedly came from his 12-bore.

The balloon was carrying 3 people as it crossed grouse moors owned by the sporting peer. The pilot noticed shooters below. "Suddenly several shots struck the basket and the balloon itself, and I was peppered with lead shot.' A witness said "The balloon was scattering the grouse. The party was angry and several shots were fired."

The 46 year old Eton-educated peer (hobbies - shooting and stalking) a member of the BFSS, "preferred not to talk about the incident."

ROAD HOG

After stopping his car to protect a hedgehog, Redditch animal righter Gordon Freeman (55) lost his temper when another motorist tooted and tried to pass him. He chased the other car for a mile and forced it to stop. The driver was an off-duty policeman. Gordon subsequently had to pay £65 in fines and costs for 'failing to show due consideration to other road users.' Hedgehogs apparently don't count as road users.

HUNT BOYCOTT

The Devon and Somerset Stag Hunt have been at it again. They are forbidden to hunt on land owned by the South West Water Authority. So when the hunt chased a stag into a S.W.W.A. reservoir and then tried to shoot it, they were breaking the rules. A local S.W.W.A. employee saw what was happening and tried to get between the stag and the marksman in his boat. Unfortunately, this noble action failed and the stag was killed. The water authority bosses were furious and condemned the hunt's behaviour. Master of the hunt Mrs. Nora Harding was, however, unrepentant. Apparently she had the stag shot because 'it was the kindest thing to do.'

An incredible twist to this story is that the brave employee who tried to save the stag has been sent to Coventry by some of his neighbours in his home village of Upton on Exmoor. Many hunt followers are boycotting his wife's post office, preferring to drive five miles to get their newspapers. All this because he dared to try and save a stag from a bunch of bloodsports fanatics who were trespassing anyway!



Dear HOWL,
I sent this letter to Mr. Coghill in reference to his reprinted letter (HOWL 22, Autumn 1982) hope you don't mind. I figure a little harassment never hurts.
Regards,
Dave Shalek

"Dear Mr. Coghill,
We saw your letter to the **Hereford Times** *as reprinted in the 'Hunt Saboteurs Association' newsletter. In fact we had a blow-up of it made so all 150 of us could read it together on a big screen during our monthly meeting of the 'New York City Animal Defenders.'*

We used it as an example that even in a wonderfully civilized country as England, sport hunter fools such as you exist.

Thanks for writing such a stupid letter; it gave us quite a laugh. We hope for an end to your vicious treatment of wildlife.
David Shalek,
New York City Animal Defenders,
229 East 62nd St.,
New York N.Y. 10021, U.S.A."

Dear HSA,
I am sorry I did not write and I got all the children at school to write their names on a bit of paper what I am sending to the Home Office and thank you for your Hunt Saboteurs letters. And I wrote to the Queen to stop hunting and I said to stop hunting and I said I love all animals.
From
Kate Atkinson (HSA Member)
Aged 9

Dear Editor of Howl,
I have just finished reading the latest edition of HOWL, and was very interested in the article 'Fox Hunting Unnatural,' and 'Mink Myths,' together with the article by John Bryant in the previous edition about the fallacy that the fox population needs to be culled.

Please include **more factual** articles like these in your future editions of HOWL, and less of the sarcastic remarks about the people who carry out the persecution of animals – these do not help in discussions.
Yours faithfully,
Veronica Leeke (Mrs.)

P.S.
I am not suggesting you cut out completely the remarks concerning these sadists: I find your articles on, particularly the 'Royal' Family most entertaining!

Obviously it is far harder to write educational articles than to make sarcastic remarks amount hunters. Any suitable contributions would be much appreciated. Ed.

Dear HSA,
Having joined, as a first year, the University of Surrey's student branch of Hunt Saboteurs, I went on my first hunt on Saturday, 23rd Oct. The meet was a Beagle hunt and was attended by a large contingent of Sabs from different parts of the country. With genuine, heart-felt team work the Sabs, dashing about the country roads in 'Sab-mobiles' successfully and totally disrupted the hunt – the poor huntsmen and women caught nothing (shame) and spent most of their time herding together the unfortunate Beagles, who, utterly confused, had split up and were dotted around the countryside, some even optimistically following a fresh deer trail. The entire operation was carried out with the utmost efficiency, the Sabs using anti-mate spray, horns or simply calling the Beagles away from their Quarry.

I am writing this letter because I was very impressed with the manner in which the Saboteurs undertook their task and the comradeship which grew between the more experienced Sabs and people like myself who were on their first hunt.
Yours sincerely,
S. Simons

Dear HOWL,
I would like to say that I was rather disappointed at the way you reported the raising of money for Hospitals by Hunts. Much as I support the HSA surely if Hunts are going to raise money for charities it should be praised as the only useful thing they have ever done.

Perhaps they should spend their time raising money for Hospital units rather than carrying out barbaric!! cruelty to foxes and other innocent animals?
Yours faithfully,
Miss K. Daniels

Dear HSA,
You might be interested to know that we saw a television report here of two Boxing Day hunts that were disrupted by opponents of hunting (in England), one of which was successfully stopped. I assumed that HSA members were involved and my family and I were delighted to see it.

All the best to the Association for 1983.

Sally Carryer
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear HSA,
I have been asked to inform you that the following resolution was passed by the Liberal Party Council at its' Quarterly Meeting.
Bloodsports: This Council believes the Liberal Party should have a policy on bloodsports and calls for the abolition of:-
i) Otter Hunting ii) Stag Hunting
iii) Beagling iv) Fox Hunting

Yours faithfully,
S. Williams (Ms)
Committee Secretary
The Liberal Party
Whitehall Place, London.

WAR IN THE QUANTOCKS!

All is not well in the Quantock Hills. Local poachers have taken it upon themselves to unofficially cull the deer population.

Understandably, the Quantock Staghounds are extremely upset at this outrage because every poacher guerrilla operation means fewer stags for the Hunt to harass and ultimately rip to pieces.

To this end, the Master of the Hunt, Mr. Walner Robins has turned self-styled super-hero in an attempt to both elevate the public's perception of his merry band of murderers and to stamp out the poachers.

He has described the poachers as 'evil, despicable and having no interest in the deer' (!!) and has urged hunt supporters to keep their eyes open.

Let us hope that sanity prevails and that the people of Somerset refuse to believe in super-heroes and remain suitably unimpressed with the Staghounds newly acquired image.

SNARING FOR BEGINNERS

At the annual Gamekeepers' Fair organised by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation at Packington Park, Meridon, adults and children alike were enthralled to learn how to snare a rabbit.

Retired woodman Frank Moore (who hasn't got a famous footballing brother) had onlookers spellbound as he pieced together brass wire and wooden pegs. Can we now expect to see children attempting to snare their pet bunnies?

There were also competitions in shooting, fly-casting and turkey shooting. All good clean family entertainment no doubt!

HOWL MAGAZINE

This edition was produced by:-

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Ian Brodnick	Colin Lewis
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Richard Farhall	Vince Smith
John Hale	Dave Wetton

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The points of view expressed in HOWL do not necessarily reflect those of the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

A.L.F. NEWS

Animals rescued by the ALF in recent months include more than 30 chickens, 18 Guinea pigs, 12 beagles, 6 cats and a piglet. All these have now been found good homes.

Hens were rescued from battery farms in four separate raids in Twyford, Dorset, Somerset and Devon. In each case the birds were found to be in cramped conditions and at the Pondhead Poultry Farm, in Dorset, their claws had grown to several times the normal length because of the wire floors.

Cats were taken from Winches Farm Field Station in St. Albans where experiments carried out include the infecting of various animals with various parasites and tropical diseases.

It is believed the cats rescued were to be used as a breeding group to produce more cats for experimentation before being tortured themselves.

Guinea pigs were rescued in a raid at the Public Health Laboratory Services building in Bristol and from a train in Bournemouth. Those on the train had been supplied to University College, London, by laboratory animal supplier M.R. Grayson, of Ringwood.

ALF activists found 12 beagles in filthy conditions when they visited the Boots experimental station in Notts. All eight males had an artery and a vein in their throats externalised as part of research into heart disease. There were over 100 dogs in the kennels altogether.

Another target was Leicester University where nine rats were rescued from the psychology department and equipment used for painful experiments – including apparatus for damaging brains – was destroyed.

But the ALF message is not confined to Britain. The Canada branch has been active against the fur trade and in Australia fur shops and meat packing plants have come in for attention.

The ALF has now started a supporters group for those who wish to support activists who risk their freedom in the struggle for animal rights. Membership is £2 per month by banker's standing order and members will receive a bi-monthly newsletter giving info on ALF activities. Further details from Box 190, Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

The group also always needs good temporary or permanent homes for animals rescued. Details from above address.

Twenty two members of the Northern Animal Liberation League enjoyed a historic victory at the local magistrates court when they were acquitted of charges of breach of the peace and criminal damage. The charges arose after a demonstration at Buckley Hill Factory Farm, Manchester, home of a Mr. John Ollerenshaw. Ollerenshaw had alleged the demonstrators had frightened his chickens and himself and smashed 2,000 eggs, but the police case was dismissed after the court heard that the farmers had appeared with weapons and smashed placards.

Two of the protesters were called back to face breach of the peace charges on the fourth day of the hearing, which gave them a good opportunity to tell the packed courtroom and magistrates about the horrors of factory farming.

Hunting Ban WOULD Cause Unemployment

From the HSA's City Correspondent, Ivor Biggen of the London Stockbrokers, Prang and Jape.

With the banning of bloodsports now only a few years away, there is considerable concern in the city about the effect such a ban would have on industry, share prices and world trade. Already one manufacturer of anti-mate-type spray has laid off 500 workers in anticipation of the fall in demand following a ban. Other spray manufacturers have seen their share prices plummet and there is talk of at least one company calling in the official receiver.

The impact of a bloodsports ban will also be felt overseas. Garlic producing countries such as Italy and France have already devalued their currency and although their governments won't admit it at this stage, it is generally accepted that this was due to the sudden drop in demand for garlic which is predicted when sabs need it no more.

On a small scale, people who buy old junk and sell rare and valuable artifacts, (ie antique dealers), are expressing concern at the effect upon their trade of a bloodsports ban, since the sale of old hunting horns to hunt saboteurs constitutes a major source of income.

There remains hope, however. The vast sums of money which sabs will save by not going sabbing will provide a much needed financial boost to some hard-pressed industries. For example, city analysts predict a resurgence in the shares of companies such as Rolls Royce Motors, Harrods and Watneys as sabs spend their money on necessities sold by these companies instead of on anti-mate. The main worry for the government is, of course, that the wealth created amongst the anti-hunting classes may be spent abroad thus damaging our balance of payments position. Another possibility, considered most unlikely by city experts, is that instead of sitting back and enjoying their hunt free society, the antis might turn their attention to other so-called animal abuses. To quote a representative of a hunting organisation, Mr. Ian Hornbill, on this subject. "These people are professional protesters," foamed Ian. "If hunting is banned, they will turn their attention to shooting and fishing."

City analysts attach no significance to Mr. Hornbill's rantings, however, since who on earth could be opposed to fishing and shooting? Mind you, MacFisheries shares aren't looking too good at the moment, are they?

BIRDS WINGED

Wildfowlers are responsible people (or so they tell us). However, a recent Swedish study revealed this to be far from the truth. The study, carried out on 200 Bean geese deliberately shot by rifle for the survey in 1978 and 79 after the local hunting season was over, revealed that 62% of adult birds and 28% of yearlings were found to be carrying lead shot. Of these, 45% had only one pellet, but the averages were 2-6 pellets (adults) and 1.9 (yearlings). The pellets ranged up to ¼". One goose carried 12 of them.

A similar Wildfowl Trust survey conducted in 1955 on geese trapped by netting in the UK revealed that between 37% and 44% of Greylag and Pink-feet geese were carrying pellets.

Their responsibility hasn't exactly grown over the intervening years has it?

ANY OFFERS!

Beating wanted

Sir, — Having just moved into a new area and knowing few shooting people, I would be most grateful if any of your readers could assist me by finding me some beating for the coming season, hopefully within reasonable distance from my home.

S.D. Ogden,
Howell Fen Farmhouse,
Westmorelands,
Asgarby,
Sleaford,
Lincs.

RENTOKIL DEATH SQUAD SLAUGHTERS 2,000 BIRDS

In an effort to drastically reduce the nuisance caused by pigeons in Hull's dockland, the British Transport Dock Board recently called in the animal extermination specialists Rentokil, whose name strikes fear into the heart of any self-respecting 'pest.'

One of Rentokil's death squads began by laying down drugged corn. This had the effect of causing the pigeons to feel that they had succumbed to the demon brew. However, the ensuing hangover was a permanent one – death by hypothermia.

Outcry erupted when it was discovered that it was not just pigeons that were being eliminated, but also robins, bullfinches, linnets, greenfinches, starlings, doves, sparrows, kestrels, stoats, rats and even cats (which ate the birds!)

Workers at the docks were unaware of Rentokil's chemical warfare campaign and when they saw hundreds of birds staggering around the area, they proceeded to 'put them out of their misery.'

Many birds flew into walls and windows, whilst others were squashed by cars on nearby roads.

DIRECT ACTION WINS

COURT CASE LOST

The New Forest Foxhounds were in court again this year following one of their frequent badger digging exploits.

Due to the nature of the country, terrier men see a good deal of sport in the region, the majority of their kills following the use of terrier and spade, to either dig out their quarry or to force it into a renewed chase through bolting.

Despite the fact that in other areas some hunt supporters find this particular aspect of their so called 'sport' rather distasteful, Sir Newton Rycroft and fellow enthusiasts in the Forest have no qualms about soiling both their hands and their reputation at every opportunity. No doubt when one attains Sir Newton's ripe old age, it becomes a lot easier to stand around listening to terriers baiting the fox in its' earth, rather than bothering with all that picturesque hacking around on horseback.

One would imagine that on the occasions when a fox has been run to ground in a badger sett, no doubt one overlooked by Sir Newton's earth stopping friends, that the hunt, rather than risk the potential destruction of the badgers habitat, would do the sporting thing and give the fox 'best'. After all, are we not often reminded through the pages of 'Horse and Hound' of what a splendid conservationist the great British Bloodsports man and woman is, and is it not a fact that Sir Newton, Joint Master of the local Foxhounds, is also a member of the New Forest Badger Protection Group. According to Ken James, also a member of the local Badger Group, Sir Newton's regard for the welfare of the badger falls rather short of his desire to see a good days sport.

New Forest Deputy Surveyor, Donn Small said the hunt had permission to dig a hole, but the permission excluded known badger setts. Further evidence therefore centered on conflicting accounts of whether the sett was known and active and if so, to what extent it had been damaged by the hunt's activities.

Mr. William Ackroyd, defending huntsman Jeremy Whaley said that he could see nothing specific in the New Forest bylaws that prohibited the digging of a badger sett. Eventually, magistrates dismissed the case because of doubts as to the facts and ambiguity in the law.

Although the initial reaction to the case must be one of disappointment, the incident does serve to highlight the hypocrisy inherent in British Field Sport Society propaganda. The B.F.S.S. is currently making much of the so called conservationist interests of their members. In reality what this entails is conserving enough animals, birds and fish to hunt, shoot and catch, while disregarding the needs and welfare of any creature that prevents them from attaining the optimum number of kills in a season. Thus we see the stoat, weasel and fox, shot, poisoned and snared in game bird shooting areas, in order to protect their precious stock of targets, while the badger is persecuted as Foxhunters become ever more desperate for a kill. Mr. James underlined this when he said that the New Forest Foxhounds had *"got away with a lot in the past"* and that it was *"by no means the only badger sett they have dug up."*

Ken James in one of the six foot holes dug by the Hunt



Chris Balcombe

Mr. James described to Ringwood magistrates how early last year he came upon huntsman Jeremy Whaley, shovel in hand, in one of two six feet deep trenches dug into a badger sett near Burley. Pointing out that February was the time of the year when badgers give birth, Ken James told the court that the terrier he heard yapping in the sett *"could have spelt disaster for the badger family."*

Mr. James was forced into a private prosecution of the hunt due to the failure of the Forestry Commission to take any action on the matter. His attempts to bring the hunt to justice were further hampered by the fact that the Badger Act was not strong enough to be used in this particular case. Prosecution therefore, had to be sought on a New Forest bylaw which prohibits sand and gravel being disturbed.

DIRECT ACTION WINS

However, it seems that some good may have come out of the case, with the increased publicity and pressure forcing the Forestry Commission to tighten their control over the hunt's activities.

On Boxing Day last, Hunt Saboteurs from the New Forest and Portsmouth groups discovered the hunt preparing to dig into what they immediately recognised as a badger sett, due to the large number of entrances characteristic of the badgers home. The 'sabs' asked the hunt not to dig, as it was obviously a sett. The hunt proved their total lack of knowledge or concern regarding such matters immaterial to their sport, instead reverting to their normal practice on such occasions, throwing one sab into a hole. As the terrier men, hunt staff and field became more heated and the situation appeared to be in imminent danger of becoming extremely nasty, a 'mayday' went out over the radio, asking other sabs to bring in the police. In the end it was the late arrival of the forestry commission that prevented any serious incident from taking place.

To the relief of the sabs present, the forestry commission confirmed that the workings were those of a badger sett and the hunt were forced to move on in a depressed and sulky mood, while the sabs realised that without their presence another sett would undoubtedly have been lost.

Whether the sett was active or not was unclear, but as a result of the court cases and the increased pressure, it now appears that the Forestry Commission are taking no chances, which can only be good news for the badger and any fox fortunate enough to find temporary refuge in its' home.



Chris Balcombe

Sir 'Newt'

Tactical Tips

This regular column (which can be cut-out and kept) is a supplement to the HSA Tactics Book.

Now that we have reached mid-point in the fox hunting and beagling seasons, all groups should really have been out on both types of hunt, on a good number of occasions and therefore, be developing a regular sabbing routine. All sabs should try to dress to blend in with the surroundings, taking into consideration the clothing hunt supporters wear when choosing gear. Wrap up well to keep warm. Remember that blue denim is a give away over a long distance in fields and woods and when wet, it is poor protection against the cold. Don't forget to take a flask and sandwiches out with you, as during a long cold day it is likely that you will need to boost your energy levels up. I'm not saying you should go on a 'Picnic,' but it is important not to neglect the welfare of the group in this area.

Try to get into the habit of always carrying a pen and notepad and taking down all relevant information, eg. car registration numbers, descriptions of hunt supporters that may cause trouble and coverts that the hunt draw. Trace the path of the course of the hunt onto a photocopy of a map of the area and keep this for reference. Send a copy of this together with a copy of your activities report into HQ. Also carry a small compass to help with map reading and a whistle for signals. Use the compass to orientate the map, ie. point it in the right direction (North). This is quite normal practice when map reading. Work out a code for use with the whistle. Your group may have C.B.'s, but a whistle is a good standby and not everybody in the group will have a set. Don't forget cameras and binoculars.

Before setting off, try to spend some time studying the O.S. map (1:50 000) of the area around the meet (the night before is the best time). This is a habit all good sabs should get into. You are trying to predict the hunts route from the meet. Here you may well have past experience or other information to use when planning the mornings pre-meet activities.

At this time of the year a fox hunt is very careful to hold the meet well away from the covert that is to be the first draw and then approach the covert from the down wind side. This is because there may be a 'Traveller,' ie. a dog fox out in unfamiliar country in search of a vixen, in that covert. It has been maintained that when he is disturbed, he will run back to his own country by the only route he knows, usually giving a straight point, of a number of miles; a situation the hunt will be very pleased to take advantage of. It is true that very long hunts may mean that the hounds change foxes a number of times. However, long straight runs could well be due to 'Travellers' with only a distant point to get to in a straight line.

The sab action in this case is to approach the covert from an up wind direction, if possible during the pre-meet and beat the covert right through. Leave bird scaring ropes if needs be. This should get a traveller moving and spoil a mornings hunt (shame). The group can then move on to other possible draws to finish the rest of the mornings pre-meet activity – beating, spraying or trail laying.

When stopping at a covert, try to park the vehicles where they cannot be spotted from farms and houses, ie. in a blind spot (geographically hidden, but not a road hazzard). When walking to a covert well off the road, again use geographical features to give cover, eg. keep a hedgerow between you and a building etc.

When laying trails or spraying only use safe approved herbal type mixtures. A list of these can be supplied from HQ. If required – ie. aniseed, garlic, rosemary, thyme etc.

It has come to my attention that certain sabs are using dried blood trails and claim a very high success rate with this method. The HSA cannot approve this as an official tactic, please refer to the constitution for the reason. However, dried blood can be purchased from any garden suppliers. If it is mixed in hot water at a ratio of 8 parts water to 1 part dried blood and the container sealed immediately, it becomes very attractive to hounds. The longer it is stored the more potent it becomes. As for all drags, a ball of rag should be well soaked and pulled by a string over a carefully chosen route. **As with horn blowing and hollas great care should be exercised in deciding where the drag is laid.**

Whether to use dried blood for trails will have to be left to the decision of individual sabs and groups.

JOHN HALE, Tactics Officer.

Tactics Booklets, Hunting Tapes available from P.O. Box 19, London SE22.

GROUP NEWS

Many groups throughout the country sab hunts regularly, but rarely record the events on paper. It is with this thought in mind that we would give special mention to the Luton group who send reports regularly to HQ.

The **Luton group** have been having great success this year against South Herts Beagles, North Bucks Beagles, Cambridgeshire, Puckeridge and Thurlow and the Enfield Chase Foxhounds. Hit reports from the Luton group date back quite a few years. They obviously take their activities very seriously, especially regarding tactics, as their reports show that few animals are killed at hunts in their area when they are present.



N. IRELAND

Things are finally off the ground in a big way in N. Ireland thanks to an Anti-bloodsports Society at **Queen's University, Belfast;** fox hunts have been sabbed and demonstrations held at hare coursing events. The group welcomes both students and others to join.

EIRE

Newly formed **Dublin HSA** successfully sabbed the Fingal Harriers, with horn calls splitting the pack. Supporters unaccustomed to such sights stood agog.

NORTH & NORTH EAST

The **Tyneside group** have been active regularly against their local hunts. Despite constant physical threats from the enemy, no animals have been killed during hunts whilst sabs were present. They also demonstrated at the A.G.M. of the Morpeth hunt, causing considerable embarrassment to the hunters.

Huddersfield and **North Yorks** sabs have had a hand in the Claro Beagles ceasing to advertise their meets after two successful sabotages. With **Cleveland HSA** they also attended the opening meet of the notorious Derwent F.H. The police acted as 'hunt protectionists' by stopping and checking sabs' vehicles as the hunt rode off. Later in the day some sabs were assaulted, but not surprisingly instead of arresting the assailants, police were more interested in confiscating sabs' sprays.

Another HSA branch which deserves a special mention is based in **Humberside.** This relatively new group have persistently sabbed their local hunts and despite some setbacks during late cubbing, they have kept up their good work and also helped to promote the HSA's image as a responsible, caring organisation through their local press coverage.

SOUTH WEST

The **Bristol group** had 50 sabs at the Cattistock F.H. recently and had a successful day despite an overbearing and far from impartial police presence.

1982 Has seen a fairly active **Exeter group** which has carried out more hunt sabotage before Christmas than for many years. The group has sabotaged with pre-meeting tactics, several cub-hunts and on one occasion joined the **Portsmouth group** to sabotage a New Forest F.H. cub-hunting meet. An infiltrator went out for two months with the Silverton F.H. and apart from doing occasional sabotage on the side, gave dates of early meets to the group and witnessed the huntsman give a fox live to his hounds. On 2nd October saboteurs disrupted a hunting festival at Marchanchurch in North Devon, including the Tetcott F.H. which dug out and shot a fox; the Marchanchurch Beagles which did not find anything and the Devon and Cornwall Mink hunt, whose meet was attended by BBC TV cameras filming for the 'Countryscene' programme which will be released in the Spring. The group has been co-operating with the new **Plymouth Polytechnic group** with some notable successes especially against the Britannia Beagles where a hare was saved by the sabs efforts.

ESSEX

Essex remains an HSA stronghold with the groups based there now expanding their sphere of influence to cover more hunts. Membership has significantly increased, particularly in the South-East of the County where a very active group is based in Southend-on-Sea.

WALES

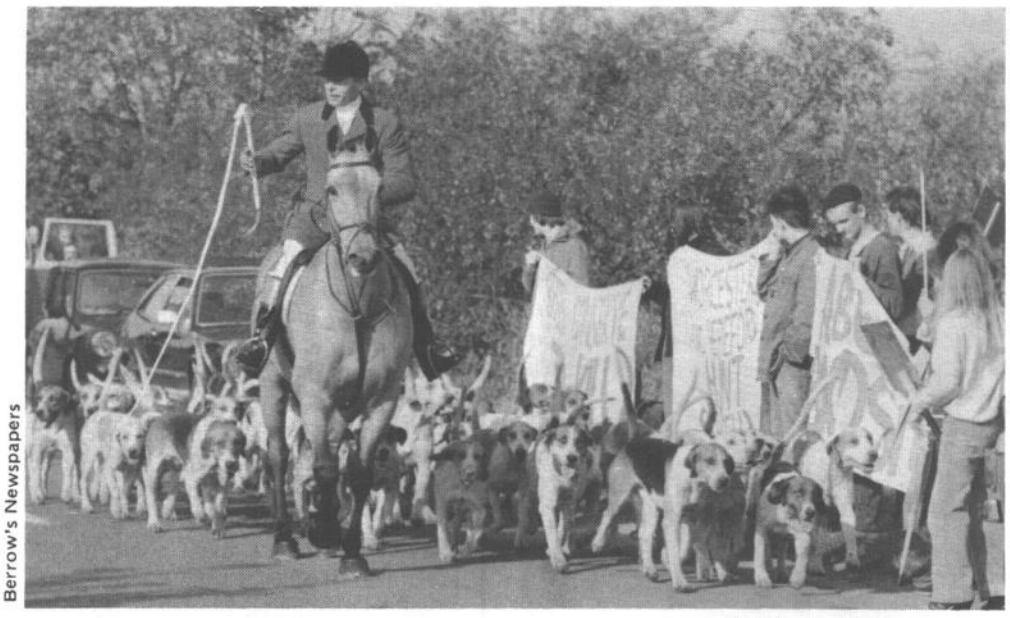
The recently established **Vale of Glamorgan HSA** are treading on virgin territory being the first group to sab the newly formed West Wales Mink Hunt. Due to some good pre-meeting, no kills have been recorded.

WEST MIDS.

Birmingham University is also a major source of HSA activists. On one occasion sabs received some trouble from an off-duty police officer who was following the North Warwick F.H.; he kicked a sab's car door causing £40 worth of damage. When the 'real' police were called they showed an interest in the incident until they realised that the culprit was one of their mates; they then decided to take no further action. The **Worcester group** have concentrated their actions against the Worcester F.H. and a banner demo and sabotage at the opening meet generated a lot of local publicity.

Wolverhampton Poly HSA have recently gained 90 new members. Many of these hope to be active.

The Worcester Group — Banner Demo



Berrow's Newspapers

SOUTH CENTRAL

Maidenhead group have been hitting hunts continually around the Berkshire and Hampshire area with quite a good deal of success. They have visited nearly all the country's mink hunts during the summer and most of their members have yet to take part in a hunt where an animal has been killed.

The **Hampshire group** have been very successful against one hunt in particular, the Aldershot Beagles. As many as 50 saboteurs turn out regularly to hit hunts. It is obvious that the Aldershot Beagles are showing signs of unease by the lengths to which they are prepared to go to avoid sabs.

A newly formed group in **Guildford** with regular substantial numbers has been quite successful against the Surrey Union Hunt and other hunts in the area.

Sabs from **Surrey University** and **Reigate** have regularly attended the Surrey Union F.H. despite their fixtures not being advertised.

Swindon HSA encountered some violence from the Vale of White Horse F.H. supporters at their opening meet, but this merely served to increase the sabs determination for future activities.

EAST MIDS.

Sabs from all over the **East Midlands** came together in September to hold a 'mock sab' to introduce new members to sabbing and to freshen up the experienced ones who had spent the summer lazying around dreaming of past triumphs. The day long event consisted of a brief talk on hunting, horn calls and sabbing technique; followed by a demonstration of pre-meet spraying. The sabs next split into two groups (hunters and sabs) and whilst the 'hunters' followed a pre-determined route, unknown to the others, the 'sabs' had to anticipate their moves, which coverts they would draw and in which direction a fox would break. The day ended with a question and answer session followed by a video screening of the BBC 40 Minutes Documentary on the HSA. Thanks go to the **Leicester group** for hosting this event which the local pro-hunt paper described as a 'special course to indoctrinate newcomers into their disruptive ways.'

Two sabs from **Aylesbury** followed the old Berkeley Beagles until, at the end of the day, the scent of a hare was found. The hare ran straight for the sabs who sprayed behind it, stopping the hounds in their tracks.

NORTH WEST

Manchester University HSA has seen regular action against, amongst others, the Cheshire Forest F.H., and members have assisted N.A.L.L. activities.

SCOTLAND

Stirling University HSA have 50 members with approx. 10 regularly active. Hunts hit have been the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire and Linlithgow & Stirlingshire. In November police arrested 2 members for breach of the peace and 3 others were detained under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act. One girl, separated from the rest of the sabs whilst walking along a road, was offered a lift by a police inspector, "Hop in, I'll take you to where your friends are" he said. Turned out to be the local police station where she was detained along with others without any explanation. Despite these and similar events, the group look forward to an active season.

The recently formed **Edinburgh group** have also been making life for the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt very uncomfortable. Despite their lack of experience they have progressed to a very formidable group. A couple of members have been arrested for trumped-up charges by the police.

The **Clydeside group** in Scotland has had a good season so far, thanks to an influx of new members and careful tactical planning. One hunt has predictably responded with whippings and assaults, a particularly serious incident led to the arrest of two hunt supporters.

SOUTH EAST

Kent sabs have regularly 'pre-met' the West Street F.H. in the east of the county while further north, the **Sittingbourne group** have used similar tactics successfully against the Tickham F.H.

The **Brighton and Worthing group** have been sabbing regularly during this season. Also, during the summer they managed to sab three local mink hound packs. Although local foxhunts have been secretive about their cub-hunting fixtures, the Brighton and Worthing group have managed to locate many of these meets, ensuring constant harrassment of hunts.

In East Sussex, a new group has been started in **Eastbourne** and with the help of the established branch in **Hastings** has concentrated efforts against the Pevensey Marsh Beagles and East Sussex and Romney Marsh F.H.

The West Kent group has operated most effectively with the bulk of its' activities deep in the woods, where hunt supporters fail to venture and with strategic car pick-up points arranged. The horn causes most upset. On one occasion the Old Surrey & Burstow F.H. packed up early to avoid sabs - the terrier men went on to the nearby Surrey & North Sussex Beagles only to find that they were being done by the **University of Surrey Anti-Bloodsports Society!**

FESTIVE FUN

Over the Christmas period, many HSA groups were out sabbing and demonstrating.



Redbourne Common — Boxing Day

SOMERSET HSA

Once again on Boxing Day another local hunt had to suffer the attention of a large banner demo and the sadistic admissions of a trio dressed as redcoat, pony club girl and digger out. Crewkerne, Somerset was the venue and the Seavington, a particularly violent hunt, were the target. The bogus redcoat, complete with gruesome makeup, confessed loudly to a bemused crowd, the barbarity of hunting and the pleasure he and his mounted colleagues took in torturing their prey. The 'pony club girl' made ghastly statements about loving being blooded etc and the 'terrier man' cavorted with spade and vinyl skull mask expressing an anxiety to perpetually beat foxes to death.

Some snarling hunt heavies eventually couldn't resist a spot of violence there and then (notwithstanding police presence) and a scuffle started when the heavies attacked a few antis. In the ensuing melee a number of things happened, all of which, according to the police, they didn't see! They were as usual attending to their inherent and overwhelming urge to direct traffic at all costs (presumably to prevent a breach of the people)! Firstly, two of the heavies, so intent on their attack and getting completely carried away, made a dual-pronged assault, one with his eyebrow and the other with his nose — both attacks resulted in a sab's fist being struck and sadly the assailants lost out, both eyebrow and nose were re-formed and blood was to be seen. A young rider deliberately ran over a girl anti who miraculously escaped shaken, but unscathed. Unfortunately, his crash helmet/riding cap fell off and somehow became damaged underfoot. This horse also knocked over the hunt's servant who was collecting the 'purse' — he lost hold of the money and it was scattered over the road. Much was possibly picked up by sabs, who in the heat of the moment got it mixed up with the van-hire money and forgot to return it!

MERSEYSIDE HSA

The Christmas period saw **Merseyside HSA** out on 6 days out of 9. On Christmas Eve, L.A.C.S., members filmed the Royal Rock Beagles trespassing once again on Wirral Country Park (public land) — where no hunting is permitted.

On Boxing Day, 130 sabs gathered for what was probably the biggest local sab ever at the Willaston meet of the Royal Rock Beagles. About 70 members of **Merseyside HSA** were joined by 25 **Manchester HSA** members and a large group of locals from Heswall, Neston and Bebington who had heard the radio interviews the group did, came along to support them.

Needless to say the hunt was well and truly smashed. Three years ago they had 1000 supporters at this meet; this year it was down to 150! They were unable to parade the beagles who scuttled off into the fields and 1¼ hours later retreated into a farm where they boxed up and crawled home.

The hoards of police were unable to prevent sabs moving into the fields, although many were unceremoniously dragged from fields over barbed-wire fences. Three arrests were made; no-one has yet been charged. Rumour has it that only one out of seven hunt officials still had his hunting cap in his possession at the end of the day and the huntsman had his horn broken.

Considerable publicity was achieved — most national papers including 2/3rds of a page in the Daily Mirror, large coverage in the Daily Post and Liverpool Echo and 3 days of interviews and reports on Radios City, Merseyside and Piccadilly.

The following day 70 **Merseyside sabs** congregated at the Burton childrens' meet of the Cheshire

Forest foxhunt. Accompanied by 4 national newspapers awaiting another day of scuffles (they were to be disappointed) and van-loads of policemen: sabs again triumphed and packed the hunt in after only 2¼ hours.

Someone had wired all access gates to the meet and woods, most of the coverts were pre-beaten and foxes cleared out of the area. Police made 2 arrests before the hunt started, but released both without charges.

It took the hunt 2 hours to find a fox – in Dunstan Wood, but quick positioning by 2 groups of sabs using horns split the pack into 3 whilst a third group of sabs dashed into the covert and the



hunt fled for home. Again considerable press coverage was achieved in the Daily Mail, Daily Post and Liverpool Echo.

Wednesday 29th Dec. saw **Merseyside HSA** at the Cheshire Beagles meet at Dodleston, Chester, with the Daily Star.

No kills were recorded and the Star then went on to tape an interview between the master of the Royal Rock Beagles and Merseyside HSA for a large feature on the HSA in the 1st week of January 1983.

Eighteen policemen in 8 vehicles accompanied 9 sabs on the New Year's Eve childrens' meet of the Royal Rock Beagles at Thornton Hough. Sabs saved one hare before police moved in with body checks, car and engine checks, threats and general harrassment. One arrest was made and an official complaint against Bebington police has been lodged.

SOUTH EAST

The West Kent group mustered 40 sabs for the annual demo against the Eridge F.H. on Tunbridge Wells' common. Roadside banners attracted several toots of support from passing motorists whilst other sabs busied themselves with rubbing antimate over every hound right under the huntsman's nose - he was too engaged with having his photo taken and drinking a hot toddy with the town's Lord Mayor to notice. With the BFSS's latest leaflets failing to have arrived, the hunt supporters were forced to dish out their 4 year old ones headed 'A Message from the Master' (the art of public relations still has far to go in BFSS circles!). The hunt's flamboyant annual departure through lines of camera toting voyeurs was spoilt by two sabs running just ahead of them with a banner held aloft. A temporary lack of contact in the afternoon led to the hounds killing a fox, but two very irate riders subsequently admitted that we'd had a good day up till then. They also offered assistance with finding new ways of using our horns. Quote of the day - "I suppose you lot are all at Sussex University studying Social Security."

EIRE

About 18 sabs from Dublin went to the Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells, Co. Meath, for the Boxing Day meet of the Meath Hunt. The master is Eddie Macken, the well-known Irish showjumper. Sabs had no difficulty mingling with locals and supporters for information, as this was only the second sab attempted in Ireland.

The Irish Council Against Bloodsports held a banner demo opposite the hotel. Regrettably this was totally silent.

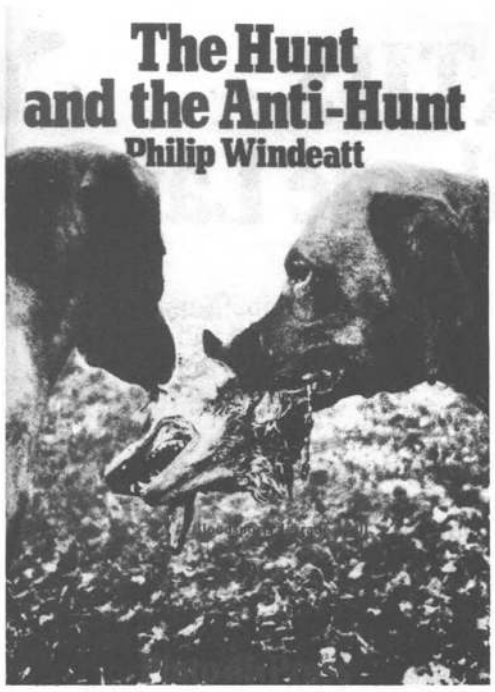
Sabs went into action as the redcoats paused for the stirrup cup, spraying antimate all around the road ahead. They carried on spraying while walking ahead of the hunt. A few riders muttered threats; onlookers and supporters were completely perplexed!

They followed the hunt in three cars. At the first covert, the hounds were hardly in for more than a couple of minutes. Hounds responded well to horns and holloas. The field of about 100 riders had a good ringside view of sab tactics, as hounds came out and romped aimlessly around. One sab explained to puzzled onlookers what was going on; apparently they were quite intrigued. Two redcoats dismounted and went over for a bit of shouting.

Chasing to the top of a hill, the sabs saw the hunt stopped at a covert about half-a-mile away. Horns and holloas, sounding clearly across the open field, soon brought about a dozen hounds running towards the sabs, with Eddie Macken and two other redcoats in pursuit. They expected a dose of whipping, but although clearly annoyed and quite abusive, the redcoats were not violent.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE HUNT AND THE ANTI-HUNT
by Philip Windeatt. Pub. by Pluto Press @ £1.95. Available from bookshops or from Pluto Press, 105a Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RX.



Philip Windeatt has been involved with the animal rights movement for a number of years, his contributions towards the Animals Film and The Beast are well known. In this book Philip has turned his attention to the rise of the anti-hunt movement and its' impact on bloodsports. Much of the book is concerned with the organisation and operation of hunts and the tactics which hunt-sabs use to combat them. In this respect the book is most likely to appeal to newcomers to the anti-bloodsports scene since the coverage in this area is superficial.

Where the book really scores is in its' coverage of the history of fox hunting. It is shown that the present hunting fraternity owe the existence of their 'sport' to the exploits of truly barbaric predecessors. It is noteworthy that historically hunting has never had anything to do with conservation; it was, and always will be, killing for fun.

The book includes some revealing facts. That bloodsports have always been associated with the English and Scottish Monarchy is well known, but how many people are aware that our present Queen used to subscribe to the Eastern Counties Otterhounds? The full extent of the involvement of the English aristocracy up to the present day is revealed, with the landed gentry and hereditary Lords not only being responsible for the practice of hunting in the field, but also for its very existence by the undemocratic blocking of every prospective Act of Parliament aimed at alleviating the plight of the hunted animal.

Philip also records the activities of early 'antis'. It is interesting to read how early anti-hunt meetings were broken up by hunters, and how brave antis in the 1930's had to be just to risk demonstrating at a hunt meet. In contrast to the hunters' ancestry, the anti-bloodsports movement owes its origins to thinkers and genuinely compassionate people.

The book covers the rise of the HSA from its' inception in the early 1960's. This section, I suspect, was intended to be the most important part of the book and, if this is so, then it is also too superficial. Many high (and low) points of the HSA's short and fiery history are mentioned. The mass run-on at the Waterloo Cup, the Border Counties Otterhunt fracas and the 'Rye Three' court case are all presented, rightly, as important events in the HSA's life. However, whilst this section of the book makes interesting reading (and Philip's style of writing is very readable), there could have been much more. There is very little about the individuals who, over the years, have been responsible for our association's very existence. The 'Save Our Stags' campaign against the Quantocks S.H. is also not mentioned. Whilst the famous quote by Tim Asplin, Joint-Master of the Essex Union F.H. – referring to 'the horse-whipping of a sab being a private matter like wife-beating,' is included, yet the background to the statement (ie the near blinding of a sab) is not mentioned.

On the other hand, the fiasco of the Scott-Henderson report and the abuse of parliamentary democracy by hunting Lords and M.P.'s is excellently handled and well researched.

The book makes good reading, but there still remains a need for a full history of the HSA to be written. Perhaps in a few years time when hunting is abolished someone will do this.

SPECTACULAR TIMES : ANIMALS
Pocketbook series. Available from alternative bookshops or Box 99, Freedom Press, 84B Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX.

45p Spent on this booklet is 45p well spent. The logic and necessity of animal rights are presented via a series of hard-hitting quotes from a variety of sources. These are interspersed with a commentary on the reasons for Joe Public's failure to behave in a remotely compassionate way towards non-human animals. It's like a mini-version of the Animals Film in print.

The authors proclaim that the world we see is not the 'real' world. We 'see' farm animals as lambs and calves merrily jumping about in fields. The 'real' world is somewhat different. The world we see is governed by what the exploiters want us to see. But worse, consumers are active accomplices in this fraud, because the meat-eating non-protesting unthinking consumer doesn't want to 'see'. Why should they worry about animal rights they argue, when there are important things to worry about like the price of butter or the terrible weather? Even people totally opposed to racism and sexism regard anti-speciesists as cranks.

Yet in just a few pages this booklet contains enough good sense to convince almost any speciesist of the logic of animal rights. Of course, in accepting the logic of our case, the speciesist may still choose not to embrace the cause by changing his or her lifestyle.

The choice of quotes in 'Animals' is excellent and there are some statistics to make you sick (for example, American hunters killed 94 million squirrels in a year).

Buy this booklet. Insist that your speciesist friends read it. If they aren't converted by it, then they are beyond help.

Phil Shore

FOREIGN NEWS

FRANCE

In an attempt to deter city muggers the French Government is threatening to deprive them of their hunting and shooting rights.

With more than 1½ million hunting licences in the country and 450,000 shotguns being bought each year to add to the 5 million already held by the French, it's no wonder accidents occur. On the first day of this year's shooting season a 2 year old girl had been accounted for by her father – she was shot in the face while he cleaned his gun. Another 30 deaths were expected before the end of the season. Hunters once mistook a frogman for a mallard and a doctor for a wild boar – both escaped with minor injuries. A poacher wasn't so lucky this year – he was gunned down by a game-keeper wielding a .38 Magnum pistol.

France is now Europe's major importer of reptile skins, annually importing 500,000 crocodile skins plus millions of snake and lizard skins and turtle shells. The demand for the skins is so great that 10 species of croc. and 5 species of alligator are now on the danger list. No problem though folks, because some enterpirising entrepreneurs are now moving into croc. farming which should guarantee the crocs.' survival and so keep the conservationists quiet.

SPAIN

Bosco, a Spanish circus elephant trampled his German trainer to death after being frightened by car headlights. He was subsequently 'put to sleep' by a police machine gunner.

King Juan Carlos' mum, Dona Maria de las Mercedes (Mary of the Mercies), in her role of President of Madrid's Monumental bullring, agreed to reprieve Belador the bull from the matador's sword because he'd fought with 'such courage' despite the barbed darts in his back. This was the first such reprieve in 60 years. Such humanity restores your faith in royal families!

Meantime though, Majorcan bullfight promoters, in a bid to attract degenerate tourists, have been putting low paid schoolboy matadors, aged 11-14, into the ring. Judges cut the ears from the slaughtered bulls and parade the kids with their bloody trophies. Not very different from UK stag hunts is it?

Back on the mainland at the Tordesillas (Valladolid) fiesta of El Toro de la Vega, a bull is let loose in the main square. Participants first thrust harpoons into it with fireworks attached to 'liven it up a bit.' It is then beaten with sticks through the streets to an open space where mounted and pedestrian macho youths, armed with lances, attack it until it falls exhausted. The youth who finally slaughters the bull is 'hero of the day' – a true son of the Conquistadors!

Other traditional fiestas include the beheading of live geese, ducks and rabbits by tugging. At Carpio del Tajo (Toledo) a live duck is suspended from a rope across the street. Heroic men on horses ride under it and pull its' head – the fun is in watching the antics of the ducks trying to free themselves.

These fiestas don't appear in Spanish tourist propaganda. If you want to know why, why not ask them? (Contact the Spanish Tourist office)

When Jose Diaz complained about his £3 vet bill, the vet leapt at him and sunk his teeth into Jose's eyebrow. Jose's dog saved him by standing between them snarling. The judge, binding them both over, said "only the dog seems to have acted sensibly."

RUSSIA

Russian OAPs and youths, out to make an easy rouble, are now turning stray dog pelts into 'fur' hats and coats. The most popular hats are made from Irish Setters and Collies (simulating red fox fur), Alsatians (wolf fur) and Pomeranians (polar fox fur). St. Bernard pelts are also popular.

With no RSPCA equivalent to do their dirty work for them, the Russian government is coming under increasing attack for failing to take the stray dog problem seriously. Strays are now being killed for sport by some Russians and at least one army major has used them as target practice – well, at least they don't fire back like the Afghanis.

INDIA

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in her message marking National Wildlife Week in October, pleaded with her people to co-operate in saving their country's wildlife. "Humankind has already destroyed many species" she said. "Let us not do more harm."

Tiger numbers have crept up from less than 2,000 in 1970, when tiger hunting was banned, to over 2,500 now. There's a long way to go. In 1900 there were 40,000.

Organised hunting expeditions for big game are no longer allowed in India. The hunting of animals not listed as 'endangered' is legal only when they multiply to the point where they are declared pests. India's human population is now at 700 million and rising!

The authorities seem to have a drastic remedy. When villagers drove their cattle in to graze on the Bharatpur bird sanctuary, they were fired on by police after attacking them when asked to leave. Five villagers were killed and 35 others injured.

NORWAY

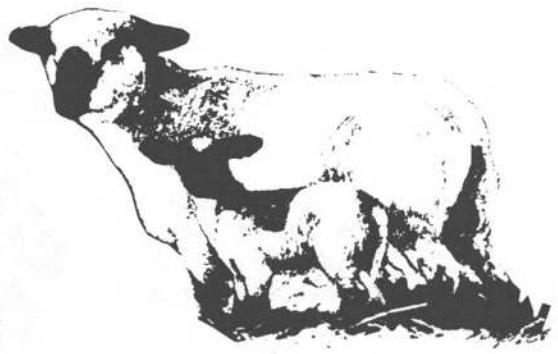
Sticking with the numbers game – someone's decided that 20,000 polar bears in the world constitutes an endangered level, so the five Arctic nations (USA, Canada, USSR, Norway and Denmark) have agreed some conservation measures. Fortunately for Norwegian hunters, they don't exclude the shooting of the bears for trophies.

AFRICA

'Vermin' control knows no international bounds. We've got our foxhunters; the Gabonese have their own official gorilla hunters – they do it in the name of 'pest control' but, like fox brushes here, the odd gorilla hand ashtray souvenir doesn't exactly go amiss.

Further South, the Zambian government has stopped issuing game licences for one year because too many animals are being killed, but we always thought that hunters make the best conservationists!

LAMB DEATHS ~ Where the Blame Lays



In many upland sheep-rearing regions in Britain, the lambing season coincides with an increase in predation upon foxes by man. The digging of fox earths during cubbing is an annual affair in such areas; also during the lambing season many northern hunts remain 'on call' to deal with foxes in an area where lamb-killing by foxes is reported as being a nuisance. The antipathy towards foxes in such areas is widespread although as Lloyd reports, it is not uncommon to find contrary points of view expressed by neighbours, although as he says "the men of action usually have their way." (1) Widespread though it may be, the belief that foxes are inveterate killers of lambs is not upheld by scientific fact, quite the contrary in fact: nor is it common, even among those who are loudest in their protestations against foxes, to find more than circumstantial evidence in their batteries of charges against the animal. The truth is in the vast majority of cases where a fox is seen with a lamb, or lamb remains are discovered either near the entrance of a fox earth or with some characteristic indicating the involvement of foxes, the lamb was already dead, dying or in some other way non-viable (unlikely to survive): this is not mere opinion, but conclusions drawn by naturalists, pest officials and even the Ministry of Agriculture and hill farmers from their own unprejudiced observations and scientific studies.

However, there can be little doubt that on occasions foxes have killed healthy lambs. Autopsies carried out on large numbers of lambs apparently killed by foxes in Australia and parts of Wales and Northern England have produced occasional cases in which the fox has been guilty of killing a lamb which was healthy. Occasionally we also hear of eyewitness accounts of a lamb kill by a fox which we trust. One I was given first hand from a woman who lives on Dartmoor and who apart from being deeply involved in the protection of the badgers of Dartmoor is also a good friend, seems fairly conclusive. She saw a fox seize an apparently healthy lamb by the throat, push it to the ground and kill it. It is interesting to note, however, that the lamb's mother was nowhere to be seen. (3)

(1) Lloyd, P.171
(2) Ibid, P.182
(3) Personal Communication

Even rarer are the occasional outbreaks of excessive killing so often described by jubilant fox-hunters. It is true that indisputable evidence is on record which involves one or more foxes in the killing - or at least attributed killing - of ten to twenty lambs of all ages in a single night. On a national scale such killing has little significance, but for a smallholder with a small flock such a toll could be disastrous. (4)
The motivation behind such behaviour is not understood although some hill sheep farmers have suggested that it might be attributable to vixens who have recently lost their cubs or foxes of either sex who have lost their mates - a kind of transferred emotion response. If this could be proved to be correct there might be no better reason to cease the practice of digging cubs or employing any kind of fox control.

(4) H.G. Lloyd, P.180

Nevertheless, proved cases of lamb-killing by foxes is so unusual that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food does not maintain records of numbers of animals involved - or even of complaints - yet it maintains records of lamb and sheep kills by dogs - primarily in the lowland sheep-rearing regions - which number about 6,000 kills and 4,000 woundings annually.

Doubtless it is because of a few sightings of lamb-kills by foxes and the habit foxes have of lingering near flocks of lambing ewes in the hope most likely of scavenging after-births or dead lambs and taking dead lambs to their earths for consumption that has given the animal its' bad reputation among shepherds.

The evidence, however, with few exceptions, provides very little comfort for those who wish to promote the view that foxes are inveterate lamb killers: the fox is an opportunistic feeder, as content to consume carrion all its' life as to hunt live game; most lambs alleged to have been killed by foxes have merely been consumed as carrion and anyway, the number of lambs alleged each year to have been lost to foxes is miniscule compared to the average annual total of 4 million lambs lost through other natural causes and compared to the number that could be saved simply through improvements in sheep management.

The major blockage for anyone attempting to blame the fox for its' occasional killing of lambs must lie in coming to terms with the huge number of lambs which die of 'natural' causes during the first weeks of birth and in accepting that most of these dead lambs are then available for consumption by foxes. In the Western Highlands of Scotland a figure of 50% of lambs dying from exposure, undernourishment and abandonment is quoted, (5) surely with such a quantity of fresh carrion scattered over hillsides the fox in these areas hardly needs to kill to survive. Nationally, around 4 million lambs die or are stillborn each year, figures given by the Animal Breeding Research Organisation which has been investigating the causes of death in lambs between birth and eight months of age on an upland farm flock in Scotland show that the major causes of death are lamb weakness at birth; infectious diseases; non-infectious diseases and difficulties encountered during lambing accounted for 70% of all lamb deaths, none of the remaining causes were ascribed to foxes. (6) Meanwhile, Aberystwyth University Department of Agriculture shows: 'Foxes, crows, gulls and other predators only account for 3% of lamb deaths in flocks monitored.' Even the Ministry of Agriculture considers the reputation of the fox as a lamb-killer to be untrue; the department keeps neither records of complaints of fox damage to sheep nor even of proven cases and yet it can record that around 6,000 sheep are annually killed by dogs. Indeed the MAFF in its' South-west England Regional monthly magazine says: "Surveys indicate lamb mortality as the major cause of lowered productivity, often amounting to 20% of the potential lamb crop", of which the most important factors are the lambs' birthweight which is linked to the frequency of twinning or triplets and the nutritioning of the ewe lambs before and during pregnancy and mismothering in which the ewe is either unable to feed her offspring or else abandons it - again this is linked to the health of the ewe. Thus 20% of the potential lamb crop according to this magazine are at some time during the period from birth to weaning going to be available as carrion for fox consumption. "Weak lambs are easy prey for predators, but post-mortem examinations reveal that many lambs showing signs of fox predation were in fact dead prior to attack and the fox has been scavenging rather than hunting." (7)

(5) H.G. Lloyd/Dr. John Doney, Hill Farm Research Organisation P.178
(6) Farmers Weekly 13.3.81
(7) Focus November 1977, MAFF S.W. England Region

The fact that huge numbers of lambs die of natural causes each year which do not involve predators, however, will have little impact upon a farmer who in the course of his wanderings discovers a pile of lamb remains outside a fox's earth. For him the evidence is clear, the blame has been placed and the solution is obvious. From a single incident it is easy to extrapolate and indeed exaggerate to the point where disappointing results in lambing are considered to be entirely due to fox predation. It is difficult in the face of financial loss, wherever the fault lies, to maintain a sense of proportion and one dead lamb found by a fox-earth can easily grow to include the entire annual loss.

The facts remain, however; no records detail the number of lambs killed by foxes each year; studies on dead lambs (8) mauled by foxes only rarely implicate the fox as the killer, there are few eyewitness accounts of foxes killing lambs, but many of the foxes prowling near ewes in labour are merely waiting for the after-birth or still-born lambs. On the other hand we have the huge annual wastage of lambs dying through natural causes nearly four million in total, of these, studies have shown that 'this figure can be reduced drastically by better feeding, housing and more attentive shepherding." (9)

Finally, if it were true that the fox was a serious predator upon lambs, then surely we would expect a reaction of fear from lambing ewes on the appearance of foxes in the lambing area. As yet no eyewitness account has described such a phenomena. My own observations of ewes with lambs meeting a fox is that they either ignore the animal or else the ewe stamps its' feet and moves towards the fox, whose immediate response is flight. Similar behaviour was mentioned in Australia by Alexander and his colleagues in 1967 although they did witness one kill of a lamb - apparently a healthy one by a fox.

The hunting fraternity would like us to believe that the fox is a major predator of lambs. This article only draws on a few studies which throw some light on the role of foxes in sheep-rearing regions, but all the others come to the same conclusion -

Mchuge & Edwards (1958)
(8) Purser and Young (1959), Thompson & Thompson (1949) H.G. Lloyd
(9) Farmers Weekly 13.3.81

that the anti-fox lobby has its' calculations wrong. In at least 97% of cases the fox is scavenging when it is found consuming a lamb carcass and in the remaining 3% of cases, the great majority of the fox's victims are non-viable lambs - those deserted by their mothers, weak, sickly, or injured through natural causes - and are simply put out of their misery, by their killer.

Killing foxes will not prevent lambs from dying, but the time, energy and money expended in killing a few foxes, if redirected into maintenance of the flock, might.

RALPH COOK

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COUNCIL BANS

Ever since Brighton HSA got Brighton council to ban bloodsports on its' land, similar campaigns have been tried in many parts of the country. So far East Sussex, Berkshire, Bedfordshire, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Humberside, S. Yorkshire, W. Yorkshire, S. Glamorgan, Mid Glamorgan and Lothian have banned bloodsports. Northamptonshire have said that they won't allow bloodsports over land they own or control, but want to be informed when hunts are to take place over their land by members of the public; they will then stop the hunt using their land.

This odd arrangement is obviously to placate both pro and anti hunters - members living in the area should write to the Labour leader of the county council asking for a proper ban. Avon and Gwent have written to their tenant farmers saying that they are opposed to bloodsports and asking them not to allow hunting over their farms. Again local HSA members should agitate for a total ban.

Only a few county councils are left where bans are possible, these are Cheshire, Merseyside and Tyne and Wear. Campaigns are already underway in these areas and local activists can help by writing to their local councillors. Full instructions of what activists can do in these areas will be sent to all HSA members when the dates of the votes are known.

In Scotland, Renfrew district council and the Lothian region have imposed bans. Scottish HSA members should approach the Labour leader of their local district councils and the leader of the regions. There is no reason why all of Scotland should not pass hunting bans.

In counties which already have passed bans, activists can still lobby district councils to get them to pass bans. District councils own land as well as county councils and if a county and all the district councils within its' boundaries passed bans, the effect on local hunts would be disastrous. Of course parish councils can also be contacted - a good way to start lobbying a parish council is to get several local people to complain to the council about the village green being vandalized by hunter's horses and Landrovers. It is easy to get Labour controlled councils to pass bans - if you live in a Labour controlled area and if you haven't yet bothered to try for a ban, you should do so immediately. The Motion that is usually proposed is 'the hunting and coursing of animals for sport and the shooting of birds for sport is banned over land owned or controlled by the county/district/parish council.'

Anyone needing help or advice please contact Vince Smith c/o P.O. Box 19, London SE22.

Social Scene

BAD BLOOD IN BELVOIR

Nicholas Turner, joint-master of the Belvoir Hunt (Prince Charles' favourite Friday hunt) has been sacked by the Hunt committee for brawling with Robert Henson who is senior-joint master of the same hunt. Reputed to be millionaire landowners, both were the best of friends up until the day Turner's wife, former 3-day eventer Sarah Glyn, left him for the more 'masterful' Henson. The result was fisticuffs outside of Turner's mansion. The unfortunate Mr. Turner not only lost his wife and job, but Henson also took him to court for damaging his glasses during the fray.

ROCK SALMON

After reading of the exploits of Ozzy Osbourne in recent editions of HOWL, we would hope that all members have cleared any of his records out of their collection. Well it is time to return to your collection again and clear out all your old Jethro Tull records (if any). The reason, lead singer, Ian Anderson has been investing his rock star money in a new Scottish salmon farm venture. The firm of which he his a major shareholder is named after his estate in Skye. Straithaird Ltd., will process 70 tonnes of salmon per year.

And who did Anderson get to open the new factory? None other than his old chum Prince Charles. Both attended in full high-land dress and Anderson presented the Prince with 2 sides of smoked salmon (said to be his favourite food).

Meanwhile back with Ozzy Osbourne; HSA member Mrs. Bartram informed the RSPCA about his concert atrocities in the USA and persuaded them to send an Inspector to each venue of his British tour. Osbourne's British agent also gave an assurance that animals will not be used in his act.

WE ARE NOT AMUSED

Two animal rightists were 'arrested for their own safety' when their demo outside a fur shop angered crowds watching shotgun crazy Prince Andrew switch on London's Regent Street Christmas lights nearby. Both were bound over for a year.

Elsewhere, other activists chanted "Fur means murder" as 'everybody's favourite' the Queen Mother and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, both wearing fur capes, arrived at a theatre. True to form the Queen Mum, ignoring the chants, graciously turned and waved to the large crowd outside.

SUPPORT BAND

The socially outrageous, but very popular punk band Crass have included the HSA address in the booklet which accompanys their latest album. Already, several new members have joined us.

Our thanks go to Crass and other bands actively supporting animal rights such as The Damned, Flux of Pink Indians and Lunatic Fringe.

CANTERBURY TALES

Between 1975 and 1980 at least ¼ million elephants were slaughtered by poachers as the price of ivory soared to $100 a kilo. Some of Africa's finest national parks have been turned into elephant graveyards to enrich the international ivory barons. The poachers, bereft of a steady supply of elephant ivory, have increased their onslaught on the black rhino to the extent where Kenya has now lost 90% of its' rhino.

Not that all this seems to worry the head of the Church of England, Dr. Robert Runcie. He had several tusks imported as gifts, following his Nigerian visit last May, along with all the other free goodies he received. They've been held by customs since then while VAT and duty are assessed. He'll be able to keep the tusks if the donors can assure the DoE that they were taken from elephants **before** control legislation was introduced in 1976.

The tusks include a decoratively carved antique one weighing an estimated ton and valued at several thousand pounds and others inscribed to the Archbishop.

What was that about "unto those who Hath. . "

PUNCH AND JUDY

How heartening it is to see the popular 'Daily Mirror' champion the animal cause, particularly the recent bout in the pages of 'Living' between actress Judy Geeson and T.V. soccer sage come Cotswold 'Lord of the Manor' Jimmy Hill. Hill, ex Fulham inside right, but now self-exalted Coventry City Chairman, explains his conversion from youthful idealism to 'the reality of the farmer's way of life,' presumably concurrent with his rise in the social calendar. Judy Geeson however, seems to have maintained her humanity despite fame. She observes that:

"Mr. Hill and his likes are merely easing their consciences with their lame excuses to go out and destroy life. If his silly Mr. Punch face (guess who!) ever appears in my neck of the Cotswold woods, I'll throw him to the pike!"

That would be a blood sport of which no one could disapprove.

FOOT AND MOUTH

Alana Stewart (wife of Rod) recently flew into England showing serious signs of 'foot and mouth disease.' Every time she opened her mouth, she put her foot in it! It all started when she was caught attempting to hide a long white fox fur coat from photographers. The embarrassed blonde explained,
"I don't believe in wearing animal furs and I would never wear a seal or anything made from an endangered species."
"I feel guilty, but the trouble is I catch cold too easily."
"I was told the British winter had arrived, so I dug it out from its' *secret hideaway*."
Finishing with the classic,
"I console myself by saying this fur was already dead before I bought it."
And you thought Rod had trouble with Britt!

JAUNDICE EAR

Market Harborough, set deep in Fernie Hunt country is to get a new J.P., John Higgott. Local sabs who have the misfortune to appear before his bench will be pleased to know that "he hunts with the Fernie."



"Just because you're housebound now, there is no need to shoot the pets!"

YOUR COMMITTEE

TREASURER:

The Hunt Saboteurs Association and the responsibility for the administration of the funds rests with the national committee. Meetings are held regularly where opinions and points of view are forwarded strongly, enthusiastically and thoroughly debated before decisions are taken. When a decision involving money is made, a directive is given by the committee to the treasurer whose responsibility it is to see that the money is properly paid. A full ledger account book is used and a finance report given to the committee at each meeting as well as a final yearly account report being prepared for publication at the Annual General Meeting.

Fund raising is an integral part of the treasurer's work and competitions have been launched giving chances to win professional hunting horns and C.B. radios and a good interest in them has meant that they have been entirely self-supporting with enough money over to finance something like the horn blowing competition held at the A.G.M. disco this year. It means that general funds can be put to essential uses like financing national newspaper advertisements to recruit new members and for setting up a legal department, the services of which were described by legal officer Miriam Hollis in the last edition of HOWL.

These are just a few examples of where the treasurer becomes involved in the day to day running of the Hunt Saboteurs Association and shows how the translation of money into usable goods and services can be of some value. However, after all is said and done the ultimate aim of the Hunt Saboteurs Association is to be of service to the animals, birds and fish, not only by directly saving lives, but by giving them a voice of protest against Bloodsporters and the unwarranted infliction of pain and suffering.

The governing factor of income is service, which can be provided in many different ways. For example shop staff provide a service for customers and how good that service is, will be reflected in the number of regular customers bringing business to the shop. People will prefer to buy their goods from a shop where the assistant is cheerful, courteous and has a genuine desire to help in the choice of goods, rather than from one where the assistant smells of B.O., is down-right rude and couldn't care less if they bought an item or not. Providing a good shop service will ensure a successful business where everyone benefits.

There are many kinds of service however, that are not directly rewarded by money. The service of kindness does not immediately produce a shower of gold coins, but always, though people may not be aware of it, that which is given freely is returned in abundance. In these modern times money is often given to show appreciation of, or give support to, an organisation which is providing a service with which the donor can identify and over the years the Hunt Saboteurs Association has grown and flourished with help of this kind from all over this country and others throughout the world. Our sales goods service processes and despatches goods all year round. The Hunt Saboteurs Association benefits greatly by donations sent by people from all walks of life who wish to support our active, direct approach to saving the lives of as many hunted creatures as possible and membership of the Hunt Saboteurs Association gives people an opportunity to become involved at what ever level suits them, actively or non-actively. Sales goods, donations and membership are the basic incomes which support the ideal of that kind of service, means that money will always be available if needed because as more people are made aware of the atrocities of hunting they will, more readily, support an organisation directly trying to help the victims for such is the law of give and receive.

Colin Lewis, Treasurer.

IBA PICKS A WINNER

It was encouraging to note that the hotly contended IBA franchise for the independent Medway and Maidstone district commercial radio service was recently awarded to Northdown Radio.

At the public meeting called by the IBA, the eventual winners were clear favourites with the audience, amongst which local animal rights groups and conservation groups were well represented.

Double M Sounds, an unsuccessful applicant, listed amongst its' directors Bobby Neame, Tory leader of the KCC, who voted against the ill-fated proposed ban on hunting on council owned land. He's also chairman of Shepherd Neame Ltd., the Kent brewers with hunting commections.

Another loser, Pilgrim Sound, listed amongst its' directors Sir John Grudgeon - recent Tory leader of the KCC who, like his mate Bobby, voted against the ban, and Tim Brinton, a pro-hunt Tory MP whose KCC Councillor wife also voted against the ban.

Directors of the third loser, Mid Kent Radio, included Clifford Playford, a member of the British Show Jumping Association's Panel of Judges, Sarah French, a member of the local NFU branch and a keen point-to-point rider and Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley, whose interests include 'the family, country life, farming and Lurchers.'

Anti-bloodsports interests would have had a good look-in with that lot!

PHEASANT PLUCKER

BFSS member the Rt. Hon. Lord Savile JP (rec. music and shooting) owns 10,000 acres of grouse moor. Common sense isn't one of his best attributes. When asked on Radio 4 if he had any message for the sabs who intended to trespass on his moor last August, he replied that "he wished they would pay more attention to reared pheasants." He's now considered fair game by UK pheasant shooters.

WISH YOU WERE HERE...?

In 1982 the British Tourist Authority published an obscene publication. Entitled 'Britain - Hunting & Shooting', this 52 page green covered booklet sets out to lure foreigners, children and gullible British adults into the delights of killing animals and birds for fun. In addition to listing the addresses and phone numbers of several fox, hare and stag hunt secretaries, it details many UK hotels and inns which offer hunting, shooting and stalking holidays. Nowhere does the publication mention opposition to these bloodsports.

The booklet is a pure propaganda exercise on behalf of the BFSS (they get a plug in it of course, along with the MFHA), all conveniently paid for by British taxpayers.

Its' advice on how to import firearms into Northern Ireland might not go amiss in some quarters either.

HSA members are urged to send letters of complaint to the *BTA* at *64 St. James' Street, London SW1A 1NF* and if any of you find these unpleasant incitement-to-violence free booklets in your local libraries/tourist information centres etc., you should take the appropriate action.

CAT COURSERS JAILED

When two unemployed men failed to find rabbits or hares on an all-night hunting trip, they set their Lurchers onto two cats which they then clubbed to death in case they scratched the dogs. In August, Northwich magistrates found George Bone (34), an amateur taxidermist, of 1 Stourton Road, South Dene, Kirkby, Liverpool and Raymond Gray (19), 55 Montrovia Crescent, Fazackerley, Liverpool, guilty of killing the cats and performing acts which caused them unnecessary suffering.

The magistrates were so appalled by their cruelty that they imposed 6 months jail terms. Unfortunately this exceeded their authority and on appeal, the sentences were reduced to 3 months, ironically after they'd already been inside for 3½ months. Bone expressed relief at being out because his wife had been receiving a lot of abusive phone calls. He's presumably keen on getting on with his taxidermy trade and would doubtless welcome ideas on things to stuff.

'ON THE FRINGE OF ANIMAL WELFARE!'

Just to add to the recent revelations on 'Panorama' about the R.S.P.C.A., HSA members should be aware that for many years we have been trying to place a small advert in the R.S.P.C.A. magazine. Recently the matter was again referred to the R.S.P.C.A. Council and after a very short discussion, during which we were described as 'an organisation on the fringe of animal welfare,' and one council member went so far as to accuse us of attacking hunters and their horses: our advert was once again turned down.

Readers should be aware that the R.S.P.C.A. Council is composed of elected members who can be anything from factory farmers to dog breeders or vivisectors, but so far only a very few hunt sabs have ever managed to get elected.

No matter what the Council of the R.S.P.C.A., its' officials or its' officers may do or say, they cannot destroy the ideals behind its' formation, they cannot take anything away from the work that many of its' local branches do. It should be remembered that many of the R.S.P.C.A.'s members, right up to council level are also members of HSA.

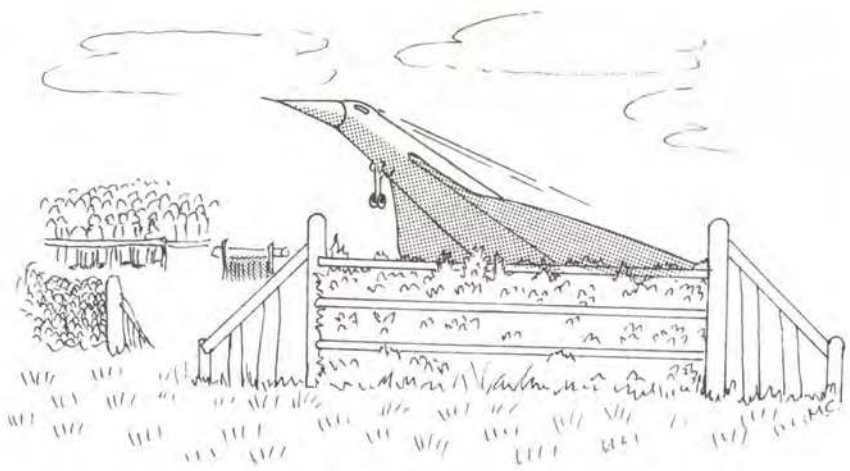
I have deliberately avoided discussion of the fairly recent events within the R.S.P.C.A. because I believe that there has been sufficient public discussion, I can only hope that soon they will put their own house in order. Until they do I am afraid that the R.S.P.C.A. will be what they described us as – 'an organisation on the fringe of animal welfare.'

Bob August.

Meanwhile in Chicago

The 'traditionalists v radicals' type of battle is not a uniquely British activity. The Chicago based 'Anti-Cruelty Society' has recently dismissed their director, Bob Brown amid claims from radicals that Brown was unfairly sacked for showing an interest in the wider realms of animal rights. The A.C.S. is an animal welfare organisation which primarily assists the plight of 25,000 homeless pets each year. The board of A.C.S. state that Brown was dismissed because, in the words of their President, Mrs. Melvin L. Klafter, "We had to affirm just what the goals of the Society were . . . . we need to pay more attention to community needs and less to a national image." She claimed that whilst Brown's objectives in combating institutionalised cruelty such as vivisection were noble, A.C.S. were in no position to extend their brief away from assisting homeless pets.

However, Dr. Tony Pfeiffer, a Governing Member of A.C.S. defends Brown by pointing to the fact that during his seven years with A.C.S., Brown attracted 36,000 active members and supporters without compromising the Society's traditional mission. To support this, Pfeiffer points out that during 1981, 91% of budgeted programme expenses was spent on the Society's shelter and clinic. Indeed, at the time of his dismissal, A.C.S. were due to open a new shelter with expanded facilities which was largely Brown's brainchild. By sacking Brown, argues Pfeiffer, the Society 'asserted its' commitment to well-worn, indeed worn out, 19th century ways."



BRITISH AIRWAYS ENTRY FOR THE 1982 HUNTER TRIALS.

Whilst British Airways have been busy losing £550 million and shedding 7,000 jobs, they have still managed to find time to continue sponsoring the Hunter Trial Championships to the tune of £40,000 – £50,000 per year (as first mentioned in HOWL 20). What on earth are hunter trials, we hear you ask. Well, we would all like to see a few hunters on trial, but unfortunately it's not *that* kind of trial. It's actually horses and jumping, and that sort of stuff. Now why would B.A., in times of such economic gloom, want to donate £50,000 to the pink perverts? Could it be anything to do with the fact that B.A. Chairman, Sir John King, is a former master of the Badsworth and Belvoir hunts? Well, somebody at B.A. obviously thinks so because when a spokesman for B.A. was asked by the Press about the payment, the response was *'we are sponsoring the hunter trials because the chairman says we are sponsoring the hunter trials.'*

Of course, the £50,000 of taxpayers' money wasted on this annual bloodsports jamboree is only a drop in the ocean compared to B.A.'s financial losses, but there again, try telling that to a redundant B.A. worker.

ANIMAL SHOP, LIVERPOOL

From 1st January, the ONLY animal rights shop in Britain will be moving to much larger premises in the heart of the city. You will find us in Xtremes Arcade, STANLEY STREET, opposite the main post office and round the corner from Holland & Barrets Health Food shop. As always, we've a wide range of literature, posters, magazines, badges, books, shirts, stickers, gifts and non-animal tested cosmetics. Come in for a chat and browse. All proceeds go back to the national animal rights groups who started us off and it is staffed entirely voluntarily.

THE ANIMAL SHOP, XTREMES ARCADE, STANLEY STREET, LIVERPOOL.

DEATH VIDEOS

Mary Whitehouse's opinions usually produce mixed responses. We'd all support her latest complaints to the Director of Public Prosecutions though concerning his failure to bring a prosecution against the makers and distributors of 'death' videos. These show the actual killing of people and animals in front of the camera. A recent tape seized by London police which shows a monkey being clubbed to death was described as 'unbelievably horrible.' Other existing 'death tapes' videos show women being raped and subsequently killed and chickens being raped (and consequently disembowelled) by men.

NF THREAT

After representations to the Environmental Health Committee to end the ritual slaughter of animals at Brighton abattoir Liberal Councillor Frances Hix has had to admit defeat. However publicity about her campaign reached the ears of the local National Front caucus, who offered to give support. When Frances refused her house was attacked by axe-wielding thugs and HSA supporters had to mount guard during the following week. (Frances was the main supporter of the bloodsports ban in East Sussex).

ROBIN'S REDNECKS

On Feb. 13 1982 the Tickham F.H. met at Torry Hill, near Sittingbourne, Kent. Within a couple of hours the hunt's official thugs, the so-called Tickham Footpads, had deflated sab car tyres, hit a girl sab round the head with a stick and one had kicked in two door panels on an occupied sab's car. The hunt's kung-fu man was the moustachioed driver of a dark blue Lancia 2000 which sported a BFSS badge and foxhound motif on the radiator grille. The car's registration number was given to the police.

Maidstone CID had great trouble tracing the driver, but were eventually successful. However, despite the eye witness statements of the four people in the sabmobile and the detectives' own privately expressed belief that the Lancia driver was 'guilty' of criminal damage, they eventually dropped the charge due to lack of 'enough' evidence. There was apparently confusion as to whether the driver had a moustache or not (haven't they heard of razors)?

Far be it for us to suggest that pressure might have been brought to bear on them to drop the case. After all, it can only be pure coincidence that the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, *Robin Leigh Pemberton,* gentleman farmer, BFSS member, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Kent, Governor of Wye College (Kent's only beagle pack college), ex-chairperson of the KCC, president of the St. John Council for Kent, Hon. Col. of The Kent & County of London Yeomanry (sharpshooters), ex-chairperson of the National Westminster Bank and recently appointed next Governor of the Bank of England, just happens to live at the place where the hunt met that day.

Terrier Men Taped

On the 11th September last year, a small group of sabs from Worthing and Horsham were joined by a reporter from BBC Radio Brighton for a hit against the fun-loving Crawley and Horsham Fox Hunt. Almost before the sabs could top up their sprays, they found themselves the victims of a vicious attack by the hunt's terrier men. Unfortunately for the hunt thugs, they also assaulted the reporter and worse, our newshound actually recorded the whole incident right down to the last biff.

Later that morning the sabs were confronted by another group of hunt supporters including a loud-mouthed git who claimed he was a magistrate and that (gasp!) he would 'get' one of the sabs. This incident was also recorded. The following Monday the whole tape was played back over the local radio news, along with a predictable 'no comment' from the hunt. One comment worthy of note, however, came from a Mr. Pat Brown, a so-called regional secretary of the British Field Sports Society. *"I suppose if reporters get mixed up with people like hunt saboteurs, they can expect to get hurt,"* boasted our Pat. *"The saboteurs are a fanatical lot and they ask for trouble."*

On the 9th October, sixteen sabs from Worthing and Sussex University paid a return visit to the hunt. Sabs split up into four small groups and set about pre-meet spraying the woods adjacent to the meet. On the way back to their car, one group of three girls and one male sab were ambushed by the good ol' terrier men on a country lane. The girls were pushed around and had their sprays, containing garlic solution, emptied over them and stolen. The three hunt thugs then set upon the fourth sab, Phil Shore, with a wooden stave and drain rods. The attack only ceased when one of the girls bravely grappled with the 'chief' terrier man, allowing Phil time to escape. He ran up the driveway of a nearby house with another of the girls and this persuaded the terrier men to leave, but only after having threatened to break Phil's legs if they ever saw him again.

The police were called. However, while the sabs were at the local police station making statements, the three terrier men were at it again; this time attacking two more sabs, Bruce Bartup and Andy Reynolds. Andy, like Phil, was badly bruised. Bruce was the worst to suffer, needing several stitches in a nasty head wound.

Within a few days the police, to their credit, had arrested two of the sabs assailants, both of them employees of the hunt. By the time the case came to court, the charge concerning Andy had been dropped and finally each was charged with a.b.h. against Bruce and one was charged with a.b.h. against Phil. Both men pleaded guilty. Not suprisingly, they told a pack of lies in court, claiming they had been provoked; sabs were calling hounds onto a main road, etc. etc. Despite the fact that Phil, Bruce and Andy were covered in bruises and weals, the defence claimed that each sab had been hit no more than once by each terrier man.

The magistrates, true to form, agreed that the sabs must have been provocative and therefore imposed paltry fines of £50 on each count.

Soon after the trial, local sabs went back to the Crawley and Horsham F.H. to demonstrate that however much they may try, the hunt will never stop sabs from exercising their right to try and stop bloodthirsty thugs from killing our wildlife.

Whilst sabs were disgusted at the pathetic fines imposed, the violent behaviour of the terrier men had come as no surprise. The Crawley and Horsham have always attracted a violent kind of supporter. The hunt, like some others in Sussex, seems to attach great importance to killing foxes under any circumstances. Local sabs have regularly attended the hunt and have never yet witnessed a kill above ground by hounds; the hunt appears to prefer to run a fox to ground and then call upon the terrier men to dig it out and shoot it. This happens over and over again. Is it any wonder that the sort of people employed to do this behave like thugs when faced by anti-hunt protesters?

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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OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of a Worthing sab, Andrew Stevens. Andy had been involved in animal rights for several years during which time he regularly joined hunt sabotage activities in Sussex. More recently he had directed most of his efforts towards helping his mother co-ordinate a local Animal Aid group. Shortly before his death last November, Andy was arrested at the Animal Aid demonstration against Bristol University.

The horrors of vivisection, factory farming and bloodsports caused Andy great anxiety and his despair at the plight of animals led him to suffer from severe depression. However, Andy's eighteen years on this imperfect world were not in vain as he played a commendable role in the animal rights movement.

Our sincerest condolences are offered to Carol, his mother and fellow HSA member, and the rest of his family.