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

HSW

15p

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POLITICS OR LIFE?

This item was written for those who have remained blissfully ignorant about the cruelties of Course fishing. It is, unfortunately, true, and the facts are well documented.

It involves the actions of a group of fishermen on a tiny lake on the eastern district of Northampton. What happened here during the sunny days of June was no different to that which was happening on thousands of miles of waterways throughout Britain. Cruelty beyond most people's imaginations was enacted by the followers of that most gentle art — ANGLING.

Fishing season begins on the 16th June 1983:

On the lake a pair of mute swans have successfully hatched six cygnets, a pair of coots hold their territory beneath a dying willow tree, a heron hunts from a rotting stump — he's there every morning come sun-up, and a pair of kingfishers have begun to nest in a concealed hole on the shrub covered island. The lake has been at peace for the past three months.

As the glorious sixteenth dawns, the peace of the lake is broken as men come with the light of day. Carelessly they smash the bankside plants, studded waders churn moss and reeds into sucking mud, gossamer lines cross and recross the surface as baited hooks splash into the still water; the heron lifts from the stump — never to return.

A young angler takes the first catch of the day as a six inch silver wedge breaks the water and a small roach struggles to free itself. Swiftly it is snatched into the air and as a warm hand grasps the wriggling body, the hook is prised free from the gasping jaws. Almost as quickly it is thrown carelessly six feet into the gaping jaw of the keep net. Around the lake the ritual is repeated; the season has begun.

Three hours later, at 8.30 a.m., the first call for help comes into our head-quarters. The cob of the family of swans has been hooked. A Rescue officer captures the irate bird and removes the line, complete with lead shot, float and hook. Another three hours later the whole performance is repeated, only this time its the female of the family who suffers.

Three days later a member of the public, out walking her dog, reported that two of the cygnets were caught up in fishing line. A Rescue officer attended and both birds were released from their predicament. The first came to no harm at all, the second had a size 10 hook removed from its left web.

On the 21st it was the cob's turn again as the little fish were captured and propelled into the waiting nets. The cob was sick and was taken to the veterinary hospital where an X-ray showed as impacted gizzard caused by lead split shot. Despite the best treatment available, the bird died fifteen days later.

On the 24th two of the tiny cygnets were killed by the same cause. On the evening of that day, the pen was seen to smash her head repeatedly on the lake's metal railings. X-ray showed lead in the gizzard. Another cygnet was removed at the same time — it was taken to the veterinary hospital and destroyed as it was beyond anyones help; lead poisoning again.

As the three remaining cygnets were totally at the mercy of the fishermen, they were removed from the lake. Routine screening at the veterinary hospital showed all three were suffering from hook injuries and lead poisoning. One of the three had its food pipe torn to pieces by a fisherman who had hooked the bird and then tried to land it — it's life was terminated at the veterinary hospital.

In just nine days the fishermen had destroyed a family of swans. The pen and two remaining cygnets survived and were released five months later, free of the lead that so nearly killed them, on a lake far from the madness of grown men hunting small fish.

Meanwhile, the carnage continued. Whatever happened to the coots and their chicks, or the mallard ducklings? Who knows?, but at the end of the lake there is a sluice that takes away surplus water. The grille over it is very narrow and traps the debris as it drifts down on the gentle current, and there, amongst the broken reeds and lost floats, lays a smashed black body and, just visible beneath the water, the white-fronted head of a coot. the kingfishers fared no better; someone stuffed emply beer cans into the hole in the bank. And do you know, every day during the summer you can watch the little fish gasping their life away around that island, smashed and broken like discarded toys, unable to resist the brutal treatment of those who prefer to call their blood sport "The Gentle Art".

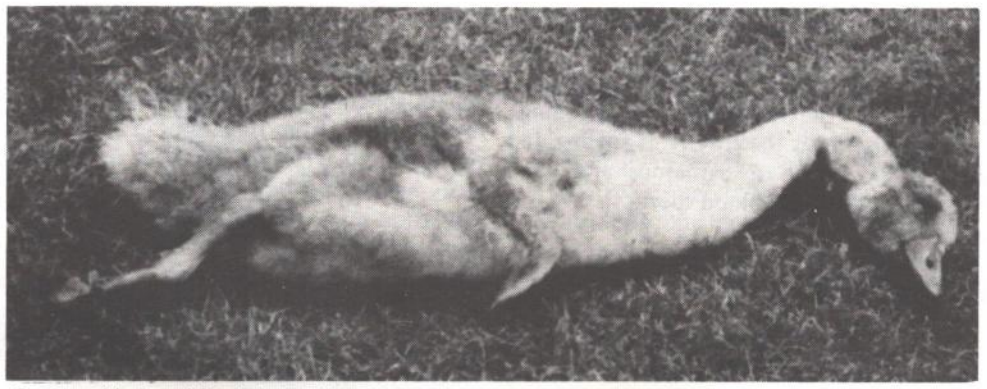
The lake is Thorplands 2 on the Billing Brook and the club who rent the waters is the Brookside Angling Club.

Post mortem reports, X-rays and gizzard samples are all available should any dare to suggest that such things are not happening now, this year, and every year. This is just one example of hundreds of such incidents right across our nation.

And give a thought, will you, to the two yearling seals who had the misfortune to become trapped on a section of the river Witham last July. Fisherman shot them both rather than have them eat any fish — they could have had an undesirable effect on their sport!

The above are just some of the reasons why HSA and NARA have chosen to campaign against fishing and the suffering it causes.

R.S. Garfield
National Animal Rescue Assoication
8 Waterpump Court
Thorplands
Northampton



Cygnet with ripped food pipe and lead poisoning.

Following an in-depth discussion on the angling issue at the HSA committee meeting brought forward to the 15th January 1984 those present were united in their condemnation of angling as a bloodsport and are therefore determined to remain in keeping with the decision of the 1983 A.G.M. and the constitution of the HSA to encourage and undertake non-political, non-violent, direct action against angling. The following conclusions were instrumental in bringing about that decision.

1. FISHING IS A BLOODSPORT.
2. DISCARDED FISHING LINE, LEAD WEIGHTS AND HOOKS CAUSE THE DEATHS OF MANY WATERSIDE ANIMALS AND BIRDS. THE R.S.P.B. ESTIMATES THAT SOME 4,000 TO 5,000 SWANS DIE EACH YEAR THROUGH LEAD POISONING ALONE.
3. ANGLERS POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT AND DESTROY HABITATS.
4. MORE FISH ARE KILLED IN 1 YEARS ANGLING THAN ALL OTHER HUNTED CREATURES PUT TOGETHER.
5. ABOLITION OF HUNTING WITH DOGS IN NOT NEAR AT HAND.
6. THE LABOUR PARTY WILL PROBABLY DROP ITS MANIFESTO COMMITMENT TO ABOLISH BLOODSPORTS WITH OR WITHOUT THE HSA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANGLING.
7. THE HSA IS NOT A POLITICAL ORGANISATION AND IS COMMITTED TO OPPOSING ALL CRUELTY IN THE FIELD.
8. ALL HSA MEMBERS WERE AWARE OF THE 1983 A.G.M. DISCUSSION PROGRAMME, OF WHICH ANGLING WAS PART, IN KEEPING WITH THE CONSTITUTION. THE A.G.M. WAS ATTENDED BY OVER ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS THE ANGLING QUESTION WAS AGREED BY A LARGE MAJORITY VOTE.

For further details on the angling debate please read inside this issue.

Committee Members Present

RALPH COOK	COLIN LEWIS	AUBREY THOMAS
KIM MILLEDGE	MARTIN BENSON	ELVA ADAMSON
HARRY CROSS	DAVE CALLENDER	FLOD PAMMENT
STEVE WILLIAMS	JOHN HALE	



Dear HOWL,
In case you missed it, the following gem appeared in the London Evening Standard on December 13th re Willy Poole, Master of the West Percy Hunt.

> 'Brought up in Cornwall, he left Eton a quarter of a century ago with no money and a single-minded ambition to be an MFH. His father insisted that he should try to be an accountant. But after failing his exams so many times that he was not allowed to sit them again, at the age of 23 he persuaded the Dartmoor Hunt to take him as *Master*'.

If the Standard is to be relied upon, this is surely a sad advertisement for the necessary qualifications of an MFH and perhaps a small clue why it is sometimes difficult to get through to the hunting fraternity.
Yours,
Cdr. Innes Hamilton DSC.
Virginia Water,
Surrey.

Dear Fellow Sabs,
I was interested to read in HOWL 24, the letter from Arthur Martin. Whilst I fully appreciate he may find certain slogans or phrases offensive, I think he is in a minority. More to the point, I feel certain that if a T-shirt or poster grabs the attention of a member of public then we are part-way to getting another HSA member and the T-shirt or poster has served its purpose. They may look nice but their prime function is to publicise the HSA.

It is surely far more important to get our message across to non-HSA members than to worry about the few who may be offended. Would these people – if they are upset by our publicity material, be of any use in coping with REALLY offensive subjects such as hunting – I think not!

Don't worry about how we get the message across, whatever means we use, are our choice. The important thing is that it gets done!
Sincere regards,
Chris Baily
Dorset.

Dear HOWL,
The following conversation was overheard at the East Essex FH's Boxing Day meet at Halstead:
Supporter: "Do you reckon you'll find one at your place on Thursday"?
Red Coat: "I should hope so by christ, I've been feeding it turkey guts for the last few weeks to keep it there".
Yours
Mark Smith
Halstead, Essex.

HOWL MAGAZINE

This edition was produced by:–
Nigel Bellamy, Ralph Cook & Richard Farhill.

Contributions by:–
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Next edition due out May 1984.
All contributions should be sent to HOWL P.O. Box 19, London SE22 to arrive no later than 30th March 1984.

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

Dear HOWL,
On a recent hit with the Reigate HSA I was in discussion with an 'Old Surrey & Burstow' follower.

He informed me that he had a terrier and a gun both of which he uses. I was told that he was called out by a local farmer who wished to be rid of a problem fox. The fox, he gleefully stated, was soon despatched with the gun. After having shot the fox he proceeded to cut open its stomach. I was then challenged to guess what the contents were. After a few tries of vole, woodmouse, fruit etc. I gave up. No, he said. *A Pig.*

I have censored my remarks being the gentleman that I am. I immediately left him and continued the more rewarding occupation of sabbing the hunt.

Arthur G. Hoare
Crawley, W. Sussex.

Dear Sabs,
Many thanks for the latest Howl and enclosures. Sub herewith and my apologies for its lateness.

I was sorry to note there is disagreement re the angling question. I can see Bob August's point of view, but I feel there is no option – see clause 2 and 3 of the Constitution – and we should do everything possible to combat the cruelty of angling. It is after all the most barbarous and widespreed of all the blood sports.
Sincerley,
G. Grace
Poole

Dear Sir/Madam,
After reading Mr. August's letter enclosed with the latest edition of "Howl" I am writing to support his suggestion for a referendum by post of the whole HSA membership on the question of fishing.

Fishing is appalling and as much murder as fox hunting but it is not seen so by the majority of the British public who quite clearly differentiate between angling and hunting with dogs. All those concerned with the ultimate happiness of animals must be *realistic* about the best way of achieving this. Mr. August is right when he says it is our duty to be so. Those who want to see the abolition of fishing are quite right but this campaign would be seen much more as an attack on personal liberty than the question of hunting with dogs where a third party is used ie the dogs. The campaign against fishing will need to change the attitudes of many members of the public quite radically whereas there is already strong opposition to fox hunting etc and this question is within sight of being resolved. *Fishing is decades away.*
Yours faithfully,
Corinne Smith
Hayes, Middlesex.

Dear HSA,
I was delighted to hear that you have decided to take direct action against angling and very pleased to see the article "Time To Tackle Anglers" in the Autumn edition of HOWL.

It has always been the policy of the A.L.F. to take direct action against angling and in the past our activities have caused many thousands of pounds of damage to property used for fishing. We do, of course, appreciate that action taken by the HSA against angling cannot be as militant or as illegal as our own.

The fact that about three million people take part in angling in this country seems to me to be an argument more in favour of direct action than against it. The publicity caused and awareness created by the taking of militant action will no doubt result in a considerable number of anglers relinquishing what is, with out doubt, one of the most cruel of all bloodsports, and therefore saving many thousands of fish from suffering and death.

The best way to ensure the end of any form of bloodsports (whether this be hunting with hounds, hare coursing, shooting or angling) and indeed to bring about the abolition of any form of persecution of animals is to carry out direct action of so great a militancy and on such a scale that any government of the day, of whatever political colour, is forced to legislate for animal protection.

The glory of this approach is, of course, the fact that, even if Parliament does not legislate, people can bring about the end of these atrocities by their own actions – and all along the line animals are being saved all the time. It is not an all or nothing situation as in non-militant campaigns for parliamentary change.

The fight for animal liberation must be considered as no less than a war and to spend time, money and energy sniffing around M.P's backsides instead of putting these resources into militant direct action could well be to sell the animals (including, of course, the fish) right down the river.
Yours for animal liberaion
Press officer A.L.F.

Dear Sir,
I was most upset to hear about the fishing sabotage, and I am in full agreement with the views of Bob August. I am not a fisherman although I do eat Cod from time to time, apart from this I am a complete vegetarian. I have supported HSA for several years and would hate to see any other legislation set back by this issue, I request that a referendum of the whole membership be carried out by post.
Yours faithfully,
M.J. Mabin
Poole, Dorset.

Dear HSA,
I feel very torn about the fishing issue. Perhaps the HSA shouldn't campaign on this for the reasons Bob August gives. But, where I live, shooting & ferreting and other such pursuits (even hunting with hawks) seem to me to be more popular than fishing. I was not aware that the HSA is a parliamentary pressure group, I thought the LACS was campaigning on that levels and that we are the ones who try to save animals in the field by direct action. So I welcome any advice on tactics to be used against any form of animal abuse. Incidentally, I never lower my voice or lighten my step when walking past anglers, as I used to before I thought seriously about fishing.

On the subject of Antimate, is there any evidence at all that it could be detrimental to the environment? For example, is it repulsive to grazing animals? It has been suggested to me that badgers might carry it into their setts on their coats and "stink themselves out". Can you comment on this? I much prefer the idea of using garlic sprays. Has anyone done comparability tests on these? Looking forward to hearing from you.
Love,
Helen Banks
Trewidland, Liskeard
Cornwall.

Dear Sir,
Today I received this months mail out, I was very disappointed to hear of Bob August's and Dave Wetton's resignations, I must say that I agree with them on the fishing matter, even though I am opposed to fishing.

I think a campaign against fishing of this sort will do more harm than good in the long run to the fight against the other blood sports (fox, stag, hare and any other hunts invòlving dogs).

Even though I am opposed to fishing I wouldn't put it in the same league as hunting with dogs even though it is very cruel.

I just hope I am wrong and that no harm will come to the hard fight for victories over hunting with dogs.
Yours faithfully,

Richard Watkins
Caerphilly.

Dear HSA,
I received with my latest copy of 'Howl' a letter from Bob August, claiming that he and Dave Wetton had resigned because the HSA are now actively fighting angling. As he believes that the views of the whole membership are needed, I am writing to give you mine.

I believe that it would be wrong and very speciesist for the HSA to back down on the angling issue, and grovel to the liars in Parliament who will say anything to get elected.

We must stick by our morals, if there is an animal abuse we can sab – we sab it, whether or not Parliament like it. Angling is a barbaric abuse of our brothers and sisters in the sea, and we owe it to them to take direct action against the cruel angling 'fraternity'.

One of the reasons that I joined the HSA was that I didn't believe there was a nice easy Parliamentary road to animal liberation like the L.A.C.S. and Dick 'Vote Labour' Course. Parliament is the voice of the powerful, and history has shown that this is true whichever Party has the majority the Labour Party may appear to be sympathetic to our demands, but this just seems to be trendy campaign – mongering from a party desperate for votes – if they get elected they will be too busy maintaining the status quo to care about mundane things like abolishing hunting with dogs.

Animal abuse will be banished when enough people want it to – when hunts are harassed out of existence, when vivisection and cruel farming are impossible to carry out because the majority of people oppose them. But it will NOT be stopped by voting for one-party-or-another (they're all basically the same) or by vote hungry politicians, I sometimes wish it could – putting an 'x' on a piece of paper is much easier than Non Violent Direct Action – but unfortunately history shows us otherwise.

So, keep opposing angling, don't betray the fish, and don't get too respectable – the League are the ones for that!
Peace and Liberation
Paul Hillier
Bournemouth.

Why do people sink whaling ships, release dolphins, boycott veal...?



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ANGLING .. a committee statement

It is our job as members of the HSA Committee to run the day to day business of the Association and as far as possible to implement its policies as they are agreed at its Annual General Meeting. It was to fulfill the second part of our obligation to the HSA that the committee placed in the last HOWL No. 25 articles about the cruelty involved in angling and a list of tactics which might be employed to prevent this suffering. In accordance with the constitution as agreed at the 1983 AGM in Liverpool, clause 3 of which states . . " to oppose and undertake to sabotage where practicable the pursuit, harassment or killing of any sentient creature for sport or pleasure until such time as these practices are banned by law" (entered in the Constitution in 1979) the members in attendance mandated the 1983–1984 Committee to advise on the tactics to be employed in the sabotage of angling. This has been done. What could not be forseen by the Committee however, was the resignation of Bob August from the committee at this time over this issue and the inclusion of his letter in the HOWL mail out without the knowledge of the committee. While we respect him as a person entitled to his own point of view, he surely should have consulted the committee as to whether a personal letter should have been included in the mail out.

Dave Wetton, who also resigned his position as Honorary Membership Secretary has stated that whilst he was aware of Bob's plans to anounce his resignation in a letter to the HSA membership, he was not aware that Bob had not discussed the matter with the rest of the committee.

It has in fact been the policy of the HSA to sabotage angling since the 1979 AGM in Bristol. Those HSA members who are concerned about this development must remember that the HSA is not a political organisation as such, it is a non-political direct action, animal rights organisation and should remain true to its moral values without regard to political expediency. Indeed it was with this view in mind that the HSA was formed, at the time it was widely criticised on the grounds that its radical approach to the hunting issue would jeopordise the more orthodox forms of campaigning against bloodsports. Today of course we know the reverse is true; that the political wing of the movement has been able to capitalise on the attention the activists attracted in the media and the activists in turn have tended to provide the moral, philosophical and active leadership to the campaign and to public opinion.

Most of the criticism we have received rests its case on two connected arguments, both political in nature; on one hand that a political solution to the bloodsports issue is near at hand and that the HSA should concentrate its activities on achieving the abolition of hound sports, an attack on angling would, it is claimed, lose all the support we have so far gained and put legislation back many years; and on the other hand that a campaign against angling will send its participants scurrying for their BFSS membership cards.

The HSA Committee believe both of these arguments are invalid for the following reasons.

1. While it is quite true that the HSA has built massive public support for the abolition of hunting with hounds, legislation against hunting is only likely to succeed if it takes the form of a government bill. At present the Labour Party is committed to the abolition of hunting, but for a number of reasons we do not think that this situation is likely to last. Even if it did so, the Party has to win the next election before abolition can proceed and of course if it does succeed it is likely to place action against bloodsports very low on its list of priorities. A bill to abolish hunting is likely to be left until the last moment and then be lost through lack of parliamentary time.

In any case it is quite probable that the Labour Party will drop its committments with or without the HSA's campaign against angling. To support this view is the following statement made by Roy Hattersly on Channel 4's "Face the Press" programme in June 1983; "While our manifesto was packed with worthy things, if you had too many worthy things you diverted attention from the central issue" . . . "I took as an example at our pre-election conference at Woodstock, bloodsports and animal welfare. I am a passionate opponent of bloodsports . . . but it did not seem to me we ought to have a diversion on bloodsports when our main thrust was on unemployment". This view is, at present, gathering support throughout the ranks of the Labour Party. By the time the Labour Party next considers its election manifesto it is more than likely that the so called big issues that face society will demand even greater attention and to simplify their campaign they will no doubt be forced to drop "peripheral issues" such as bloodsports. There is also little doubt that if and when the Labour Party drops its committment to abolish bloodsports the HSA and its decision to campaign against angling will be wrongly blamed and possibly used as a scapegoat by those whose political hopes have been frustrated by developments in the Labour Party regarding these issues.

If you accept this view it becomes clear that the abolition of hunting is unlikey to occur for at least 10 years — and probably many more. We should not fall into the trap of compromising our views for the sake of over optimistic and vain political hopes. On the contrary it is the view of the Committee backed by members attending the AGM that now is the time to step up our campaign and encompass angling with our direct action approach in order to bring to bear the maximum pressure on the opposition.

Angling is the last big hurdle that the anti bloodsports movement must overcome; game bird shooting was opposed almost without comment should we hold off from this bloodsport which is at lease as cruel merely because between 1 and 3 million people (the exact figure is far from clear) indulge in it.

2. For some years now the BFSS has attempted to bring the angling fraternity into the defence of bloodsports; it is well known by both ourselves and the BFSS that to a great extent this has hitherto failed, mainly because the ordinary angler does not see the "sport" in the same light as he sees hunting. Many anglers are utterly opposed to hunting on the grounds of cruelty to animals.

Some HSA members may fear that we are playing into the hands of the BFSS and that an active campaign against angling might drive fishermen into the BFSS ranks, in actual fact the BFSS has achieved some success already although it has resorted to some fairly drastic measures to achieve this; they have tried to frighten anglers into believing that their particular bloodsport was the next on the list. Equally the ambiguous stance hitherto adopted by the anti-bloodsports movement has tended to drive the angling associations into the arms of the BFSS and their associates. In 1978 for instance the National Angling Council declared its support for bloodsports with the following statement . . "country pursuits are the inheritance and concern of the country dweller and should not be subjected to discriminatory governmental pressure and this principle should apply to all lawful recreations whether urban or rural". At present at least 11 of the most influential angling organisations are constituents of the Campaign for Country Sports which was inaugurated in late 1982, all of them are committed to the defence of all bloodsports by the constitution of the CCS. The National Angling Council moreover shares the sponsorship of the CCS with the BFSS and the BASC further more in January 1983 The Society of the National Federation of Anglers (South East England Branch) with 32,540 members affiliated to the BFSS itself. All this took place before our 1983 AGM. Obviously it could be argued that the angling organisations do not represent the ordinary angler in this respect but that an active campaign against angling would drive the ordinary fishermen in to taking individual steps towards joining the BFSS. This is unlikely since the majority of anglers **DO NOT** support other bloodsports which they regard as cruel and feel no obligation to defend them. We definately feel that to abandon the policy would be damaging to the credibility of the HSA and would be a step backwards in the fight for animal rights, and to what end? If a ban on hunting is as we believe a long way off would we not have delayed the campaign which must eventually begin against fishing for no good reason?

Remember the HSA is here to lead public opinion not to follow it and let us not forget the motto of the HSA . . "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 . ."

HSA LEGAL FILE



As many of you may know the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is at present resuming its course through Parliament, having been prevented from continuing due to the General Election. Many aspects of the Bill are contentious and are being opposed by groups such as the NCCL and even the Law Society. The area of the Bill which may well have some effect on the HSA is Part IV which deals with the detention of suspects for inquiries and questioning. As we all know, the defence of animal rights, particularly in hunt sabotage carries some risk of falling foul of laws, but hopefully most sabs will be able to avoid this. Would the new bill make things any more difficult for those members who are arrested as a result of sabbing hunts? Surprisingly the answer appears to be no. At first glance the provisions encapsulated in the bill appear to be very stiff, but in actual fact they create more work for the police and do not increase the amount of power for detention, rather they regulate the already existing powers which are wider than one might imagine. Thus, if used correctly, they should not increase the amount of time that a sab may have to spend at a police station (There are however other provisions in the bill which could act against those concerned with other animal rights activities. These may be the subject of a forthcoming article in the Legal File if and when the Bill is passed). Let us now turn however to the commonest charges which arise from hunt sabotage, ie breach of the peace, action likely or obstruction. It is highly probable that anyone arrested on a hunt for any of these charges will be held incustody for the duration of the hunt (This is already common practice at the Waterloo Cup for instance). Therefore if you are arrested on a hunt you should try as far as possible, under the circumstances, to relax and be prepared to spend a number of hours with nothing to do and possibly with no other company. If it helps, remember all you are giving is a few hours of your time, your life is not at stake whereas the life of the fox or hare is.

All HSA groups should appoint a legal officer whose duty should be to provide each member of the group with the telephone number of a solicitor who will be prepared to accept calls on a Saturday. At the very least every person going out sabbing should have a number they can call for assistance either memorized or written down on the hand. If taken to a police station, request that you be allowed to make a telephone call; do not demand that you should be allowed to do so as a right. On each subsequent occassion that you see a person in authority, repeat the request. If you are not granted access to the phone, try to keep an account of the number of times that you made the request. On no account use the bell provided in the cell to make this request – only use the bell in case of genuine need or emergency.

It should go without saying that it is highly inadvisable to make any kind of statement or reply to questions whilst in a police station: you are under no obligation to do so. The best way to help yourself, the other group members and the HSA, is to adopt a standard formula of refusing to answer questions until you are legally represented. If all members could accept this discipline, then the police would realize that detention of HSA members is fruitless. (Under the provisions of the new bill the police would be able to deny access to a solicitor for 36 hours if they consider it would hamper enquiries, but if you are adamant in making no statement unless they provide you such access then nothing can be gained by detaining you). If you would like more detailed information on the new Police Bill then please contact your nearest NCCL office or write to the Legal Officer HSA c/o Box 19 LONDON SE22.

During the course of the hunt sabotage you will meet friendly and not so friendly police officers but it is prudent to be prepared for the worst.

The articles appearing in the Legal File are designed to assist those working for animal rights and are not intended to be a reflection on the work of the police force in general.

LEGAL OFFICE HSA

GROUP NEWS

SOUTH CENTRAL

New Forest and **Fareham HSA** and sabs from **Winchester, Portsmouth Poly, Southampton** and **Gosport** have been out every week against the New Forest FH. CBs came in useful when a hound was discovered tangled in a wire fence. It tried to bite itself and anyone who approached it. However, sabs got through to a terrier man on their CB and it was eventually cut free.

On another hit, a sab invited a heavy to spray a mixture of garlic and water into his eyes in an attempt to prove that it was harmless. The heavy gratefully accepted the invitation and proceeded to pump vast quantities into the sab's eyes (after he had taken his specs off). Sabs will be pleased to learn that the experiment proved the point and the sab lived to tell the tale.

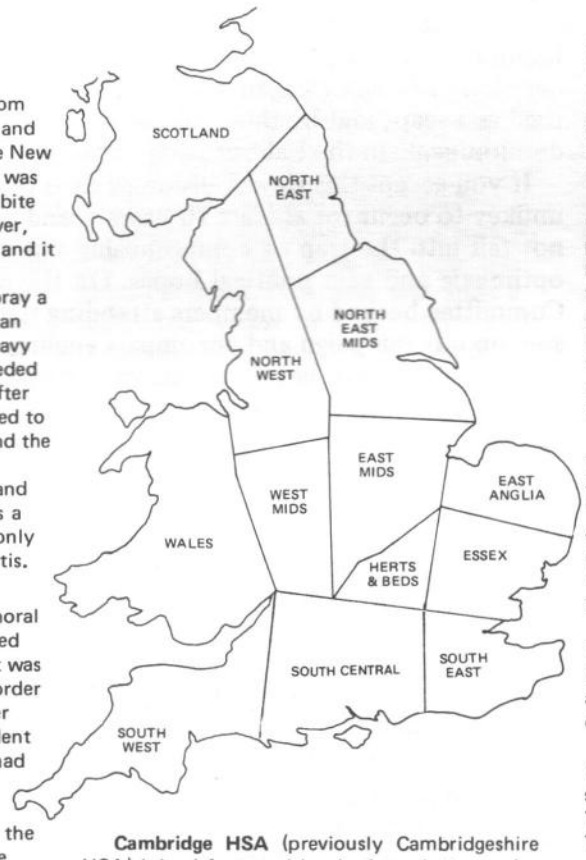
Sabs are continually subject to threats and violence from heavies, one of which deserves a special mention for his devotion towards his only apparent purpose in life — that of 'getting' antis. Dennis Light, take a bow.

A hunt supporter stooped to an all-time moral low when he stamped on a fox as it was flushed out of a drain before being shot. The incident was recorded on a small pocket-size cassette recorder and was played on local radio. The Master however, Tony Taylor, denied that the incident had ever occurred and claimed that the tape had been doctored.

The **New Forest HSA** would like to thank the sabs who attended the opening meet of the Portman FH on 15th October. Over 70 sabs turned out from Bristol, Bath, Yeovil, Melksham, and Portsmouth at short notice.

A determined recruiting drive by the **Portsmouth Poly. HSA/Portsmouth Poly. Animal Rights Group** at the beginning of term led to a large increase in membership, because of increased funds and growth of the group they managed 10 hits during the autumn term. They were active against the New Forest and Meon Valley beagle packs with great success, notably against the beagles, who are changing their tactics to try to beat horn-calls and holloas, and unfortunately becoming increasingly violent in their attempts to 'discourage' them sadly much verbal abuse gets directed at female sabs. Police attendance at Beagle meets is rare and usually result in a jovial 'name and address please' and a warning for refusal.

Response to their activities within the Poly is cheering — at a recent evening showing approx 100 people saw the 'Animals Film' and a significant number were converted to vegetarianism and joining the Animal Rights.



ESSEX

HSA groups in and around Essex have continued to expand at such a rate that a small centralising body has now been formed to create **Essex and London HSA.** 80 sabs were out on the first hit of the season against the Puckeridge and Thurlow FH. The day began peacefully enough at the banner demo where a few eggs were thrown at a huntsman and the whipper-in. However, local nutters took exception to this and attempted to run sabs down and attacked sabmobiles. Unprovoked and vicious attacks were the order of the day and by the time the hunt had boxed-up, 13 sabs had been arrested, 2 sabmobiles were written off, and one sab, Bob Allen, had 2 front teeth kicked out and spent 3 days in hospital suffering from amnesia. On the following morning one sab was got out of his bath by police and arrested. Indecently exposing himself in his own bathroom no doubt!

Sabs from **South-East Essex** successfully disrupted meets of the Essex Farmers FH during pre-season cub hunts.

Cambridge HSA (previously Cambridgeshire HSA) joined forces with sabs from **Luton** and **Northampton** to hit beagle, basset, and fox hunts. At a successful hit on the Albany Basset Hounds, the tyres on their sabmobile were let down and one girl sab was pushed off a fence by a hunt cronie. Over enthusiastic heavies got a bit too much for one huntsmen who hit the driver of a motorcycle in the face as he attempted to mow down sabs while speeding through the hounds.

So far this season, the Trinity Foot Beagles, South Herts Beagles, Cambridgeshire FH, and Oakley FH have all had the pleasure of meeting the Cambridge group.

SOUTH-EAST

Sabs from **Swale, Maidstone** and **Thanet** Animal Rights groups have regularly combined to hit the Wye College Beagles to the extent that on one occasion the hunt drove 8 miles away from the meet in order to give sabs the slip. Although our intrepid heroes caught up with the hunt, sabbing was restricted owing to local bobbies threatening to arrest sabs for trespass. Heavies threatened to smash up their CBs and then told the police that sabs had put nails under the tyres of their cars.

The Wye College Beagles had earlier in the season been priviledged in providing the first sab of the newly formed **South-East Kent** group. Any hopes that the police might be their (theoretically) unbiased selves were soon dashed when 2 policemen were seen accepting drinks from the stirrup cup. Haven't they heard of breathalyser tests?

Croydon HSA were in the middle of hitting the Surrey and North Sussex Beagles at Crowhurst when they met up with some football fans. They were a couple of hunters who were waiting for the sabs to cross a river then played football using a sab as a ball. Later 2 sabs were arrested by a policeman dressed as a hunt follower. A fair kop!

Brighton and Worthing HSA has been active most week-ends and consider that it has been particularly effective during cubbing. Fox hunts in the area have had difficulty picking up scent and digging out is still rife especially with the Eridge FH. The East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH successfully sabotaged themselves for a few weeks when the entire pack was put in quarantine with a nasty dose of kennel cough.

Local sabs have given talks to political parties and the group recently lobbied West Sussex County Council over a proposal to ban bloodsports from its land.



Croydon sab getting kicked around.

HERTS AND BEDS

If their hit reports are anything to go by, the **Luton HSA** group must rank as one of the most active in the country. It regularly combines with the **Cambridge** and **Northampton** groups to hit a wide range of hunts.

An intended hit on Cambridgeshire Foxhounds was curtailed owing to an overbearing police presence, namely 6 police cars and a motorcycle. Sabs from Luton and Northampton were advised to leave and were given a police escort to the Cambridgeshire border. However, arrangements had been made to rendezvous 10 miles away so as to hit the Trinity Beagles. The hunt was soon reduced to a state of chaos.Then the inevitable happened, the police arrived again.

Sabs used whistles to drown the commands of the Master at a meet of the South Herts Beagles. At a meet of the Aldenham Harriers, huntsmen tried to confuse sabs by hunting foxes in the morning and hares in the afternoon. However, the main problem sabs encountered was that of trying to keep up with the harriers which moved at a tremendous speed.

Foxes escaped the clutches of the Enfield Chase FH as a direct result of Bedfordshire County Council banning bloodsports on its land. Huntsmen admitted they could not go on council land. Very encouraging behaviour.

Brunel University Animal Rights Group (Uxbridge, Middx. set up at the beginning of the season have been out hitting the Puckeridge and Thurlow FH and North Sussex and Surrey Beagles. They have combined with Aylesbury sabs for a number of hits against the Old Berkely Beagles in November and December. This new group hopes to expand its activities during the remaining season and would welcome help from any Middx. and NW London sabs.

Aylesbury sabs have continued with their regular forays against the Old Berkeley Beagles. Much success has been acheived with the horn and they have felt the imense satisfaction of calling off hounds from what could easily have been a kill.

Supporters have shown their appreciation by attacking them with sticks. Much appreciation must go to this small but dedicated group for their continued efforts.

EAST ANGLIA

University of East Anglia HSA successfully sabbed a meet of Dunston Harriers and gained useful press coverage. About 20 sabs kept in close contact with the hunt after infiltrating it and discovering the meet. One lone sab however, was set upon, but further aggro was probably suppressed owing to the presence of reporters.

Norwich HSA joined **UEA HSA** on another hit on the Dunston and no kills were made. The hunt killed only 3 hares in the entire 1982/83 season.

WEST MIDLANDS

Wolverhampton HSA has caused the Albrighton FH to stop advertising their meets. It regards this as a great victory however, it has been at a price. On one meet, a Walsall man, Alfred Thornhill, put glue in the locks of the group's minibus which is given free of charge every week by Wolverhampton Poly. He was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £52.02 costs.

On another occasion, one sab was left with a broken nose and van windows were smashed as local heavies waded into sabs. One of the supporters, Neville Cope, received 44 stitches in the face for his trouble. The student who books their minibus has received phone calls telling him to "Cancel the sab's minibus "—another indicator of the group's effectiveness.

NORTH-EAST MIDLANDS

Sheffield HSA, often with groups from **Doncaster, Huddersfield and Bradford,** began the cub hunting season by hitting the Badsworth FH and have been doing so every week since.

The Badsworth is now pretty near useless after a concentrated cub hunting campaign. Consequently, they frequently resort to releasing bagged foxes close to the pack which is against hunting rules. The hunt itself is evidently paranoid about antis and will go to great lengths in running in the opposite direction when sabs appear.

As one might expect in such a situation, tension is running high and sabs are repeatedly attacked by local thugs and huntsmen. Vans are damaged and sabs are often whipped by redcoats. In one hair-raising incident, sabs were chased across a field by a tractor with some very nasty looking blades attached. The look on the farmer's face suggested that he was pursuing potential hound nosh!

Sabs who are members of the **Hazelton Action Group** took part in a demo outside Hazelton laboratories on October 24th.

All 17 of the sabs who were arrested at the Chatsworth Game Fair were acquitted at Bakewell Magistrates Court. All denied using threatening words and abusive behaviour likely to cause a breach of peace.



Sab/rabbit at the Hazeltone Lab. demo.

SOUTH-WEST

Sabs from **Bath, Bristol, Yeovil, Swindon and Gloucester** have jointly hit the Mendip Farmers FH on a number of occasions. Hounds were on the scent continually at one of their meets but riders were more intent on trampling sabs than keeping up with the hounds. The day began badly when 4 sabs were surprised by a terrier man while they were unblocking an earth causing them to run back to the road. 15 sabs were set upon by riders and were repeatedly whipped, pushed and ridden down. Film was ripped from a camera which was subsequently damaged. Any sabs getting anywhere near the action were constantly ordered off private and public property. By the end of the day 20 sabs had been beaten, 4 seriously.

At another meet sabs reluctantly had to leave early because of escalating violence. Sabs were beaten and a tractor driven by George Baker, a farm manager, rammed their vehicle and released large portions of slurry over 2 unfortunate sabs. Because of the violence the Mendip Farmers has become unsabable-even with a group of 30 sabs. They have therefore been forced to concentrate more on beagles.

South Devon HSA sabbed the Dart Vale and Haldon Harriers successfully and discovered some interesting information at the same time. A women supporter told sabs that George Hyett, Master of the South Devon FH, is unpopular with the local hunting fraternity because he just loves digging out foxes and would happily spend all day doing it if he could. They were also told that the Master of the Dart Vale Harriers had shot 2 bitches a week previously because they were incompetent in the hunting field. Huntsmen obviously see hounds as expendable resources.

Devon Animal Rights, South Devon Animal Rights, University of Exeter Hunt Sabs and Yeovil HSA, got the season off to a good start with a ninety-strong banner demonstration at the Opening Meet of the East Devon Foxhounds at Woodbury Castle. The presence of the press ensured good coverage in the papers and on local radio. Bernard Bartlett, Joint-Master, was visibly angered by all the attention and refused to talk to reporters. Earlier in the week, Barlett's own pet cat had been torn to pieces by his out-of-control hounds after a Lawn Meet at his home.

In the afternoon, thirty sabs hit the Stoke Hill Beagles, who wisely chose to go home after an hour — not, however, before one of their supporters had fired his shotgun twice in the direction of the sabs — to the alarm of policemen present.

Following an incident on Dartmoor, where George Hyatt's South Devon FH had chased sheep, **DAR** put out a press warning to farmers to watch livestock when hunts were on their lands — and check on the number of aborted lambs afterwards.

WALES

The Pentyrch FH, Caerphilly FH, and the South Wales Bassets have been the prime targets of the very active **Vale of Glamorgan HSA.**

During a cubbing meet of the Caerphilly FH effective horn blowing paid dividends and split the pack. One lone supporter though was none too pleased and ran half of a mile downhill and jumped on the sabmobile driver and nicked the hunting horn. All this took place on a main road and village onlookers claimed that, although they failed to see the incident they thought sabs had been asking for it! Later in the day the Master talked to a sab for a while then turned around and gave the order for the field and a Landrover to run him down. Exit sab at 90mph.

BBC Radio Wales accompanied the group on a sab of the Pentyrch FH. During an interview the Master admitted that the sabs had successfully ruined the hunt and then praised them for their non-violent behaviour. The hunt is very popular with sabs as it appears to have a first class honours degree in "Self-Sabotage".

Violence is often forthcoming from the South Wales Bassets. Heavies have threatened to set their Doberman dogs on sabs and one dim-wit tried to let the tyres of a sab van down whilst it was moving!

An attack came from a totally unexpected souce on another hit when an 80 year old woman let fly with her walking stick. There's nothing in the Tactics Booklet about that! Later on, some anti-mate was stolen by Justices of the Peace posing as huntsmen, who claimed that it poisons hounds and so they were going to have it analysed.

SCOTLAND

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH receives regular attention from **Edinburgh and Stirling HSA** groups. Although things often get rough, a certain redcoat with a short temper, Tom Potts, often brightens up the day with gems like "You think I'm cruel, look what you're doing to that poor grass', "If that's what being vegetarian does to you I'm glad I'm not one" and "What about that poor cabbage that you lot cut up?". This is all from someone who once posed as cover boy for Horse and Hound.

The opening meet of the fox hunting season was filmed by BBC Scotland. The hunt refused to co-operate with the BBC but film was taken of a confrontation at a dig-out. As usual, the police were in evidence but their numbers have been decreasing.

Sabs were honoured on one occasion when they were offered a drink of Martini from a stirrup cup by an elderly hunt supporter. Horns have been stolen from the group and one sab was arrested simply for carrying anti-mate! Sabbing is greatly hindered by a constant stream of police threats and warnings, though luckily the hunt kills few foxes.

NORTH-EAST

The Tynedale FH received constant harassment during cubbing from **Tyneside HSA.** On one occasion, a mixture of anti-mate and dried blood was used to pre-meet a covert known as Magic Mushroom Wood. These tactics ensured that the hounds failed to pick up any scent. Sabs split the pack and easily took control. Reports (still to be confirmed) give accounts of hounds mysteriously 'flying' after leaving the wood thereby making hunting extremely difficult but giving sabbing a new 'dimension'.

On a more serious note, 2 Tyneside sabs briefly stared death in the face when they were attacked by 3 van loads of hunt thugs who ripped the seats out of their van and smashed a pick-axe through the bonnet.

Beagle packs in this area have also been sabbed, one for the first time in conditions which closely resembled those common to the Antarctic indicating the need for HSA thermal underwear.

Scottish hound, split from the pack, thumbing a lift.



Clydeside HSA have been busy this season sabbing the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire (L & R) foxhounds virtually every Saturday through out the cub/fox hunting season, with no foxes killed while sabs have been out, little wonder with sabs not allowing the huntsman any hounds to play with this constant sabbing especially during the cubhunting season has messed up the old as well as the new younger hounds training and thus it renders the pack as an ineffective hunting unit for the rest of the foxhunting season proper. On one occasion in desperation at not being able to find any foxes to murder, Martin Morgan huntsman of the L & R put hounds onto the scent of a hare which he and mounted supporters watched pass just seconds earlier, but hounds soon lost the scent with the help of sabs.

After sabs have thwarted the L & R hunt attempts to kill foxes through out the season the inevitable hunt violence follows, a sab was attacked by a huntsman but before going to hospital, he was given first aid by a doctor who was riding with the hunt (surprise, surprise) but despite the violence no foxes were killed. The next Saturday forty hunt saboteurs turned up at the meet of the L & R unfortunately a fox was marked to ground and the hunt sent in a 'terrier man' with shovels and terriers — a terrified fox was bolted from his would be sanctuary with the foxhound pack in hot pursuit only yards behind. Sabs were involved in immediate actions whilst two groups stopped the chase with horn and voice calls, a third group pulled hounds away from the scent using holloes and as if by good luck, the fox ran right over a false drag which sabs had laid earlier that day. The hunt was completely ruined for the remainder of the day, with no foxes killed leaving the hunt once more demoralised and fragmented. There is now a newly formed **Glasgow University HSA** group already active and saving lives in the West of Scotland. They have been going out each week learning the trade of hunt sabotage with the **Clydeside HSA.** It is hoped that once they become independently operative they will be yet another force to reckon with against those who kill for thrills in the name of sport.

Cyldeside sab after assault by Huntsman of L. & R.



EAST MIDLANDS

Northampton HSA has had a steady season so far concentrating on cubbing early on and almost (!) hitting the Stowe Beagles. It is a small but dedicated group which often attends joint hits with Luton and Cambridge groups. It is in the process of acquiring its own vehicle and has a couple of flag days lined up.

NORTH-WEST

Macclesfield HSA (formerly East Cheshire HSA) have had a busy and hectic season often receiving support from **Manchester HSA.** It began against the Warwickshire Foxhounds — the first cub hunt for the group. The hunt degenerated into a farce after the first 10 minutes and hounds were taken from it on many occasions. Later, a run-on took place at the BFSS Country Fair at Stoneleigh which received excellent press coverage. The Holcombe Harriers have been hit frequently and no kills have been made with sabbing being anything but strenuous!

The North Staffordshire Moorland Beagles have also received considerable attention and at one meet hounds were taken from the hunt and taken 'walkies' for 3 miles. The group is expanding but is in the unfortunate position of having too many sabs for its one van.

Manchester HSA recently came up against the notoriously violent Cheshire Forest FH. The field numbered 100, there were 70 supporters and active heavies numbered 15. £500 worth of damage was done to the Manchester van.

Merseyside HSA has been out every Saturday since August. Cub-hunting sabs proved very effective, involving large numbers of activists. Numerous new groups emerged but were not to stand the pace. However new groups at Wigan, Macclesfield and Altrincham have organised themselves well. Groups from Blackpool, Preston, Bolton, Manchester and Crewe have joined in on occasional sabs in the North-West.

Violence was a trade-mark of November sabs. A Manchester minibus was wrecked in a staged ambush at the Cheshire Forest meet from Lower Withington, Macclesfield. Last season hunt thugs tried to overturn one sab car, this November 30 yobbos cornered the van, smashed the windscreen and broke through the back doors in an attempt to pull out one of the Manchester organisers. Even worse John Page, Manchester HSA, had his leg broken when he was mowed down by the hound van of the N. Staffs Moorland Beagles. Derbyshire police dealing with the incident have still to act and John, three months later is still on crutches.

The violence has not however detered hunt sabotage. In December two meets of the Flint and Denbigh Foxhounds were sabotaged by Merseyside HSA with new groups based on Bangor University, Gwynned and the Wrexham/Mold area, that should soon be standing on their own feet.

The most alarming incident of the season took place at Peover Hall, Knutsford when Cheshire Forest hunt riders horse whipped an 18 year old student photographing sites for a geographical survey. No one stopped to ask him whether he was a sab and police interviewed six hunt members. The 70 sabs out that day encountered no trouble!

FESTIVE FUN

Once again the hunting fraternity have displayed their usual talent for celebrating the festive season in a sick way. One of the most appalling events witnessed by sabs was at the Chiddingfold Hunt Christmas childrens meet. This day for the young aspiring hunt members became a real days hunting. A fox was marked to ground, bolted for 20 yards when the hounds were released and an easy kill followed. The brush, pads and mask were removed and still dripping with blood were passed to the eager young girls.

Merseyside HSA had another hectic Christmas A sab was featured on the front page of the Lancashire Evening Post after attending to the Holcombe Harriers on Christmas Eve. Wide publicity was given to the planned Boxing Day demonstration at the Holcombe, near Chorley on Radio Red Rose and Radio Lancashire as well as local Lancashire evening papers. The day was well attended by sabs from Macclesfield, Liverpool, Accrington, Bolton and Clwyd. Chorley police severely hindered attempts to sab the hunt. Sabs were herded like cattle on Anglezarke Moor and arrested one sab trying to collect the keys to his van.

Elsewhere in the North West, there was a banner demonstration at the meet of the Vale of Lune Harriers near Lancaster. The meet of the Cheshire FH was presprayed at Olton Park Racing Ground. An effigy of a huntsman was hung in Leek market place on the morning where the Staffs Moorland Harriers met.

On the Tuesday after Boxing Day **Merseyside HSA** joined local villagers and people from Burton Manor College in a very successful sab of the Cheshire Forest FH at Burton Wirral. Twice hounds went into full cry and both times good horn-blowing split the pack. Meanwhile sabs from East London, Southend and Colchester were busy in Essex spraying and holloaring and generally spoiling Boxing Day for the hunt. Joined by the Young Liberals to sab the Essex Farmers FH in Malden Hights.

Hounds of the Essex and Suffolk hunt were unable to flush any foxes from the 8 acre Broom Hill Nature Reserve. 30 sabs from the **Colchester HSA** had already been to the area to spray. Local organiser Nick Ball has campaigned all year to ban the hunt from the Reserve which already prohibits shooting, trapping and poisoning of wildlife. A loop hole in the law allows the hunt to draw the area.

The Glamorgan FH had a surprise visit from the Vale of Glamorgan HSA. Having never been sabbed before they were treated to plenty of horn blowing and a blast of the fog horn.

Northants and Stratford Upon Avon Animals Rights Group HSA joined forces and caused a stir with a banner demonstration against the Croome and West Warwicks FH. 25 sabs went on to sabotage but were hampered by a landrover of heavies.

Eight members of **W.A.P.S** made front page news in their local press with a very good day against the Old Surrey and Burstow FH. Their strategy used rookies, beating and spraying and a low profile which culminated in saving the life of a dog fox.

Luton HSA made its now traditional demonstration at Redbourne Common. Sabs from **Aldershot** pre-beat and set rookies to clear the area of hares when sabotaging the Aldershot Beagles. They came upon a hare in its form which poses the problem hares have in sighting hounds. Coupling the hounds height with the level of corn crops it is estimated a hound could be within 10-15 feet if not closer before being seen. Hence the hunts ability to "chop" a hare if need be.



Hare in its form.

THE ESSEX UNION FOX HUNT

Regular sabbing of Essex hunts dates back to the beginning of the 1975—76 season. A sudden influx of members following the HSA's 'Open Door' programme led to the formation of the county's first active group. Members were primarily based in the Chelmsford/Basildon area and as a result concentrated their efforts against the hunt in that region, the Essex Union Fox Hunt (EUFH).

Before that time, the hunt had never really come across sabs and consequently the riders and supporters were initially somewhat bemused by the sight of small groups of people rushing about after the hunt. As the hunters began to realise that the sabs were having an impact their attitudes changed and confrontations regrettably occurred.

In the early days a great deal of emphasis was placed on sloshing gallons of sab 'special' in gateways, entrances to woods and along bridleways prior to the hunt. In hindsight such actions probably had little impact on the effectiveness of the hounds.

At one time a group of Essex sabs decided to try and convince publicans that blood sports are wrong and encourage pubs not to entertain the hunt. Letters were sent to pubs where the Essex Union and Essex Farmers FHs regularly met advising the publicans that hunting was cruel and enclosing LACS leaflets. Some landlords completely misunderstood the letters and interpreted them as threats (which they definitely were not). Certain landlords even called the police, another threatened to shoot any antis that got near his property!

The EUFH are very hemmed in by roads and consequently their movements are relatively easy to predict. As a result the hunt found it very difficult to shake off sabs. One week, the patience of a nutty rider snapped; he went berserk, smashing every window in a sabs car while it was still occupied. The person inside was temporarily blinded by broken glass in one eye and still has a scarred cornea.

The incident was witnessed by a local resident who called the police and offered to identify the guilty rider. Of course, the rider quickly scarpered although other riders who were at the incident were promptly located but, — surprise, surprise, — denied any knowledge of the attack. The police showed no willingness to pursue the matter and nobody was ever arrested. By 1979 the Essex HSA contained few of the original squad from 1975. A new and enthusiastic group had sprung up around Southend and attention was directed once again to the EUFH. By this stage the hunt had long since stopped advertising their fixtures and so meets were obtained by a sab posing as a hunter recently moved from Wiltshire. When he was 'sussed' the hunt could normally still be traced by touring around their regular meets on a Saturday morning. If by opening time, the hunt had not been located the sabs would adjourn to a pro-hunt pub. Two hunting-type "lookalike" sabs would be despatched into the bar. Often a gullible barmaid would produce a fixture list from underneath the bar and tell the sabs the day's meet. One embarassing morning, sabs attempted to follow the hunt from their kennels only for the sabs car to break down as the hunt and hounds clip-cloped past.

Although violent resistence was offered regularly by the hunt during 1979 to 1981, sabs were generally successful. However, the press weren't always as unbiased as might have been preferred; one photograph in the Billericay Gazette showing sabs being ridden down by the hunt was accompanied by the caption "Protesters jostle a rider at the start of the hunt". Other incidents included the huntsman allegedly smashing the windscreen of a hired van and dumping a fox's body on the bonnet. After the exchange of several letters the hunt coughed up nearly £50 to pay for the damage. Eventually the hunt and sabs met under the watchful eye of the police in an attempt to reduce tension. Sabs agreed not to shout at hunters and the EUFH agreed to try and control their field.

A novel tactic usefully employed by the Southend sabs was to get behind the hunt and call the hounds back. Until fixtures became difficult to obtain the sabs also undertook elaborate pre-metting with antimate.

Although police behaviour was generally satisfactory, sabs did have their sprays confiscated on one occasion. However, police never took them again as the first incident left their station reeking of antimate and anissed; in fact, the police were relieved when the sabs collected the sprays!

The Woodland in Spring



Springtime, the awakening of the year a time of activity, of plants, birds and animals. A time when a certain peace falls over the woodlands. It is a very good time to go out and practice your woodcraft, to look, listen and learn the ways of the wild. The knowledge gained will put you in a stronger position in the seasons to follow.

As one enters the woods for the first time it is not immediately obvious what birds and animals are to be found there. The larger rabbit burrows and the great mounds of earth that betray the entrances of the badgers set will be unmistakable and quite easily found. However, with a little more diligent search one can find various other signs that will untangle the web of secrecy that the woodland holds. The way wild cherry stones and hazel nuts have been gnawed will be indicative of the creature that has handled them. Squirrels will split a hazel nut clean in half while a woodmouse gnaws a neat round role in the side leaving a ring of teeth marks on the outer shell. Bank voles also gnaw neat round holes but their teeth marks are on the inside edge of the hole. There are certain birds that will also peck at nuts and each species has its own distinctive way of extracting the contents. A close look at the shrubs and other vegetation of the woodland floor will show signs of browsing of deer. But by far the best way of ascertaining the presence and the species of deer is by their tracks and droppings.

It is quite easy to pick up an animals trail through the woods and by following it for a while it should soon be possible to find some evidence of what animals trail you are on. Many animals will keep rigidly to a narrow track while on their way to their feeding grounds. Others like the fox will often take the same route but not keep strictly to a path. This of course makes tracking the fox that much harder for us mere humans. Along the trails will be found hoof or paw print and also droppings. From the prints it is possible to identify the species, in some cases an individual animal. The droppings not only tell us the species they can give an indication of what the animal has eaten.

On and off the trails will be found a diversity of other signs of occupation or of territorial significance. Most woodland creatures hold territories and each has its own particular method of marking. In springtime the roe deer mark out their territory by flaying bushes or young trees. This activity also removes the velvet from the antlers which is immediately eaten by the deer. It has been implied that flaying is done solely for the purpose of velvet removal but evidence suggests that far more flaying is carried out than just the removal of velvet would warrant. The roe deer has a scent gland between its antlers, it is with this gland that the roe buck marks its territory while flaying. Animals also have scenting organs on their feet which imparts their particular scent onto their trails. Foxes mark out their home range by having scenting stations at strategic places like gate posts or tree stumps. These are often marked by urine or droppings and are most noticeable during the winter breeding season.

Often there are no visible signs of territory marking, for instance, some animals and most woodland birds mark their home ranges by calls or bird song. By sitting quiety it is possible to hear and discover a lot about the woodland without actually seeing anything.

In springtime although not immediately obvious the dormice, hedgehogs and other hibernants will be out and about with the other animals that have been active throughout the winter months. Already the rabbits are busy with their young. The lush growth of vegetation now gives sustenance to these herbivores and the small rodents. It is a time of plenty, voles and mice are now well fed and will be very reproductive from March through to September or even longer if the plentiful food supply continues.

It is the voles that are the main prey of the fox at this time of year. It will also prey on the woodmice but being more agile than voles they often escape capture. The fox is an opportunist feeder, taking what it can, when it can. If the pickings are good then it will cache any surplus food for consumption later. Caches are quite easily found as they are rarely completely covered. Food is often taken back to the earth when there are cubs about. This food is not always consumed. It is used by the cubs as playthings, often being tossed into the air and then pounced upon as it lands. No doubt this is part of their programme in learning to hunt for themselves. Once the cubs are weaned at 6-7 weeks they are left alone for longer periods, although if danger threatens the vixen appears as if from nowhere and hastily hustles them away to safety. If the disturbance continues she will move the cubs to a new earth. It is not at all easy to find the cubs again once they have been moved.

To be successful at seeing the creatures that have left their signs requires a knowledge to read the signs but most of all patience to sit and wait.

ARTHUR G. HOARE

To assist those interested in further reading I can recommend the pocket guide:— Collins Guide to Animal Tracks & Signs.

In view of the recent disclosure of hunt malpractices, here we re-print the revelations of an ex-master, first published in the 1960s.

A MASTER OF HOUNDS SPEAKS.
by Robert Churchward.

It is time everyone knew something that it took me 40 years to learn — that all hunting for "sport" and foxhunting above all, is organised torture leading to murder. The lesson has been a painful one for me. I was joint Master of Foxhounds with the South Shropshire Hunt. I resigned my honoured position because I could no longer bear to hunt and kill wild creatures. Millions are already dedicated to the campaign against blood sports. But even they do not know the full horror of fox-hunting. I do. I have seen and done things that today make me shudder. Fox-hunting folk like to draw a veil over some of those things. When you have read my story you will understand why. And you will, I hope, like me take a vow never to rest until our country is rid of the cruel blot that defaces it. With my family background it was inevitable that I became a hunter of foxes.

I was taken on my first fox-hunt at the age of six. I saw, in one second a bedraggled vixen baring its teeth, and in the next second an explosion of fur and flesh as the leading hounds fell upon it. Everybody was cheering wildly. I was sickened at the sight of so much blood and mangled flesh. Yet its pursuit and slaughter had clearly given joyous sport to many fine people. If ever a boy needed moral guidance it was at that moment. A few words from an adult expressing compassion for the tortured animal would have turned me against fox-hunting for ever. But the only words I heard were calculated to play on my boyish pride in the chase.

Each Hunt is headed by a Master of Foxhounds. Every master has a register of the local farmers, agricultural workers and roadmen, who are paid to keep him informed where foxes have been seen or are known to have their homes, or earths. The fox leaves its earth every night to find food. While he is away, the earth-stoppers can creep in and block the entrance. The fox, returning at dawn, cannot get underground. Because of the superior stamina of the hounds, the fox **MUST** in the end be overtaken.

From childhood we were brought up to disregard the sufferings of the animals we pursued. Perhaps that is why I felt so little horror when, as a boy, I witnessed an act of cruelty that can rarely have been equalled in the long and bloody history of hunting. It was during a day out with the Meynell Hunt. The animal we found that morning was a very clever vixen. For three hours we chased her. Desperately now she ran into a wood. There was no way out since horsemen had cut round to the otherside. It was then she made a last attempt to save her life. She clawed her way up the trunk of a giant oak tree and out on to a branch. She should have been safe. Foxhounds will never climb a tree. But I had not counted on the determination of the huntsman. The frustrated hounds were baying furiously. Then I saw the huntsman dismount, he started to climb the tree. The whole Hunt roared its approval. The vixen became more and more terrified as she watched him lunging towards her. She backed towards the end of the branch to avoid him. Hounds directly underneath bayed with increasing triumph. The huntsman was out on the branch now. "Go Peter, go," howled the people below. "Get him down, man". The huntsman poked at the trapped vixen with the thick end of his whip. The animal lost its footing and toppled the 20 feet to the ground in an anguished somersault. She fell plumb in the middle of the hounds. Within a minute there was nothing left of that vixen. But that was not the only time a man had climbed a tree to push a fox into a pack of hounds.

Never, shall I forget the time I I first went cubbing. The main reason for cubbing is to educate young hounds by letting them eat live cubs. If you want proof, my experience that morning will surely provide it. The Master took out the entire hound pack for the first time. We made for the small wood where there was a litter of cubs. He ordered the 30 or so people out that morning to surround the wood. Then he sent hounds and Hunt staff into the thickets inside the circle of waiting horsemen and women. As the cubs were frightened away from their mother they ran desperately out of the wood, only to be frightened back into the very jaws of the hounds. It was a terrible scene. The pups, lacking the experience of the older hounds, were not quite sure how to deal with the cubs. There was a scuffle in which fur, flesh and blood flew in all directions. This was the pups' education It was mine, too. I was learning to take appalling cruelty in my stride as a necessary part of a great "sport".

In the class which I come from, the Master is regarded as a person of great social consequence. He is revered in the countryside by his own social equals as well as by the humble farmers. He is the lord of all he surveys from his horse and as a MFH he has the open sesame to big business and social circles. At one time I became an honarary whipper-in to the Staffordshire Otterhounds. And the man who taught me how to toss an otter into the middle of a pack was, until two years ago, a senior Cabinet Minister. Now there would be no end to the thrill of hunting and killing. In the winter I would hunt foxes. In the summer I would hunt otters.

My 40 years' career as a hunter fills me with remorse. Now my one desire is to let the public know how cruel hunting is so that fox-hunting, in particular, shall be made illegal. Above all, I want to explode the myth that hunting is justified as a sport because of the need to keep down predatory animals. Do not, I beg you, be deceived by those who say they hunt as a service to the farming community. I know otherwise. In my time I was a Master of Foxhounds. I hunted foxes for the thrill of riding hard after hounds — and for the joy of getting in at the kill. And, quite frankly, I enormously enjoyed the social superiority. The very first question I was asked when I was interviewed for my commission in the Brigade of Guards was, "Which pack of hounds do you hunt with?" It was not "Do you hunt?" That was taken for granted.

There is no question of giving the fox a sporting chance. I first learned that unpleasant fact when I was out one day with the Albrighton Hunt under the mastership of General Hickman. We had met on seven days over the month and we had not killed a single fox. Subscribers pay large sums of money for the privilege of hunting foxes — and catching them. I have never known such touchy, irritable groups as those standing around on that morning. Then suddenly, there was a holloa from a Hunt servant and I caught a fleeting glimpse of a fox scuttling over the grass. "It's gone to ground sir," shouted the servant. "The dirty stinking, rotten little vermin," screamed one demure-looking lady, who had a reputation as a society hostess. "Get out and kill it," shouted a young lieutenant. The Hunt servants got to work. Two of them dug as though their very lives depended on it making the fox-hole bigger and bigger. I could just see the startled eyes of a fox staring out from the blackness of the hole. "Dig him right out," said the Master. He turned his back on the approaching spades and was desperately trying to burrow further into the hole. The slow, methodical thrust of the two spades seemed to mock the fox's wildly scratching paws. The hounds could be restrained no longer. They broke free from the whippers-in and fell upon the cornered animal.

When I accepted the joint Mastership of Foxhounds with the South Shropshire Hunt I began to learn hunting secrets that astonished even me. One of the greatest arguments used in defence of hunting is that it gives the fox a fair chance. It is also one of the greatest lies surrounding this vicious, bloodthirsty sport. It will be difficult to convince many keen hunting men of this. For frequently the fox is a bewildered stranger to the area, who has been deliberately maimed or lamed or terrified to make him easier to catch. I learned so many "secrets" of the hunting field I became sickened by the thought of the fearcrazed creatures whose blood was on my hands, and turned my back on it all. To maintain his reputation a Master has to "show sport" and sometimes it takes a lot of doing. If all members of Hunts were real horsemen there would be nothing to it. Unfortunately, paunchy stockbrockers and rich young men who merely want to impress their girls do not make hard riders. But they do make good subscribers to Hunt funds. That is where the "bagged fox" comes in. It is a fox which has been caught alive and kept for a special occasion. I remember one fantastic hunt half-way through my first year of office. The hounds ran as surely after that fox as they would had they strings tied to its tail. They had obviously picked up an incredibly strong scent and they caught and ate the fox inside one mile. Even the worst horsemen were able to get in at the kill. I was so surprised by this that I determined to ask the Hunt servants about it. The groom smiled wisely. "What do yer expect, sir?" he said "I should think the poor little devil reeked like a sewer. Hadn't been out of the bag for long. What with that and being cuffed...". I understood now. The fox had been slapped before being released to make him sweat and urinate and give off a powerful smell. I could now see in a different light something I had seen some years earlier. On that occasion I was also amazed at the way the fox behaved. This fox seemed bewildered to be out in the open. It sat down, stood up, raced round in circles, staggered off in one direction, changed course and ran off in another. It was caught by the hounds within a few minutes. Immediately I rode over to an experienced groom and asked him about it. "Bad business, that, sir," he said, "Couldn't run with 'is pads slit, could 'e?". "You mean its pads were deliberately slit to give a blood scent?". The groom nodded and turned away.

Later I was to learn that there were many other ways in which a fox could be doctored to make a strong scent. These included cutting a couple of inches off his tail if he was captive or, in the case of a known fox earth, sprinkling broken glass outside the hole so that he cut his pads on the way out. How can anyone defend hunting who is aware of these horrors? Yet they do. Just as many hypocrites argue that hunting is necessary to preserve the poultry on thousands of farms from the sharp teeth of raiding foxes. The truth is that the Masters of Foxhounds and their professional huntsmen go to fantastic lengths to preserve the lives of foxes... just so that they will have the grim pleasure of destroying them when the season comes round. One more piece of evidence and I knew I would have to give up fox-hunting.

I had never known such a stubborn fox. After a long chase it took us three hours to dig him out. When we did reach him the reason for his courage became obvious. He was trying to shield his mate and a litter of newly-born cubs. I wish I could forget the scene that followed. The hounds broke away from the Hunt servants, rushed into the hole and tore foxes and cubs to pieces. It was there that a small boy approached me and said tearfully: "Please, mister, what shall I do with this? They've killed all the others." Then he held out a tiny cub, its eyes still shut like a kitten. I was stunned. Now, at the height of my hunting career, I was asked to dispose of the life of this pathetic, helpless little creature. I, Robert Churchward, the great hunting squire, took the whimpering animal without a word. I returned home and I went straight up to my small daughter's bedroom. We decided to call the fox "Toddy." Why I thought, should such lovable animals be hunted and killed merely for what men call "sport"? From the moment I took Toddy home I began to see fox-hunting more and more in what I considered to be its true light — a sadistic pastime for the privileged. Previously I had dismissed many incidents which looked like troubling my conscience as "sentimental nonsense."

I had always looked forward to being introduced to the training routine for hounds and I was pleased when one of the country's experts offered to show me around. "What's up with those?" I asked, the hounds were obviously ravenous. "Well," he said, "two days before a hunt they are fed solely on raw meat. The next day they get nothing. They get a blood complex and will kill all that much better with empty bellies. Those pups," he said, "need more bite. They've got to have some blood, give 'em a fox or two to maul about a bit, let 'em get a nip or two from it, and they won't be so amicable."

The fox's death agony means nothing to Fox-hunting people. They have no feelings. They are completely blind to the animal's right to live.

I realised with horror that I had spent 40 years in a society that cloaked brutality with snobbery.

The full leaflet is available from either LACS, or NSACS.

BOOK REVEIW

"OUTFOXED" BY MIKE HUSKISSON
pub. Mike Huskisson and Associates.
Available from LACS 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG @ £4.50 (cheques payable to LACS).

For two years Mike Huskisson, ex-HSA Committee member, liberator of smoking beagles and one of the most gentle and likeable people in the Animal Rights movement, lived a fascinating and dangerous double-life. Under the pseudonym Mike Wilkins he was the League Against Cruel Sports' (LACS) Press Officer. Hunters, however, knew him as Michael Wright, son of a rich family with keen hunting interests. Mike followed all forms of hunting as an undercover spy and took 5000 photographs and 2000ft of movie film to help expose the behind-the-scenes brutality of blood sports. "Outfoxed" records this period of infiltration and includes many excellent photographs.



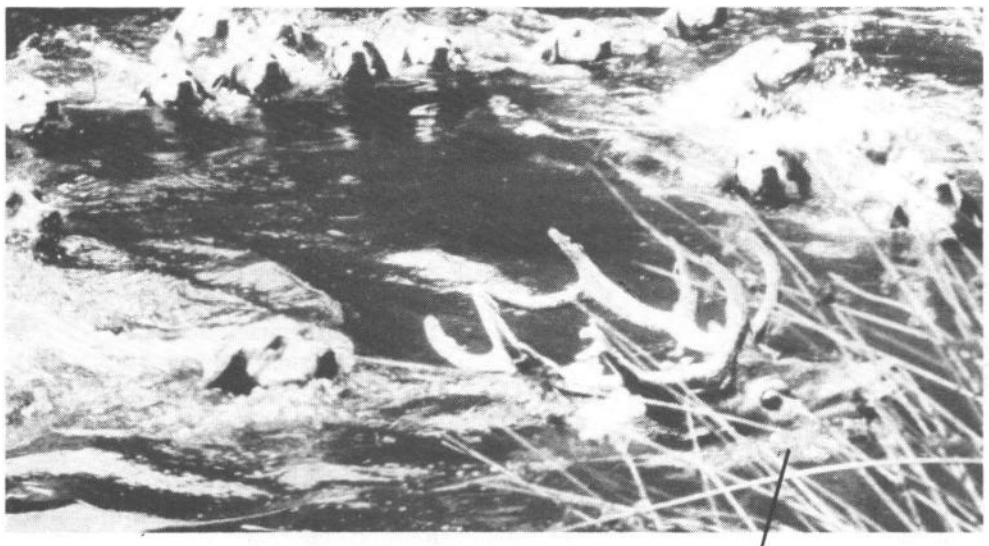
During Mike's hunting days he was fortunate enough to strike up relationships with two apparently respectable Masters of Hounds, Arlin Rickard and Ian Coghill, both of whom are keen hunters of mink and hares. Superficially, these two men have always seemed to represent the less unacceptable face of hunting, – generally polite to antis, supposedly keen on conservation and ready to justify their hunting exploits without resorting to violence. However, Mike exposed them for what they really are, – when safe from the public's gaze they are prepared to sanction the most horrendous cruelty on their quarry. Coghill in particular seemed to have an unhealthy interest in dismantling mink for trophies which included removal of the animal's penis bone. Amusingly, Mike also discovered that Coghill cannot swim and avoids hunting his mink hounds on stretches of deep, fast-flowing water.

Some of Mike's most impressive work was with three small fox hunts in South-West England. In particular, he became a trusted acquaintance of the terrier men of the Dulverton West Hunt. He witnessed this hunt release a bagged fox, bloodied and soaked in its own urine, in front of hounds; he saw the same people throw a fox live to the hounds and dig out and slaughter two heavily pregnant vixens in one day. Like the Dulverton West, another of Mike's chosen hunts, the Tetcott South, spent most of its time digging foxes rather than hunting them. In one instance, yobs following this hunt spent three hours digging a fox. During that time it was pulled by a leg with badger tongs, fought with two terriers almost continuously and trapped under a body-crushing boulder. The diggers showed no compassion, their only reason for living seemed at that time to be to inflict cruelty on innocent creatures.

The third fox hunt which Mike regularly followed was the Tetcott. All of the three fox hunts were free from the attention of saboteurs although it is apparent from "Outfoxed" that all would be very vulnerable to sabs. Some meets were attended by less than ten riders and a similar number of cars.

Although the endless digging out of foxes carried out for sport by these hunts is typical of some of the "fancy" hunts in the South-East and presumably elsewhere, the South-Western hunts clearly lack the support that the "posh" hunts have. Unfortunately, the remoteness of hunts such as the Tetcott South means they can carry out their dirty business unhindered.

Some of Mike's finest work involved exposure of the stag hunts, especially the Devoń and Somerset. He reveals incidents of the most hideous and deliberate cruelty, too numerous to detail here. Hinds killed with calves at their side; stags despatched incompetently so that several shots had to be used to put the animal out of its misery; hounds tearing at a hind's flesh with the hunters nowhere in sight; a stag forced to swim across a reservoir to escape the hounds only to find its tormentors waiting on the other side. The sheer sadism of many of the car followers is hard to understand, although Mike says that some of the less experienced car supporters are deeply shocked at the sight of a kill.



Last moments for a stag.

At many times Mike's cover was nearly blown and eventually Coghill in particular realised that Mike was not all he seemed to be, but by that time the damage to bloodsports and been done. Perhaps the closest Mike came to being exposed prematurely was when he crashed his car at a stag hunt. The car boot became jammed open. With a pile of LACS magazines visible and hunt supporters approaching, the boot refused to shut. Just in the nick of time it was successfully locked but Mike made sure in future that his car was 'clean' of all anti-hunt literature, pens and stickers.

"Outfoxed" is a tribute to Mike's bravery but also to the power of the camera. Photographic evidence obtained during the infiltration has appeared on television and in several national newspapers to show the public what hunting is really about. The book is also a tribute to the far-sightedness of the LACS which supported Mike's work. In the current debate on bloodsports, "Outfoxed" is a valuable weapon.

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

Tactical Tips

All the tactics we develop and recommend have to meet a number of specific criteria. Most importantly they must strictly adhere to our constitution. They must be legal and are therefore non violent to humans and animals. However, they must also provide practical working advice to our members who want to combat all manifestations of blood sports and cruel sports. For these reasons the tactics position cannot cater for different political strategies as perceived by various individuals and other societies. Nor can they cater for perceived levels of cruelty that tend to result from this kind of thought. In other words *tactics do not dictate association policy they reflect it.* Regarding this I refer you to clause 3 (i) of our constitution. Tactics, are not static but dynamic. This means we invent, discuss and revise all of our method's from time to time.

As tactics officer I, of course, endorse the fishing tactics in the article by Harry Cross which contrary to the carping of 'Angling Times' do actually work. I also fully endorse Harry's humour which due to a deletion and an earlier misunder-standing concerning pre-historic reptiles will probably never be fully appreciated.

In the coming months I will be gathering together more fishing tactics and they will be published in Howl along with hunting and shooting tactics.

Here are a few further points to add to what has already been suggested.

1. Fishing matches are considered good targets simply because it is possible to sabotage the organisation as well as individual fishing. What I mean is that if a number of match anglers cannot fish 'Properly' due to various tactics then the match will cease to be an 'Even' competition. Its validity and result will therefore be in doubt. If this happens to a 'Champion' angler the false result will be more obvious. Less fish will be caught.

2. When pre-feeding fish before a match it may be possible to do this several hours before it starts. The fish may then feed, for example, in the late evening and again on the morning before the match. Therefore less fish will be feeding during the match = less fish caught = spoiled match. To guard against fish feeding on your bait during the match, pre-feed in an area close to the bank opposite to where the anglers will stand and where they cannot cast. Remember that different fish have different feeding patterns.

3. If you decide to lob stones near a float then one or two per 3 to 4 minutes should do the trick. You will, of course, be on the opposite bank and there will be no river crossing for a few miles on either side.

4. Try dressing up as an angler and take up a position on the bank! As close as you can get to a ('Real') angler. Use a closed 'Hook' with non-live bait, non-poisonous shot and unbreakable line. Then keep on casting every few minutes with a big splash about 4 yards away from his float.

5. Sonic devices will probably be the best method in the future, water being such a good medium for sound. Well placed transmitters emitting a bleep of the required frequency every few minutes could in theory effectively ruin fishing. The beauty of this is that they could be placed well before and retrieved later allowing sabs to 'Hit' a few hunts in the meantime.

Other Things To Do –
Get to know about fishing, as you do about hunting. From the methods already given it is clear you must learn your rivers and best access points just as in hunting. Carry a camera and take photographs of dead fish and fish hooked through the eyes, gills and fins (a speciality of match fishing). Also anglers casting near waterfowl e.g. swans, and waterfowl with fishing tackle on them. Report this to your local sanctuary and assist in the rescue. Also take shots of tackle discarded on the bank and in trees. Finally photograph the rubbish you always find on the bank after fishing. (Not anglers) I mean beer cans, and papers.

One West Midland Sab, affectionately known as 'Mike the Pike' has reported initial success in his fact finding missions. He engages anglers in long conversations on fishing, while out walking his lively terrier on the river bank – effectively stopping them fishing. Active sabs will recognise this as an adaptation of an old hunt delaying ploy. Mike also suggests that it is worth finding out which anglers are pike fishermen fishing for live bait on non-pike waters. This means they are transfering live fish between waterways usually against water authorities regulations. It goes on regularly in season. A complaint backed by photos, car numbers etc may lead to a prosecution.

Thanks for all the tactics you send in, they are all considered. Finally, good luck in your actions against cruel 'Sports' and in your fight for animal rights.

JOHN HALE, Tactics Officer

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

WATERLOO CUP 1984

In March 1983 hunt saboteurs halted virtually all hare coursing on one day of the three day hare massacre. Coursing officals acknowledged the day as being a disaster and a complete victory to the HSA. The Waterloo Cup is the Grand National of the bloodsports year; as such it has to be a major target for our campaigns.

This year there will be major demonstrations on the 7th and 8th of March, meeting at Formby Railway Station and Maghill Railway near Liverpool at 8.30am. Members are advised to contact their local groups for details of transport to the demonstrations and tactics that will be employed on the day.

Hare Coursing is probably the most disgusting legal bloodsport in this country. Less than a thousand supporters attend this prestigious event. Public and press condemnation of the spectacle is overwhelming and the majority of local people are ashamed to play host to these countryside vandals. For maximum tactical impact and press coverage it is important that everyone supports this demonstration. Let's make it the last Waterloo Cup that Lancashire has to witness.



Associated Newspapers.

This hare was saved last year by our efforts, please help in 1984.

DEERHUNTERS STORM PRIVATE MEETING

Television and film personalities, and other noteables, including; Eric Morecambe, James Mason, Peter Cushing, David Jacobs, Katie Boyle, Richard Adams, the Bishop of Salisbury and Bill Oddie have lined up to back the New Forest Deerhunt Abolition Alliance (NFDAA) which aims to ban hunting of deer in the New Forest.

Members of the New Forest Buckhounds are extremely worried about the publicity the campaign is receiving and this led to them gatecrashing a private meeting of the campaign at a deer sanctuary. They mingled with the crowd but were contented to confine themselves to verbal disagreement.

The only way to ban the hunt is to persuade the Forestry Commission to take away its license to hunt. The annual subscription is £2 and this entitles you to a regular newsletter, posters and leaflets. Details from; The Secretary, NFDDA, 'Silver Firs', West Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 5RJ.

DOG-FIGHTING

Yet another illegal bloodsport, dog fighting, is on the increase. Along with cock-fighting and badger-baiting this evil pastime is attracting the interest of more and more mindless prats.

A recent investigation by the Daily Express revealed the true extent of the support for this 'sport'.

Not surprisingly, the people involved in dog-fighting are thugs of the worst kind. Mafia-type organisations compete to dominate the sport and two men are thought to have been murdered and a third has lost an arm during the in-fighting.

Both the murdered men were breeders of pit bull terriers, the favoured dogs for fighting. The dogs may be worth up to £3,500 each and are trained by baiting with live rats or cats. The dog may be put on a treadmill endlessly pursuing the bait which is often slashed to increase the dog's bloodlust.

One trainer of pit-bull terriers who hasn't yet been killed is Ed Reid who owns kennels near Boston, Lincolnshire. One wonders why Mr. Reid should want to breed such vicious dogs. Although he claims that they make good pets he contradicts himself by saying they must never be let off their leads because they would kill any other dogs which crossed their path!

Like so many bloodsports, dog-fighting attracts all types of enthusiast from working men to the idle rich. The Daily Express reported one fight which took place in a deep fighting pit marked out in a Lake District country squire's orchard. Fights may last for many hours during which time bets of several thousand pounds are laid, the losing dog being the one which fails eventually to enter the other dog's half of the pit. Dogs may be horribly mutilated during the battle and failure for a terrier often brings shame on the owner who will kill the dog rather than tend to its wounds.

The R.S.P.C.A. special investigations unit have been trying for many years to collect information and infiltrate the organisers of these fights, they have been singularly unsuccessful with not even one fight raided or one owner convicted.

An organisation was inaugurated during 1983 whose aim is to pool the information held by a large number of groups and individuals, the organisation has been named A-Dog but this is all the information that it is prepared to give out freely, the detailed information that has already been obtained has to be used very carefully to protect the identity of informants.

A-Dog desparately needs support, donations and information are vital for the work to continue, if you wish to help please write to A-Dog, 163 Franciscan Road, Tooting, London SW17.

THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION GRAND SUMMER DRAW

Following the success and popularity of the hunt saboteurs 1983 draw please find enclosed with your HOWL magazine three books of tickets which will give you chances to win super prizes.

First prize is the Minolta X700 camera with a zoom telephoto lens, which is regarded as a top line camera. It comes complete with film to get you started.

The portable colour television was a popular prize in the last draw so one is included as second prize.

A stereo radio cassette is offered as third prize and comes recommended as one of the best.

There are five consolation prizes, two at £50 and three of £25 each.

Extra books of tickets can be ordered from Dave and Fiona Callender, contacts and sales goods department, through P.O. Box 19. They are looking forward to you flooding them out with applications but would appreciate a stamped addressed envelope.

Ask your friends, workmates and others to enter the prize draw and make all your returns by 31st August 1984. It is hoped to have the winning tickets drawn by a well known personality and will take place on Sunday 2nd September in Aldershot.

NATIONAL (BLOODSPORTS) SERVICE

Jack Jones, leader of Leicestershire National Union of Miners, claimed at a meeting of the Leicestershire Action Committee for the Campaign for Country Sports that country sports could provide the answer to football hooliganism! "I went to Leicester city centre and saw youth hunting youth. All that energy should be channeled into country sports giving youngsters a real interest".

He maintained that the majority of miners were supporters of country sports and that "it provides peace and understanding; it gets people to talk to each other".

Sounds like just the thing to rid society of all its ills doesn't it? Just imagine, by encouraging bloodlust and violence towards animals we can eliminate rape, vandalism, mugging, video nasties, drug abuse and that undesireable wrecker of the state, Roland Rat.

CHILDREN IN HUNT HORROR

An horrific incident involving the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds took place in September when a stag was butchered in view of a cub and scout camp on National Trust land at Horner Woods near Porlock.

Children and adults watched in horror as the hunt chased an exhausted stag into the river close to the camp. Cub-Scout leader Margaret Butland gave a graphic description of what happened next: "The stag was stopped by men in the river and was quickly surrounded by hounds who tore at its hind quarters and legs. Two men grabbed the deer's antlers and held its head under water. Later, a gun was brought and the stag was shot. When we made our feelings known to the hunt followers, they told us us to mind our own business and to 'get back to bloody Birmingham!'. We are actually local people, from Bridgewater".

Little Paul Reid, aged 8, an eyewitness to the slaughter, later wrote down his experiences: "there was splashing and the deer disappeared. There were four men holding it upside down by its legs. I heard the gun being fired and four men came and carried the stag out of the water. I then started crying because I thought it was cruel and wicked to kill the stag. I was very upset. It made me cry. I thought it was very horrible. I can still remember it and always will."

Paul's mother Mrs Lesley Reid commented "It was like a nightmare. I will never forget the look in the stag's eyes – he was terrified. Paul cried his eyes out and kept asking "Why, Mummy, why?".

Scout-Leader Richard Butland added "the hunters were there to watch the kill – nothing to do with the chase, just the kill. If that's what they do for excitement they would be better off at an abattoir!"

Norah Harding, Joint-Master of the D & S, made only one callous comment on the incident "We are just as entitled to hunt in the country as these people are to camp in it. They should look after their kids better and keep them out of the way".

NO HUNT INNS

Licensees Pamela Cate of Huntington and Mel and June Clark of Caldecott, are waging their own protest against hunting. The Radnor and West Hereford and Cottesmore hunts shall not be taking their stirrup cups from these public houses. Mrs. Cates of the Swan Inn has displayed anti hunt literature around the premises. A gesture of compassion which has been met with violent threats towards her nineteen cats from local farmer's son Robert Jones. The Clarks of The Plough have put an end to the Cottesmore tradition of meeting on the village green and drinking at the Plough.

SLAUGHTER IN THE FOREST

The Forestry Commission have decided to allow deer-stalking in the Forest of Dean for financial gain. In a statement the Commission admitted that "two of our rangers are permitted to shoot deer and last year we allowed two accompanied stalkers who paid for the right". Each year about 30 of the Forests 150 deer are killed by rifle and shotgun in the "interests of conservation" – that familiar Orwellian Newspeak simile for old-fashioned "bloodlust".

BABY JOKE COMES TRUE

The age-old joke put about by the hunting fraternity, eager to justify their 'sport' by playing on the fears of anxious parents, that foxes have been known to attack babies has come true. It had to happen eventually.

One can imagine Ian Coghill's delight when he read in a national newspaper that a baby had been bitten on the hand by a fox which had got into an urban situated house in Bristol. Not only had the fox committed GBH but it was also guilty of trespass! Something those irresponsible, commie-pinko antis do all the time.

It is interesting to note that the fox attacked a physically incapable member of the human species of limited mental ability. Perhaps occupants of 59, Kennington Road, London (BFSS, HQ) should consider making the place impregnable in case of a full-scale fox attack?

FUR FLIES AT COCKSPARROW

Cocksparrow Fur Farm, at Lea Marston in Warwickshire, has become the focus of attention for anti-fur demonstrators in recent months. The farm, owned by Amaik Singh Gill, even disgusted police at recent actions. During the first big demo, in October, animal rightists broke into the compound causing damage and liberating one fox. There were nine arrests on charges of "criminal" damage.

The farm leapt into the headlines again at the beginning of January, when the ALF liberated 30 foxes. An ALF spokesman said they had damaged cars, motor-bikes, generators and a fox gassing unit during the raid. He said that 1,800 arctic blue and silver foxes are kept in appalling conditions at the farm. The ALF had freed most of the breeding stock and they hoped that this might put the farm out of business. All the animals had been found good homes. A further demonstration took place at Cocksparrow on 29th January.

UNMENTIONABALLS

A Swedish businessman is delighted with an order he recently received from Japan for 5 tons of dried male genitals from reindeer and moose – to be eaten as sexual stimulants.

BUZBY HOT LINE

Sitting pigeons are costing British Telecom thousands of pounds every year because shooters are blasting them and telephone wires at the same time.

They are sitting targets for shooters too inept to hit anything moving at more than ½ mph. The BFSS Press Officer, Peter Atkinson, denies accusations of unsportsmanship saying: "I cannot see circumstances where anybody would want to do anything like this".

Reckless firing has cut off whole communities in rural areas and has cost BT £10,000 in man hours alone. Such knowledge confirms one's belief that many shooters tend to be sick in the head or it could be however, that they are making a political gesture in that they are fed up with the Post Office ramming Buzby adverts down their throats. The former seems more likely.

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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