HOWL

No. 3

5p

Hounds off our wildlife

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

WASHOUT FOR SEALHUNTERS

The animal welfare movement in general and the Hunt Saboteurs Association in particular have good reason to be elated over the announcement by the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, that licences would not be issued for the 1974 seal cull in the Wash. Nobody knows the reasons for Mr. Jenkins' decision. It may have been because he considers the cull unnecessary and cruel or he may have been worried about a clash between hunters and saboteurs. Another possible reason is that because of the large discrepancy in the claimed number of seals in the Wash between the Government, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and HSA he may have felt that more research was needed. A combination of all three factors is probably the most likely explanation for his decision.

Whatever the reason, it was undoubtedly HSA's Save Our Seals campaign that really won the safety of the baby seals in the Wash. This campaign pioneered by Northampton Saboteur, Rorke Garfield, not only challenged the Government's figures regarding the number of seals in the Wash, but also made it abundantly clear that if a cull took place it would be disrupted, using any method deemed necessary, short of actual physical violence.

SOS was inaugurated before the start of the 1973 cull and is a special section of HSA. Owing to limitations on knowledge and finance, sabotage at last year's cull was confined to land strikes on the hunters' camp, but even this limited sabotage caused hunters to finish their cull 47 seals short of their target of 350, the number they are allowed under the terms of the licence.

Since last year, appeals for money and volunteers were made through HOWL and also the publications of various organisations as well as the press and television. As a result of these appeals enough money was raised to buy a boat, a 12 hp outboard engine and all the necessary diving and safety equipment plus sufficient fuel and oil for patrolling the Wash. Much of the food used by the seal campaign crews was supplied free by various food manufacturers. Extra volunteers were also recruited.

The victory over the seal cull is a fine example of what can be achieved through dedication and determination to suceed. At first it seemed an impossible task to attempt to sabotage a seal cull, it is vastly different from sabotaging a fox-hunt, where apart from fit and active people, only relatively simple and inexpensive equipment is requied. To hit a seal cull effectively requires really reliable boats with powerful engines and diving equipment. The volunteers need to be trained in a wide variety of specialised skills including seamanship, diving and a knowledge of the Wash and of the seals and other wildlife that live in the area. In addition it is essential that in every boat there is someone with a working knowledge of repairing marine outboard engines, navigating and first aid. There are no friendly AA or RAC patrols at sea and the distress signal must only be used as a very last resort when lives are actually in peril, it must never be regarded as a 'get-you-home' service.

Training sessions were arranged during the Winter of 1973/4 and Spring 1974. By the time the cull was due to take place, 30 people were trained, who between them could look after a camp, handle the press and the police, operate, service and repair boats and engines and go underwater diving. Two additional inflatable boats were made available on loan and thanks to a £200 loan from HSA general funds, (SOS is financed from a separate fund) the 12 hp Yamaha engine was replaced by a 25 hp Yamaha, which, apart from providing the boat with a useful 20 knots top speed in favourable conditions, gave the crew increased confidence when operating in a sea where tide, wind and current are unfriendly.

As events turned out it was not necessary to sabotage the cull. Just a few days before June 8, when the cull was due to start, the official announcement was made that the cull was off; the saboteurs had won. Whilst the HSA's seal campaigners were overjoyed by this announcement the seal hunters were naturally rather upset, in fact one of them said in a television interview that he was all prepared for the cull and because it was called off he would probably lose about £4,000. This is very sad isn't it, but whilst you're drying your eyes remember that these hunters have other means of making a living. The seal cull provides a method of making extra money, quite a lot of extra money judging by that television interview, and to think that the public have been led to believe that it was done for conservation purposes.

Two weeks before the Home Secretary's announcement a boat belonging to Tommy Lineham, one of the hunters, was set on fire and completely destroyed. A group calling themselves the 'Band of Mercy' claimed responsibility for the boat, the 32 ft MISPAH. The group have also caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to buildings and vans belonging to vivisection laboratories and suppliers of laboratory animals. Naturally the HSA does not use such extreme tactics in the SOS campaign, however, as Rorke Garfield commented in the 'Daily Mirror' and 'Daily Telegraph' June 24, "I am happy the boat has been destroyed. It is one less for hunting seals".



Rorke Garfield putting Seawolf, the 25 hp Save Our Seals inflatable through a tight turn on the Wash.

Although the official Government cull was off there was still plenty of work for the seal campaigners to do. Throughout the season when baby seals were about, SOS patrols were keeping a watchful eye on illegal shooting. Whenever possible they operated using three boats, one based at Sutton Bridge, another at Boston and a third at Heacham. When boats or boat-crews were not available, a watch was kept on the sandbanks by local people using binoculars. Anglia Television filmed one of the boats on patrol and this was included in a feature about seals in the Wash as part of a general news programme "About Anglia" which goes out at 6.00 every evening.

The boat patrols deterred at least one hunter, Fraser Christie, the infamous seal hunter from the Orkneys, who was known to be attempting to take seals during the first week when the official cull would have taken place. He wisely went back home after hearing about the seal patrols. Tommy Lineham didn't try to shoot any seals, for one thing he hadn't got a boat, but he did say in a television interview that he had a 12 bore shotgun and he would shoot the people who burnt his boat if he caught them. After a few moments' thought he diplomatically added that he would not shoot to kill or maim them, but would shoot them in the legs. Perhaps if he did kill them he may try to sell their skins. There is no truth in the rumour that he proposes to shoot himself and sell his skin. Although no seals were shot in the Wash whilst patrols were about, a number of seals were shot at Scroby Sands off the coast of Yarmouth about 40 miles from the Wash.

Although the seal campaigners didn't have any trouble from the hunters they still had their share of incidents. On one occasion a 20 mile sea trip was made with a hole in the bottom of the boat, but even so, the crew were able to bale out the water faster than it was coming in. On another occasion a crew were stranded on a sandbank for six hours after the tide went out and left them high and dry. To make matters worse this particular sandbank had some aerial bombing targets on it and during that six hours the RAF dropped practice smoke marker bombs, some of them landing only 30 yards from the boat.

The seal campaign is by no means over, victory on the Wash is only the beginning. The campaign so far has cost almost £1,000 but it has proved to be worth every penny. Hundreds of baby seals have been saved, due, literally, to that money and a few dedicated men and women. If it wasn't for that £1,000 Save Our Seals might not have succeeded in getting the cull stopped and saving 400 baby seals. In addition it would have been difficult to have patrolled the Wash and prevented further seals from being shot illegally. The SOS campaign is one instance where the money donated was actually seen to help animals in a positive way.

The next project for SOS is the 1975 slaughter of common seals in the Wash, it is hoped that the Home Secretary will be persuaded to ban this as he did the 1974 cull. If however this cull does take place, SOS members will disrupt it. The campaign against any attempt to cull in the Wash will be followed by the Farne Islands cull of Atlantic grey seals. This will probably take place in November 1975. These islands are just off the North Cumberland coast, which is acknowledged as being the world's most treacherous coast, this means that a boat of a different type to the existing inflatable will be needed. A suitable used boat will cost about £4,000.

A watchful eye will be kept on the Wash and the Farne Islands for unlicensed seal hunters, paticularly at times when large numbers of seals are known to be in these areas.

So far, thanks to donations, at least 400 baby common seals have been saved. Please will you help to save the grey seals on the Farne Islands by sending a donation to **Save Our Seals, 65 Lower Thrift Street, Northampton, NN1 6HP.** The money will not be wasted.

Hi there!

HOWL is now an established part of the anti-hunting scene, and our circulation has rocketed since the miniscule 1,250 of number 1 that were printed. This edition will be into more than three times that figure; in just three issues! This time round we will also be selling HOWL overseas – in Canada and the USA. Naturally, we would like to expand our circulation even more, so if you know of a newsagent or society that would be willing to sell HOWL at a fair profit, then just drop us a line and we'll try to arrange something.

Obviously, HOWL is a popular magazine primarily because of its message. But it is only successful because of the contributions that you, its readers, send in. So keep sending those cuttings, cartoons and photographs. Remember, the majority of the British people are against hunting, and we want them all eventually to have a HOWL!



Good anti-huntin'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In an article published in the Sunday Times (13th October '74) I noticed the statement, "Myxomatosis is no longer a killer". I enclose a photograph to prove the inaccuracy of this. As a newcomer to the countryside I was under the impression that this hideous disease was no longer rampant. It came as a nasty surprise when, out walking a few months ago, I came across this rabbit in the final stages of the disease – oblivious of its surroundings, deaf and blind with its eyes rotting away.



I was informed by my companion, a local naturalist, that the disease is still the killer that it always has been, only more localised than during the epidemic of twenty years ago. Despite this a new strain is being developed to supercede Myxomatosis, something 'more effective'. Considering the effects of the disease – a kind of syphillis, attacking the rabbits sensitive organs – and a thirteen day period before death, I wonder to what depths Man's imagination will stoop next.

Emil Whittle
Wakes Cottage
Selbourne Hants

Dear Sir,

On Tuesday 18th June I watched the ITV lunchtime programme "Jim's World", in which there was a discussion about fox-hunting.

I am dedicated to the abolition of all bloodsports, and to my mind there are no valid reasons for their continuance – the case against them is very strong. Be that as it may, what will convince a largely uncommitted public is not the arguements themselves but the manner in which they are presented, and I think it was a great pity that the pro-bloodsports people on this programme appeared restrained and courteous at all times, while the anti-bloodsports people shouted, interrupted and generally behaved in a most uncontrolled fashion. Yes, bloodsports and the stupid reasons given for their continuation *do* make us angry – but we do no good to our cause by behaving in a less than civilised manner. Does not our whole case rest on the fact that bloodsports are uncivilised? I urge all those who become involved in discussions about bloodsports, whether in private or in public – to restrain themselves, even in the face of intense provocation. Otherwise they will be seen to be no better than those they condemn.

Yours faithfully,
B.E.Hardwick (Mrs)
Dunley, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs.

Dear Editor

A new animal welfare group has been set up which may appeal to those people who are angry or disappointed that after years of campaigning by traditional animal societies, so little has been done to alleviate the suffering of animals.

Movement for the Liberation of Animals (MLA) has recently begun a nationwide campaign against 'organised' cruelty eg factory farming and research using live animals. Militant direct action is used because MLA believe that this does get results. Militant action however, does not mean the use of violence.

MLA actions so far have included occupation of a vivisection laboratory where experiments to tests cosmetics and food additives on animals, including dogs were carried out.

MLA is encouraging the setting up of groups of people who will work in their local areas, these people will work fairly autonomously, and free from bureaucratic ties.

Further details from me at
26 Oak Avenue, Station Road, Blisworth
Northampton.

Sincerely, Maurice G Boland

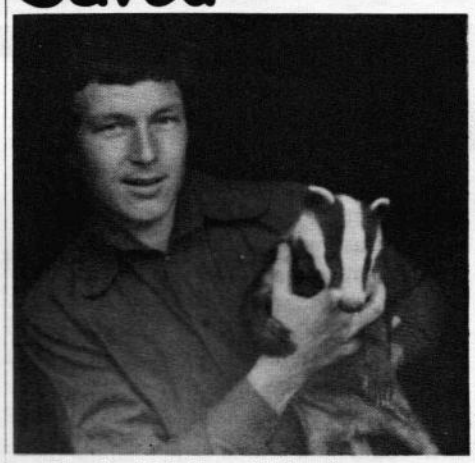
HEIGHT FRIGHT

Fearless though he is of the local vulpine hordes there is still one thing which still shakes the usual aplomb of huntsman Stephen Roberts – attack from the sky!

Driving home from a day's hunting with the Fitzwilliam Hunt last year his wits (sic) were shattered by a rending crash on the side of his horse-box. The cause of the crash lay huddled in a heap of nylon and rope on the road some yards behind – it was a badly injured skydiver named Colin Bruce who'd been blown off course by the high winds.

A nasty experience for Colin but an even worse one for Stephen Roberts who "never wants to experience anything as frightening as that again".

Badger Cub Saved



On the 10th June 1974, after contacting a fox digger who'd advertised fox-cubs for sale in a local paper, Jeff Scott, a member of the Nottingham Group of the HSA, was eventually introduced to Edwin Eyres of 20 Nottingham Road, Trowell, Notts, who offered to sell to Jeff a badger cub for £25. To stall for time Jeff offered Eyres a cheque, judging correctly that he would refuse because it could be traced. Following Eyres' insistence on a cash payment Jeff agreed to call the following evening with the money.

Despite the sale of badger cubs being illegal under Lord Arran's recent Badger Bill, Jeff was unable to enlist the help of the dozen or so RSPCA Inspectors he contacted and had to rely instead on the sole help of a local policeman who accompanied Jeff the following evening and "seized" the badger cub just as Eyres was handing it over.

The cub was kept temporarily at the Derby RSPCA Shelter before being taken to Cheshire by Jeff where it was looked after for 4 months by the Frodsham Badger Group before finally being returned to the wild.

Despite giving the court a sob story Eyres was found guilty and fined £75 with £13 costs at Nottingham Magistrates Court on the 11th October 1974.

More Hunt Chaos

HUNT APOLOGISES FOR OAP'S INJURY

The South Notts fox-hunt sent its apologies to Mrs. Beatrice Andrews, 86, of Rectory Road, Cotgrave, Notts., after two foxhounds knocked her over in the garden of her home. Mrs. Andrews suffered a head wound that required stitches at hospital.

ALBRIGHTON WOODLAND

The Whipper-in of the Midlands' Albrighton Woodland hunt has again been in the news. After news reports of his cruel treatment of hounds (see HOWL 2), he has now been fined £20 for exercising hounds on the public highway. He prevented a man from driving past and gave him a bit of aggro into the bargain.

PEDESTRIAN WHIPPED BY WHIP

The Honorary Whip of the Western Hunt was fined a total of £50 for assaulting a pedestrian with his whip last May. The man had objected to the huntsman riding down a narrow footpath and had caught hold of the horse in an effort to stop him. Trying to impress the court, the Whip, Mr. James Curnow, produced a Swedish cavalry officer, Baron Hans von Blizen-Fineche, to somewhat irrelevantly testify that a horse held in such a manner would be liable to kick.

PUNCH–UP AT HUNT BEER TENT

A punch-up broke out when a Master of Foxhounds asked the barman to close down the bar after the last race at the Cotley Harriers point-to-point at Chard, Somerset. One customer objected to the beer tent closing and punched the Master on the nose and mouth. Another huntsman tried to restrain the assailant, but he was promptly set upon by the man's wife. Afterwards the Master commented, "Violence is becoming all too common in this country and we need to crack down on it."

CHARITABLE HUNTSMEN

A pack of hounds belonging to the Enfield Chace Hunt ran wild through the village of Breachwood Green, Herts, last April, causing a letter of complaint to be sent to the Master. The hounds ran through gardens, finally tearing a fox to pieces on a footpath where children usually played. The huntspeople apologised to the villagers and dished out a few fivers to keep them happy. However, not everyone was satisfied with this altruistic act of charity. Mrs. Jill MacDonald of Crossways commented, "The huntsmen treated us like peasants." The Joint Master of the Enfield Chace is TV commentator Raymond Brooks-Ward.

BOOK REVIEW

Through the Badger Gate
by E. Jane Ratcliffe

A lifelong campaigner for badger protection, Jane Ratcliffe has produced this excellent three part book telling the story of the struggle to protect these beautiful creatures. She also tells of her own personal involvement with a badger – an orphan which she reared in a specially prepared part of her Cheshire garden.

Jane is a supporter of HSA, so members will be very interested in this enthralling and well-illustrated book.

Country Bizarre's Country Bazaar
by Bernard Scofield & Andy Pittaway

The title of this very attractive book may seem familiar to seasoned saboteurs, for **Country Bizarre** was, until recently, a rustic-type magazine which featured a regular column on HSA activities in the field. The magazine was suspended about a year ago, to enable the two authors to concentrate on the book.

Although the book has omitted to mention hunt sabotage as a viable country activity, it is packed from cover to cover with country crafts, folk lore and piles of useful information. Amongst the topics covered are animal tracking, brass rubbing, weaving, keeping goats and making smocks.

As with the magazine, every article is illustrated, not only with detailed photographs and drawings but also with old-fashioned cuts and prints taken from old children's annuals and Victorian books.

Country Bazaar covers such a wide range of activities that it will be a useful, life-long reference book for all country-lovers old or young.

Priced **£4.50** from any good book shop.

BASIL BRUSH SNUBS HUNT

Television's Basil Brush has turned down an invitation to visit the Badminton home of one of his greatest fans - the Duke of Beaufort.

DOG FIGHTING WELL ESTABLISHED IN U.S.

Dog-fighting, which is part of the way of life in Korea and Thailand, has spread to the eastern USA, particularly Massachusetts and Texas. On any weekend up to a dozen fights might be held around Dallas, Austin and San Antonio, at well-guarded locations.

Dog-fighting is not simply the weekend diversion of a handful of roughs (a la Hare Coursing), but is a highly organised racket, with spin-offs like gambling, prostitution, illegal liquor and drug sales and even pay-offs to local police for turning a blind eye.

Violence is not uncommon; many spectators carry pistols and there have been two assassinations of well-known dog-fighters within the last year, reportedly for stealing someone else's dog.

The dogs are usually specially bred bull terriers that have been fed a high protein diet to keep their weight down and little or no water to reduce bleeding. Before the fight the dogs are washed to ensure that their coats have not been treated with anything that would poison the opposing animal when it bit.

The fight takes place in a portable plywood pit, and lasts from 30 minutes to 2 hours, when one dog is either killed or refuses to fight any longer.

Although in Massachusetts two dog-fighters have been convicted, after an ISPA investigation, in Texas the police seem to know very little about dog-fighting activities, even though Texas is the biggest centre in the country.

ELECTION NEWS

Gainsborough Constituency: Electorate Oct: 61,749 (Feb: 61,152)

	Feb 74	Oct 74	Drop in no. of votes	% drop in votes
Kimball M (Con)	22,177	19.163	3,014	13.6
Blackmore R (Lib)	15,967	15,195	772	4.8
Lansbury T (Lab)	12,011	11,797	214	1.8
Total vote	50,155	46,155	4,000	8.0
Tory majority	6,210	3,968	2,242	36.1

The above figures show how the people of Gainsborough voted in the last two elections. The Tory MP for the constituency is Marcus Kimball. He is also Chairman of the pro-bloodsports British Field Sports Society and, as such, has so far successfully led all parliamentary measures to counteract the introduction of Private Members' Bills designed to outlaw bloodsports.

In a bid to oust "Carcase" Kimball from his seat in the October election Dick Course, an Enfield member of the League Against Cruel Sports, spent £50 of his own money on printing 20,000 solicitor-approved leaflets outlining Kimball's bloodsporting interests and another £50 on hiring a coach on the Sunday before the election to take friends and London HSA members to Lincolnshire where Nottingham HSA members helped provide the transport for distributing the leaflets around the vast constituency.

Despite the bad weather and relatively low number of helpers at least 14,000 leaflets were distributed. The final effect of the leafletting can be seen by studying the voting figures. The % drop in Kimball's vote was almost 2½ times that for the other two candidates combined and a 36% reduction of his overall majority is no mean achievement.

This was a relatively small scale exercise which reached only ¼ of the total electorate. One can only surmise what result a full scale exercise would have produced. We congratulate Dick Course on paving the way.

GROUP NEWS

An **Aldershot** saboteur was banned from a local hunt pub after pinning HOWL badges on fox masks in the bar.

Bourne (Lincs) Group donated a ½p to a Fitzwilliam Hunt 'cap' and told the master to buy himself a donkey ride.

Bridport Young Libs Group proposed a resolution supporting the 'Save our Seals' campaign at the YL conference held in Margate at Easter.

A **Cambridge** sab was left in sole charge of an earth in which a fox had gone to ground and managed to unblock it before the terrier men came to dig it out.

Individual members of the now virtually disbanded **CROW (Campaign for the Relief of Wildlife)** are still continuing to rescue oiled seabirds from Dorset beaches.

Doncaster Group have been dragging round sweet smelling bags of aniseed, offal and fox dung at their local hunts.

The **Kidderminster Group's** continued use of loud noises, to flush foxes from danger areas, and other methods to create confusion amongst the hunters, is still saving foxes lives.

Leeds & Area Group, whose secretary once rode to hounds and was 'blooded' (daubed with the freshly severed stump of a fox's brush), have been spraying antimate on hunts from a 50 yard range ex-pesticide spray. They also held a well attended Ecology Workshop in March.

London Group organised a successful protest against a proposed squirrel shoot in Barnet. Their posters drew 30 local residents to join them on the morning of the "cull" – the gunmen never turned up! Barnet Council has now officially called off all future squirrel shoots.

Loughborough University Group have been active against the exclusive Quorn foxhunt. Their methods include walking around the meet with antimate sprayed boots and patting the hounds' noses with antimate soaked hands.

Luton Group have experienced an excessive amount of aggro on the many beagle hunts they've attended, although they did discover that the master of the Old Berkley Beagles thinks shooting, fishing and hare coursing are cruel!

Marlborough Group have been leaving meaty bones at hunt meets for the hungry hounds to find and have been spreading antimate solution from a plastic tube attached to their car's running board.

Mid-Wales Group managed to chat up a farmer into banning a ¾ mile stretch of the River Rhiew to the Border Counties Otterhounds – the sabs provided the signs. The group has also been involved in local railway preservation.

Moreton-in-Marsh Group have been unblocking blocked Gloucestershire earths to help foxes escape the hounds of Ronnie Wallace's exclusive Heythrop Hunt.

N.E. Group have been very active against the Northern Counties Otterhounds this summer and consequently advise local antis against falling ill and being admitted to Tynemouth Infirmary – the hunt's female 'cap' is a ward sister there!

Nottingham Group have been crushing mothballs soaked in antimate at hunt meets and spraying distilled 'ripe' fox bedding (supplied by a local nature reserve) from squeezy bottles.

Reading Group were told by an aged hunt supporter that the best way to annoy a huntsman is to open any gate over which he obviously wants to jump so he has to ride through it instead.

Sittingbourne Group were so successful in their joint efforts with WAPS against the Tickham foxhunt last season that the three most important members of the hunt (the master, the huntsman and the whipper-in) have since resigned. There are rumours that the hunt soon hopes to amalgamate with the West Kent.

WAPS (Wild Animals Protection Society) from SE London organised an 'anti-hunt ball' last Christmas and raised £50 in a sponsored walk across 15 London bridges. They've also helped the Blue Cross deal with puppies for sale at Petticoat Lane and organised 3 fur exhibitions in Lewisham in which the public were shown the gross cruelty involved in the trade.

Watford Group managed to get the whole audience cheering and booing at the appropriate places when they went to see "The Belstone Fox".

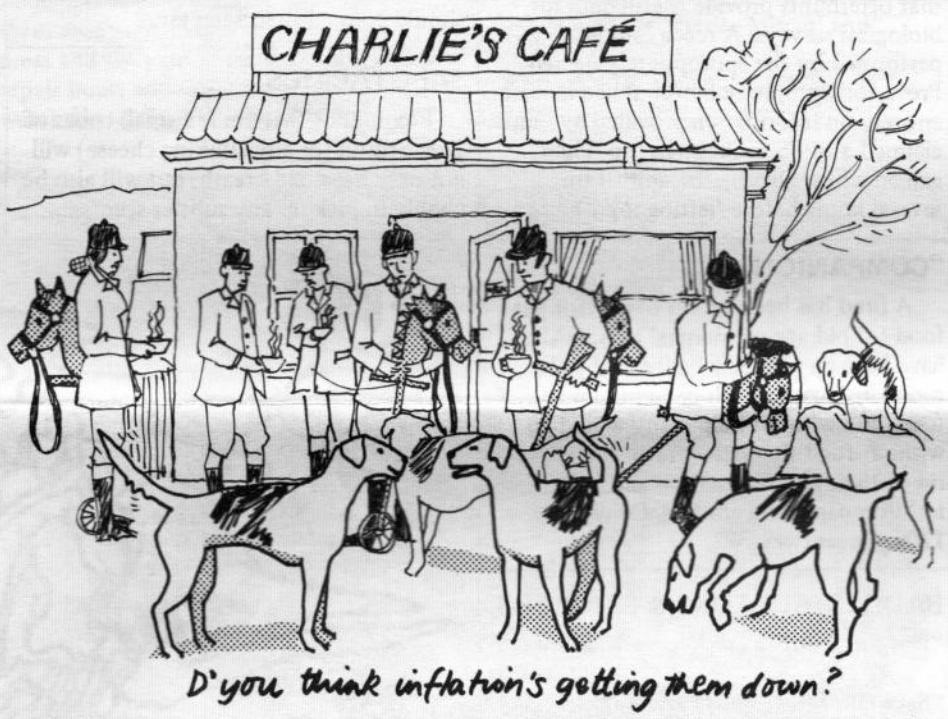
Save Our Stags

West Country saboteurs are planning co-ordinated action against their local staghunt packs, on the basis that stag-hunting is the most likely bloodsport to be next on the list for abolition if there is a successful outcome to the current Governmental moves to outlaw hare-coursing.

Anyone wishing to assist the campaign should contact **Save Our Stags, c/o Ian Pedler, 10 Balmoral Court, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS17 3DA.**

DOGS SHOT IN EXPERIMENT

14 dogs, beagles and mongrels, were shot through the head in Sweden this October in an experiment to decide which type of pistol causes most damage. The dogs were first anaesthetised and then shot from distances ranging from 6 ft to 82 ft.



FORUM

The column to air your hobby-horse about any subject concerning animals

BOTTOMS UP !

Saboteurs were probably the only people not to be surprised by the recent court admissions of Col. John Brooks, a wealthy solicitor and former mayor of Kensington & Chelsea, that he had indulged in spanking young ladies after hunting. Sabs know from long and bitter experience that fox-hunting is merely a socially-acceptable form of sado-masturbation, where frustrated City gents and past-it Colonel Blimps can take out their psycho-sexual-sadistic fantasies on innocent creatures. If anyone tries to stand between them and their victims, then the unfortunate saboteur lets himself in for all the pent-up aggression and blood-lust that was meant for the fox.

In most cases, the primitive blood-letting ceremony of tearing foxes limb from limb, suffices to satisfy the cravings of these Neanderthals. But occasionally it merely encourages even more violence, and brings to the surface twisted sexual perversions that previously lay dormant in the id. Hence the bottom-spanking activities of 64-year-old colonels.

It is believed that Lieutenant Col. Brooks rides with the nouveau-riche Enfield Chace in London's tree-lined northern suburbs. If so, then this again fits the pattern. It's a very frustrating life when you're struggling to get to the top in scrap-metal dealing, window-cleaning and TV commentating!

The Voyeur

HOME OFFERED

An Essex member, who lives on a farm, is willing to give a home to any destitute fox or cub. The gentleman, until recently, had a fox which the cat brought home as a cub, but it found itself a furrier mate.

GAD! – THE CAD!

"In days gone by, things reached the extremes of absurdity when the 'cad who shot a fox' was virtually excommunicated, but today I hear of a gamekeeper who blatantly displayed a dozen foxes' brushes to 'cock a snook' at the local Master. How petty and uncouth can you get!"

– *excerpt from Shooting Times.*

THE BAND OF MERCY

Three men of the self-styled pro-animal guerilla group, the Band of Mercy, have been arrested and charged with a list of offences ranging from setting fire to vivisection laboratories to destroying a seal hunter's boat.

The three, Cliff Goodman of Northampton, Ronnie Lee of Luton and Robin Howard of Brighton who are all vegetarian (Ronnie Lee and Robin Howard are Vegans), have admitted causing the damage but have stressed that great care was taken to ensure that there was no threat to human or animal life.

The three, now out on bail, face a Crown Court trial that could lead to sentences of life imprisonment. A defence fund has therefore been set up to cover their legal costs.

Anyone wishing to contribute should send their donation to:
The Bicester Three Defence Fund
91 Home Close, Hockwell Ring, Luton, Bedfordshire.
Cheques/PO's should be made out to "The Biscester Three Defence Fund".

Although the HSA and HOWL do not subscribe to the activities of the Band of Mercy, we do stress our first hand knowledge of the three men's deep dedication to the alleviation of animal suffering.

Full information on vivisection can be obtained from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), 47 Whitehall, London SW1. They are currently organising a petition to press the Government to give more money for alternative methods of research to animal vivisection.

HUNTING COSTS

The Eastern Counties Otterhounds currently cost the hunt £2,000 a year to maintain, Charles Corner, the master, huntsman, secretary and general odd job man, is expected to have to fork out a fair percentage of this amount from his own pocket.

The Devon & Somerset Staghounds currently cost £13,000 a year to maintain. No wonder Bob Nancelivell gave up his longstanding mastership of the hunt this year.

CORNISH PASTIES AND VENISON?

The venison from culled Richmond Park deer is distributed to Cabinet Ministers twice a year according to the London *Evening Standard.*

COUNTRY LIFE

This month's species can be encountered in some of the most unusual places, not just in this county, but in nooks and crannies all over the world. However, if one is anticipating observing its antics, it is not advisable to sit around in one place waiting for it to appear, since there is (thankfully) only one of its kind.

The Prince Charles, not to be confused with the spaniel of a similar name, must surely rank with the duck-billed platypus as one of Nature's most ungainly creatures, since it invariably looks out of place no matter where it happens to crop up. It is also an extremely greedy and cruel species, since it has been known to kill 500 grouse in one session, far more than any 'humbler' creature would take, knowing that one would be a sufficient meal in itself.

If the Naturalist is of such a peculiar disposition that he wishes to study the Prince Charles, it is best to search it out when the weather is a bit rainy. This is because the Prince Charles is most easily identifiable due to it being perpetually and completely dripping wet.



BANK HEISST BENEFITS WEST COUNTRY HUNT

A London gangster was arrested on charges ranging from bank robbery to manslaughter, just as he was settling down to his new life as a gentleman farmer in Cornwall, fraternising with the local horsey people and riding to hounds with the local hunt. Philip Morris, 37, received 20 years for his part in the £138,000 Wembley bank robbery and the slaying of a young milkman in a Ewell dairy. Morris guarded the entrance to the bank with a .45 revolver and received £17,000 for his trouble. In an effort to ingratiate himself with the Cornwall huntin-shootin-and-fishin-set, Morris passed around part of his loot to every local charity and good cause, possibly even the local hunt.

USEFUL BOOKS

The Otter Report – *the Natural History of the Otter.*

Sealing in UK and Canadian Waters

30p each plus 5p postage

Humane Control of Animals Living in the Wild

40p plus 5p postage

from **UFAW, 230, High Street, Potters Bar, Herts.**



AGM

Delegates from all over the country converged on Northampton last Spring to attend the Hunt Saboteurs Assoc. Annual General Meeting. Topics discussed included HOWL, elections to the committee and activities past and present.

POACHERS USING NEW DOGS

Poachers are using a dog bred for speed and endurance to capture deer at night, when they are stabbed to death, according to the British Deer Society.

The new type of dog, a cross between a greyhound and a Russian Wolfhound is used to attack the deer after it has been trapped in the headlights of a car. Once the dogs have the deer pinned down, the poachers run up and stab it to death with knives.

SAD FATE OF A SHY HOUND

The fate of Lottie, the shy foxhound, was sealed the day she slipped away from the Vale of the White Horse hunt as they were closing in for the kill. For two months she lived wild, scavenging food from dustbins and friendly strangers.

Then she was found, giving birth to her pups, ironically in the grounds of Cirencester Maternity Hospital, and there she and her two newborn pups were killed by huntspeople.

"We had no choice" claimed the joint master, Major Jock Mann. "Once she had run off there was always a risk she might do it again."

The local RSPCA representative supported the killing, but dog expert Stanley Dangerfield disagreed, "I don't see any reason why the puppies should have been destroyed. They would have made perfectly good pets. I expect the hunt didn't want the bother of having to rear crossbred pups, which would have been no use to them for hunting".

KIDS BOYCOTT BEEB

Children at St. Joseph's Primary School in Chawson Lane, Droitwich, Worcs. have taken direct action against hunt propaganda by boycotting a BBC schools radio programme that glorified hunting. The series, "Singing Together" featured a song entitled "Hunting the Hare" – eulogising the pleasures of hare-coursing.

INNOVATION IN WILTS

Wiltshire farmers have been asked to spray new buildings with diluted cow manure rather than paint so that they blend more easily into the countryside.

PROPOSAL TO PROTECT OTTERS

The influential Council for the Promotion of Nature Reserves hopes to send the new government a comprehensive draft bill for the protection of English otters. The Council admits that the otter's survival is seriously threatened due to pollution and 'human intrusion'. However, the British Field Sports Society claims that hunting is not responsible for the otters decline in numbers. Out of 2,000 finds by hunts in the last four years 'only' 79 otters were killed. The BFSS claim that otterhunts provide useful data for biological surveys. A recent study, performed by the appropriately-named Professor Humphrey Sewer relied almost entirely on information provided by hunts, claimed a BFSS spokesman (no doubt gained whilst chasing the animal for several hours before 'letting it go')

"COMPANIONS"

A fund has been set up to pay for pet food for old age pensioners' pets. OAPs have been particularly badly hit by the rocketing cost of both pet and human food, and without help many would go without food themselves rather than get rid of their pets. Donations and enquiries to "Companions", c/o Mrs. Conway, 120a, Queensway, W2.

BADGES, BUTTONS & STICKERS

"Boycott Fur-Bearing People" badge – 4 for $1.00

"Save Our Seals" badge and bumper sticker – 6 for $1.00

"I Don't Hunt" patch and decal (transfer) 2 sets for $1.00

all from **Friends of Animals, 11 W.60th Street, New York, NY 10023, USA** (a dollar bill can be bought at any bank – around 40p)

"Hounds off Our Wildlife" – badge 8p each plus p & p also

The Otter's Tale – *by Gavin Maxwell*

The children's edition of 'Ring of Bright Water', profusely illustrated, with easy-to-read text.

Usually 25p but only 15p + 5p p&p from HQ. (Limited stocks available)

ANTI MATES



HSA group liason was taken one step further earlier this year when John Mendzela (Leeds Group) married Liz Hurst (Wakefield Group).
We wish them both well and many sab "cubs"!

SEWAGE DISPOSED OF

The South Wales Game & Country Fair has cancelled this year's event due to a sewage disposal works being constructed next to their site. Anyone who would like to tell the Fair where to go next year should contact their secretary.

SABOTACTICS

Foxhounds that are fed small cubes of Blue Stilton (or any stinking cheese) will not only have bad breath, but will also be unable to pick up any subtler scents.....

HUNTERS BAG FEWER VICTIMS

The shooting season has opened in Italy, with one of the lowest first-day body counts in recent years. Six hunters died, four of them shot by other hunters, and two from heart attacks after successfully felling a hare. The number of wounded is believed to be about 40.

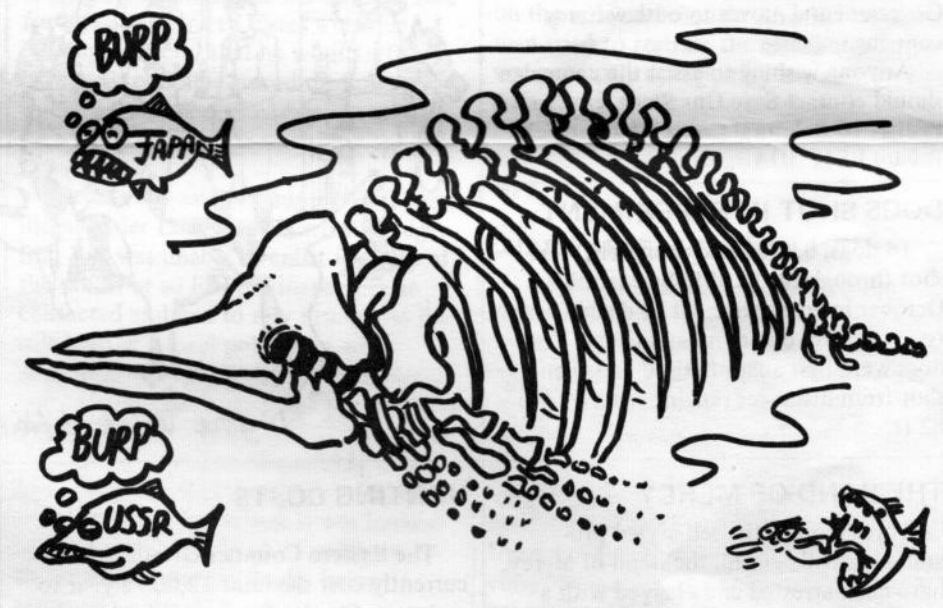
Several of those shot were victims of their companions, or relatives, while others were engaged in other activities. A 12-year-old boy was shot in the left eye while picking maize in his father's field.

RSPCA BRANCH SPLIT OVER HUNTING

The Barnsley Branch of the RSPCA now faces total disbandment because of a row over fox-hunting. Two voluntary workers have already resigned from the branch in protest at the activities of the Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Smith, who rides with the local fox hunt. Mrs. Smith dismissed the allegations of hypocrisy claiming, "It is true that I support a number of local hunts but I go along for the ride and not for the kill."

CORRECTION

It appears that HOWL was a little too benevolent in its remarks about the Queen disapproving of hunting, last time. According to the semi-official Palace publication 'Woman's Own", the Queen enjoys a good kill like the rest of the Royal family. She regularly spends up to ten hours "crawling full-length through peat-bogs" in order to pick off a doddery stag. One stag she had in her sights but flatly refused to shoot. "It's old Charlie, he's been around here for years. I know him well. I can't possibly shoot him", she said in a sudden burst of pity (which was no doubt a product of the 'Woman's Own' copywriter's imagination, anyway).



SAVE THE WHALE

HSA RADIO SLOT

In October an HSA representative appeared on WHBS radio station in South-East London to talk about the anti-hunting campaign. The station has a very high listnership, since the letters stand for Woolwich Hospitals Broadcasting Service, and broadcasts to a "captive" audience of 4,000 patients. Why not contact your local radio station ?

WHAT A DRAG!

Towards the end of the 1973/74 fox-hunting season the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire tried a short experiment of hunting a trail laid by a hunt member instead of hunting foxes. The reason, as one of the hunt's officials explained to the "Edinburgh Evening News" was that "as it looks like field sports may be banned by Parliament we hope to take this up instead".

OTTERHUNTS ATTRACTING YOUNG

Otterhunting in the West Country is being taken over by youngsters, it seems. The Master of the Dartmoor Otterhounds was recently presented with a silver rose-bowl to mark only his 70th birthday. Among those who watched the presentation were hunt president, 96 year old Major G.K. Mott and hunt supporter, 93 year old Major W.G. Hole.

STOP AHAB

During the summer, HSA Committee member Dave McCalden paid a visit to the Stop Ahab Committee in Vancouver, Canada. Plans are already at a very advanced stage for the active sabotage of next Spring's whale hunting by Japanese and Russian factory ships off the coast of British Columbia.

A target area has already been selected, based on the best information available to the Committee's marine biologists.

The Committee have already been offered several sailing vessels, and a probable has been selected from the possibles. The actual method of sabotage cannot be revealed here, for the Japanese whaling industry is extremely worried about this venture, and have set up their own committee to investigate Stop Ahab – what you might call anti-antis. Crew-members will be coming from all over the world to man the vessel, and it is hoped that HSA might even be able to have their own representative there too.

There is now a teacher's pack available which deals with the virtual extermination of the whale. This costs $3 per class-set from **Project Jonah, Box 476, Bolinas, CA 94924, USA.**

For more information on Stop Ahab itself, write to their co-ordinator **Zoe Hunter, 4537 Welwyn Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.**

WE NEED HELP!

We need all the active members we can get; but if for some reason you cannot come out on strikes due to health or work commitments, there is another way you can join in the active fight against blood sports.
You can help us through a donation, no matter how small. You can be guaranteed that every penny will go towards our active campaign, since we have no office or staff to cost us overheads.
Please send whatever you can spare, filling in the attached slip if you wish.

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

I enclose my donation of £_____/I enclose my membership fee £_____ (50p min.)

NAME_____

ADDRESS _____

_____

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