"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 Assissi

HSW

15p

Magazine of the HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION, PO Box 19, London S.E. 22 No.30 Summer 1985

THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FOX HUNT



North Warwickshire (Final Day) Lowsonford, Nr. Henley in Arden



Left:Mickey Wills - Whipper-in Right: Ivor Bunch - Huntsman

On Saturday 16th March, approximately 80 saboteurs were present in Kenilworth, near Coventry, to see off the N.Warwickshire Foxhunt, who had thankfully due to financial reasons had come to the end of their hunting life.

Early morning at the kennels saw Ivor Bunch (Huntsman) boxing up his hounds for the final time, whilst only a hundred yards away 6 van loads of sabs from Coventry, Birmingham University, Manchester and various other corners of Britain including Exeter, Liverpool and Cardiff, blocked the houndvans exit from the kennels.

Sabs quickly over ran the peace and quiet of the kennels by using horns and whistles to distract the hounds concentration before the days hunting. NBC TV NEWS were present throughout the proceedings to document the sabs progress, which finally resulted in the houndvan arriving at the meet in Lowsenford at 1.00 p.m.

A small number of supporters and police awaited, oblivious to the huntsman's situation.

Eventually after a few minutes of sherry drinking the hunt left the meet in full view of the camera crew and two sabs, who had walked into the meet posing as supporters.

Awaiting the hounds were the sabs, who quickly flew into the action, as within five minutes sabs were using horns to call hounds off the line of a suspected bagged fox.

Basically , due to so many mobile sabs the police were not able to control the proceedings , as sabs positioned themselves perfectly, pulling hounds off the huntsman continually.

The hunt then returned to the meet to collect up what was remaining of the pack, before venturing out into the distant woods. Due to the lack of heavies and for that matter, heavy police, the hunt were chased many miles away from the meet out of sight of the small band of hunt followers.

It was apparent throughout the day that far from their claim to be suffering from the lack of hunt country, the closure of hunt was due in main to a lack of support. When one considers that this was their last ever chance to see the N.Warwickshire many supporters simply stayed at home, only 80 riders choosing to see off the hunt!

The day ended early, with the hunt claiming defeat and the sabs claiming victory. After the glamour of the meet which attracted such notables as Jim Meads (Horse & Hound photographer), the press coverage was almost non-existent, whilst Horse & Hound published a small series of photographs in preference to an actual hunting report for obvious reasons.

DAVE WEEKS.



"Going to the First Draw"



Dear Howl,
My husband is a Central Heating Engineer and a couple of weeks ago, he was sent to service an oil boiler for a doctor in our village. When he went there to do the job the Dr's wife was telling him that they go hunting on the weekends. My husband was furious and after a couple of slanging matches with the Doctor and his wife my husband accidently forgot to replace the parts in their right order. That night his boiler blew up!!

My husband wouldn't go back and fix it so they had to get another firm from Cardiff up to do the repairs the cost....£164.

Mr & Mrs Bailey,
Rhymney, Gwent.

Dear Friends,
Congratulations on the excellent HOWL - especially the article by Dave Wetton.

May I point out that Dick Llyod is not Joint-master of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds as stated in Ralph Cook's article 'Deer Studies'. He is in fact Vice-Chairman and has been for a long time.

Secondly, I disagree with Harry Cross.'s article regarding direct action. Our aim is to stop bloodsports. For this we need to use whatever method is most suitable and to pin ourselves down just to direct action is to fight with one hand tied behind our back. Every time there is a council ban, another nail goes into their coffin. Every time a political partycomes out against hunting our victory comes closer. Every method should be used depending on the circumstances. When people work to try to force a council ban the hunt saboteurs don't seem to support them. The only thing we let down is the hunted animal because if the ban is defeated hunting can go on as before. Let's use every opportunity and every ally, without sacrificing our principles, to stop hunting and less time moralising that our tactics are better than those used by other anti-hunting groups and individuals.
Yours,
BOB WILSON,
BRIDGEWATER,
SOMERSET.

Dear Howl,
I have just read the article by Ralph Cook and felt that I had to make some attempt to defend the Hunt Retribution Squad.

After the end of the war, Nazi exterminators and torturers were punished for their crimes. Why not today should the exterminaters and and torturers of wildlife be punished for even more evil crimes.

When the 'HRS' do carry out raids, etc, they carry out the raids on persons who can and will fight back and more likely with a shotgun or cane than that of the courts, But can a fox, a mink, a hare and other endangered wildlife fight back and inflict the same damage on those who murder and torture them? No they cannot.

I have on an occassion had the painful experience to come in contact with one of these murders and believe me, trying to talk to one of them is like throwing yourself against a brick wall. A experience that you will not forget in a hurry.

I am not attempting in any such way to place the HRS above that of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. Both have vital roles to play in the furthering course for an end to all disturbance of any kind by man on wildlife and its inhabitants.

Garry Eason,
Boston Spa.

Dear HSA,
I must admit I don't like selling raffle tickets but I was surprised and a little annoyed to read of the prizes the HSA are offering in your raffle Your merely portray the prized possessions the moronic class we oppose rely on to keep up the status quo.

How many teenage HSA members on Student grants or dole can afford such possessions? It merely sets the 'standard' of possessions of which are unnecessary and encourage people to compete to buy such rubbish. Surely your prizes are the sort of things you'd expect to win at a hunt ball alongside animal carcases and fur coats! The only prize I would be interested in would be the money, of which would split between the HSA, ALF and other direct-action organisations. Surely a more benefical and educating prize would be a vegetarian food hamper, wire cutters, hunting horn, spade for grave digging! etc? I do not wish to encourage competition for possessions so I am unfortunately returning the raffle tickets, please use a little more imagination another time.
Keep up the good work,
JH.

Dear HSA,
I wondered if members were interested in keeping our rivers and canals free of the rubbish left behind by anglers.

Last year I brought a second canoe for £35 and found it very useful in collecting hooks, lead weights and line which was out of reach from the bank. On the River Stour near Colchester, I found fishing line hanging from tree branches like cobwebs posing a serious risk to birdlife. Also lead weights attached to line etc.

Of course the fisherman gives the canoeist a dirty look going up and down the river disturbing their sport' needless to say the abuse has followed. Unfortunately not that many rivers have a 'navigation' right so you are restricted. The license for a canoe is usually cheap. The other items needed are a paddle and buoyancy aid in case you get into trouble.
And of course canoeing is fun as well.

KEVIN CHAPPLE
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.

HOWL MAGAZINE

This edition was produced by:—

Dave Weeks
John Hale
Ralph Cook

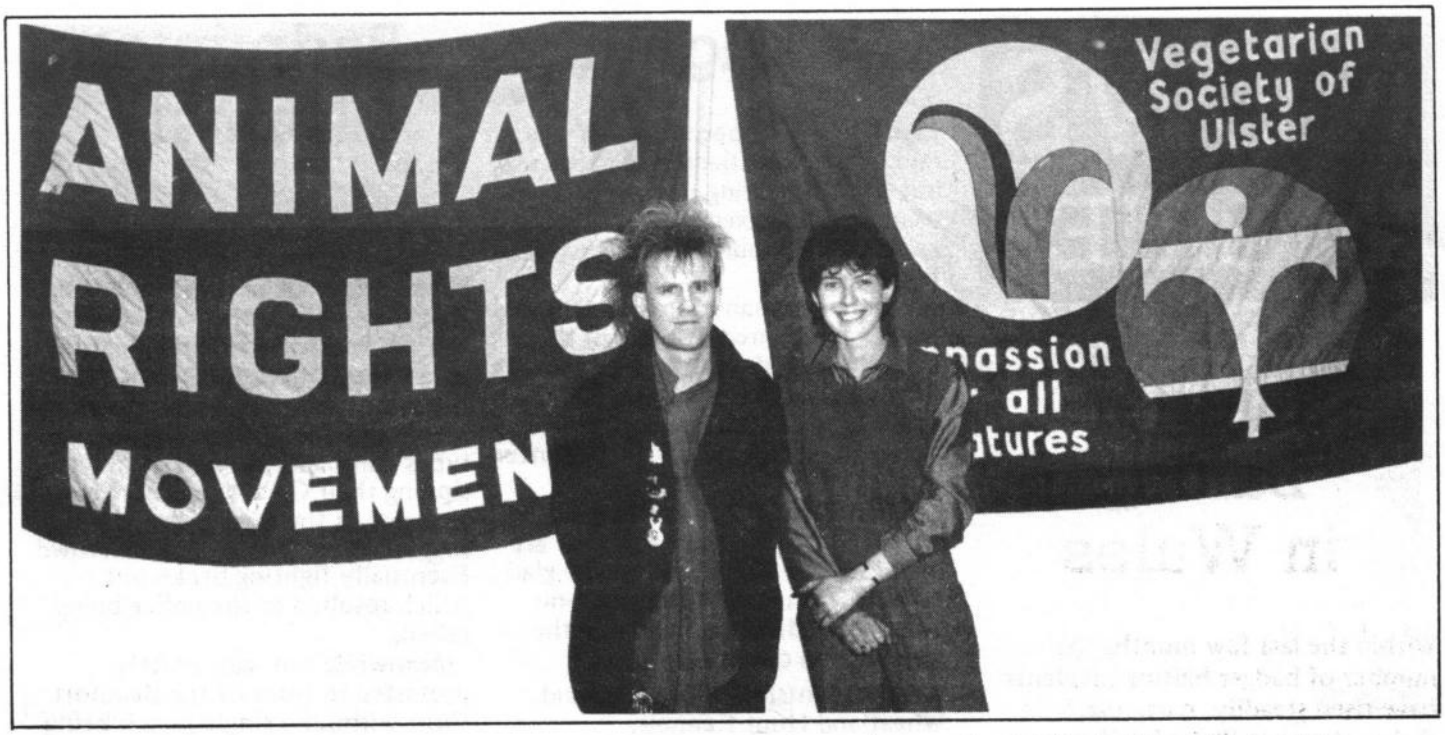
Contributions by:—

The Badger Groups
Mick Campling
and others

Next edition due out September

All contributions should be sent to HOWL P.O. Box 19, London SE22

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



Pictured above is Helen Craig and none other than Howard Jones, at the opening of the Belfast offices of the Animal Rights Movement (N.I.). Howard kindly agreed to give a speech to the gathering, before popping a bottle of champagne and signing photos and albums for an auction later in the year.

Animal Rights Movement, 3 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FF. Tel 240671.

HELP

FOLKINGTON BADGER ACTION GROUP

The Folkington Badger Action Group need help to continue their good work at the foot of the South Downs near Eastbourne. The camp has been set up since last June to prevent the trapping of badgers, which are destined to die a painful last few days inside laboratories at Weybridge, Surrey. The Min. of Agriculture trapped 43 badgers before the camp was set up, the results of various tests showing that only 23% had T.B!!

Thankfully no badgers have been taken since the camp was set up probably due to the Ministry losing 90 of their traps.

Due to the harshness of the winter months, the camp is now in need of complete renovation. Funds and energy are now desperately needed, so please help in any way. Contact:

F.B.A.G. c/o BARC
P'O' Box 307,
51 SHIP STREET'
BRIGHTON'
Tel. 24985.

DARTMOOR BADGERS PROTECTION LEAGUE

Within the next few weeks 300 Dartmoor badgers will die unless the DBPL get urgent help. For the last few weeks the badger camp has been able to keep 24 hour watch on the setts to protect the badgers within, from the Ministry of Agriculture who are still intent on gassing the badger out of existence.

If you feel you could help financially or even join the camp, please contact:

Brenda Charlesworth, Riverside Cottage, Poundsgate, Devon TQ13 7NV
Tel Poundsgate 231.

ADVERTISING THE HSA

Since the beginning of November 1984, the HSA has been doing as excellent job in bringing to the attention of the public our aims and more importantly, our name and address.

At regular intervals advertisements were placed in newspapers and magazines (and are still being placed), with the result that produced a stream of inquires and donations. Newspapers like the Guardian and others such as the NME, New Statesman and Sanity payed for themselves overnight, due to the shear volume of new members.

Below is the list of publications in which we ran various adverts.

Display ad in Daily Mirror	£1,200.00
Display ad in The Times	£00000
Display ad in the Guardian	£206.00
Lineage ads in:	
Peace News (x10)	£12.60
New Statesman (x3)	£19.43
Spare Rib (x2)	£18.00
Tribune (x4)	£18.90
Labour weekly (x4)	£16.41
NME (x5)	£21.00
City Limits (x4)	£25.00
Sanity (x3)	£12.83
New Socialist (x3)	£15.75
Guardian (x8)	£105.00

Total = £1,671.12

If you have any further suggestions on advertising we would pleased to have them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Badger Baiting in Wales

Within the last few months the number of badger baiting incidents have risen steadily, particularly in Wales. It was in Wales itself that two separate groups of men were brought before the courts.

In the first case, five men were found not guilty of badger baiting after the RSPCA could offer no evidence. The owner of the land on which the incident occured claimed that he heard dogs barking and the sound of a scream, which on investigation turned out to be the five men seemingly cornering a badger. With four blows of a shovel the men quickly killed the badger. In court the claim that the men were after foxes, was believed, so as you read this the intrepid five are probably smashing some other badgers head apart.

"We had never tried badgers before, so we put the terrier down the hole to see what would happen" This comment was from another court in Wales a few weeks later where another five men were fined £1,775 for attempting to remove a badger from a farmers land

In this case credit must go to the farmer who tackled the five, whose personal armoury included spades, pick-axes and iron bars. The farmer acting quickly phoned the police, then proceeded to drive at the men with his tractor as he saw them enter the first terrier into the active badger sett. Thankfully due to the farmers actions the men fled back to their van and into the long arm of the law, this time without a badger being harmed.

Cockfighting

Eight men have been arrested in a raid at the Wheatland Hunt Kennels, but not for beating up sabs or even using bagged foxes, but for cockfighting hours before the hunts hound show.

Apparently many birds were found found slaughtered in a hut in the kennels grounds. In the true spirit of of the fieldsport ethic, the men had made trips of 300 miles to be present and to have a bit of a flutter.

If there is anyone reading who would like to find out more we are sure that the kennels would be glad to hear from you. The telephone number, address and name of the person who could help is;

Kennel Huntsman: T. Richmond,
Wheatland Hunt Kennels,
Eardington, Bridgenorth, Shropshire
Tel 2263 (day or night)

Badminton Brawl

Seven men fined £174 for a fight in the beer tent at the Badminton Horse Trials. Obviously, forgetting that they were at the Horse Trials and not out following the Beaufort Hunt, they lapsed into their typical behaviour.

Amongst the 500 or so 'country types' and 'Horay Henrys' quietly sipping their G&t's, the court heard that one of the men gave rude suggestions to the assembled crowd. Eventually fighting broke out, which resulted in the police being called.

Meanwhile ten sabs quietly protested in front of the Beaufort Hunt without a single punch being thrown.

Such Fools

Now listen hard to this story I tell.
It's about a terrier club that is just swell.
The terriers it rescues who have gone to ground
After the old fox who is sometimes never found.
The terriers fight their battles with the fox
Sometimes underground, sometimes in rocks.
Terriers just do not destroy. They always help to prevent.
The farmer's live stock for which all of his life he has spent.
The farmer works hard all of his life to get his farm on the ground,
Then the "old fox" sneaks up without a sound.
Night after night the old fox destroys the farmer's stock.
Then the poor farmer is broke to all mock.
It's then the time for the terriers to come in.
Yet the "Stupid Anti's" think it's a sin.
The lads come in true faith. To get that old fox you just cannot wait.
Sometimes the lads risk their own lives as will.
To save the dogs in holes just like hell.
Where are the "Anti's" feelings "just for the Fox..
Do they care when they burn dog's eyes?
With their "chemicals and alkalis"?
Is there any feeling in all of this?
Are the "Anti's" consciences in Heavenly Bliss?
So go away you "Anti's" until you try and understand.
That we are much stronger like a very tight band

Believe it or not, but this masterpiece wasn't from the pen of Shakespeare or even Wordsworth, but none other than

Mrs J. C. Hardy,
North Wales Treasurer & Secretary of the
Fell & Moorland Working Terrier Club.

1985 HSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This years AGM is to be at Chiswick Town Hall, London on Saturday 3rd August. The meeting starts at 9.45 prompt and ends at 5.00 pm. The directions to the meeting are quite straight forward, the exact location of the Town Hall being Heathfield Terrace, London W4.

If you are coming into London via the tube then the nearest station is Chiswick Park-District line. An ample car park is provided.

The agenda for the meeting is printed below, which includes the names of each committee member and their roles within the HSA.

Please could all members make every effort to attend the AGM, which promises to be one of the most important for many years.

See you there.

AGENDA for 1985 A.G.M. - SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST

Meeting starts at 9.45 am.

Reports from the following committee members:

CHAIRMAN
TREASURER
SECRETARY
PRESS/PUBLICITY OFFICER
TACTICS OFFICER
CONTACTS OFFICER
STUDENTS LIAISON
SALES OFFICER
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
RESEARCH OFFICER

Lunch 12.00 to 1.00pm.

Afternoon session to discuss ammendment to 1984 Constitution.

1) Amendment to clause 3(1)
Delete words (Are banned by law)
Replace with (Cease to exist) Proposed 1984 Committee

2) Replace clause 8,
To read
'The annual subscriptions shall be £5.00 per annum, £3.00 for the unwaged and £100 for life membership'
Proposed 1984 Committee.

3) Replace clause 5,
To read,
'Membership or support of racist or nationalistic organisations that knowlingly exploit or oppress humans or any sentienent creature, will proclude membership to the HSA.' Proposed 1984 Committee.

(Acceptance of the new clause 5 will automatically delete existing clause 14)

GUIDELINES/RECOMMENDATIONS to 1985/6 COMMITTEE

a) Because of the political make up of this country and the concentration of land in so few hands by people ruled by the "profit at all costs" a motiff, a ban on hunting would be to the detriment of all wild anmals and their habitats, and so should never be contemplated."
Proposed H. CROSS

b) The memberships view of HSA claiming activities being legal or non-legal under the name of the HSA.

c) That the committee look into the proposal of VAT registration.

d) Open forum for any other recommendations to 85/86 Committee.

Meeting ends at 5.00pm.

There will be a free disco finishing at 12.00 midnight afterwards.

Basic accommodation will be available for those wishing to stay overnight.

For this years hunting horn competition each group must nominate a maximum of 2 members and the winner will receive a £50.00 cheque for his/her group.
The names must be entered to the AGM.

END

FORUM

At this years Annual General Meeting of the British Field Sports Society its Chairperson Stephen Hastings made predictable comments about the violence and lawlessness of hunt saboteurs and followed the tirade with this comment:

"The police are taking matters seriously and there are signs that they are now dealing with hunt saboteurs more positively, but more can and should be done by the courts to deter these hooligans disrupting legitimate country sports".

He went on to tell the assembled members that:

"We welcome the Goverment White Paper on Public Order, and we note in particular their proposals include a new offence of 'disorderly conduct' to catch those who behave in an abusive insulting, threatening or disorderly manner, causing people to be substantially alarmed, harrassed or distressed."

We can be certain that the BFSS and other assorted animal exploiters played a large part in ensuring that such a proposal was included in the White Paper, and will no doubt if it becomes law urge the police to arrest hunt saboteurs for breaching it. I suspect also that if found guilty of this charge an average hunt saboteur can expect a harsher sentence than is usually applied to those arrested on a more normal charge of behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Of course from the BFSS point of view increased police harrassment and fines on conviction of hunt saboteurs would be a good thing. They fear the activities of hunt saboteurs for several reasons:

1) The Hunt Saboteurs are a breeding ground for the animal rights movement, many HSA members after a short while involve themselves in ALF activity involving factory farms, vivisection labortories and of course targets associated with bloodsports.

2) The Hunt Saboteurs provide the only grass roots means of taking action against bloodsports and this is direct and visible, it keeps the issue in the public eye and upsets the average rider to hounds.

3) Hunt sabotage and associated ALF activities are the only real threat to bloodsports that exists, the BFSS would like to see the destruction of the Hunt Saboteurs Association and its network of local groups. Seeing these as a far greater threat to the survival of bloodsports than the League Against Cruel Sports which of course no matter how well meaning in its intentions, by choosing to fight against bloodsports solely in the Houses of Parliament is fighting in enemy territory where the the BFSS machinations are at their most formidable.

The BFSS, however, shows its total ignorance in its charpersons comments. Anyone listening to his words could be lead to believe that hunt saboteurs in particular and animal rights activists in general are lawless by nature and are not concerned at all about how they achieve their aims. The truth is different.

As was evident in Dave Wetton's article on the history of the HSA, hunt violence against hunt saboteurs was endemic from the conception of of direct-action against hunting, the response, illegal direct-action, was therefore invitable. If the legitimate means of protest available to HSA members is denied by violence, if the laws of Britain are changed to criminalise hitherto legal forms of protest it is inevitable and understandable that formerly non-violent and law abiding people opposed with all their hearts and minds to bloodsports will pursue, will be forced to pursue, illegal — and regrettably sometimes violent — forms of action to protect animals from suffering.

During the last hunting season, when hunt violence nationally escalated and when police harrassment of saboteurs reached new levels there was an immense escalation of retaliatory attacks by animal rights activists against hunt property, the property of hunters and even a few of attacks on the persons themselves. In the last HOWL I warned that some activists might resort to violence, but those who were really to blame for it were the people behind the politicians. If this new law comes into effect and is then applied wholesale to hunt saboteurs I have no doubt in my mind at all that illegal action and possibly violence will erupt. Stephen Hastings and your BFSS colleagues if you are reading this let me assure you of one thing,

You will be to blame. You will be held responsible.

DEAR COMRADE SABOTEURS

As mentioned in the Spring Howl there is at long last an active group setting up in South Cumbria.

The Furness Hunt Saboteurs are based in Barrow and Ulverston on the Furness penninsular and although its formation dates only from this Christmas, we have many enthusiastic supporters and a dedicated hardcore of determined activists who have not been intimated by the gruelling terrain and reports of extreme violence from these most obsessive of bloodsports followers (foxhunting is after all tantamount to the "National Sport" of rural Cumbrians.)

The Saboteur group emerged from Furness Animal Rights Movement (F.A.R.M.) itself only fifteen months old but now we are more or less independent and self financing.

Sabotaging a Fell Pack comes as a big shock to most people, not least myself who started sabbing on the flat clay fields and keepered woods of North Essex. With the huntsmen observing from a handy mountain top, the hounds hunt mainly by themselves pursued wildly by the supporters when they catch a scent and disappear out of everybodys sight and earshot. The Huntsman has far less control over his hounds than the East Essex F.H.!!!

Since we started going out several problems have become evident:-

(1) With so few roads and hunted ground rising steeply to well over 2,000ft it is very easy to lose hounds early in the day and never relocate them, despite endless hours of footslogging. This is accentuated by the 2nd problem.

(2) The Lake District is the wettest place in England and heavy rain or low mist, of which there is plenty, means the hunt is invisible even when only a hundred yards away.

(3) Hunts meet up to 6 days a week, including Sundays, and often all 6 days hunting are from the same advertised meet so it is very difficult to predict even where they will unbox, let alone which direction they will set off on any particular day.

(4) The Hunt don't appear to take a fixed route. As hill foxes aren't as markedly nocturnal as lowland foxes they do not lie up in coverts to the same extent and consequently the hunt is not a cosy, fairly predictable procession from wood to wood as are many of the lowland mounted packs.

With these problems peculiar to the region, in addition to all the usual problems associated with successfully sabotaging a hunt, is it any wonder that we have has some trouble being effective?

Some of it I put down to inexperience which will rectify itself itself given time. However,I think we could have more assistance from experienced groups around Northern England. Everybodys pleased there is a group doing the Fell Packs who have remained, until now, virtually unchallenged BUT don't they want to run up and down mountain in the pissing rain from 8 or 9 o'clock 'till dark with us?

In our short existence we have helped out down in Lancashire and sent a van load to the Waterloo Cup but please reciprocate this action and respond as a National organisation should, by meeting the challenge posed to the Hunt Saboteurs Association by these obsessive and callous fell fox hunters.

Thanks to the people of Barrow, who put thier money where their mouths are we should have our own vehicle by next season and be well enough equipped and financed to send a group out once a week at least. However, we need your support up in the mountains not on the end of the phone!!

Our thanks go out to those sabs from Blackpool, Morecambe and around,who turned up at the Ullswater Foxhounds on Easter Monday. This sab was the remnant of an ill organised, ill supported and subsequently cancelled Northern Counties Hit. Please put your legs where your mouths are next time.

Thank you.

FOR FURNESS HUNT SAB, & FURNESS ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CONTACT CHRIS ON:-
(0229) 38475 evenings

RSPCA ACTION GROUP

The RSPCA Action Group has been formed by a number of RSPCA members who are committed to a radical and campaigning Society which will effectively tackle the commercial abuse of animals.
RSPCA Action Groups aims are:

i) To build a network of radical RSPCA members and to encourage active animal rights representation within RSPCA Branches across the country.

ii) To ensure the election of radical animal rights campaigners on to the RSPCA's governing Council.

iii) To reveal 'confidential' information about contentious issues relating to the RSPCA in order to ensure that the society does not maintain double standards.

A number of disturbing developments which have recently come to the light lead RAG to believe that more than ever before, the time is right for animal rights campaigners to unite to change the RSPCA.

Firstly, the fact that the RSPCA's Animal Experimentation Advisory Committee (AEAC) contains individuals who are practising vivisectors, employees of pharmaceutical companies, and even a member of the Research Defence Society.

Secondly, the fact that the RSPCA has huge investments in companies which profit from animal abuse and exploitation. The RSPCA has shares worth almost £1 million in the following companies: Beechams, BP, Boots, Fisons, Glaxos, ICI, and Unilever.

Thirdly, the fact that the RSPCA Council is now totally dominated by 'traditionalists' who recently showed their double standards by expelling Kim Stallwood, Council member and BUAV Campaigns Officer, for allegedly revealing the fact that the RSPCA's AEAC contains vivisectors and others with known pro-vivesection views. More recently Council suppressed discussion of this issue at the Society's AGM.

The failure of progressive animal rights compaigners to get elected on to the RSPCA Council at the recent elections illustrates the urgent need for all animal rights activists to join the RSPCA, to get involved in local RSPCA Branches, and to use their votes to ensure the election of progressive canditates and the adoption of radical animal rights poliicies.

For many years it has been acknowledged that the RSPCA is holding back the advances being made by other more progressive organisations, but until now there has been no rallying point for activists to get together and transform the RSPCA. We hope that RAG will fulfill that obvious need.

If you are interested in receiving RSPCA mailouts or can make a donation please contact:
RSPCA Action Group
c/o PO Box 199
Harrow
Middlesex HA3 9RL RAG June 85

HSA GRAND SUMMER DRAW 1985

Following the success of the 1984 draw and the introduction of the advertising campaign in Press and magazines a steady flow of new people have either joined the Hunt Saboteurs Association or sent donations in support all of which has enabled us to put a fair percentage of income to work in in the field where it is dearly needed.

Selling the prize draw tickets amongst friends, relatives, neighbours and other good people we meet enables us to let them know ehat is happening in the movement. When, we relate the facts about hunting to people it gives them a greater understanding of what really goes on, what cruelty is involved and how an organisation like the hunt saboteurs can help the creatures by the good work and "professional" action in the field.

This is really what our grand draw is about, the principle is not to wring 20p's out of people but to explain the nature of our work and show how their support will help us to help the animals so when they are approached everyone will want to buy the tickets and, of course, if they win then they can only be more pleased to be involved.

This year we have extended the array of prizes to a total of twenty and an improved record of where the tickets are placed will be kept. Could we please ask that if you wish to sell more than the 5 books posted to each member then can you quickly get in touch with P.O. Box 19 and extra books will be posted out to you. Please do not delay on this as we expect to be posting out the estras right, legt and centre!

If for some reason you do not intend to sell the tickets then please post them back and they can be re-allocated. Everyone will appreciate being given the opportunity to win one of the 20 prizes so be sure to ask everyone you come into contact with to buy a book in support of the Hunt Saboteur.

HSA ELECTION

ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS

MARK BROWNE

I am 22 years old and unemployed. I work full-time for animal rights and study organic growing . I joined the HSA committee last year and have since done the membership secretary's work. I want to continue to be on the committee to help expand and increase the active force of the HSA. To ban hunting I believe an increase in direct action at hunts must develop. Any amount of political campaigning will never stop hunting until the HSA saves lives and causes chaos at the majority of hunts. I also believe the HSA must continue to be fully peaceful in its actions.

In the next year, I would like to see the HSA adopt paid full—time workers to concentrate on the office work and increase membership. I would also like to see the HSA adopt a regional contacts advisory system, as in the BUAV, where in each region someone has the task of advising and helping existing contacts and training new contacts for hunts that are not sabotged. I will also be urging the HSA to look for more income eg. urging Supporting Members to fund-raise so as the HSA can supply groups with vans etc. I am a Member of BUAV, Greenpeace, and the Vegan Society.

Proposed: Aubrey Thomas, Seconded: Anne Blundon.

MICK CAMPLING

Age 23, vegan, active in HSA. I have served the HSA committee for a year as a co-opted member and have recently been given the job of sorting out sales goods. I have decided to stand for committee again because I believe I can best continue the job as the new sales goods officer from a position on the committee.

I believe in the continued growth of direct action in the fight for animal rights and have no faith in politicians or the right wing press. The way forward is to quietly get on with our job of being more professional Hunt Saboteurs until the hunts and the shooters and the fishermen can't even sneeze without us knowing.

Proposed: Anne Blunden. Seconded: Ralph Cook.

DUGGS CARRE

Vegan, student at Huddersfield Polytechnic. The HSA exists to help teach new groups to sabotage hunts, help finance hits, and publicise the true horror of hunting. The needs donations and membership monies which comes through publicity, and to be effective, publicity needs to be nationally co-ordinated.

The committee should not be making decisions about HSA groups policy - the individual groups in the field should sabotage hunts as they wish and no HSA committee should tell them otherwise. The committee should provide guidance where requested in the form of tactics discussions and booklets.

Hunting will end, not through legislation, but education of the masses. But we must realise that we need to increase our actions and our number of members every day in order to get the public to listen to our arguments. This will not happen if we continue to sab the same hunt the same way, year in year out - we need new directions and ideas. I've only been actively sabbing for 2 seasons (every week) but feel some young blood with different ideas would help the stagnating committee.

I'm taking a year off from my course next year to compaign for animal rights and feel I can make a worthwhile contribution to the running of the HSA committee. Yorkshire groups also sadly lack any representation on the committee which is very southern dominated - so as I'd be a useful contact for grouse shoot and hare coursing actions I'd also hope to promote student groups within the HSA. They have access to large amounts of government money to help hit the hunts that the governments defend.

Proposed: Louise Hall. Seconded: Joanne Hodges.

RALPH COOK

Vegan, unemployed. In my opinion, the HSA is facing two serious problems. One is internal, the other external.The internal problems are typocal of those associated with any decentralised, voluntary based pressure group; it relies - quite rightly - on the integrity of its committee members, their willingness to work, and of course a network of dedicated contacts. Any such organisation is likely to be afflicted by personal conflicts and egocentrics as well as a few people at both committee and contact level who are prepared to rest on their laurels and who do not pull their weight. Luckily the HSA soes not have too many such people, but the rot is there at both levels and in my view should be purged out of existence.

Thus, I believe that there should always be an election of some kind for committee members (there has not been an election for three years), and anybody who is elected should take upon themselves a job and do it throughly; anyone who fails to do this should be voted out at the next election. Thus it is necessary, I feel, for every commitee member to give a report of their activities at the AGM. I also feel, that moves should be made to have elections only at AGMs with, perhaps, some kind of postal vote for those who are genuninely unable to attend. Further, every HSA activist should ensure that their contact is doing their job properly and if not, the contact should be removed from the contacts list.

The external problems are less important in committee terms and to be honest there is little we can do to lessen them. The external problems are focused on the police who in the course of the last season have begun to use new and harsher methods to prevent us saving lives. There can be little question that this change was initiated at government level, prompted by the BFSS. Hunt violence has also in national terms escalated and there can be no doubt that the two are interlinked. To combat these problems it is important for all HSA groups to inform HQ of any incidents, enclosing photographs, car numbers, police identity numbers and details of what is happening. This will assist action on the part of the committee in opposing these activities. It should be remembered however, that basically we are on our own; the attitudes of MPs, whatever their political hue, of the police, magistrates, judges and and the government towards us are virtually identical. Any campaign against excessive police harrassment and hunt violence is likely to achieve little.

1985/6 COMMITTEE

ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS

Finally I would like to be elected onto the 1985-86 committee to continue the task for which I stood in '82-83', that of Research Officer.
Proposed: Anne Blunden. Seconded: David Weeks.

DAN CRAMPTON.
I am 20 years old, a vegan, have been sabbing for 4 years and a member of HSA for 3 years. The HSA should keep covering the areas of bloodsports it's dealing with and add badger baiting to its list! Direct action should continue, in a non-violent way where possible with an emphasis on educating sabs in the field, more detailed tactics etc. I think it would help if we had more back-up from local people and tried to recruit more Supporting Members as well as more Sabs. Possibly some more 'good' publicity would help the public to see/understand our aims more clearly, though this should never interfere with direct action against hunting.
I would be prepared to take any role on the HSA committee that is not going to be filled though I don't think Press Officer or Research Officer is very appropriate! I would be interested in a 'Badger post' if that is considered viable.
Proposed: Steve Poole. Seconded: Dave Weeks.

JOHN DOWLE.
I am a vegan and have been sabbing for 3 seasons. At present I am a student at Trent Polytechnic where I established a new sab group. I would like to be Student Liason Officer and feel I can make a useful contribution to committee work. I have been attending committee meetings for the last year so I am familiar with the format and procedure of meetings.
If I am elected I will strive to see the views of student groups represented and respected on committee. I would also consider it my task to keep in contact with all affiliated student groups and members. I am committed to direct action and believe in leaving political lobbying to other organisations. I would like to see more emphasis put on better tactics training with regular tactics meetings and increased involvement of HSA contacts.
I believe the HSA is an important organisation at the forefront of the animal rights movement. I feel that in order for the Association to survive and continue effective sabotage, it will have to change before the new laws concerning trespass and public order come into effect.
Proposed; Anne Blunden. Seconded: Mick Campling.

JOHN HALE.
I have been a member of the HSA for several years. For some of these I have been on the HSA committee, and for part of this time I have been tactics officer.
I am vegan and I have never had an occupation that exploits animals. I am certain the HSA still has a vital role to play in the struggle against bloodsports and has, in certain areas, already had a major impact. There is still long way to go and new ideas and methods must be developed to come with a much more organised reponse by the killers in their legal, but socially unacceptable activities.
As tactics officer, I have answered inquiries by members, written tactics articles for HOWL, organised tactics meetings and co-ordinate a tactics sub committee which has been indespensible and necessary for the constant reviews of the tactics booklet (which is to be reprinted soon), and for decisions on the use of new methods of which the committee has the final say.
It is in these areas that my interests lie and that I can continue to be useful to the HSA.
Proposed: Kevin Thomas. Seconded: Paula Lloyd.

WENDY HOLBOROW.
Age 36, occupation, teacher. I am a vegan and have been active in the HSA and general animal rights groups for the past three years. I am a founding member of Pennine Animal liberation and have been the contacts person for the mid-Pennine HSA group for about 18 months. I am interested in becoming administratively involved with the HSA, particularly, perhaps, having the responsibility of sales goods, because in October I am expecting a baby and will not be actively involved in sabbing for quite a while. As I will be having a year off teaching, I feel I can give a lot of time to the HSA which I believe is one of the most worthwhile and active of the animal rights groups in existence today. I have always believed in direct action as the most effective means of getting one's point across, and in this way the HSA is in the forefront.
Proposed: Steve Poole. Seconded: Neil Hudson.

ALAN PEASE.
Unemployed, vegan. What are our aims when sabbing a hunt, shoot or fishing match? On the day, to save as many lives as possible — in the long term to destroy the organisations that perpetuate the slaughter. At the moment, too many sabs only try to achieve the short aim. This must change.
If we want to achieve animal liberation, we must start working towards the destruction of all hunting, shooting and fishing organisations. Let's sab the hunts before they even get out of the kennels.
On a local level, concentrating all efforts on one particular hunt shoot of fishing club, using all forms of direct action action, and mobilising local public opposition is one way to start. Campaigns, like the Holcombe Hunt Action Group Group, are a good idea.
I believe the HSA can best help undermine the bloodsports organisations by raising money on a national level and distributing this to groups around the country to help with specific campaigns. Also the gathering and cordinating of information on bloodsports organisations. The HSA should also act as a forum for the development of tactics — and help the groups under them effectively on a local level.
Proposed: Lloyd Baker. Seconded: Nick Donovan.

ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS

STEVE POOLE.

HSA member for 6 years, committee member for 1 year, Bath contact for 3 years, houseparent and writer, age 27, vegetarian. I am standing for committee because I believe I can capitalise next year on the many lessons I have learnt as Press Officer this year. Daily work with my child has severely cut into my available time as an active sab, but I am able to keep up a strong committment to HSA through committee work and am probably the first HSA Press Officer usually available to take calls on a Saturday. I am a trained journalist. Like it or not, the media is interested in us, it can and does influence the public's perceptions of HSA, we cannot hide from it and we must learn to live with it.

In the past year I have developed the role of P.O. to include the co-ordination of an advertising campaign in various magazines and papers. My training has helped me to establish a good working relationship with a number of reporters and I have issued numerous releases and statements to the press. If re-elected I intend to re-design and professionalise most of our popaganda material - leaflets, posters etc, regionalise the press contact system and produce a press pack of advice and guidelines to local contacts to help them handle the media. I will also improve upon the advertising campaign of '84–85' making it more effective, in the coming year. I see the future of HSA its development as a skilled sabotage network, its emphasis on tactical precision rather than a mass swamping of hunts which I believe results in confusion, pointless confrontation, more attention from the police and even further disturbance of habitats. I want to see groups develop more confidence in their ability to control hounds with horn and voice and more attention given to the perfection of pre-meet tactics.

Political lobbying is pointless except where its accompanying publicity gains us more activists. It is not our objective to make hunting illegal, but to make it untenable. HSA remains the only organisation with any potential to bring about the demise of bloodsports and I believe it can survive any assaults made against it by government and law court and by learning to adapt to whatever conditions it finds itself in.

Proposed: Mark Browne. Seconded: David Weeks.

SIMON RUSSELL.

I have been a member for four years. I've been a vegetarian for two and a half years and a vegan for one and a half years. My job is assistant supervisor at a builders merchants.

The HSA is the most effective 'legal' animal rights organisation. This is due solely to the active membership. Non-active members are, of course, important for fundraising etc, but our aims are only achieved by active people. Therefore, I propose not only to continue the membership drive but increase the emphasis on active members. Also contacting already formed animal rights groups to persuade them to be more active against bloodsports.

Contacts are also needed desperately in some areas. Perhaps a plea in HOWL or perhaps in a single mail-out for more inactive members to become active or contacts would be constructive.

The HSA is at the forefront of the animal rights movement and I intend to see that it remains so. Once the bloodsports is toppled, all the other areas of animal abuse will be threatened. If we could field 10,000 active members each Saturdays hunting would grind to a halt with or without parliament.

Along these lines I am a firm believer in joint sabs but without police notification. I personally am willing to work work as hard as possible to gain these ends and by them the end of hunting on land and water.

Proposed: Dave Wetton. Seconded: Cee Wetton.

AUBREY THOMAS.

Occupation - Company Director. Vegan. I have sabotaged hunts practically every week for 12 years except for a six month period where I was jailed for ALF activities. My major aim in life is to build up my own business to an extent where I can sell it for an animal sanctuary which I have set myself another 7 years to do. I have had 5 years on the HSA committee, missing only one meeting through chicken pox. For the latter part of this committee year I have been serving as chairman, a position in which I feel I can be most useful. I have served in various offices and understand the various problems involved in each. This, I believe, helps me to conduct productive, controlled meetings. I would like to see the HSA move forward, becoming more organised and much larger and to become the final nail in the hunters coffin.

Proposed: Anne Blunden. Seconded: Harry Cross.

DAVE WEEKS.

Vegan, HSA member for three and a half years, Electronics Technician. It's been said before, but it's worth saying again, that an effective HSA can only be as strong as it's groups nationwide. To provide help and general assistance to the existing groups and newly formed groups, it must fall to the Contact Liason Officer to provide an efficient and helpful service at a time when it is needed most.

As I see the situation, during the next committee year, I would like to be able to provide greater financial assistance to groups while at the same time being able to strengthen the existing contacts system.

With these and other ideas in mind, I would like to be re-elected as the Contacts Liason Officer to the 1985-86 committee.

Proposed: Ralph Cook. Seconded: Helena Frances Ryan.

GRAHAM CLARKE.

Age 22, unemployed, vegan. I have been an active hunt saboteur for five years. During this time I have started and run two very successful local HSA groups (Aston Univerisity and Huddersfield Polytechnis). I believe that the future success of the HSA lies in the strength of local groups. However, a national HSA committee has a role to play to help co-ordinate local groups and information, organise large national hits against certain hunts, to organise national publicity and to help form new groups.

I believe that there must be a change of attitude in the new national committee. Specifically, the attitude that hunting would never be banned by law and that the way to end hunting is to have every hunt sabotaged is very defeatist and created last year's stagnant committee. I believe the role of the HSA is, by using non-violent direct action, to create mass public opposition to all bloodsports so that the government is forced to ban them.

I have played a large part in organising several national hits including the Waterloo Cup, Grouse Shoots, and many fox hunts. Although national hits have not always been organised well, I believe in recent years they have improved and are excellent ways of creating national publicity.

Proposed: David Callender. Seconded: Mark Breedon.

ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS ELECTION ADDRESS

MARK BREEDON.

Vegan, unemployed. The HSA committee should, I believe, be able to co-ordinate local groups and give them as much help as possible. I would like to see an end to internal squabbles as our job is to promise the HSA, not to contain ourselves with arguments. It is improtant to be able to accept decisions taken on a majority vote.

I think particular attention should be paid to student groups, in that there should be a group established in every polytechnic/university. I have been Leeds University contact for one and a half years, and have recently taken on the job of co-ordinating the Leeds group, with many other people able to support me, should national HSA take up too much of my time to enable me to do both.

Administration is very important, and keeps information flowing between members. New members should receive an information package and more activists should be encouraged to join the organisation.

Fund raising is important, and to actively encourage local HSA groups to take up street collections can only benefit beneift the HSA.

I believe in non-violence and see nothing but a bright futute for the HSA.

Proposed: Dave Callender. Seconded: Joanne Hodges.

GROUP NEWS

WALES

This season has seen the establishment of a new sab group in SWANSEA, the first time in many years. The first initial outing of the new group was against the Llandeilo Farmers Foxhunt which responded in typical fashion, threatening the small group of sabs with amongst other weapons, a shotgun and pickaxe handle. Not perturbed by this welcome, they still managed to send the hunt home early, although one fox had been killed by the terrier men.

A week later a larger contingent of sabs assembled to provide help to the new group. The VALE OF GLAMORGAN SABS as well as sabs from BOURNEMOUTH, a combined force of 35 sabs meet the hunt at the Smiths Arms, near Cross Hands. Unfortunately, the hunt were possibly forewarned of the sab, resulting in an army of nasty looking heavies waiting in the pub car park. Despite a police presence, one van driver was again threatened for the second time in two weeks by a loaded shotgun, this time in full view of the police. As the hunt moved off, ten sabs gave chase along a footpath, until four very large heavies attacked them with sticks.



Llandeilo Foxhunt - The calm before the storm.

Five minutes later approximately 25 real bastards armed to the teeth with sticks and coshes attacked the front rank of the sabs as they walked along a road. The outcome was the usual bloodbath, one sab being knocked semi-unconscious, whilst two other obtaining severe cuts to their heads and eyes, despite help from a pro-sab farmer who brandished yet another shotgun this time at the heavies. Again this was witnessed by the police who took no action.

During the rest of the season the Vale of Glamorgan sabs have been having great success against the South East Wales Minkhunt. Needless to say no kills have been recorded due to the fact that the average time the hunt is out is usually no more than ½ hour.

SOUTH WEST

The BRISTOL sabs have had a good end to the fox hunting season, due to their recent delivery of a Land-Rover. They have managed to get out every week concentrating on the Beaufort Hunt, Berkeley Hunt as well as helping out neighbouring sab groups.

After the successful national hit on the Beaufort - 150 sabs in attendance!! - they managed to keep up the pressure on every occassion. Particular attention was paid to unblocking earths as well as good use of the Cotswold horn, resulting in no kills.

Unfortunately, the Bristol group has met with unprecidented police harassment with 5 sabs being taken into custody, two of these being arrested for blowing hunting horns and one for driving a Landrover - a taste of things to come maybe!

The season ended for the sabs at the Badminton Horse Trials. Ten sabs ran on in front of the Queen, parading the 'Dig deeper for the Duke' banner, but apparently the Queen ' was not amused', resulting in the sabs being fined £274 each.

Meanwhile BATH HSA have been out most weekends concentrating on the Beaufort Hunt as well as the Clifton Foot Beagles, Malborough Beagles and Chilmark Beagles.



Vine and Craven Fox Hunt also a target for Cotswold HSA

No kills were recorded at the Clifton Foot which was much the same story at the Malborough College, except for some intimidation from an irate supporter who spent all day following the van and trying to run down the unwary sabs, shades of Death Race 2000 no doubt.

On the 30th March the Bath sabs teamed up with the Vale of Glamorgan and Swindon groups to sab the Vale of White Horse Hunt who spent most of the day running away from the sabs. No real hunting was achieved by the VWH, except for the unruly hounds which seemed to pay more attention to deer than to any foxes which happened to cross their path.

Swindon HSA have also been out most weekends of late teaming up mainly with the Bristol and Bath Groups. One particular incident which hit the head-lines, was an unfortunate accident out with the R.A.C. Beagles. One riotous hound jumped a wall crossed a main road and into the path of an oncoming car with fatal consequences for the hound. Naturally, not loosing the chance of some cheap publicity the hunt went to the media claiming that the sabs were the reason for the hounds death. Police in the area are still investigating the incident, egged on by the hunt.

The Swindon Group report increased effect whilst sabbing due to the use of CB's, which has enabled them to deposit sabs at vital positions in the hunting field.

On Boxing Day the COTSWOLD HSA joined with groups from Bath, Bristol and

Swindon to hit the Avon Vale Foxhunt. The hunt made one kill early in the day for which they blamed the sabs! However, for the rest of the day the hunt was successfully disrupted and no kills were made although hounds were often on the scent of both fox and hare. Hunt supporters responded to the sabs actions with a seasonal display of drunken violence.

On Jan 5th the Albany Bassets meet at Southrop Glos, the target for the group as well as sabs from Vale of Glamorgan, Swindon and Bath.

Hunting was disrupted right from the start and hounds were never on a scent due to the liberal use of antimate and horns. Realising the futility of the day the hunt returned to the village surrounded by by sabs. After an hour spent hiding from sabs in a farm yard, they decided to call it a day. Press coverage of the day was better than usual with the police claiming, "It was a very peaceful demonstration. Everyone was very polite and orderly!!" What can you say to that!

Meanwhile further down south - Devon to be precise - the Exeter HSA has had an active season meeting a concerted campaign of hunt violence.

On the 6th April they through themselves and other groups from the south-west in the deep end by attempting to sab the Tiverton Foxhunt. Thankfully, the hunts reputation of extreme violence wasn't lived up to.



Tiverton Foxhunt - Sabs moving in.

Grasping this rare opportunity, sabs positioned themselves in the kennel entrance, delaying the hunt for quite some time. Later at the meet the police had been called to deal with the three van loads of sabs. The MANCHESTER hunt sabs then arrived in a further couple of vans just in time to join the sabs in the field pulling hounds off the huntsman left right and centre. Amidst the sound of hunting horns and whistles the peace was shattered by would you believe a police helicopter specially equipped to combat sabs, i.e. a large and prying camera. It hovered and circled whilst it's camera took close ups of the sabs. Sabs are now attending gurning lessons ready for next season.

Since the beginning of the hunting season, hunts around Plymouth have had the PLYMOUTH HSA to contend with. Hunts hit include the Lamerton Foxhunt, Spooners ans West Dartmoor FH, Dartmoor Beagles and the Penwith Harriers.

It was whilst sabbing the last hunt that the two car loads of sabs were attacked. Sabs from PENZANCE HSA were amongst the sabs trapped in one car as heavies appeared from everywhere each one taking turns to damage the car,

Despite the violence, the group is still very active and look forward to next season when they hope to have twice as many sabs coming out from Plymouth.

SCOTLAND.

The Edinburgh HSA have had a good season this year, with few kills and little excessive police harrassment. Although they have had a few visits to the cells, all charges against them have been dropped and they have had there horns and antimate returned to them. Falkirk police must have had a great time with an air-horn which was confiscated, as it had a full canister and was totally empty when returned to them.

The new Huntsman from Derbyshire seems to be totally inapt as many of their sabs are totally superior to him at horn blowing. The huntsman, however, was becoming more and more irate as the season wore on, and this culminated on the 9th March when sabs from Edinburgh and Stirling HSA managed to repeatedly take the hounds from him. On one occassion during the day sabs managed to drive their cars alongside the woods causing hounds to run alongside a hedge in the field in the direction of the car. All this was too much for the huntsman who took to whipping the car with sabs inside. Later in the day, a van load of Stirling sabs sabs were locked in the back of their luton van due to the fact that somebody had padlocked the door shut. Relief was at hand in the guise of a hacksaw, Phew!

On March 22nd the Edinburgh HSA were in court, this time as prosecution witnesses against one of the field, who at the cubbing, whilst acting as a supporter, assualted two girls and a boy as they attempted to sit in a hole at a dig-out. The girls were pushed and thrown about, while the boy was attacked.

They told the judge exactly what happened whilst the hunt staff and followers told the usual load of lies. The judge could do nothing but find Andrew Baird guilty of three cases of assault, but was only fined a total of £45.

LEEDS.

This season has seen the LEEDS HSA sabbing the York and Ainsty FH. On one hunt at least the hunt was decided to release bagged foxes. On every occassion, the sabs have been able to save both of the foxes.

SHEFFIELD sabs joined up with the Leeds group to hit the Badsworth FH, the sabs claiming a hard one victory over the hunts attempts. This was a typical day for the group which have been out every weekend and mid-week with no kills. On a recent flag day they were able to raise £280 which should help them well into next season when they hope to have many more sabs coming out.

SOUTHAMPTON HSA.

Since the end of the season the Southampton group have been concentrating on fundraising with the aim to buy a transit van.

They have also started a 'poacher patrol' group in the New Forest. This new group sees the sabs going out every night looking for poachers and their vehicles, making notes then calling in the police. They predict that one poacher will be in court very soon.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX HSA.

The Essex Hunt have had a bad end to the the season as the Clacton group with groups from London and Brentwood have sabbed the hunt on most weekends.

On one outing the only kill of the season was recorded, this being a bagged fox. The hunt were seen to be riding back to the meet when they signalled to the terrier men, the result a bagged fox, which only managed to run for a short while until being killed.

Hunt violence has been ever present,, with sabs being attacked by the police and terrier men to name but a few.

On the last hunt of the season for the Essex hounds the whole group was arrested for Breach of the Peace. Whilst at the police station during photographing, one sab had his head smashed against a wall, great British justice folks!

Quotable Quotes

" I accept that hunting is the most humane way to kill a fox. It is better than snaring, shooting or gassing."

RICHARD COURSE, Executive Director League Against Cruel Sports, at a meeting of animal rights people in Winchester (1984).

"There is no way any civilised person can actually justify hunting".

BRIAN PLUMMER, well- known author of the terrier world.

"There is no moral distinction which can be drawn between killing animals in hunting, shooting, fishing or meat eating, all generate pleasure for humans and none are absolutely necessary".

IAN.S.COGHILL, minkhunter and Conservation Officer (BFSS).

"Debate and policy - fishing: John Bryant proposed, seconded by Jan Renisom; the League Against Cruel Sports accepts that fish can experience pain and therefore condemns angling for sport.
;Agreed nem con!"

Minutes of the LACS August 1981 Item 7.2.

IGNORED TORMENT OF THE MANY THOUSANDS

There exists in the British Isles a fast growing "SPORT," that beneath a well cultivated image of responsible and caring policy that, causes the wounding and resultant suffering, of hundreds of thousands of animals each and every year.

This pastime embraces not the exquisitively turned-out horseman or, the syndicate member and his matched pair of shot-guns but a following of many thousands of people from all backgrounds and age groups. The sport is fast gaining a kind of grudging respect from other bloodsport organisations mainly, I beleive to swell the ranks of those that know their method of obtaining fun is under attack from the caring majority of this country.

The "SPORT" I accuse of this gross and and carefully hidden crime is - the hunting of animals with air-weapons. The figure of 'hundreds of thousands' will I suspect generate a goodly amount of raised eyebrows even, total disbelief among the readership of this publication. The numbers are so vast, it would be expecting too much to have them accepted without explaining my research and subsequent findings.

I am a former air-rifle hunter of some 20 years standing, dedicating virtually all my leisure time to the pursuit of excellence in my chosen hobby. I therefore speak from experience. During my shooting career I had been fortunate enough to have at my disposal adequate funds to provide me with the finest available type of equipment. This, coupled with a generous amount of free time, enable me to attain a a high level of success in the field.

However, despite these factors in my favour, plus the use of a trained dog, I still wounded a proportion of the animals I shot at. Obviously I must have been doing something drastically wrong. Still thinking it was possible to eliminate the wound factor entirely I assessed the situation. I made a number of pratical changes in my approach to shooting, the range was halved from 35 to 40 to a maximum of 20 yards. Night shooting was discarded completely, as were the 'heart, lung shots' advocated by many writers in the varoius air-gun magazines I read. In short I made my sport as clinical as possible.

The odds, according to the standards of the sport were heavily in favour of a 'CLEAN' kill every time I shot. Alas, the truth became obvious after a short while. With me behind the best weapon and sight combinations the industry could offer, and bringing into play all the field-craft my two decades of hunting had taught me, plus the use of a dog to pick up the wounded, I still wounded and allowed to escape, two out of every twenty creatures I attempted to kill.

So I failed to live up to the golden rule of the air gunner which is, "if you can't be be certain of a clean kill DO NOT pull the the trigger", a sound basis I still feel, but could it be lived up to?

Curious to find out more about the 'wound-ratio' of other hunters I set out to compile a few facts and figures for myself. The results of my enquiries left me stunned, they also opened my eyes to the 'hypocracy' of the sporting bodies that claim to have a caring approach to the animals they hunt. This is how I arrived at the 'hundreds of thousands' figure I told of earlier.

There are, according to the airgun manufacturers and retailers I asked, between 4 and 4½ million air weapons in circulation throughout the British Isles. Of these the vast majority are general purpose sporting and informal target rifles rifles. If a mere fraction of these weapons are used against animals the basis of my conclusions is formed. Let us take a tiny amount of the true figure, say 3,000 weapons, and place them in the hands of experienced hunters.

This select group of shooters need wound only 'ONE' animal per week each, to give a total of 150,000 plus, animals wounded per year. This figure can in reality be at least trebled, the sum we arrive at becomes unthinkable.

The hypocrasy of the sport and it's supporters becomes obvious. Those that shoot WILL WOUND. This makes the golden rule of "not pulling the trigger unless certain to kill" a sham, an applaudable sentiment, but totally impossible to live up to in the field. The hunters know this, but it is brushed aside or, glossed over at best, you will never read, in any air-gun magazine the followng account';;

The sight settled on the rabbits brain, the rifle was discharged smoothly, but for some reason the pellet struck low, a sinister 'pop' told me the animal had been hit in the belly, it leaped turned, and sprinted falteringly to a burrow 20 yards away and I was unable to 'dispatch' it. While that account in itself was fictional, many occurences that exactly follow the same grizzly script are happening every day. "

It is so easy to miss a 'kill area' only 1" diameter at 30 to 40 yards. Many things can and do affect the flight of an air-gun pellet. The flight of a pellet is not a straight straightline as many people think, but a gentle curve that rises first above your line of sight and then, as gravity prevails and the initial velocity drops off, falls more sharply below the sightline. This can be illustrated more easily than described.

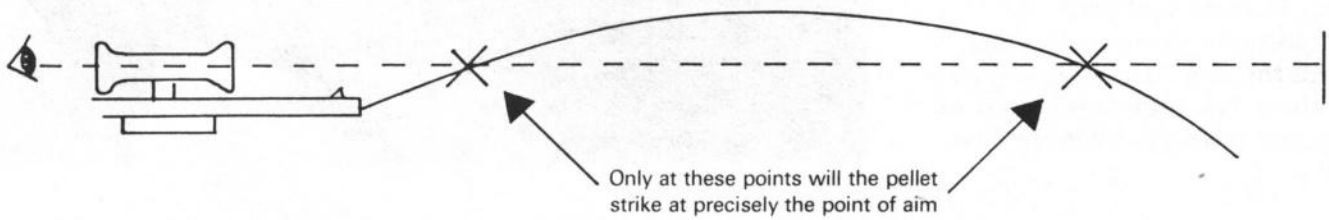
The Hunter then, has to be a very good judge of distance for the pellet to strike exactly where he intends, for only as the pellet crosses the sight line at the two points shown, will he be able to shoot when the sights are exactly on the target. At any other distance an allowance (called hold-over or hold-under) must be made. Human error is common.

Next the wind can alter the flight path of a projectile drastically, turning a clean kill into a maiming. There are also malfunctions, deformed pellets and simple off-days on the part of the hunter. Together with the chance of the animal slightly moving, to make the intended victim pay a price worse than death. NEVER believe an air-gun hunter who says he has been shooting animals for years and has never seen ONE escape wounded, no hunter is, or can, be that good.

Lastly let us examine the consequences of a wounding. A .22 calibre pellet lodged in the body of a rabbit is roughly equivalent to a golf ball made of lead stuck into the body of a human being. The unfortunate rabbit however, cannot pop down to his local casualty dep of his local hospital to have the wound expertly treated, while the police pull out all the stops to apprehend the monster that perpetrated this henious crime.

No the rabbit has to get on with living in a world that is difficult enough, without a disability to contend with. As the worthy hunter toasts his toes by the fire after a hard early morning shoot, the rabbit lies in its burrow, bleeding, quietly awaiting release from a life now filled only with agony and terror.

That release can take between 20 mins to 3 weeks to arrive. All of this I swear is true, the shooters know a great deal of it, the various organizations that disguise the truth or 'ignore it' completely, to protect this 'SPORT' know every word of it yet, they will carry on maiming and tormenting the wildlife of our country under a banner of self-proclaimed respectability.



TACTICS

Last season was probably one of the most difficult for sab groups for quite some time. Violence by hunt thugs has now been backed up by a nationally directed police clamp down on in the field activities. Hunt violence has probably reached its peak now in most areas, but will of course, still be a major factor as hunting can only attempt to solve problems in the field by the practices that come naturally to it.

The police as instructed by the Home Secretary in his circular to Chief Constables have shown how they will uphold barbaric activities committed by a small minority against the will of the majority of the people. If you look back in the last HOWL at the Home Secretary's reply to the HSA (page 3) it is not surprising we are denied a say in the higher circles the BFSS move in. It was not realistic to expect to voice an opinion just because the BFSS et al had their say. The BFSS in fact did not just go to the Home Secretary for a bleat about hard times from the sabs. No, the Home Secretary's letters says as much. The BFSS went with 'documented'. 'evidence' of 'assaults' and 'threats' to huntpersons.

As I have previously said I think these were fabricated as part of a nationally co–ordinated policy of hunt violence. However, the Home Secretary did tell the BFSS that the law as it stands is all the protection hunts need to prevent illegal actions against them. The BRFSS clearly know this is true, as the HSA's activities are quite legal, and are now looking to the White Paper Review of Public Order Law, and to its amended section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 which would make it an offence to use 'threatening, abusive, or insulting words or be behaviour which is intended or likel likely to cause another person to fear unlawful violence'. In other words this is an 'arrest you if you a are there' law. Other provisions will stop you getting there in the first place.



It Clearly demonstrates our effectiveness against hunting when the BFSS have to look forward to a police state to stop legal protest against wild animal slaughter.

So much for hunt tactics. If you go out this summer on a mink hunt sabotage remember the following points:

First, if a pre-meet and/or trail is to be used it is only necessary for a small group (4-6 persons) to walk the bank for a few hours before the the hunt starts, try not to be seen and if you spot mink remember the exact place on the river and be ready later on in the day to confuse the hounds in this area if necessary.

Second, if there is a large group of sabs this may well prevent the hunt from moving off. It is best if a large group of people do not walk along the river. However, if the hunt do carry on try to distract the huntsman all the time. Talk to him and counter- call the hounds etc.

Third, if you have taken a lot of trouble to find the hunt in the first place do not let them dash away to a new meet while you are held up in hunt traffic and by police. Work out a plan to overcome this including a central phone number if possible, and watch the hound van, the hunt may box quickly on a road near the river just up stream and make a run for it.

Finally, make sure you are equipped for a long day out and remember if you are soaked you will need a change of clothes or you will be very cold on the way home.

Although the basic methods of hunt sabotage will work as well as ever they did, nowadays there are more initial obstacles to overcome before the tactics booklet comes into its own. The way around the extraneous problems is good forward planning, application and innovation on the day. This is bound to save animals lives on the day and cause continous problems for bloodsports in the long term.

JOHN HALE
TACTICS OFFICER

