"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

HOWL

25p

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX Number34, Autumn 1986



OCCUPY THE KILLING FIELDS!

MINKHUNTS BLOCKADED



Letters

Write to HOWL c/o PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX. The Letters page is yours. Please use it as a platform for debate, opinion, or comment on the articles you see in HOWL. Try to keep letters to 250 words and please allow us to edit if space is short.

MORE ON VIOLENCE

Dear HOWL,

I feel that I must answer the Exeter sabs who replied to my letter in HOWL 32. Like 'Exeter Sab' I too have suffered greatly at the hands and whips of huntsmen. But I have never fought fire with fire. I have certainly not (as Ralph Cook implies) degenerated into a spineless, cowering creature. On the contrary; each time violence is used against me, it strengthens my will to save lives.

I am opposed to all violence. That is one reason why bloodsports disgust me.

I made general comments on my feelings. People who are selfish, ego-tripping and hypocritical do occur in the animal rights movement and I simply wanted people to analyse their reasons for sabbing. A few folk seem to have done this so my letter must have done some good.

This 'empty-headed Oxford wanker' invites anyone who doesn't believe that NVDA can work to spend a few days sabbing with me. I can't guarantee that you won't get a kicking but can guarantee that you will save lives.

Oxford Joe
Box 1, 15 Cowley Rd., Oxford.

Dear HOWL,

I am not a pacifist. I believe wholly in retaliation. But Ralph and Neil from Exeter have NO RIGHT to call Oxford Joe a 'wanker'. He is a hunt saboteur and goes out more regularly, often on his own, than any sab I've met. Divided we fall.

Skunk

Dear HOWL,

The Norwich H.S.A. group has been active since 1983, and on all sabs we have attended not one person has ever attacked or injured any huntsperson.

We have received kicks, punches, been knocked down, and one sab last season had to go to hospital with a sprained foot after being deliberately trampled by a hunt rider. Without using violence we have achieved good results. Using violence would reduce us to the level of the hunt.

I am not saying we should let them walk all over us. Sabs should certainly defend themselves when necessary. But perhaps the press headlines might be a bit more sympathetic instead of slagging us off as mindless thugs if we turned it the other way around and let the public see who the true thugs are.

Tim Nickerson
Norwich

PAUL WELLER FOR PRESIDENT

Dear HOWL,

I don't know if any of your readers realise what Paul Weller is doing in support of H.S.A. Many people have probably not heard of him. He is lead singer and writer for The Style Council. Some may remember their single, 'Walls come tumbling down'. The B-side was called 'Bloodsports' and in this he attacks the foul 'sport'. All the writing royalties from this song went to the fund for John Curtin and Terry Helsby. I think that if more media stars with the power of influence did this sort of thing, we could do a lot more.

EJP
West Midlands

DON'T KNOCK SABS

Dear HOWL,

As an active sab, after reading the article in the Summer HOWL on the regionalisation of the H.S.A., I felt I must write.

I'm a member of the H.S.A. and intend remaining so. I believe the retention of the national organisation is essential for countrywide co-ordination and communication as well as for publicity and the various services it supplies.

However, I am also a member of S.A.B.S. My involvement in S.A.B.S. has not detracted from my involvement with H.S.A. However, in S.A.B.S. we have a close network of contacts in the region, we have regular meetings, and we find we can aid each other and communicate with each other very effectively and this can only help our sabbing and hence the hunted animal.

There is no question of S.A.B.S. damaging the H.S.A. It is made up of H.S.A. contacts for Gods sake! Let's stop thinking of the H.S.A. as a sort of holy order and just try and organise ourselves in the most efficient way possible; which is what SABS has done.

E M Tuckie
Bournemouth

THANKS FROM THE WICKHAM SEVEN

Dear HOWL,

May I take this opportunity of thanking the H.S.A. for publicising the fate fo the Wickham 7. I was one of those people and have just been released from Winchester prison. I would also like to thank, through your organ, all the people who wrote to me in Winchester. The letters were a tremendous help as you knew that people were thinking of you and giving their support.

Prison is, of course, frustrating and degrading (there is no privacy etc) but it isn't too bad once you get used to it. Activists should not be worried about the prospects of a custodial sentence; its not as bad as you think. It is, of course, disgraceful that people are locked up for caring about animals, but it shows that we're a threat and are winning. The authorities can't cope with direct action en masse, and I don't think they will be able to deter people from participating in it.

Finally, could I ask people to put pressure on the Home Office (Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1) about the plight of vegan prisoners, as the prison vegan diet is not adequate - too many soggy un-nutritious vegetables, over-reliance on starchy foods like white bread and rice etc, etc. Also, in our prison, we were not allowed to have vegan toiletries sent in or to buy them. I was told that the Home Office had 'put a block on this'.

John Quirke
Leytonstone, London

DEATH-TRAP TRANSITS

Dear H.S.A.,

On June 23rd 1986, eight people died when returning from Glastonbury CND festival. All were in a goods van and none were wearing seat belts. In view of this, and the subsequent calls by Government ministers that no passengers should travel in any vehicle without seat-belts, perhaps sabs should think again before using vans to travel in.

I have driven and been a passenger in vans jam-packed with people going to sabotage hunts. I have never felt happy about it, and I suggest that vans are only used as a last resort and then only for short, low-speed journeys.

Simon Wild
Chichester, W. Sussex.

MISGUIDED BOMBINGS

Dear HOWL,

In HOWL 33, Dennis Rich invited opinions on the use of bombs in campaigns. Violence never works. Look at those who have been the intended targets of explosive missiles and it will be seen that they always escape and innocent people and animals are maimed, shocked and killed instead.

Having been in many explosions myself, I can vouch for the long term ill effects suffered by innocent victims.

There is no control over bombs. My fear is that innocent pets and children of animal abusers may be cruelly injured or killed. There have been many cases of explosives killing the person planting them. We cannot afford to lose brave young people just because their anguish has driven them to use the usual mad methods of solving problems in this world.

By maintaining a high level of kindness, animal rights campaigners have every chance of coverting the offspring of villains, if not the villains themselves.

Barbara Barrett
Stroud, Glos.

IDENTIFYING THE REAL VERMIN

Dear HOWL,

I received my first copy of HOWL yesterday and found it most interesting. A few weeks ago I attended a meeting of the Telford Animal Rights group. Some people seem to think that sabs are young people with nothing better to do and that caring about animals will get them sympathy, but I found this quite different. They were a real friendly crowd and dedicated to the cause.

I have a friend, a gentleman farmer's daughter, who believes that without hunting you'd have every Tom Dick and Harry out shooting foxes. I asked her if she condoned having a pack of hounds chase a fox till it can't run any more and finally tearing it to pieces. Oh no, she said, 'but it's better than shooting at random.' I informed her that every Tom Dick and Harrry couldn't affford a gun and that robbing old people was more profitable for them.

You see, there are various types of vermin and most have two legs, not four. If the police spent more time chasing these instead of sabs, we'd have a better police force. Well, they still haven't caught the 'Fox' that murdered Ms Murrell from Sutton Rd have they?

Christopher J Bennett
Sutton Road, Shrewesbury

P.S. If hunting was a so-called sport of the working class, it would have been banned long ago.

BANGOR SABS MISREPRESENTED

Dear HOWL,

As someone who has sabbed regularly with the Bangor group for the last 2 seasons, I thought I had to write and disassociate myself from comments made in HOWL blaming other groups for the attack on their mini-bus by supporters of the United FH. These were not the comments of the group as a whole. Although I wasn't there, I've spoken to several who were and they do not blame other sab groups who have their own priorities.

Bangor's problem is one of geography. The local hunt, the Eryri FH, is in mountainous country - but with more determination, more CBs, etc, we could do them instead of travelling for 2-3 hours to Shropshire just to get to another hunt.

I think Bangor group should knuckle down or give up - blaming other groups is a cop-out. If some people can sab alone, why can't Bangor manage with a minibus-full?

R. Rat
Calstock, Cornwall

POOR RESPONSE LETS ANOTHER GROUP DOWN

Dear HOWL,

I am writing this letter to show the disgust of myself and, I'm sure, everyone who attended the sab on Sir Watkin William Wynn's cubhunt meet at Sutton Green near Threapwood on August 25th, at the lack of support we received from other northern and midland groups.

Due to our low numbers, we were mainly restricted to keeping together due to the potentially violent followers and servants of Sir Watkin's hounds.

In the process of a daring split, the Manchester H.S.A. group was ambushed by about 10 armed heavies who smashed the van's windows and slashed two tyres, thus immobilising the van. One sab was struck over the back with a stick but luckily escaped with slight brusing.

I am quite sure that if we had had the support of other groups, we would have been able to keep up with hounds all morning instead of only part of it. The information concerning the sab went out in the contacts mail-out but I didn't receive one call from any group concerning it.

Don't forget sabs, the season starts, in most places, late August, and not the first of November. Cubbing is the most important time to sab hunts because of new hounds etc, etc, but you wouldn't think it by most groups.

Finally, thanks to Shrewsbury, Manchester, Liverpool and Exeter sabs who managed to make it and travelled far and early in the morning to do so.

Michael Howard
Merseyside H.S.A.



HUNT SABOTEUR FACES GAOL

A hunt saboteur who refused to accept a £500 binding over order from Hampshire magistrates on August 20th will face a 28 day gaol sentence unless his appeal is successful.

Tony Faramus, of Farnham, Surrey, was arrested in March during a sab on the Hampshire FH at Bentworth. He was ordered to leave private land by Francis Momber, the hunt's joint master and threatened with a whip. As Tony was jostled off the field, a policeman (PC 959) arrested him on a charge of Action likely to cause a breach of the peace.

In court, Tony was refused proper legal representation on the grounds that 'it does not appear to the court or proper officer of the court desireable to make an order in the interests of justice.' He was therefore forced to conduct his own defence against a formidable array of six hunt witnesses who merrily purjured themselves with unsubstantiated tales of 'obscene language' and 'threatening behaviour'.

Tony had in fact been standing quietly on the edge of a field alone but for the company of the arresting officer, since leaving his car.

The magistrates found the case proven however, and tried to bind him over for a year in the sum of £500. When he refused to accept such a penalty, Tony was given a 28 day prison sentence but bailed for £500 when he gave notice of intent to appeal.

The case is expected to be heard in November.



West London hunt saboteurs going for a stroll with the Isle of Wight Foot Beagles. *(pic by Fred Hess)*

FILM OF HUNT THUG GOES 'MISSING'

Sussex police, entrusted with a vital roll of film by hunt saboteur Simon Wild in January have mysteriously 'lost' the most important single negative on the roll.

Simon was assaulted by the whipper in of the Southdown and Eridge FH on January 18th after he had photographed a hunt member who had tried to ride her horse into him. The whipper in struck Simon across the head with his crop, drawing blood, before cantering off and attacking other sabs in the same manner. Simon took another photo of this and then reported the incident to the police who requested that he give them his camera for evidence.

Neatly Snipped Out

Police then took three months to interview Simon's witnesses and the whipper in before informing him that the witnesses' statements conflicted and that no charges could be brought.

When he went to collect his film from the police photographic department, he found the picture of the whipper in to be missing. The negatives were complete from nos. 1-6 and 8-14, but no. 7 had been neatly snipped out.

Chief Superintendent Postle put this down to 'staff error' but could offer no explanation as to how such a strange error could have occurred, and confirmed that the incriminating negative had vanished 'without trace.'

NEW HUNT KENNELS DEFY LOCAL OBJECTIONS

The Essex FH have been given planning permission to build new kennels at Wellstye Green near Great Dunmow despite floods of objections to the District Council from nearby residents, and the misgivings of several local councillors. The hunt is moving from its present kennels at Harlow.

SURREY UNION BUTCHERS PET COLLIE

Hounds of the Surrey Union FH, supposedly out learning good road sense, rioted after a pet collie dog on August 23rd and killed it.

They were being walked near Rudgwick in Sussex when 82 year old Alfred Holt, with his dog on a lead, happened along. 'When they saw him they went straight for him and within a minute they had wrenched the lead from my hands', said Alfred later. The pack was totally outside the control of the huntsman.

This is another hunt that has not read the BFSS rules about quick, clean kills. After a prolonged mauling, the dog was rescued and found to be still alive, but it died after a four and a half hour operation at the vet's.

The hunt have refused to comment, but the usual insulting gesture – the offer of a 'replacement' puppy – has been made and refused.

DOG FIGHTERS GOALED

A school caretaker was gaoled for three months on June 6th and another man for two months for organising a dogfight in a London School.

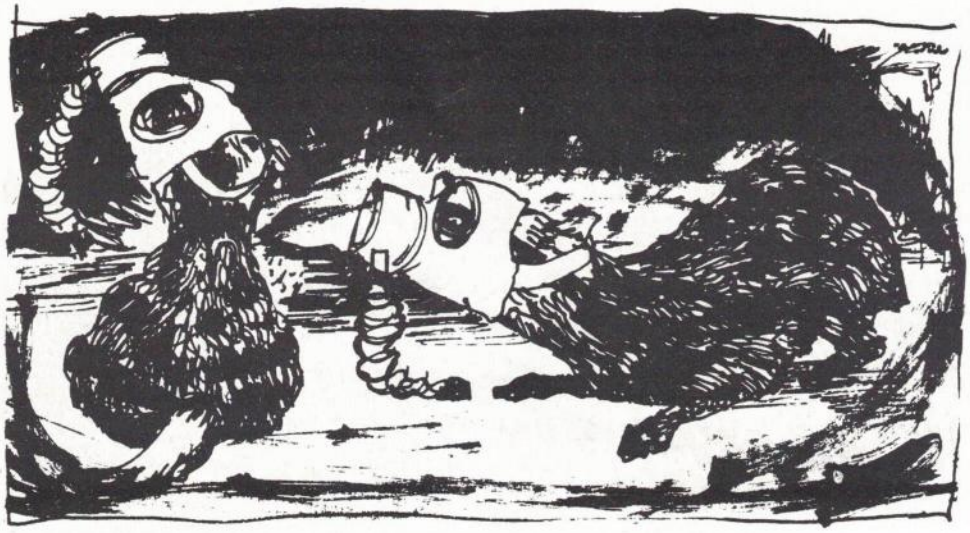
Four other men were fined a total of £1,900 for their part in the fight in which two bull terriers were set upon one another and hit with baseball bats to 'encourage' them. One dog was later found dead, stuffed into a plastic bag and left in the school boiler house. About 25 of the invited spectators, believed to have travelled from all over Britain, got away with it.

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

A 12 year old boy was given a shooting lesson he won't easily forget in a wood near Watford in July. The gun his father had given to him and a friend to pepper birds with went off accidentally and caught him in the leg.

His father later told magistrates that he hadn't considered the smooth-bore gun a lethal weapon, but thought it good enough for teaching his son how to kill birds. He was fined £100 for lending the gun to a minor, £30 for having no firearms certificate, £30 for trespassing in the wood, and finally ordered to surrender the weapon to the court.

BADGERING ON THE INCREASE



MINISTRY GETS GUN-HAPPY

New proposals currently before the Ministry of Agriculture will lead to thousands of badger cubs starving to death next spring unless action is taken to resist them now. The Ministry is considering scrapping its established practice of releasing lactating sows from its traps so that they may continue to nurture their young. It is now proposed to shoot them instead.

You can contact the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Michael Jopling MP, at the Ministry in Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HH.

COURT ACTS SOFT WITH NEW BADGER LAWS

Two terrier men accused of badger digging appeared before South Wales magistrates in June and told the court that they had been doing nothing of the kind. Incredulous magistrates heard that the duo had in fact been pissing beside a large 'fox hole' when their dog had inadvertantly fallen in and got stuck. They were just in the humanitarian act of freeing it with the crowbar they always carry with them when two country park wardens happened along, heard the dog baying and saw the two men tunnelling into a badger sett.

According to the defence, the two wardens made the silly mistake of thinking the men were digging for badgers. The fact that, as it later transpired, the men had only been approached a day earlier by someone who wanted them to obtain a badger's head for a trophy, was pure co-incidence.

Ugly Rumours

Although such an imaginative line of defence should silence once and for all those ugly rumours that terrier men have no brain, it did not sufficiently impress the bench and both men were found guilty under the 1985 Wildlife & Countryside Act. A magistrate then told Wayne Williams of Pencoed and Charles Gwilliam of Tonyrefail that since they were the first people to be convicted under the Act they would not be fined the maximum £2,000 each, but a mere £250. (Thus setting the strange legal precedent of the Introductory Offer). Williams, who is a member of two working terrier clubs was fined an additional £25 for not licensing his dogs.



NEW PATROLS COMBAT RUSTLERS

Badger rustlers from the North of England are now thought to be operating in well organised gangs in the South as the supply of live badgers becomes big business all over Britain.

Rumoured prices of up to £1,000 are currently paid for pregnant sows, who apparently command such a price because their will to survive in the baiting pit is thought to be the strongest. New badger patrols are being set up in many parts of the South to combat this growing menance. And in Wiltshire, the police have appointed their first wildlife protection officer and based him at Swindon. Inspector Bob Philpott will primarily be required to prevent the rustling of badgers from the county to the North. Wiltshire is not thought to have a significant baiting problem of its own.



NOTICE-BOARD

PROPAGANDA

Groups might be interested to know of several good quality and useful new leaflets which have come to our attention. To co-incide with its new campaign against bullfighting, the RSPCA has produced a very graphic full colour pamphlet on the subject and copies are now available from them.

A set of five two-colour leaflets on all aspects of a cruelty-free diet can be obtained from the Vegan Society; and lastly a good basic anti-angling leaflet has been produced by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling. These are available at £1,50 for 100 from PO Box 14, Romsey SO5 9NN.

WORLD FOOD DAY

London Greenpeace has called a worldwide day of action against the McDonalds hamburger chain on October 16th, World Food Day. More info from them at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

SMITHFIELD DEMO

The annual demo against the Smithfield Show in London is set for Sunday, November 30th. Ring the Vegetarian Society for details (01-937 7739).

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Enough Project, aimed at combating the meat industry in Western Society and relating it to Third World food issues is looking for volunteer researchers with access to a library. Further info from them on 0983 754419.

SCAR NATIONAL MEETING

There will be a national meeting of the Student Campaign for Animal Rights on October 12th 1986 at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, commencing at 1pm. The hall is directly opposite the bus/coach station.

SCAR has recently launched a 'Colleges Against Animal Cruelty' campaign. This aims to increase student awareness of animal rights issues by flooding NUS December conference with AR motions, thereby ensuring the subject is discussed by conference. The campaign will be dealt with at the Birmingham meeting, and all students should not that motions to conference must be submitted before October 24th.

TRINITY FOOT FEEL THE BOOT

Following the news in HOWL 33 that Newcastle University SU had deratified its bloodsports club, we now hear that the Trinity Foot Beagles have fallen foul of the Cambridge University SU.

The University-based hunt has been disowned by the Union for 'lowering the standing of the university in the public eye and giving a barbaric practice a respectability it does not deserve.' The union has called upon Trinity College to disassociate itself from the pack.

Friendless

The problems of this unpopular hunt do not end there however, Francis Burkett, president of the beagles is making hysterical claims in the press that his life was threatened by students at last year's Freshers Fair in November 1985. He was allegedly told 'You'll be dead by the end of the season', but current medical information doesn't show him to be any less alive now than he was at the start (though that might not be saying a great deal).

Conspiracy Theory

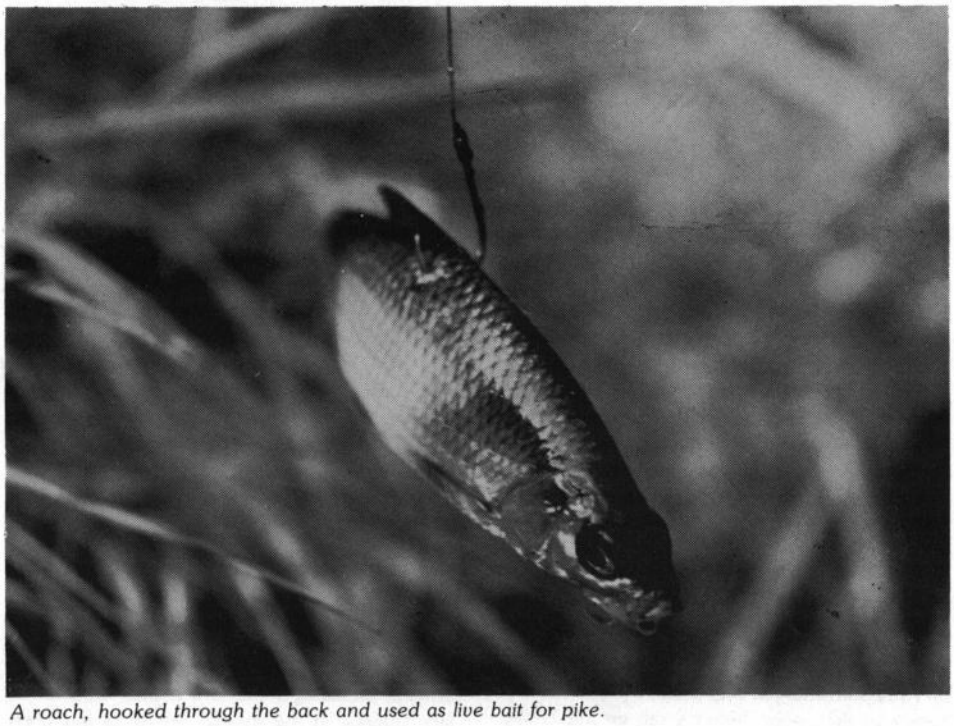
Burkett and his green-wellied chums had another bumpy ride (or rather, they didn't) last season after stuffing themselves with tuck at a drunken gathering at Crusts restaurant in Cambridge. As they tripped out onto the moonlit pavement, their coach was suddenly descended upon by a large contingent of the lower classes who impounded the vehicle and held it until a very cross policeman arrived.

The suitably named Hugh Hamilton-Dalrymple then wrote a shock expose in the student newspaper claiming that Class War anarchists were running wild in Cambridge, had taken over the local HSA and were now heading for world domination by Christmas.

You have been warned.

SPARE THE ROD

A round up of angling news



A roach, hooked through the back and used as live bait for pike.

ANGLERS WATCH SWANS DIE

Kelvedon and district anglers watched impassively as two cygnets struggled to free themselves from discarded fishing line at Silver End gravel pit near Braintree in Essex on July 16th. One of the young swans drowned before an RSPCA inspector arrived.

The plight of the cygnets was noticed by two passers-by who waded into the water in an attempt to save them but were beaten back by the angry parent birds. They called the RSPCA when none of the anglers present would do anything to help.

RSPCA inspector George Wells had to travel 30 miles to reach the trapped birds and only arrived in time to rescue one of them. 'The blokes were still sitting around there fishing', he said afterwards. 'It was amazing.'

Just three weeks previously, two ensnared adult swans were rescued from a similar pit half a mile away.

ANTI-LEAD PACKAGE A WASTE OF TIME

Contrary to popular belief, the government's new anti-lead weight proposals will not make it illegal for anglers to use lead weights.

Environment minister, William Waldegrave, confirmed this in March when he said 'We only have the power to ban sale and import . . . I don't have the power to make it illegal to posess lead shot,' Anglers will therefore be able to stock up on lead shot before the ban or continue to make their own.

The draft regulations, published in April, propose maximum fines of £2,000 on tackle shops who sell or import the banned weights.

ANGLING CLUB RAPPED

Oxford University has complained to the North Oxford Angling Club about damage caused by fishermen to riverbanks in the university's care. Banks, fences and gates have been trampled by over-eager anglers on the Seacourt stream near Wytham.

FISH DIE IN KEEPNETS

Anglers on the river Ock near Abingdon have blamed the recent deaths of 12 bream, 3 pike and 2 barbel on the 'polluted' water in the river. The water authority refutes this and blames the anglers for using keepnets in hot weather. Nearby, on the Thames, 18 bream, 13 roach, 6 chub and a barbel were found dead on the riverbank after being sportingly hooked with the wrong sized tackle.



INTERNATIONAL ACTION. Left: Dutch goose shoot disrupted by sabs occupying ground beside live decoys. Above: one Dutch sab fires a rocket to disrupt the shooting. (pic by Fred Hess)

A regular review of courts and coppers . . .

LAW REPORT



ACTION LIKELY . . . SOME GET OFF LIGHTLY

Three saboteurs from Norwich appeared in court on April 30th charged with action likely to cause a breach of the peace during a sab on the Trinity Foot Beagles last November.

Police evidence conflicted and their solicitor, who admitted he was a shooter, let his self-interest in the case carry him away rather although his dramatic histrionics did not move a bored bench of magistrates. Although the court found the three guilty, the magistrates appeared annoyed at being called to try such an unimportant case and refused to award costs to the prosecution. Binding over orders for one year in the paltry sum of £20 were dished out.

Mass Trespass

The twenty six saboteurs from Northampton and Cambridge who were charged with the same offence after a mass trespass into the kennels of the Trinity Foot in February have also been in court. One van driver was found not guilty but the remainder were given 12 months bindovers in £50 each.

SOME DO NOT

The inconsistency in different magistrates' interpretations of vague laws was shown again when another Northampton saboteur, Jim O'Donnel was hauled up before the court for action likely and threatening and abusive behaviour. In other words, he was caught spraying anti-mate during a sab on the Quorn, no more and no less. For this dreadful crime he was bound over in £100 and fined £75 with costs of £25. The group have opened a legal fund to raise money for this and other outstanding fines. If you can contribute, the address to write to is Box F, 19 Adams Avenue, Northampton, Northants.

TWO SABS CONVICTED WITHOUT EVIDENCE

In July, two saboteurs, in separate court cases at Tiverton in Devon, were both convicted on charges arising from a sab in February on the Holcombe Rogus Beagles.

During the course of the sab, several saboteurs were injured by stick-wielding hunt supporters, and one heavy ended the day in a local hospital needing stitches in a retaliatory head wound.

Characteristically, the droves of police who arrived, including some in a helicopter, showed little interest in the injured saboteurs but great concern for the bleeding heavy. In their determination to arrest somebody for this they detained all the saboteurs on the road for three hours while hunt witnesses passed amongst them in an abortive attempt to recognise the assailant.

Arrested

Despite the failure of this ID parade, six huntsmen made statements almost a month later regarding the behaviour of the saboteurs and on the strength of this a saboteur from Exeter was arrested and charged with Threatening Behaviour. Despite wildly conflicting and vague 'evidence', he was found guilty by Tiverton magistrates and fined £398.

A second sab, from Bristol, was also arrested and charged with assault. He too was found guilty although there was not a shred of substantive evidence against him and fined a punitive £480 with a bind over for 2 years.

DIRTY BUSINESS AT THE OLD BERKS

The Tiverton case is a classic example of the way in which law courts habitually treat saboteurs who defend themselves. West London HSA had a similar experience recently when one of their members appeared in court following an incident at a meet of the Old Berkely Beagles.

A saboteur was floored by two huntsmen, one of whom, Robert Andrew Knight, weighs in at a trim 15 stone. Knight skewered his victim to the ground and began punching his face. In the struggle that followed, Knight sustained a cut above one eye. The police charged in and arrested the flattened saboteur on a charge of unlawful and malicious wounding.

In court it was established that the hunt witnesses, who included an ex-policeman, Peter Thompson, had been illegally swapping statements before the trial. Despite this and several other irregularities, the saboteur was found guilty and given a 4 months prison sentence suspended for 2 years. To add insult to injury, he was further ordered to pay compensation to Knight of £100.

HUNT GUNMAN GOES FREE

The court's behaviour in the Old Berkely case compares interestingly with that of the court which tried Albrighton FH huntsman, Nigel Cox, in July.

HOWL readers will remember Cox as the man stalking across the cover of HOWL 32 with a loaded shotgun. He had used it to blow a hole in the radiator of an occupied HSA minibus outside the kennels. Cox faced two charges of criminal damage (one with the gun) and one charge of assault.

Although he was obviously guilty of the firearm charge, the West Midlands court saw fit to give him nothing more serious than a three month suspended prison sentence. On the remaining charges of assault (he had struck a sab with the gun) and criminal damage (destroying a camera), he was given a conditional discharge.

Not only that, but the minibus repairs are still unpaid for. Police forgot to request damages from the accused after giving sabs the impression that they would be doing so.

POLICE DOG HANDLER REPRIMANDED

The Deputy Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset has ordered two police officers to be seen by their Divisional Commander for a dressing down after hunt saboteurs wrote to the Police Complaints Authority about their behaviour.

The two, a dog handler and his superior officer, were present at a sab on the West Somerset FH when a police dog was set loose upon saboteurs peacefully occupying a fox earth.

The complaints inquiry resulted in the Deputy Chief Constable admitting that 'on balance, the police dog should not have been used on this occasion.' He expressed his 'regret' that saboteurs were bitten, but considered the police officers had acted with 'the best of motives'. No charges are to be brought against them.

MORE CRIMINAL TRESPASS NONSENSE

It's been amusing watching the desperate scrabbling of our law makers to concoct a Criminal Trespass bill to hamper the HSA without antagonising the influential Ramblers Association.

Pro-hunting MPs, nagged endlessly by the BFSS, have long been looking for the opportunity to carry a bill criminalising trespass on private land. But the threat it would pose to walkers in the countryside has always made it a hopeless issue on which to stake anyone's political reputation. That was all changed this summer by the clamour of self-righteous indignation that followed the so-called 'hippy' convoy on its travels around South West England.

Parasitic Growth

The landowning anti-trespass lobby had no sooner regained its voice than it found a familiar parasitic growth on its back – the BFSS. Sensing that at last they had some hope of guiding government policy on the subject, we saw the proposed wording of an ammendment to the Public Order Bill shift from 'making it a criminal offence to deprive a landowner of the use of his land' to 'trespass causing distress and harrassment

to a landowner.'

The ammended POB is due to go before the Lords some time after October 12. Most likely the trespass section will take the form of creating an arrestable offence out of any instance where a person stays on private land after being ordered to leave. In the HSA's case this will remain a largely unworkable measure since the police are rarely in attendance away from the road. Perhaps it's a shame; getting arrested would make a pleasant change from being assaulted by hunt thugs.

SABOTEUR HOSPITALISED BY POLICE

A saboteur who was punched on the head by a policeman whilst being arrested lost consciousness in the back of a police car minutes later and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Tony Faramus was arrested for obstruction as he went to move his car from a blockade during a sab on the Ytene Mink Hounds near Dorchester on May 31st. He was hit during his arrest and felt dizzy and unable to breathe properly as the squad car sped away. When he asked the police to slow the car, the driver accelerated and Tony blacked out.

An ambulance worker, called from Weymouth to attend him, was heard to comment 'The police have done him over' as though this were an everyday occurrence.

In court on August 27th, Tony was found guilty and fined £25.

MORE BOP CASES DISMISSED

Magistrates at Alton, Hants wasted no time on a couple of daft 'action likely' charges brought by officers from John Duke's anti-sab squad at the end of June. One case was abandoned after solicitor for the defence showed that the incident had taken place on private land; and the other finished before it had even started when the arresting officer failed to show up to offer any evidence.

WHIPPER-IN BOUND OVER

Aldershot Beagles whip, Simon Tull, a 20 year old law student, pleaded guilty on August 7th to common assault upon a saboteur but left court with a binding over order in the meagre sum of £100. The saboteur he assaulted needed hospital treatment after being struck with a whip on three separate occasions.

LIES, ERRORS AND MORE LIES

By complaining in such an inept manner about what they see as 'broadcasting bias', foxhunters have, as usual, done their case more harm than good. *Ralph Cook* **picks up the pieces.**

In February one Sunday evening, the BBC screened their weekly wildlife programme, *Nature*, presented by Tony Soper. Its main feature was devoted to the foxhunting debate and it posed two questions: 'Is the fox a pest?' and 'Does hunting with hounds effectively control the fox population?'

In the weeks that followed, the bloodsporting press howled with anger, claiming that the programme was 'unfair, 'biased', and 'unrepresentative'. Both the BFSS and the MFHA lodged complaints with the BBC's director general, Alisdair Milne, and hunters were encouraged to write both to him and the programme's editor, Robin Hellier.

The reason for this flurry of anti-BBC activity was, of course, that the programme left the answers to both questions in the nagative. Two zoologists, David Macdonald and Stephen Harris, argued that foxes did not kill many lambs and could be prevented from taking poultry. They added that they doubted if anything short of all-out ruthless extermination could have any effect upon the fox population, and that hunting with hounds certainly did not.

The Expert Goofs!

Ranged against these and others was the spokesperson for the MFHA, Mr Robin McKenzie, a joint-master of the Vine and Craven FH who once announced in front of a Surrey University audience during a debate on bloodsports that foxcubs do not have white tips to their tails by the time cubhunting begins, and of course many most certainly do. This erstwhile fox 'expert' made a very feeble attempt to defend his bloodsport on *Nature* and as far as the general public are concerned, our side must have won the argument.

In the weeks that followed, it transpired that McKenzie had goofed again. Of him, Robin Hellier stated in *The Field* that:

'the interview with a joint-master . . . was edited in the interest of brevity, clarity and accuracy . . . In fact, the interview . . . contained errors which would have caused some embarrassment had they been retained.'

It is to *Horse & Hound* that we must offer thanks for revealing these inaccuracies. In a section condemning the programme, Mr McKenzie whined about the 'distortion' of his interview due to the BBC's editing of it. He states:

'There was no sign of the discussion we had about how much of a pest the fox is. They cut out the example I gave of a farm with 1000 ewes expected to produce 1800 lambs. Using a Ministry of Agriculture figure, that one percent of lambs are lost to foxes, that means a loss to this farm of 180 lambs at £35 each – a total of £7000.'

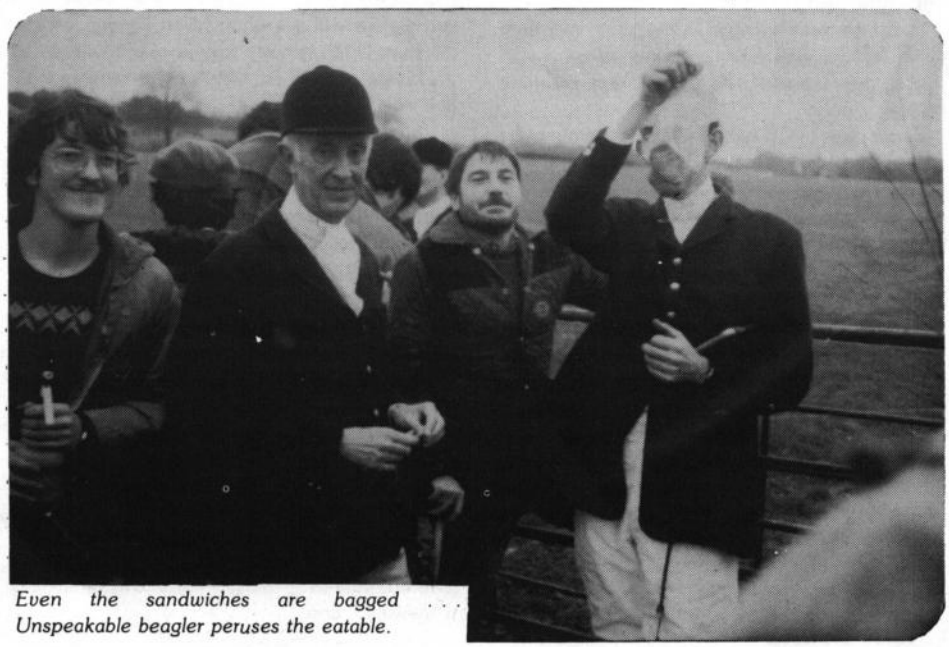
It doesn't take a mathematician to see the error here; one percent of 1800 is 18, not 180, making a total loss not of £7000, but of £630. Mr. McKenzie can think himself lucky that his interview was not screened in full and the error pointed out by Tony Soper. It would have shown millions of viewers what we already know – that hunters do not know what they are talking about.

Figures 'invented'

Furthermore, although it is a common pro-hunt claim that the Ministry of Agriculture puts figures for lambs lost to foxes of anything between 0.5 and 5 percent, it is quite inaccurate. During the last two years I have carried on a sporadic correspondence on this subject with both the Ministry of Agriculture (England and Wales) and the Scottish Department of Agriculture, and in each case both Ministries claim that they do not collect such statistics and have never supplied the figures given to anyone.

It would appear that McKenzie and his kind have simply invented the figures they like to quote and then assert that they have been derived from one or other of the Ministries to give them some kind of credence. This seems a dangerous way in which to campaign, and in our view, Robin Hellier acted quite correctly in editing McKenzie's interview in order to weed out the errors and lies.

The only surprising thing to me is that, after editing out the lies and mistakes, there was anything left to the interview worth screening.



Even the sandwiches are bagged . . . Unspeakable beagler peruses the eatable.

'TELL SIMON HE'S A WALLY'

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT AND HOW TO USE IT

As a new hunting season approaches, HSA groups the length and breadth of the country are getting themselves equipped for action. HOWL asked a sample of local contacts about the sabbing equipment used by their group and the ways in which it is used. This article is intended not just as a consumer's guide for sab shopping expeditions, but also as a pointer to the ways in which regional HSA groups are currently working.



CROCODILE CLIPS AND RUBBER DUCKS

Virtually all HSA groups now use CBs to some extent but with varying degrees of success. HOWL asked contacts to comment on radio use within their groups and the following tips were received.

Firstly, it should be noted that the nature of the country in which a group operates will have a bearing upon the use to which CBs can be put. Sabs in hilly terrain point out that the range of a set becomes so limited that CBs are only reliable when, for example, sabs are high above the hunt and want to relay its position to sabs on the far side of the valley.

In flat country however, CBs come into their own, and in well forested areas where visual contact between sabs is hampered, they are quite indispensible.

Two makes of CB seem to be most favoured by active sabs: the Maxcom 7E and the Harvard 410T. Both are handheld, but the Maxcom is adaptable for the car and comes with a mag mount, aerial, plug to fit a car cigarette lighter, and a carrying strap. In favourable country it has a range of up to four miles.

If your vehicle-mounted CB has no lighter plug, you will want long crocodile clip leads to avoid wearing out the batteries. Whatever make you buy, make sure it is a 40 channel unit.

What you do with your radios obviously depends upon the number you have. At the very least you will want one hand held unit for sabs on foot and one 'control' left with someone in the vehicle. One group uses a small car with two sabs solely as a reconnaissance vehicle. Both sabs have CBs, one handheld for use when the passenger needs to leave the car to look over a fence or hilltop.

It is not only vital that every CB user has a map with them at all times (in field or vehicle) but also that they know how to read one and understand how to give grid references. It may sound obvious, but how many times has your group huddled around a crackling CB to hear a message that begins 'Umm ... you see that big wood that's sort of oblong above where Hilary's group last saw the hunt heading away from that yellow road by the bridge ... hang on; what's a thin brown wiggly line with a number on it?'

Equally vital, do not give a CB to someone who's going to forget to switch it on to receive messages (one group said this had happened to them!) and never clog up the airwaves with idle chatter of the 'tell Simon he's a wally' variety. This doesn't only prevent more vital information from being relayed, it also gives hunt supporters more opportunities to find your channel and jam it.

Most groups use some form of code to cover the pre-arranged switching of channels during the sab. The simplest type (and therefore probably the best) reported to HOWL is a time code. That is to say: 10.30am – channel 15; 11.00am – channel 40; 11.30am – channel 21; etc. Needless to say, this is a system which falls apart if someone turns up without a watch! The same group advises listening in on police communications – often a useful way of locating a 'vanished' hunt.

LION SENDS HOUNDS BESERK!

Some groups these days say they have stopped using sprays and drags altogether because of their general unreliability. Most sabs still use some form of 'anti-mate' however, and those who do report worthwhile results.

The commercially made aerosol cans of Anti-mate are fine for small area, short term use, if a little expensive. They can only really be used to cover a line when its precise position is known and hounds are coming on in cry. Being small, they can be hidden in a pocket during a sab and are not as cumbersome or 'provocative' as the unmarked plant mist-sprayers carried by many sabs.

For pre-meet work, where a wider saturation is desired, a home-made solution is needed. The most widely used seems to be garlic (fresh or powdered) made up in a strong solution with water and left in airtight containers to mature. The mist-sprayers are of more use here and can be used and refilled in the field with the aid of a funnel as often as necessary to cover a given area. One group uses a large free-standing pump action spray for this, but the hand held are probably more effective. A line of sabs, each spraying from knee height in a wide arc forwards as they pre-beat a covert can cover the maximum area in the most efficient way.

Where a wood is too large for this to be done, areas of it can be sectioned off and sprayed in the same way. Foxes can be expected to cross at least one sprayed area during a draw.

Other substances recommended by sabs as scent destroyers range from the well-known (citronella oil) and the less usual (rotten vegetables) to the bizarre: a contact is reliably informed that 'lion shit sends hounds beserk' and that it is obtainable from London Zoo. This, he admits, has yet to be tried.

Experienced saboteurs do not spray directly onto hounds for several reasons, but an alternative method of getting a pack well covered with scent distractor is supplied by a Midlands group.. They tip bucket-fuls of strongly mixed fluid out of the back of the van whilst driving slowly down the road in front of the hunt. Hounds are forced to trot through it, picking it up on their feet and carrying the smell with them for hours.

Some sabs are now experimenting with fox urine and the urine of bitch hounds in season (to distract dog hounds) and a variation on the traditional 'drag line' is being contemplated by a group who hope to use hunks of purloined meat on string to entice hounds in cry away from the quarry line. Many groups, on the other hand, will not use meat or dried blood for the obvious ethical reasons.

Most sabs tell us that false trails do not seem to work 'as well as they're supposed to', but it should be pointed out that a line must be well placed if it is to have a reasonable chance of catching hounds

whilst they are being hunted, and of fooling an experienced huntsman.

One group uses a blood solution in coverts as a distractor during pre-beating instead of anti-mate. A contact recommends spreading a ring of it around the perimeter of a covert before hunting begins – a trail that leads nowhere but encourages hounds to stay in the wood. Another tells us that a rag soaked in blood and tossed into a ditch beside hounds as they came down a minor road sent them completely bonkers. One Scottish group believes that, for a conventional trail, the only worthwhile drag is one made from the carcass of a fox road casualty.

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

Contacts were asked to pass on details of any odd items they would recommend other groups to use. Here's a sample.

Notebook and coloured pens for marking out the route of the hunt as you go, time coverts drawn, car numbers etc.

Mini-tape recorders to replace notebook and pen for logging general info and sometimes to record incidents of assault, police harrassment etc.

Emergency phone numbers for passing info about arrested, lost or injured sabs.

Chalk for writing messages on roads, especially on joint hits.

Whistles

Suitable clothing. Clothes that are both practical and unobtrusive in the countryside (leave that bright red cagoule at home). Waterproofs that will not rip on barbed wire and shoes/boots that are stout without being heavy.

Compass, especially useful in dense forest where ordinary map work is difficult.

Basic first aid. A simple kit in each vehicle. One contact urges each group to send a member on a St. John's training course.

Footpump

Whips or whip substitutes (e.g. woodblocks). See Spring '86 HOWL for instructions and tactics.

A Trail bike for reconnaissance and manoeverability.

Camera. Compact 35mm automatic for speed in tight situations. Some sabs advocate appointing a photographer whose job it is to record sabotage rather than to participate in it. Good photos are vital for effective propaganda and publicity.

Legal observer to make sure policepersons numbers are logged and notes taken about their activities for possible use later in court. Could double as photographer.

Binoculars

Claxon horns. No substitute for correct hornblowing but any noise that confuses hounds at the right time and makes the huntsman inaudible can't be all bad.

Maps. For general use, the OS 1:50,000 Landranger series (pink cover). For more detail, the 1:25,000 (light blue cover). These show individual fields, localised road names, and all rights of way accurately marked in bright green. Each map is a composite version of two old series 1:25,000 (light blue cover) and far more useful. Better still are the 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure Series maps (brown or yellow cover) which cover certain popular upland and scenic areas. They are much bigger than pathfinders and some are double-sided.



Impressed policeman watches sab hornblower (left) gain possession of the Exmoor FH.

TRY OUT THE HORN, EVEN IF YOU FEEL SILLY LETTING RIP IN THE SHOP

The hunting horn is probably the most vital piece of equipment a saboteur possesses. The two contributions that follow were written by experienced horn blowers with those sabs in mind who intend shopping around for a good quality instrument with which to devastate their local pack this season. And for those of you who can't get it right, one contact advocates the use of pre-recorded taped horncalls played from a vehicle on a ghetto blaster!

HOW TO RECOGNISE A GOOD HORN

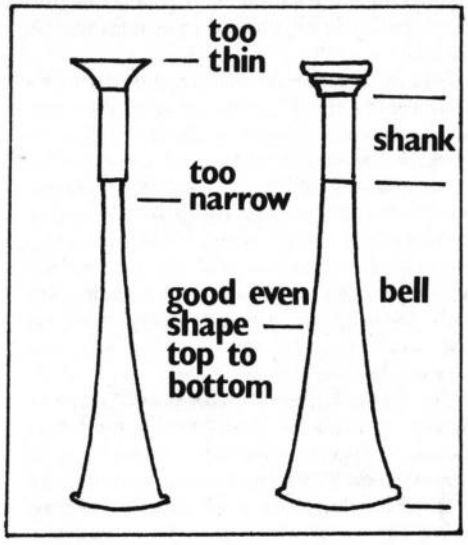
Although it is now standard practice for saboteurs to spend £50 on horns, laying out such an amount does not necessarily mean you have bought a good one. They are all different, particularly Cotswolds, so you should take care and try them out before handing over the money.

There are two things that make a horn a good one. They are the mouthpiece and the bell. If the junction of the bell and the shank is too narrow, then it will produce much too deep a sound. This is a common fault with Cotswold horns. A good horn will sweep out evenly from the shank. Paxman horns are good in this respect as they are all the same, but their overall quality is not as fine as a good Cotswold.

Mouthpieces vary. Some expensive horns like the Middlemoor which we have seen have a mouthpiece just the same as the cheap £3.50 horns, only made of silver and are quite useless. A good, full and rounded mouthpiece that fits your lips comfortably is needed.

You *must* try out the horn before you buy it, even if you feel silly letting rip in the shop. It wants a good sharp tone, loud and clear. Some horns sound fuzzy no matter how good a blower you are. If you're not yet proficient at hornblowing, take someone who is.

Too many saboteurs think it is sufficient to just get a note out of a horn and blow non-stop. A good horn puts you in the same position as the huntsman, so blow it the same as him. Don't just deafen hounds with a cacophony of noise; blow properly and drag them all over the countryside. The only view you will get of the huntsman then is of his back as he tries to keep out of your way.



SECOND HAND HORNS

It seems that a lot of sabs think the best horn to buy is a Paxman from the HSA or wherever. You will find that in fact, if you search hard in not too expensive antique/junk shops, you should be able to pick up a decent foxhunting horn for a lot less than £50.

I have recently picked up two, one for £18 which is serviceable though the mouthpiece is roughish, and one for £30 which is infinitely better than my Paxman. A REAL hunting horn will always have a stamp on it. My best horn has a 'Boosey & Co' stamp on it (Boosey & Hawkes). It produces a call a note lower than the Paxman. Always check the sound a horn produces before buying it.

Summer Bloodsports Take a Battering

MINKHUNTING

The *Devon and Cornwall MH* alone among the minkhunts was brave enough to advertise some of its meets in a local paper and occasionally in Horse and Hound. To begin with the hunt was usually pre-meeted and then surreptitiously observed trying to case for a scent. The **EXETER** group gained much valuable knowledge of the hunt's habits in this way, all of which has been logged for future use. Although some 40 deluded members of the public attended the opening few meets, they rapidly became bored with the hunt's haphazard and hooliganistic antics in the riverside undergrowth and support dwindled to a dozen or so diehards by the end of May. Interest in the hunt is so low in fact, that an advert in Horse and Hound for a replacement for departing huntsman Arlin Ricard produced no replies at all.

On one occasion, the four sabs watching the hunt's hopeless efforts to find mink decided to enliven the day for the hounds by driving past and calling them on. The dogs responded amiably running up the small road after the car for a mile before the sabs took pity on the panting huntsmen on the skyline and sent them back.

After a mid-week evening meet in July, the hunt got even less far than usual after their driver mislaid the keys to the hound van, preventing the hunt from boxing up and hiving off to less troublesome waters. Police watched as the hunt headed for the riverbank several times only to despondently return, their efforts frustrated by sab action.

On July 19th, the group had its best day of the season after a tip-off from a rural sympathiser that the hunt were meeting at Fingle Bridge on Dartmoor. Arriving to find several supporters but no hounds, the sabs were tipped off once again that the hound van was just down the road at Drewsteignton. Within minutes a sab was sitting doggedly on its bonnet while the minibus was moved to block it in. This caused a one hour delay while the police negotiated its release. One sab was arrested during this interlude, but later escaped and was not recaptured.

Eventually, 15 police escorted both sabs and hunt to a new meet near Okehampton where unsolicited hornblowing and calling quickly persuaded the huntsman that he was wasting his time. Police responded to his plaintive wingeing by sending most of the sabs under guard to Okehampton but sportingly permitted two of the group to remain with the hunt. Forced by a local landowner to cast upstream (where he assured them there had been no mink for years), the hunt ended a miserable day out with nothing added to their year's tally of between ten and twenty mink.

Groups from all over the **NORTH OF ENGLAND** joined forces on June 7th for a regional sab on the *West Yorkshire MH* near Skipton. 30-40 hunters and supporters were kept talking by about 60 saboteurs at the meet where a 90 minute debate on the ethics of hunting ended in stalemate.

Meanwhile a lone sab was ambushed in his car by hunt thugs gathered on a bridge. The windscreen was smashed over the driver with a heavy stick as he tried to pass. One man was later arrested.









Minkhunt sabbing, north and south. Above and left: Devon and Cornwall hound van staying firmly put at Drewsteignton. Below, left and right: police riot against sabs protecting a rabbit burrow from the spades of the West Yorks MH.

Back on the river Ribble two sabs were injured when a terrier man rammed his spade into a group who were occupying a rabbit burrow in which a mink was seeking refuge. The police arrived and threatened to set a dog on the sabs if they didn't move. One was then punched by a policeman and another dragged across a barbed wire fence.

When the hunt were frustrated in their attempts to dig out the same burrow an hour later by a further occupation of sabs they turned to violence. One saboteur was hit over the head with a spade, knocked unconscious and then poked in the ribs for good measure. He was treated in hospital for concussion and given stitches to a large scalp wound. Another had his head split with a steel-tipped walking stick. The police who were present throughout, arrested four sabs and two hunters.

For 30 minutes, police and hunt conferred while about 20 sabs stayed put on the burrow. More police arrived until they outnumbered the sabs. There was then, without warning, a mass police charge against the sabs. All were dragged jostled and pulled away from the burrow, their clothes ripped and 13 of them arrested. Some consolation came when the hunt at last got a chance to dig into the burrow only to find that the mink had got fed up with waiting for them and was nowhere to be found.

The remaining sabs tailed the hunt until 6pm when hounds were stopped without a single kill. Although the majority of arrests were of saboteurs, these were all of the Action likely variety and have not been persued at time of writing. More seriously, neither have the cases against the three hunters - all of whom were arrested on charges of assault and ABH.

Saboteurs from the **SOUTH COAST** area joined up on May 31st to frustrate the *Ytene MH* in Dorset as they left the kennels. A convoy of vehicles moved in to block the hound van on all sides only 40 yards from the kennels. A two hour delay ensued while the hunt waited for the police who were busy harrassing another convoy elsewhere in the county. During the long wait the hunt lost the keys to the van and then found they

hadn't inflated their tyres properly before leaving the kennels.

Eventually, two H.S.A. drivers were arrested, police singling out the most senior sab present as a ringleader and punching him on the back of the head for 'not getting into the squad car quick enough' (see Legal page).

During June, saboteurs from **BATH, BRISTOL** and **YEOVIL** made two visits to the kennels of the *Culmstock MH* in Somerset. The hound van was tailed around the turnings for more than an hour on the first occasion as the driver tried unsuccesfully to shake the sabs off. Finally, the hunt returned to kennels in furious mood, only venturing out again much later in the day with a heavy escort of minders.

The **VALE OF GLAMORGAN** group were delighted to find that their success last year against the pathetic *SE Wales MH* has now resulted in huntsman Brian Press abandoning the notion of Saturday hunting altogether. Instead he has been observed creeping out to occassional mid-week meets, a lonely man with scarcely any support at all.

SHOOTIN', FISHIN' & SUMMER SHOWS

Trout fishing along the river Kennet and the river Lambourn in Berkshire was successfully distrupted by sabs from **OXFORD** who disturbed the water surface and kept fish away from baited hooks. On June 29th, nine sabs from **OXFORD, LEAMINGTON, COVENTRY & BATH** sabotaged fishing matches in Wiltshire and on the river Thames at Cassington. Anglers responded by hurling their lead weights across the water at sabs. Other Thames matches were interfered with at Bablockhythe and Radley and pegs were removed before two matches at Kennington and Marston causing much confusion and delay.

The summer round of country shows has not gone by without incident. Sabs from **BRISTOL** were set upon by Princess Anne's overwhelming police bodyguard at the Bath and West Show this year, and the planned run-on to welcome the arrival in the ring of the *Mendip Farmers FJ* and the *Clifton Foot Beagles* had to be abandoned. Three people were arrested for being in possession of a banner, but were later released without charge.

OXFORD sabs on picket duty outside the *Old Berkshire FH* terrier show in May were assaulted with a hoe by the show's organiser, but not dissuaded from continuing their protest. They were rewarded by 'thumbs up' signs from the majority of passing motorists.

A police sergeant from Aldershot arrived to marshal a banner demo outside the *Garth & South Berks FH* terrier show on May 4th and told sabs from **BRACKNELL** and **OXFORD** that they were all 'pathetic time-wasters'. Other terrier shows to see sab banners were the *Vine & Craven FH* & the *Bicester & Warden Hill FH*.

Night-time fox shoots in the **Dumfries** area of Scotland have been successfully disrupted by the local H.S.A. and several daylight pheasant shoots have received similar treatment. The group there is small and cautious, and has so far eluded detection. **SOUTH COAST** groups have scored a victory over a Hampshire Wildfowling syndicate with an effective campaign to stop the renewal of its license. They are also lobbying the County Council to establish a hunt free zone, as are **Norwich H.S.A.** with their local council.



A hunt saboteur lies injured after being booted in the head by followers of the New Forest FH.

CUBHUNTING

On August 2nd, a strong alliance of sabs from all over the **SOUTH** attended the first meet of the *New Forest FH* at Moyles Court. Hunting was brought to a standstill at the first draw as hounds responded to horn and voice and the hunt turned its attentions from foxes to saboteurs. Heavies waded in to evict sabs from private land only to be beaten at their own game and forced to withdraw.

After an arrest and the arrival of more supporters and more police, hunting resumed. For the next two hours, saboteurs were in control of the situation as the hunt repeatedly lost its hounds and launched a number of unsuccesful attacks upon saboteurs. Although two sabs needed hospital treatment following assults, saboteurs did not surrender their ground and several of the heavies were seen off. The beaten heavies spent the rest of the day hurling pointless abuse from a safe distance. Sabs were left to continue calling hounds out of the woods.

Police intervened to make two more arrests but at the end of the day all that was left for the disspirited hunters was to shout at one another for their collective incompetence.

This important stand against 'strong-arm tactics' paid off a week later when sabs returned and met with no physical interference at all.

Another hunt facing sabs on their opening cubbing meet was the **EXMOOR** at Simonsbath on August 9th. *Exeter HSA* spent a happy half hour calling Capt. Ronnie Wallace's celebrated pack out of first covert until interrupted by the police who ordered them to move. Law-abiding as usual, they split into two groups and called hounds from both sides making Wallace's job harder than ever.

Later in the morning, sabs took control of about half the pack, calling them out one by one from a large covert and keeping them for nearly an hour by use of horn and whip. The hunt's young whipper-in, Tony Wright, lost both his dignity and his temper at this point and dismounted to show the sabs how poor his vocabulary is. He was, he yelled, 'fucking annoyed' and, what's more, 'fucking angry'. Sabs were not impressed. Being laughed at by the local landowner can't have helped him much. Needless to say, there were no kills.

Sabs from **PORTSMOUTH, EXETER,** and **BOURNEMOUTH** turned out to welcome the aptly-named Stuart Tory and his *Portman hounds* on their first day out near Shaftesbury on August 16th.

The pack were very susceptible to voice-calls from the sabs, and with sprays, whips and horns in use as well, it was a simple matter to prevent them from hunting. A conspiracy of heavies and police (who jumped to it whenever Mr Tory told them to), only hampered sabotage until all sabs stood together and showed their superior numbers.

That same day, **BRISTOL** sabs had a rough time of it at an evening meet of the *West Somerset FH*. The hunt's numbers were swelled by about 50 gore fanatics from the *Devon & Somerset Staghounds* who had been out during the afternoon. Against all the odds, sabs were effective in preventing any kills above ground. One Wiltshire sab was stoned with rocks as he passed a group of supporters on his motorbike but was fortunately unhurt.



'Come on mate, let's have me dogs back . . . "Exmoor whipper in, Tony Wright, gets cross but can't win back his hounds.

STAYING POWER! Sabs take on Shooters and the Elements and win hands down

1986 will not be remembered as a vintage year for grouse shooters. Not only was their 'sport' in short supply and covered in unpalatable becquerels from Chernobyl (3,550 per kilo in Scotland), but their amateurish efforts to injunct the HSA from 'trespassing' on the moors finally collapsed in defeat as nearly 100 sabs turned out in atrocious conditions to silence the guns on the 'glorious' Twelfth.

Peak District landowners have been hurling money from a seemingly bottomless pit of wealth at a long-running law-suit against a handful of individuals in an effort to injunct the entire HSA membership and its supporters. Once it became clear to them and their lawyers that we would be unlikely to recognise the directives of the court, and that the court were unlikely to find in their favour anyway, the shooters gradually climbed down and finished by offering to drop the whole affair, costs and all, if one or two people would sign an undertaking not to sab their 'sport'. This was greeted with the utter contempt it deserved and this year the sabs gathered in the Peak District to prevent the orgy of violence that is traditionally associated with August 12th in the hills. *William Hedges* **was there:**

Pre-beating in Mist and Wind

More than 80 sabs, mostly from the north but also from as far afield as Norwich and Middlesex, piled onto Crowden Moor near Holmfirth early in the morning. The area's history of shoot cancellations in the face of sab activitiy, and the knowledge that this particular moor's grouse population was extremely low, did not dampen their determination to ensure that the shooters didn't get a look in.

Things were not easy for the sabs. The moor's terrain is very foreboding with a stiff climb to the nearest butts, and the initially promising weather soon deteriorated until low-level cloud had enveloped the moor-top in an occasionally dense mist. A strong, cold wind kept the sabs moving for the risk of exposure was not as daft as it sounds.

A pre-beat line with white flags was organised and the area in front of one butt-line was successfully cleared of the few grouse that were there. Some people reported seeing as few as two.

Shooting and Conservation

It was certainly clear that any shooting on this moor could wipe out the grouse population which must further discredit the 'sporting' argument that shooters are the only ones who know about conserving wildlife. Their shooting quotas obviously don't allow for the likelihood of harsh weather in winter and spring or any other changeable factors; being mostly geared to the landowner's financial greed.

Although post-Chernobyl radiation levels in English grouse were recorded lower than those in Scotland, the bird population has been suffering the effects of another ecological disaster, acid rain. It has caused the demise of sphagnum moss, the food source of many of the insects the chicks feed upon. Mature birds are losing heather to increasinlgy intensive upland sheep farming and their chicks are falling prey to sheep ticks.

Having completed the pre-beat, the sabs had a brief scare when some figures appeared on the horizon. They were in a direction from which it was plausible the shooters would come and half the sabs went to investigate. The other half remained to cover the rest of the moor. Here, the importance of having the correct equipment was highlighted - good CBs and binoculars. A quick glance through the binoculars soon revealed the mystery figures to be walkers on the Pennine Way, a fact which was relayed to everyone else on the CB.

Staying Power!

Following this, most sabs were left with nothing to do and the cold wind merely encouraged them to return to their vans; a move which could have been a disaster because the shooters seemed to take it as a sign that we were abondoning the moor. A flurry of shooter activity on the nearby road resulted. It was bloody cold up there, but never has the need to stay on the moor, if the shooters still intend to shoot, been more clearly illustrated.

Once most people had been encouraged, by various means of persuasion, to remain on the moor, the activity on the road ceased. In fact, two van-loads of police had blockaded our vehicles in the car-park and could easily have prevented sabs in the vans from returning to the moor had they been in a mind to. This would have left the moor with an inadequate cover of only about 20 people.

Above all else we learnt that if the weather on the moors looks at all dodgy, then plenty of warm clothing should be brought along to allow people th stay on the moor, no matter what. Waterproofs are also a good idea; I ended up soaked through in the rain that brought the sab to an end at about 2pm. Visibility was so impaired that the successful day was wound up amid fears for people's safety on the moor.

It later transpired that one shooter had driven onto the moor only to stay put in his landrover. He informed some sabs that nine guns had intended to shoot the moor but had been prevented from doing so by our presence. Predictably enough, they weren't too happy about it either (shame) and no wonder. Estate owners and game dealers nationwide had already lost a lot of money through cancelled 'shooting holiday' bookings in the wake of reports about grouse scarcity and radioactivity on the moors. Trigger happy peers and potentates, cabinet ministers and rich visitors from the Middle East, Europe and the United States pay thousands of pounds to pepper our wildlife on the grouse moors every year. The HSA's interference with individual shoots is no drop in the ocean but an effective reminder to wealthy British and foreign 'sportsmen' that they could be wasting both their time and their money if they insist on joining a shooting party next year. Another successful day's sabbing all round I think.

TWENTY LIVES SAVED IN DEVON TRAINING WEEK

For the second year running, hunts in Devon came in for a week of disruption during the early stages of the cubhunting, as saboteurs from all over the country descended on Exeter to take part in the training week organised by Exeter HSA. With the exception of one day, when a lack of hunts afforded sabs a much needed lie-in, some forty to fifty hunt saboteurs attended early morning and evening meets of eight hunts with total success.

In Devon, as elsewhere, every foxhunt hopes to kill at least once on every outing during cubhunting and it would be expected that these eight hunts would have killed between eight and twenty foxes during the week. In the event, not one was killed.

The week started on Monday September 8th, with sabs attending the **Mid Devon FH's** first cubbing morning from their kennels. Quickly locating the pack, the saboteurs were able to split it through the use of horns whilst the huntsman, feeling a little isolated, took what hounds he could muster at a great pace into a hinterland of thick woods. Unfortunately for him, sabs split up and soon found him, took his hounds away onto Dartmoor and held them quietly together with whips. The pack was held for 15 minutes with eight sabs acting as whippers-in and one using the born, acting as huntsman until the hunt master broke the spell, galloping at speed through the pack and trampling a few hounds underfoot.

With his pack together again, the huntsman took sabs on a quick run across the moors in an attempt to tire them out. But sabs split again and some were there to meet him when he returned to the wood he wanted to hunt. Dismayed, he sounded for home and re-entered kennels with six hounds, leaving the rest to make their own way back.

In the afternoon, sabs attended an evening meet of the **South Devon FH** at Ponsworthy, Dartmoor. This hunt is usually sabbed by only three or four people and of late has been reacting violently towards them but confronted with such a strong presence of sabs and despite rounding up a number of would-be heavies, the hunt master 'Kipper' (whom you may remember from

last year), sensibly decided to call it a day before he'd started.

Back to the Kennels

On Tuesday morning we attended the **Spoonersand West Dartmoor FH** at Knowle Dean, the very place at which they had been sabbed at last year's Devon Week. Hoping to avoid a repetition of that event, the huntsman took his hounds straight onto the moors. Interestingly, hounds hunted virtually unaided by the hunt staff and saboteurs had to work hard to stop them, gather them up and hold them. It was found that loose hounds hunting in the distance made hounds in the care of the sabs very difficult to control.

The best day of the week perhaps was Wednesday. Sabs had an appointment with the **Minehead Harriers** who have hunted fox since 1969. Sabs called hounds straight out of a kale field and returned them to kennels where the meet had taken place only a few minutes earlier. There they remained until the arrival of a large contingent of police an hour later made it possible for the huntsman to set out once again for the moor. Sabs gave chase, split the pack and allowed the huntsman the honour of returning his own hounds to kennels to end the day.

Owing to a lack of foxhunts and a fault in our communications, no sabbing took place on the Thursday so a few people took the opportunity to visit the **Devon & Somerset Staghounds** and the **Quantock Staghounds,** neither of which appeared to get their deer.

An amusing morning was had with the **Taunton Vale FH** on Friday. The master, Martyn Lee, offered to show sabs around his kennels whilst also arranging for a group picture (sabs and hunters) to be taken by freelance and Horse and Hound photographer, Jim Meads. With the arrival of police, Lee galloped off with hounds in tow to his first draw, a field of willow. A fox cub was soon seen by sabs and they immediately called hounds out of a covert whilst Lee tried in vain to enter them. Several attemps at hunting were made, but each of them the huntsman had to give sabs best. The day ended at 10.15am, and needless to say, no sabs were taken around the kennels.

Huntsman Runs For It

Saturday saw sabs back with the **Spooners and West Dartmoor.** At first sight of them, the huntsman made off, fleeing from the woods he was hunting (where he would almost certainly have found and killed foxcubs) and made for the open expanses of Dartmoor where he disappeared. Sabs spent a short while looking for him before leaving to visit the **Devon and Cornwall Minkhounds.** Only a few stalwarts had gathered in the pouring rain at Luddiswell in South Devon and after no more than a vague attempt at hunting, they packed up and went home.

A fine finish to an exciting and successful week.

Sab groups participating: **Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Liverpool, Pennines, Lincolnshire, Bolton, London, Portsmouth and a few others. Thanks must go to our hunt moles for supplying us with meet details.**



Sabs hold the Mid Devon pack with horn and whip while the huntsmen watches from the skyline.

PROGRESS IS CHANGE

In HOWL 33 we examined some of the issues relating to regionalisation within the H.S.A. Here, *Linda Blackburn* **puts the case for S.A.B.S.**

Many members of the H.S.A. may be worried about the effects of the setting up of the Southern Anti-Bloodsports Society in the southern region. These fears were expressed in the last edition of HOWL. In this somewhat brief reply to those worries and criticisms I have endeavoured to answer most of the questions that have been raised by H.S.A. members and I hope that this will go some way to explaining the reasons why regionalisation was, and still is thought to be beneficial in the South. The opinions expressed below are representative of S.A.B.S. contacts.

Of course, the first question is why bother to regionalise at all. There are many reasons for this. A smaller group can have better communication with it's contacts and members; more regular meetings can be held where national and local issues can be discussed at length. More publicity can be gained because we are keeping more in touch with local issues and this leads to more members which in turn generates more direct action and involvement in the organisation. S.A.B.S. is able to deal with it's members at a more personal level and since formation we have contacted many of them individually to try to get them more involved.

We aim to work alongside, not against, the H.S.A. as well as working with the League Against Cruel Sports. There should be no need for 'petty bickering' of any kind. Obviously, there are bound to be some differences in opinions between different organisations but we believe that these should not stand in the way of progress. Progress is change and there is a need for another movement which is using direct action campaigns hand in hand with political campaigns. S.A.B.S. is doing just that. Within S.A.B.S. there are some that are not wholly committed to the validity of political campaigns but they are prepared to accept compromises and to work alongside those who share a differing viewpoint. After all, when all is said and done each and every one of us shares the same beliefs about bringing about an end to hunting. We must be prepared to pool all our resources together as one and work together to achieve this end.

S.A.B.S. is and will continue to promote the H.S.A. to all it's members. We do not want to pinch H.S.A. members. We see ourselves as a group for the community and it is from there that we hope to generate a lot more interest. It is our main aim to become more effective at sabbing. To achieve this, we firstly need more sabs and secondly more money. We have started fund-raising campaigns within the last few months with the result of gaining more new members from the community and increasing our funds which will enable us to provide local sabs with much needed transport. We have achieved some good publicity for the group in local press; this can only be beneficial to any organisation.

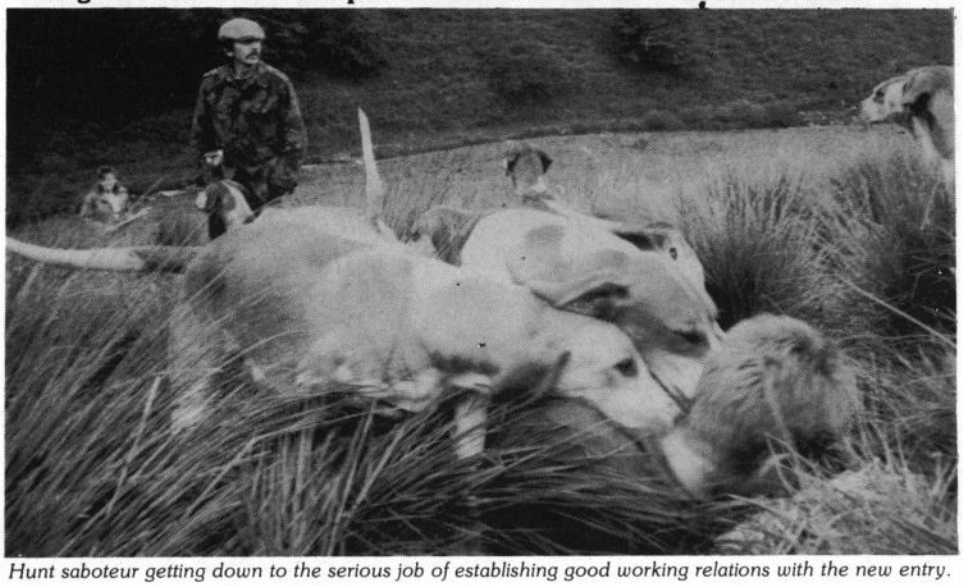
S.A.B.S. has and will continue to publicise the H.S.A. by way of distributing leaflets to the general public as well as distributing our own. This should ensure that the H.S.A. does not lose out from drawing new members from the community as S.A.B.S. is currently doing. We do not wish to impede the H.S.A. in any way from continuing it's work all over the country. We do however want to improve the effectiveness of sabbing in the South and we believe that S.A.B.S. is one way of doing this.

The argument about the good and bad points of regionalisation could be discussed here a lot longer but I feel that I have answered the main points. If anyone would like to take up any of the points discussed or raise any others I will be happy to discuss it further with them.

LINDA BLACKBURN (Secretary to S.A.B.S.)
Box S.A.B.S., c/o 4, Onslow Road,
Bevois Valley, Southampton, Hants.

AUTUMN BLOOD – A NEW LOOK AT CUBHUNTING

Despite the hefty contribution made by cubhunting to every foxhunt's seasonal tally, there persists a commmonly held belief that hunting begins in November. *Ralph Cook* **offers a fresh appraisal of pre-season killing and looks at its importance to hunters and saboteurs alike.**



Hunt saboteur getting down to the serious job of establishing good working relations with the new entry.

That part of the foxhunting year between last July or early August and late October or early November is known as cubhunting or perhaps more euphemistically as 'autumn hunting'. During these three months, the hunt organisation is able to sharpen its edge and sort out many of its problems before the public season begins with the Opening Meets. Cubhunting has many purposes, but the two principal ones are the training of hounds, especially the 'new entry' (puppies for whom this is the first hunting season), and the training of foxes.

Although practices differ widely from hunt to hunt and region to region, it is probably correct to say that cubhunting is divided into two separate parts. Early on, from August until mid to late September, the intention of the huntsman is to blood his hounds. Only when the older hounds' interest in killing foxes after the short summer rest is over has been rekindled, and the new entry have for the first time discovered their purpose in life, can hunting for the enjoyment of the followers begin.

No Escape

In this period, the huntsman is interested in keeping his hounds close to him and close to each other. He takes out his most experienced hounds each day with a few of his new entry, and at his first draw (he will have been informed of the whereabouts of litters of foxes by local landowners, gamekeepers, and farmers), enters the hounds. In order to prevent the youthful enthusiasm and mature instincts of his hounds from spreading them far and wide across the country, the covert is surrounded by hunt followers both on horseback and on foot, who turn back any erring hound. The supporters are also there to ensure that the young foxes in the covert are unable to escape – in effect, to trap them.

Only the experienced adult foxes and the occasional stout-hearted cub will make a determined effort to break through the cordon for freedom. In most cases, any hounds that break out of covert on their foxe's line will be whipped off and sent back in. The hunt does not want to kill foxes which display such boldness for in the main season such foxes will provide the best gallops.

Canibalistic Behaviour

For the other youngsters in the covert, survival is unlikely. The experienced hounds root them out, and on finding the line begin their familiar baying. The young hounds are encouraged by the huntsman and their own pack instincts to join in. One by one a litter will be killed, and adult hounds once again tasting the warm fresh blood of their quarry, each kill reviving their memories of past hunting days.

For the new hounds, the scraps of flesh and the drops of blood they manage to get, as they fight to reach a recently killed fox, may taste peculiar, but in the excitement of the 'worry', their desire to immitate their elders overcomes any feelings of repugnance for their canibalistic behaviour (it is rare for animals in the wild to eat others of a similar species).

Later in the season, from mid to late September and through to the opening meets, the pattern changes. Gradually, a day's hunting evolves into the style familiar to us in the hunting season proper. The early days often start before sunrise when scent hangs in the dew-laden air, and finish when the sun's rays begin to dry the air and foliage and the early morning mist dissipates in the growing heat.

Flight is not enough

By mid October, meets are held between nine and ten o'clock in the morning and many continue until after noon. The holding up of coverts is less pronounced, adult and young foxes are allowed to flee the covert and hounds encouraged to hunt their lines; thus older hounds and the new entry learn to hunt across open country from covert to covert, and the foxes, survivors of early cubbing, now learn that flight from the home covert is not enough and that only speed and resourcefulness will save their tails.

By late October, if all has gone well, the hunt will attend its opening meet assured of a disciplined, confident pack, experienced at killing, enthusiastic for the rewards of a successful hunt and assured that those foxes which have survived the slaughter of autumn are spread evenly across the country rather than collected in family groups, and prepared to run the gauntlet of open land from covert to covert.

If this is the case, provided weather and other natural factors are favourable, the main hunting season will see its share of good sport.

Successful Sabotage

Cubhnting is equally important from the saboteur's point of view. Most foxhunts kill between one third and a half of their foxes during the cubbing season, and most of those during the first few weeks. Obviously, successful sabotage of a hunt's cubhunting will help to reduce the hunt's overall tally.

Equally, since cubhunting is the period during which the older hounds rediscover their purpose in life, and the new entry gain their first insight into it, sabotage of cubhunting may delay or completely destroy the hounds' chances of working as a pack, of killing, and of course building their interest in hunting. A pack of hounds which have not been blooded are next to useless for hunting; they tend to lack enthusiasm and drive, and seem to care nothing for hunting, preferring to chase each other's tails to foxes. Successful sabotage at this time has a further advantage in that, since cubbing is the time when the huntsman builds the basis of his relationship with his pack, it can totally destroy the establishment of this hound/huntsman relationship with dire consequences for the hunt in later months.

Unorthodox Practices

For saboteurs, however, a warning. Digging out foxes is a frequent, and from the huntsman's point of view, necessary, part of cubhunting, and any hunt whose hounds have for any reason been lacking in kills will resort to totally unorthodox practices to ensure that their hounds are 'in blood' by the time of the opening meet.

In 1982, when I followed the Silverton FH as a supporter for several months during the cubbing season, I was witness to a heart-warming sight which reveals the true extent of the distortions of behaviour engineered by hunters. One morning, as I pretended to hold up a covert, I watched a young cub poke his nose tentatively out of the undergrowth at the edge of the covert. Remaining quiet in the hope that it would break, I was distressed to see a young hound approach it. Remaining still so as not to excite either animals, I watched in amazement as the two animals came nose to nose, sniffed each other like dogs meeting in the park, and then parted, each going their separate ways unmolested. Later, the cub was hunted in a circle and ambushed by two older hounds whose natural canine behaviour had been wiped out of them four years before.

CUBHUNTING TACTICS

When compared with main-season foxhunting, cubhunting is a fairly static activity. Even towards the latter part of the season, the average foxhunt tends to cover less ground during cubbing then is usually the case in winter foxhunting. This tends to give the hunt saboteur an advantage over the hunt in that as less hounds are taken out of the normal hunting area, it is rarely very difficult to find them or to keep in touch with the hunt. Furthermore, coverts which have been hunted in previous seasons from a particular meet are usually hunted each year subsequently. This is because foxes, from generation to generation, will use the same coverts in which to breed.

If the saboteurs are prepared to rise from their beds early enough, one of the best tactics to employ against cubbing is the wholesale pre-spraying of the coverts most likely to be hunted (see section on equipment and its uses.)

Some sabs, the New Forest group for example, double their spraying with covert-beating aided by rook scarers. Rookies can be useful during the cubbing season for getting foxes moving and alert to impending danger, especially in smaller coverts. They should be used with caution however, for unless used by sabs who know their hunt well, their positioning could result in foxes being scared *into* the hunt instead of away from it. They must also be hung sensibly to guard against fire-risks.

None of this is possible of course unless you know the location of the meet in advance, rare in cubhunting but not impossible if a group has done sufficient research on its local packs.

During the Hunt

The nature of early-season cubbing does have one disadvantage. Because it is the role of hunt supporters, at least in 'classic' cubhunting, to hold up the covert being hunted, the saboteurs will find that the limited area in which they have to operate will be the very area where most, if not all of the hunt and its supporters is concentrated. To avoid violence, sabs should act with discretion.

At this time, the most useful tactic is to call hounds out of covert by using horn and voice calls. This has the dual role of firstly pulling hounds out and secondly of breaking the relationship of the huntsman with his new entry. The first hounds to respond are nearly always the new entry, who have not yet learned to distinguish between huntsman and saboteurs. Very often however, the pack instincts of hounds will cause the older animals to follow suit in time.

A sab from Worcester points out that a well-placed 'holloa' at the right moment is a simple and effective tool, but one which few sabs ever use. Perhaps this is because we are self-conscious about making primitive noises in public! Correctly executed, a holloa has the power to direct a pack, even in cry, where any number of inexpert horn calls have failed.

Heading the fox

A general subbing rule which is critical in cubhunting is that great care must be taken not to head the fox. If sabs have had to enter a large wood during hunting this is especially important. Long lines of straggling sabs who do not have their wits about them are as much of a danger to a frightened young fox as the hunt. Always remember that if you can hear hounds in cry, then there is a fox afoot somewhere in your vicinity. If you are unsure of the direction in which hounds are being drawn, look out for obvious signs like riders or supporters left on point in forest rides or at path junctions.

In classic cubhunting sabbing, in smaller woods, sabs should be *outside* the wood on both flanks, calling hounds out in the usual way. Foxes have enough to contend with in the covert without having sabs running amongst them as well. In any case, taking care inside a covert at this time of year, with undergrowth proving inpenetrable at times, is difficult and you may find your movements dictated by the availability of traversible paths rather than by good sense.

Other Problems

During the course of the cubbing season, the pattern of hunting gradually evolves into that familiar in the hunting season proper and you will gradually find yourselves adopting techniques resembling those in the main season.

Several problems are associated with the sabotage of cubhunting. Firstly, meets are generally held much earlier (as early as 4am) than is usual in winter, although meets are held progressively later as autumn wears on and November draws near. In some parts of the country, cubhunting takes place in the early evening.

Another problem is that in most areas, hunts do not advertise their cubbing meets and where this is the case, the only possibility open to saboteurs without other means of obtaining information, is to watch the kennels and follow the hound van to the meet. In some cases, this practice leads to the huntsman not taking his hounds out at all!

For those saboteurs who protest that cubbing costs them sleep, it should be remembered that more foxes are killed in a cubbing day than in a normal hunting day, and that if a hunt's cubbing is ruined it can lead to serious problems later in the season from which the hunt may not recover, so aiding sabotage in the foxhunting season proper.



Saboteurs well positioned outside a covert during August cubhunting, call to hounds and are rewarded with half the pack.

Fox Cubs



Fox Cubs is a branch of the Hunt Saboteurs Association for children aged 7 - 14 who would like to join but are too young to go out sabbing.

A new fact sheet has been produced which tells you of projects you could start, answers some of your questions and gives you puzzles to solve.

The fact sheet will be mailed to you 3 times a year. If you are interested or know someone who is then write to this address and tell us

FOX CUBS
PO BOX 87
EXETER
EX4 3TX

Membership fee £2.00 per year.

AGM REPORT

This year's AGM was held in Exeter on July 4th. After the chairperson's opening remarks, the Treasurer gave a breakdown of the financial situation and answered questions. This was followed by reports from the Secretary, the Fox-cubs Officer and the Membership Secretary who stated that membership was steadly rising. The Research Officer then gave a report on the work he had undertaken producing fact sheets.

After lunch, the Sales Goods and Contacts Officers gave their reports followed by the Press Officer. There was a difference of opinion amongst the members about attitudes to the press and how (or if) we should use it.

A discussion followed about HOWL. It was decided to include a readership survey in a future issue. It was agreed that the size should remain the same and that advertising could be used to help cover the high cost of production, but with discretions.

The raffle was then drawn and the winners announced as:
1st - G. Hook, 2nd - S. Fox, 3rd - S. Garside, 4th - S. Hood, and 5th - A. Hollis. The results of the 1986/87 Committee election was announced and the following people declared elected:
Wendy Holborow, Ralph Cook, John Hale, Graham Clarke, Joe Hashman, Mark Breedon (co-opted), Chris Bishop, Ian Jennings, Alan Pease, John Innes, Richard Farhall, Anne Blunden and Mary Innes.

The meeting closed with a discussion about the proposed regionalisation of the H.S.A. In the evening, a disco was held at an Exeter Inn which included the now annual Horn Blowing Contest. This was won by John Dowle who received a Cotswold hunting horn as a first prize. It was good to see female hornblowers entering the competition this year.

MEMBERSHIP

If your membership has lapsed, you will find a renewal form enclosed with this HOWL. A good proportion of the lapsed membership currently on our files has paid nothing for a year or more, whilst continuing to receive HOWLS; we therefore request that you return the renewal forms as soon as possible.

All membership files are now up to date and the new members' pack is being updated and expanded.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF ADDRESS

HSA is closing down its PO Box in London and a new one is now open. Please send all correspondence to:

PO Box 87
Exeter EX4 3TX



A MESSAGE FROM THE TACTICS OFFICER

H.S.A.'s new Tactics Officer, Joe Hashman, is hoping to compile tactics relating to all forms of shooting from syndicate pheasant shooting and wildfowling to springtime rook shoots and 'vermin' control – basically all types of shooting that exist.

He therefore asks all H.S.A. members to write to him with details of any encounters that your group has had with shooters of any sort. Please mention anything, no matter how tedious it may seem. Joe hopes to collect enough material and ideas to put together workable sabotage tactics to cope with all types of shooting that may be targeted.

He also wants to learn as much as possible about regional variations in sabbing and hunting methods so that he is able to give the best tactical advice possible to local groups. With this in mind, would any group or individual anywhere in Britain who would welcome Joe along for a day's sabbing please contact him at the usual address, PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

H.S.A.'s long-running complaint against the Daily Telegraph newspaper over an article published in March 1986 has finally come to a useful conclusion with the concession of the paper to print a full correction.

The Country Landowners Association passed the Telegraph a forged leaflet bearing our name (and that of LACS!) which threatened physical attacks on anglers. A journalist rang H.S.A. to check on its authenticity and was told it was a forgery and that we do not promote the use of violence against our opponents. The published story, however, merely repeated the threats made in the leaflet and did not quote our denial of authorship at all. The Telegraph's new editor is Max Hastings, a well-known supporter of bloodsports.

After much evasiveness, the Telegraph agreed to print a correction in our favour – though not before it had been necessary for us to resort to an official complaint to the Press Council.

If you see any examples of bad journalism made at the expense of H.S.A., over which you think a complaint should be made, cut out the offending item and send it to our Press Officer at PO Box 87. Include the name of the paper and the date of publication.

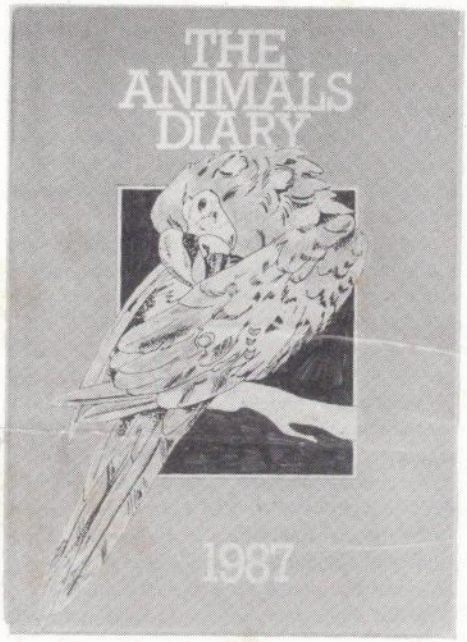
TYPEWRITER WANTED

The H.S.A.'s secretary badly needs a new good quality typewriter for essential committee work, electric if possible or a superior manual one. Any H.S.A. member with one for sale or who would like to donate a typewriter to us please get in touch.

SPECIAL OFFER!

Philip Windeatt's book, The Hunt and the Anti Hunt *is now available in bulk from H.S.A.'s Sales Goods Dept. Order yours now at a discount of up to £1.30 per copy and use them to raise funds for your group*

single copy – **£1.00**
10 - 49 – **75p** each
over 50 – **65p** each
Published Price **£1.95**



The 1987 Animals Diary will be available from Animus from October onwards. It costs £2.95 plus 50p postage & packing from 34 Marshall Street, London W1V 1LL.

HOWL

Thanks to all of you who sent in news, photos and clippings after our appeal in HOWL 33. Please keep sending them regularly – don't wait until the deadline. H.S.A. enjoys no newspaper cuttings service so we rely totally upon you to keep us in touch with the news in the fight against bloodsports. A large amount of HOWL is put together as a result of news cuttings received from H.S.A. members.

We welcome contributions; keep your articles to 1000 words (full page) and please allow us to edit if necessary. Our photo bank is in need of constant updating and HOWL would look very dull without pictures, so please forward copies of your best snaps to us. If you want submitted material returned, don't forget to include an address.

Copy date for HOWL 35 is **NOVEMBER 15th** so make sure you include details of your cubbing season and opening meets. *HOWL is edited and produced by Steve Poole & Janette Kerr.*