"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

Number 35, Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX **Winter 1987**





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.

Classic Mistake

Dear HOWL,

With reference to the Cubhunting Tactics article (HOWL 34). At first glance, the picture of the sabs captioned 'Saboteurs well-positioned outside a covert during Autumn cubhunting' could be mistaken for hunt supporters holding up a wood.

To be fair to those sabs, they may have only spread out as hounds came to them, knowing no cubs would venture that way with so many dogs afoot – I doubt it! The picture shows the classic mistake made by so many sabs – that of spreading out and forming an effective barrier to prevent foxes from escaping. The fact that people who do this rarely see that they have headed a fox does not mean that it doesn't happen. It just means that the fox saw, or more likely heard, them first and crept back.

The tactics article stresses the importance of groups keeping tight together. Please, please take heed of this.

The one time that forming a barrier is beneficial is when the quarry has passed by. A human chain with outstretched hands and firm rating voices will bring a pack to a halt. This will work even in the middle of a field, but the best place seems a fence or hedgerow where the hounds will have slowed down already.

One word of caution if employing this tactic in or at the edge of a wood – often there will be more than one fox afoot in a wood and it is not uncommon for two to hightail it from the same corner, so bear that in mind before forming a blockade.

Good sabbing.

Ms Angry
Ledbury
Herefordshire

Self-Defence Makes Sense

Dear HOWL,

On December 13th we were sabbing the Holderness hunt near Etton. We had just called off the hounds with horn and voice when we were blocked in by a hunt supporter. Huntsmen began whipping the landrover and tried to smash the windows. The driver was almost whipped while he was trying to blow a horn. Supporters then tried to let the tyres down so we got out of the landrover. As one of the sabs did so, he was whipped. Then, chaos reigned.

One sab ended in a fight with a hunter (the sab got the better) and other supporters joined in. A woman supporter began pulling the hair of a female sab, other huntswomen joined in and another female sab came to her aid. Again, the sabs came off best.

The incident was reported to the police both by us and by the hunt. One sab was injured and went to hospital with a damaged finger. It is reported that a hunter was injured but he refused to tell the police how he came by his injury. We got top local radio news from this.

It is the worst violence we have encountered and involved about 70 supporters and 10 sabs, not all of whom were fighting. We don't know what to expect in future, but our local hunt now knows that we are prepared to defend ourselves. Pacifists would have been beaten up or have had their van destroyed. We don't believe in violence, and we don't like it, but sabs MUST defend themselves.

Miles
Hull HSA

Trigger Happy Farmer

Dear HOWL,

After reading in HOWL 34 that you would like to hear about encounters with shooters, I thought I'd write and tell you of a trigger-happy farmer in my area who shot and killed my five-year-old cross labrador dog.

I was given Prince on my fifteenth birthday and this bastard shot him on the day before my twentieth birthday, saying he was chasing sheep. Well, for a start, there are no sheep on his land. He doesn't own any; he's an arable farmer. It was the first time Prince had got out and near the farm was a bitch on heat which belongs to a friend of mine.

We were not informed at all and did not find out that my dog had been shot until 3 days later when my friend found out and knew I had searched everywhere. She told me that she had heard the farmer had shot a dog, so we went to the farm and found he'd just put Prince in a field and covered him with a few inches of dirt. We brought him home after causing a scene at the farm.

We tried everything to get him through the courts, but were told he wasn't breaking the law! So he goes on shooting without a care. Is there nothing I can do? I was told that he has a private grouse shoot on his land as well.

Sarah Ainsworth
Broomfield
Chelmsford

A Better Police Force?

Dear HOWL,

Just a few thoughts on Christopher Bennet's letter (HOWL 34). Whilst agreeing that most vermin have two legs, not four, I cannot see where he gets the ludicrous notion that it is possible to have a better police force.

Wherever there's a cop, whether in the hunting field or on the streets, he or she is there to protect and maintain the power of the ruling elite (huntsmen, businessmen, politicians . . .). They try to stop us saving animals lives and use the media to portray us as 'lunatics'. They create racial conflict with their harassment of non-whites. They protect the wealthy from the attacks of our 'class' and turn crime back upon our own ranks. They use nothing more than the old tactic of divide and rule to keep us fighting amongst ourselves and thus keep us from venting our anger on the real enemy – the ruling classes. Our long term aim must be a total revolution – both internal and external – to eliminate those who cause all the misery and pain in the world today.

Yes, Christopher, most vermin have two legs, and of course real vermin must be destroyed. But don't forget, a lot of these two-legged pests wear blue uniforms and stupid helmets! Think about it.

Sid
Southampton

Exeter, Exeter, Exeter.

Dear HOWL,

In the latest edition of HOWL, the word EXETER appeared 16 times and there were 7 photographs of the Exeter group in action. Is this a record? If it is, then it will presumably be broken in the next issue . . .

Yours,
A confused hunt saboteur
E....r

It may well be a record and I hope it hasn't been broken in this issue. The serious side to all this is that some areas never send us anything at all! What we get, we print – quality permitting . . . (Ed.)

Violence Again

Dear HOWL

Heavies and hunters see us sabs as being passive. Before we even get to a meet, they've won. They've got the psychological advantage. They believe we're passive and they're right, we are! Let's stand up to them, try to ignore their comments but not their violence. If they went to watch a hunt knowing that sabs may turn up who are psychopaths, we'd have won on that aspect.

A Cotswold hunt saboteur.

Depressing Reading

Dear HOWL,

I have just read your Law Report in HOWL 34 and it makes depressing reading. Obviously the law enforcers, ie. the police and magistrates are against the HSA.

Would it not be possible to construct a list of lawyers who are not biased towards the foxhunting fraternity, and preferably dealing with legal aid? These could be used to defend HSA supporters in future cases.

Secondly, if a person is to be tried, apparently s/he can ask to be tried in a Crown Court where s/he may be tried in front of a, hopefully, more sympathetic jury made up of the public instead of a county court where s/he will be tried by a board of magistrates. It is more expensive if s/he loses, but if it lessens the chance of being found guilty, then surely it's a gamble worth taking.

Yours faithfully
Weasel

Saboteurs have been asked many times to assist the legal officer in drawing up a national list of sympathetic solicitors. Since we have no legal officer at present, local groups have been advised to find their own solicitors and to visit them regularly for advice (Ed.)

A BOXING DAY TO REMEMBER!

Festive cheer was in short supply this year as huntsmen looked gloomily over their stirrup cups at the large and determined crowds of saboteurs and demonstrators who attended Boxing Day meets up and down the country.



The HSA gained a great deal of press and radio coverage from a co-ordinated day of action which not only saved scores of foxes and hares but also appeared to take the BFSS somewhat by surprise. The hunts did not get their publicity act together at all and most national newspapers carried details of our own press releases without any comment from the BFSS or the MFHA. The front page of the *Independent* carried two large pictures of the demo against the Surrey Union at Guildford, the *Times* gave us reasonably fair coverage in a lengthy page 2 story and we featured on national and local radio news bulletins throughout the afternoon and evening. The mood of the day was best captured by a *Guardian* cartoon on the back page which depicted a couple of rustics leaning on a fence and one saying to the other: "Isn't it a lovely traditional Boxing Dat spectacle – the hunt saboteurs streaming away across the fields . . .".

The editor of *Horse & Hound*, in rather desperate mood a week later, tried to reassure his readers by making the frankly silly remark that only 11 hunts had been sabotaged on Boxing Day. For the benefit of hunting readers of HOWL who prefer their information to contain a little more truth, here's the highlights:

The Southdown & Eridge FH took two packs relying on the law of averages to give at least one of them a trouble-free day. They miscalculated here however, and Brighton HSA took one while the Tunbridge Wells group ran off with the other.

Two groups of saboteurs from Portsmouth and Fareham turned out to send the Hursley Hambledon home early without a single kill. The hunt seemed more concerned with preening about beside the road and making sure they didn't get dirty than with hunting.

A large turn-out of over 100 saboteurs and demonstrators crowded into the square at Guildford to give the Surrey Union the kind of send-off they deserve. Joint Master, Michael Taylor, made the memorable announcement to the press that the three dogs, 2 deer and one chicken so far savaged by his hounds this year, were all "isolated incidents".

The Old Surrey & Burstow could hardly be seen behind the three Black Marias, two patrol bikes and four squad cars that were summoned out from East Grinstead nick to deal with the eight saboteurs who had come to prevent any kills.

Folkestone HSA fielded 14 saboteurs to ensure that the East Kent FH went home without blood on their hands.

The Old Berkeley Beagles were displeased but hardly surprised to see saboteurs from Oxford at their meet in Quainton. Two hares were saved and there were no kills. A Boxing Day Shoot was interrupted and a brace of pheasants saved that afternoon by the same group. The Bicester FH had to contend with a banner demo and low-key sabotage after the meet, and the Christchurch and Farley Hill Beagles at Otmoor were prevented from killing by saboteurs from the West London group.

Saffren Waldon HSA held a banner demo and sab against the Essex FH and perhaps the best news heard here was that Essex police have been instructed by the local police authority to ease up on hunt saboteurs in the light of the recent county council ban on hunting.

Saboteurs from Hadleigh spent the day in the company of the Waveny Harriers and the West Norfolk FH were dealt with as usual by Norwich HSA. This group took the local paper out with them and no kills were made.

West Wilts and Bristol sabs organised their traditional hit on the Avon Vale FH, pre-beat and rookied all the principle coverts and unblocked every fox-earth. The hunt took one look at their handywork and decided not to bother with coverts this year. They spent a miserable day plodding along an old railway line and sniffing around the hedgerows but failed to find a single scent.

Cornish saboteurs made a mess of things for the unsuspecting Four Burrow FH and the Plymouth group were enough to send the Dart Vale and Holden Harriers into hiding for most of the afternoon. Exeter sabs went to help the League with its banner demo and collection at the Dulverton West FH. LACS is campaigning to prevent caps being taken at hunt meets without a licence and prevented one being taken at Dulverton. They had a licence to collect themselves and did so.

Huntsmen from the Mid Devon FH at Chagford called on police to deal with what they took to be a group of saboteurs (well, they were dressed in strange garb and quaffing pints of real ale . . .) but which turned out to be a bunch of rather miffed medieval mummers!

The Badsworth were visited by their friends from Sheffield, all of whom, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, are "serious vegetarians". The sabs followed the hunt from pub to pub all afternoon and no proper hunting took place.

Cotswold HSA found the most violent hunt on Boxing Day – the Cotswold Vale Farmers. One saboteur was half drowned in an icy ditch and others were beaten, whipped and trampled.

At the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH in Scotland, sabs made use of a drag made from fox bedding which they had kept buried in a plastic sack for a year. It worked like nothing they had ever seen, taking the interest of hounds as soon as they approached it. This hunt has been coupling its hounds in the true sense this season – tying a young hound to an older, more experience one by a chain at the collar – and was out on Boxing Day with three tied together.

Hull HSA sabbed the Holderness FH and saved two bagged foxes as they were released. Mounted police accompanied the hunt. Merseyside saboteurs went to the Vale of Lune and found themselves outnumbered but not outplayed by police.

Other hunts dealt with on Boxing Day included the Wilton, where 25 sabs held a banner demo before following the hunt and preventing a kill, Aldershot Beagles, Ecclesfield Beagles, Linlithgow & Stirlingshire, Croome & West Warks, Mr Goschens, the Quorn, the Hampshire, and the Belvoir where the mayor of Grantham stood with the sabs and displayed a placard reading: "Killing is not a pretty sight."

Boxing Day reports are still coming in as HOWL went to press, but it is clear even from these early arrivals that the number of hunts sabotaged was far in excess of 11!

FIVE IN HOSPITAL AFTER AMBUSH

Five saboteurs from the south-east were taken to hospital following violent assaults by supporters of the Crawley & Horsham FH on November 15th.

A landrover belonging to the Tunbridge Wells group was ambushed by more than 30 thugs on a public road at Coolham in West Sussex. One man was knocked unconscious and several others suffered deep cuts from flying glass as windows were caved in with fencing posts, pick-axe handles and baseball bats.

Hunt thugs had been gathering in the road, armed, for an obviously pre-meditated assault on the saboteurs and were aided by a hunt subscriber who used her horsebox and jeep to block the landrover in. An eyewitness account received by HSA states:

"One heavy attacked the driver through the smashed windscreen. She was already suffering from facial cuts. The others smashed the side windows and attacked the sabs inside. Everyone was bruised, one sab was knocked unconscious and suffered a cut to his lower back. Another had a cut to his leg that went down to the bone and required three stitches."

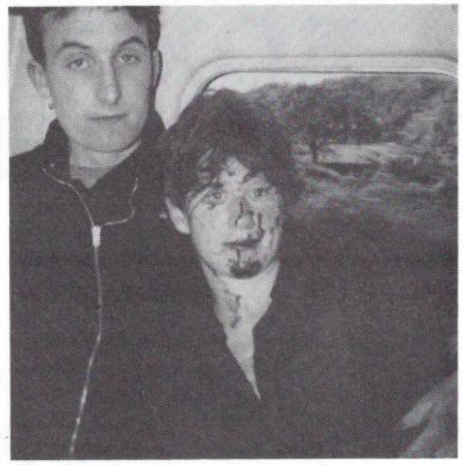
Impudent

As the attackers forced two doors open and began pulling at the occupants to drag them out, the driver, Salli, managed to reverse and pull the battered landrover around the jeep and away from the scene. The Portsmouth landrover, which was following, had its windscreen smashed as it drove past. The impudent huntsman of the Crawley & Horsham, Cliff Standing, later told bemused newspaper reporters that "I understand it was a case of our people being ambushed by them. . . . I don't know any of the details."

One saboteur told us that the police asked to use sab CBs to summon help immediately after the attack as their own radios had all become mysteriously jammed. They showed some initial his spade in full view of a police officer, (both of whom were treated in hospital), but because he went further than that and whacked the constable as well.

Cannot Prosecute

Police have subsequently excused themselves by saying that those accused of attacking the landrover have all denied it (surely not!) and they cannot prosecute in the absence of any independent witnesses. The line of reasoning is familiar enough but rarely seems to apply when concern at the serious nature of the incident and took one sab on a tour of local farms a couple of days later so that identification of culprits could be made.



After the attack. Saboteur Steve Gosnell consoles injured driver, Salli Hazel.

Police in Fear

The policeman concerned seemed in fear of being attacked himself if seen with the saboteur however, and asked him to wait in the road while he made inquiries at one farm. Since the saboteur did not feel safe to do this and reasonably expected some *protection* from the officer rather than *neglect*, the line of enquiry was abandoned. Such weak indecision forces us to suspect that Sussex police are afraid to enter into some sections of the rural community in order to enforce the law. A serious situation.

One thug, the hunt's terrier man, *was* arrested, not because he had just felled two saboteurs with the boot is on the other foot. Hunt saboteurs frequently suffer arrest on the unreliable identificatory evidence of a couple of huntsmen. A month after the event, the ernest claims of one officer, that "we are looking to nail someone for the landrover," are not very convincing.

SHOOTERS WILL NOT NEGOTIATE

Local attempts to curb the trigger-happy activities of shooters on the Lynster Farm Estate at West Hyde near Watford have come to nothing.

The estate featured in HOWL 32 when it was disclosed that several protected species of bird had been brought down by the unfussy guns of a shooting syndicate. After anglers and shooters fell out over taking responsibility for the illegal carnage, conservationists from the adjoining Maple Lodge Nature Reserve stepped in to negotiate a ceasefire. This was first knocked down to a compromise allowing shooting twice a week, but it was clearly not enough for the deviant appetites of local wildfowlers. They have broken off diplomatic relations with the Reserve and resumed blasting at anything with wings. "They had an absolute massacre on Saturday night," said conservationist, Mary Brading on November 8th. "I could have wept."

Direct Action

Mrs Brading and other local residents have been taking direct action against the indiscriminate killing by using lights and rookies to deflect wildfowl from their usual flightpaths; successfully with ducks, less so with geese.

It is not surprising that the syndicate keep shooting the wrong birds. Mrs Brading has been present when wildfowlers have fired off salvos in complete darkness. One night, a laughing shooter showered her and a companion with shot as he blasted over her head at a duck. "If it frightens you, you shouldn't be there," he yelled.

MORE PETS SAVAGED BY HUNTS

The West Street FH rioted after a pet cat at Betteshanger, Kent in November and pulled it apart. One local man, whose dog was savaged by the same pack a few years ago, now believes that people in the area have stopped letting their pets out of the house on Wednesdays and Saturdays. "Why should our lifestyle be altered?", he demanded. "I am absolutely terrified of the West Street Hunt."

Another cat was killed after the opening meet of the Portman FH in Dorset. The elderly owners found nothing but a few tufts of bloody fur to bury when they went to investigate the cries of the cat near their cottage at Fontmell Parva. Local landowner, Robin Litton, has banned the hunt from his fields in disgust.

NEW MEMBER DOES IT HIS WAY!

A fox was saved from hounds of the Cheshire FH at the end of December but not in the orthodox manner.

Saboteurs had gone to observe the pack for research purposes when a fox came speeding towards them with the pack close behind. Lateral thinking led one saboteur, out for the first time, to jump on the fox when hounds were no more than five feet behind. As he lay on top of the hunted animal, the pack piled over him and had to be pulled off by the rest of the saboteurs. He got up, still clutching the fox and ran off with it, releasing it later in a nearby wood. Unfortunately, all he got for his pains was a scratch from the ungrateful beast.

RED HERRING

Sources close to the South Devon FH report that huntsman David 'Kipper' Herring has worked himself into a fair old sweat over the recent trespass of his hounds into a deer park and the subsequent shooting of one of them by an irate park keeper.

Kipper is understandably touchy on the subject of deer. He was huntsman for the New Forest FH when it killed two deer a couple of years ago and was forced to abandon the remainder of his season as a consequence.

He is not a popular figure in Devon. So many local landowners have banned the hunt since he took over as huntsman, most meets are now held within a few miles of the kennels. Kipper is now intent upon sueing the deer park owners for shooting his hound, despite its having been a clear case of livestock worrying.

CONFUSION AT THE FERNIE

One hundred and fifty mounted subscribers and a small army of car followers took part in a funraising effort by the Fernie FH in Leicestershire during October. They were raising money for something called the "Leicester Organisation for the Relief of Suffering"(!).

SURREY UNION HUNT NOW COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL

In HOWL 34, we reported the killing of a pensioner's pet collie dog by rioting hounds from the Surrey Union FH. We could not have forseen that it would lead to disclosures of other pet death cover-ups, the sacking of the huntsman, allegations that a number of hounds had been destroyed and the subsequent defection of a large number of supporters.

The Surrey Union has been a troubled hunt for many months. Intensive sabotage has taken a heavy toll on performance and ability just as it has taken toll of hunt morale. A siege mentality has set in from the Committee downwards, paranoia about 'moles' and conspiratorially anti-hunt policing is rife and the general air of mutual mistrust within the hunting fraternity threatens the future of the hunt like a morbid fear of own-goals at a cup final.

For some time now there has been marked 'class' antagonism between Committee, riders and Masters on the one hand and the farmers and foot followers on the other. The lowly terrier and thermos brigade did feel some loyalty to longstanding huntsmen, George Holder, however. Oddly, this loyalty was not shared by the hunt Committee; Holder was unpopular with subscribers because of his habit of running an old pack which was slow but faithful. Some Surrey Union hounds continue working up to the age of nine, but most hunts slaughter their dogs when they reach about five years.

Leaked Letter

When it became national news that Alfred Holt's collie had been killed by the pack whilst Holder was in charge, the Committee summoned the 59 year old huntsman and ordered him to account for the disaster. According to a leaked confidential letter, dated September 9th, from Col. P. R. Drew to all hunt subscribers, it was not the first pet-mauling of the year, but the first to receive the all-important national publicity:

"There have, unhappily, been three separate incidents this year in villages near the kennels involving dogs when hounds were being exercised. These incidents have been fully investigated. The first two incidents, in February and July this year, had not been reported to the Masters by the huntsman."

Using this as sufficient reason to publicly dismiss Holder from his employment, the committee promoted new whipper-in, Peter Ellrich, to huntsman and, with Holder out of the way, got rid of 13 'surplus' old hounds. The dogs were taken to the kennels of the Crawley and Horsham FH at West Grinsted and shot, as confirmed by an angry anonymous letter sent to newspapers and sabateurs and thought to originate with unhappy kennel staff. This slaughter was euphemistically referred to by Drew as "reconstruction."

Followers Hit Back

Because of problems associated with getting the 'reconstructed' pack ready for hunting, cubhunting was delayed for several weeks. And since cubhunting is traditionally the time for doing just that, new huntsmen Ellrich approached November with an untrained pack that was scarcely under his control.

Meanwhile, the hunt's disgruntled foot followers hit back at the Committee mandarins with a circular letter of their own, also leaked, which condemned the sacking of George Holder "in circumstances in which Masters generally back their huntsman", and showed that he was clearly not being dealt with solely for the death of the collie since "Holder had been given his notice on January 31st, 1986" — months before it occurred.

Since their outburst, rebellious car followers have been heard to complain that Ellrich refuses to tell them where he is taking his hounds. Increasing numbers of Surrey Union riders, fed up with the squabbles, the uselessness of the pack, and above all with the weekly attentions of saboteurs, are leaving the hunt to join neighbouring outfits. More than 15 have gone to the Crawley and Horsham and as many as 25 to Mr Goshens. The desertions add up to an annual financial loss of more than £12,000 — and the figure looks certain to rise.

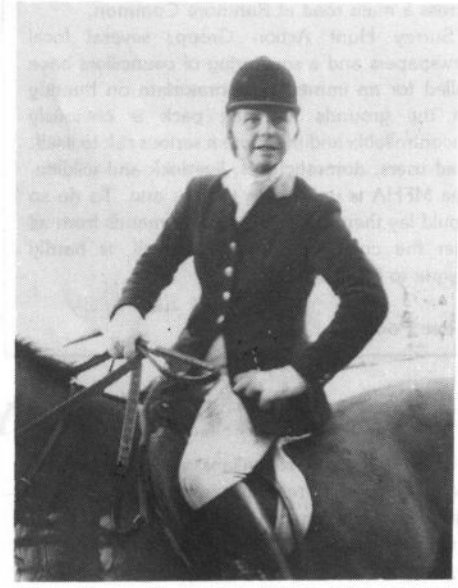
Regarded as a Usurper

Peter Ellrich was left with the unenviable task of beginning the season with inexperienced hounds in a country that was still largely unfamiliar to him, a slowly shrinking mounted field, and a hostile army of foot followers who regarded him as a usurper. The local media provided further embarrassment by focussing attention upon the shoddy behaviour of the hunt Committee towards Holder. The unlucky ex-huntsman was not only out on his ear, but inelligible for a pension and facing an eviction order from his tied cottage.

Ellrich's opening meet at Ockley on November 1st was a complete disaster. With hounds running in all directions, a group of them were left to trespass on farmland where they rioted after free-range hens and pulled one to pieces. The irony of the situation was lost upon the hunt spokesperson who asserted that the complaints were invalid because they had been made by "a virulent anti lot who don't know much about it". Matters were not improved by a petulent hunt supporter from the pro-George Holder camp lobbing a brick through a window at the kennels.

Live Fox Thrown to Hounds

One might have expected the following Saturday to find Ellrich trying to get it right. But incredibly he compounded his misfortune with an act of crass stupidity. Presumably thinking it would help his pack to distinguish between chicken or dog and fox, Ellridge tossed them a live fox in full view of his mounted field. One disgusted rider gave the story to a local paper and announced his intention to leave the hunt and join another pack.



Joint Master Rosemary Peters. Her arrogant attitude has further alienated the hunt from the local community.

On December 3rd, the hound, once again beyond Ellrich's control, rioted after a deer and chased it into the grounds of a chemical works at Cranleigh. The helpless animal was cornered against a wire fence and one of its legs ripped off. It was virtually disembowelled before factory worker Bryan White could get to it. He chased the hounds off with a garden fork and then had to use a hammer to put the deer out of its agony. "The huntsmen were outside the fence", he said afterwards, "but if they'd been inside I'd have used the fork on them."

Arrogance Over Deer's Death

Joint Master, Rosemary Peters, expressed neither remorse nor regret but arrogantly blamed the incident upon the works management for not maintaining fences properly. "They could be in serious trouble over this", she announced. Nothing of course could be further from the truth. The managers were considering legal action against the hunt in December and even the MFHA is fidgetting uncomfortably over the matter.

Since then, the hunt has spent so much time chasing deer that saboteurs have told the local papers that foxes are virtually off the danger list!

Many of the pro-Holder farmers have banned the hunt from their land until the old huntsman is reinstated, and the Surrey Union is therefore finding itself more and more penned in with every passing week. They now hunt little more than a quarter of their usual country and retreat most weeks into Forestry Commission or National Trust property.

Cont on page 6

Surrey Union cont from page 5

Second Deer Killed

This does not prevent them from chasing deer of course. One was killed on December 10th at Polsdon Lacy, a National Trust Estate, in full view of a park warden but the incident has been quietly hushed up. On Boxing Day, saboteurs intervened to call hounds away from three mountjac deer at Chilworth Manor, and on January 3rd ramblers and police saw Surrey Union hounds chasing deer across a main road at Ranmore Common.

Surrey Hunt Action Group, several local newspapers and a smattering of councillors have called for an immediate moratorium on hunting on the grounds that the pack is obviously uncontrollable and therefore a serious risk to itself, road users, domestic pets, livestock and wildlife. The MFHA is unlikely to impose one. To do so would lay them open to similar demands from all over the country. Rioting, after all, is hardly unique to the Surrey Union.

Steve Poole

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

BIRD NETTERS SABBED IN GERMANY



West German saboteurs remove small bird-catching cages.

German saboteurs equipped with rookies and sirens disrupted the annual trapping of thousands of migratory birds during September.

Bird traders use large nets to ensnare whole flocks of finches, linnets and other small species and subsequently sell them in cages as pets. Many suffer broken wings in the process; others die from stress and shock.

And in case you thought bird trapping was just a "continental" phenomenon, incidents in Britain are on the increase. Collectors here and abroad will pay £15 for a mating pair of most species, but rarer birds fetch up to £250. Successful prosecutions, which can result in fines of up to £2000, are rare. The RSPCA won a case against one trapper in Essex earlier this year, but he was fined just £350.

ITALIAN BAN MAY MEAN MORE CARNAGE IN BRITAIN

It looks likely that all Italians will be given the chance to vote in a referendum on the abolition of hunting during January or February this year. And with an estimated 56% of the electorate opposed to hunting and only 10% actively in favour, the result looks a forgone conclusion.

This will result in two million licenced gun holders in Italy being declared outlaws except in certain small hunting reserves to be kept for their tittilation. It is currently legal for Italian hunters to trespass on any unfenced land, whether agricultural or not, to shoot game, unless 'No Shooting' signs have been erected. Poor farmers who cannot afford fencing or long lines of signposts have been suffering in this way for hundreds of years.

Although the hunting lobby is small in Italy, it is excessively rich and vocal. When this, and the fact that firearms are big business in the country, are taken into account, the run up to the vote looks set to be stormy and controversial.

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Criminalising the triggerhappy and affluent Italian hunters in their own country will not be without its adverse effects over here however. Italian shooting syndicates like the one run by Pier Berti from Arbroath, already control more than 40,000 acres of moorland in Scotland alone. 1,000 Italian shooters come to Scotland each year at Mr Berti's invitation, paying about £1,000 for every 250 acres they shoot. Even Scottish gamekeepers and landowners are concerned about the visitors' apparent disregard for protected species. "They come out each day with five-shot pump action shotguns and blast anything in sight", said one. "I've personally seen them shooting lapwings". Guns of over three-shot are in fact illegal in Britain when used on wildfowl or any gamebird.

Illfeeling between Italian and British shooters over the ethics of slaughtering one species but not another has escalated to the point where Mr Berti now believes his shooting parties are being interfered with.

SABBED

On a recent wildfowling expedition near Kinnordy Loch, Mr Berti's guns were confounded as "two cars and a landrover started to ride back and forth on the road in front of my guests, blasting their horns, flashing their lights and waving flags just as the geese were rising from the loch and coming over our guns." This resulted in the birds flying too high and beyond the range of the shooters. In short, Mr Berti had been sabbed! Placing the blame squarely upon the shoulders of rival Scottish shooting interests, he wrote furiously to *Shooting Times* (4/12/86) that his party "were not pleased or impressed with this example of the British sense of humour."

Neighbouring sportsmen replied a fortnight later that it was not they who were responsible, but non-shooting local residents who had had enough of Mr Berti's mindless violence.

Who says the HSA isn't a vanguard organisation?

BEAGLERS BLOODLUST DISGUSTS FOLLOWERS

The depraved behaviour of Aldershot beagles huntsman, Roy Clinkard, has lately reached such a peak that even his own followers are finding it hard to take.

Several went home in disgust on New Years Day when Clinkard launched himself at a woman worker from the RSPCA Rescue Centre at Chobham after she picked up an exhausted hare which had stopped in the middle of a road. Clinkard kicked her in the back as she fell and police grabbed the woman 'to prevent a breach of the peace'. In the confusion, the whipper in was able to snatch the terrified hare and hurl it to the hounds.

The incident follows another, earlier in the season, when Clinkard picked up a live hare, cut its leg off for a trophy and chucked the animal screaming to his hounds to finish off.



A team of diggers from the New Forest FH disturbing the topsoil of the forest with yet another dig-out. On this occasion, 24 separate pits were excavated before the fox was finally brought out and shot. THe hunt now makes about 95% of all kills in this way and saboteurs have not seen a kill above ground for over a year.

NOW WE'RE ACCUSED OF POISONING HOUNDS!

IRN and several local newspaper broadcast the story on January 5th, that the kennels of the North Cotswold FH had been broken into during the night and four terriers and a foxhound killed with poison. The culprits, it was asserted, were believed to be 'hunt saboteurs' or 'the ALF' and finally, 'the Hunt Retribution Squad'.

Some had got into the kennels, singled out the terriers who were together in a pen, and fed them an unspecified poison which had brought instant death. An unhunted puppy, alone in an adjacent pen, also died.

The following day, an autopsy revealed the poison to have been the insecticide, Phosodrin. This is not available over the counter to the public but is used by farmers as an ariel spray on crops.

Ridiculous!

Since saboteurs could no longer have been responsible, the media made further inquiries at the hunt kennels. The North Cotswold's huntsman told them he had never considered it possible that saboteurs were involved in the first place. The idea was "ridiculous", he said. Moreover, it was the police who had insisted that we might have done it and, despite his having told them that we had not, it was the police who supplied the journalists with the rumour as well. Things have come to a sorry pass if we get bad press even when the hunt put in a good word for us!

The fact that it was terriers that were singled out for poisoning suggests to us that clandestine squabbles within the fox and badger digging fraternity are probably responsible.

SABS RESCUE PACK AFTER ROAD TRAGEDY

Three hounds were killed when the Aldershot Beagles ran onto the busy M3 in November.

Huntsman Roy Clinkard had cast the pack in a field just half a mile from the motorway when about 15 of them scented a deer and sped off in pursuit towards the road. Although Clinkard did not appear to be aware of where his dogs had gone, three hunt saboteurs from West London Group saw the danger and raced ahead to help them. They picked up several and turned them round, but were not able to prevent a handful of beagles from darting straight into the oncoming traffic. One saboteur risked personal injury by running out to the central reservation to collect a hound. As he did so, three others were hit. Saboteurs helped motorway police after the incident, but it was a full 50 minutes before any official of the hunt arrived on the scene.

TALLY WOE

Supporters of the Clifton Foot Beagles in Somerset had little to celebrate after the opening meet this year.

Having spent most of the morning drinking in the pub, they staggered out to their cars, zigzagged off up the road and ran straight into a police breathaliser squad who had been lying in wait around the corner. Most of them were booked for drunken driving.

LEAD SHOT WASH-OUT

The government ban on the sale of lead shot for all anglers weights of less than an ounce (except dust shot), came into force on January 1st.

As we pointed out in HOWL 34, prohibiting the sale of a thing is not the same as prohibiting its use. We are backed in this claim by one George Alderson, an Ipswich angling fanatic who told his local paper in October, "I have changed to lead substitutes, but they are so expensive and ineffective that people will continue to use the lead way after the ban on sales."

Alderson is of the opinion that lead weights never did much harm anyway. "The swan is not an endangered creature", he said, "and the number that are affected by lead shot is small in comparison with those hurt in road accidents or in collisions with power lines."(!) To our knowledge the pony is not an endangered species either, but that did not prevent the death of one at Spalding, Lincs in October; after it swallowed 20 fish hooks and lead weights in a riverside field.

Local Water Authorities have the power tc prohibit the use of lead weights on their rivers and this would make the government ban on sales a good deal more effective. This is not likely to happen however, without public pressure so start writing to them. You could point out that Environment minister, William Waldegrave has given the idea his blessing: "It is now open to water authorities to introduce complimentary by-laws which would ban the use of lead weights. I encourage them to do so."



Camera catches psychopath. This Berkeley hunt follower is holding a saboteurs head under water in a deep ditch. The poor quality of the picture is due to a friend of his who tried to smash the camera.

BAGGED FOXES ON THE NORTH & AINSTY

Saboteurs were present at the opening meet of the York & Ainsty (North) FH at Great Ouseburn when two bagged foxes were released. The hunt spent much of the day evading sabs along the virtually treeless banks of the river Ouse and failed to find a single worthwhile scent. Eventually they decided to slip a bagged fox but inadvertently let two go at the same time. In the ensuing confusion, Saboteurs from Huddersfield and Leeds stepped in and called the hounds to order. Both foxes escaped and the huntsman blew for home in demoralised mood. It was only 1.30pm!

On November 8th, a bagged fox was spotted in the hands of terriermen from the Mendip Farmers FH in Somerset and on December 6th, locals following the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale told a saboteur that bagged foxes are not uncommon in the rarely visited northern regions of that hunt's country.

HOUNDS DIE ON RAILWAY

Two hounds were electrocuted and one hit by a train when New Forest huntsman, Jeremy Whaley cast his hounds beside the main Bournemouth to Southampton line on October 4th.

Whaley, who had spent almost the entire day messing about beside the track, was unrepentant after his hounds persued a fox across it and straight into the path of an oncoming train. He placed the blame entirely with British Rail for having holes in its fences. Presumably he prefers his pack to jump fences rather than go through them.

MORE COUNCILS BAN HUNTING

Nottinghamshire, Cambridge and Essex are the latest county councils to pass motions banning hunting with dogs from council-owned land, despite some desperate lobbying by the BFSS.

The Notts ban will affect several hunts, including the fancy Quorn. In Essex, the learned councillors have even banned staghunting (there's a lot of that about in Essex . . .) from the 12,000 acres in their care.

Although bloodsports are dismissive of council bans since they cannot usually be implemented until existing tenancy agreements have expired, their true worth is in the publicity they generate in the provincial press, and subsequent polarisation of feelings amongst local residents. If bans were as inconsequential as the BFSS likes to pretend, they would hardly waste so much time and energy contesting them. The problem surrounding tenancy agreements can be easily sidestepped by any council if it has the will to do so. Lothian, for example, has recently extended its policy to cover roadside verges, making it impossible for hounds to persue a quarry across the road without breaking the terms of the ban.

New Campaign

Saboteurs from Bath, West Wilts and Swindon groups have announced their intention to assist with the campaign to secure a ban in another county, Wiltshire, whose council is expected to debate the issue in February. A ban would affect 190 farms on 14,000 acres of property, so if you live in the area and would like to help with the campaign, please contact one of the three above groups.

Saffron Walden hunt saboteurs joined with LACS and Animal Aid members to lobby councillors in the successful campaign in Cambridgeshire.

LAW REPORT

REPRESENTATIVE INJUNCTIONS REFUSED

The recent attempt by NIREX and the CEGB to slap representative injunctions on all members of two local anti-nuclear dumping groups led to an interesting ruling in the high court on October 13th.

Judge Henry turned down the application on the grounds that a common resolve to break the law could not be proved against every member. He ruled that a representative injunction could not be granted *"where there was a clear divergence of interests among members of an organisation who would be subject to the injunction in that some of its members were prepared to engage in tortious actions while others would not break the law."*

As an unincorporated association, the HSA cannot be sued and neither can it sue. This is why grouse-shoot landowners in the Peak District have spent so much time and money in trying to bring a representative injunction against HSA; it is the only way to effect a blanket order upon every member.

Judge Henry's ruling in the case of the two anti-nuclear groups states that because they were a broad church with little power to control or discipline members, they could not be held up as 'common groups'. If some or even many of their members broke the law, it should not be too readily assumed that that was the policy of the association.

CALLING A SPADE A SPADE

While our legislators footle around with their trespass laws and their public order provisions, creating whole areas of civil and criminal law that are unclear and open to inconsistent interpretation, one American state is making absolutely no bones about it.

A 1985 statute of Connecticut, lobbied for by something called 'the Sportsmen's Alliance', provides criminal penalties ($500 or 90 days in jail) for *"interfering with or harrassing anyone engaged in the lawful taking of wildlife or acts in preparation for such taking."*

Fracelle Dorman, a waitress, was arrested a year ago at the request of a shooter after she had interrupted his sport by arguing with him about morality of what he was doing. Her case was dismissed in April and now she is fighting to have the law declared unconstitutional (as it very probably is). Twelve other states have similar statutes. In New York, you can be sent away for ten days or fined $250 if you "seriously annoy" a hunter. This, concludes Nat Hentoff in the Washington Post, might just apply to reading him a chapter from *Bambi!*

FOXHUNT THREATENS INJUNCTION

The West Norfolk FH has issued an idle threat to Norwich HSA that it will seek to injunct the group for trespass.

A letter from the hunt's solicitors to the saboteur's solicitors states: *"We are instructed to indicate that if there are any further incidents of trespass by your client organisation, injunction proceedings will be commenced immediately to prevent your clients trespassing onto private land and at the same time there will be an application for damages."*



Their grasp of the law is not strong. By their understanding of it, *"Your clients, by their activity, have negatived any entitlement that they themselves might have to legal action, since their own actions were in themselves illegal"(!)*

TRANSIT SAFETY

Hunt Saboteurs should be aware of new legislation governing passengers in transit vans. After a transit carrying loose passengers in the back was involved in a fatal accident during its return from the 1986 Glastonbury Festival, it is now an offence to "carry passengers in a dangerous manner".

Dave Weeks from Vale of Glamorgan HSA was taken to court in this charge on October 21st. A single policeman told the court that he had witnessed 10 people jumping out of the rear of a transit van driven by the accused during a day out with the Portman FH in Dorset. Dave was fined £100.

NEW TRESPASS LAWS – A FINAL WORD

Now that all the fuss has died down over attempts by the CLA and the BFSS to criminal trespass clause to the Public Order Act, it's gratifying to see that it cannot be used to impede hunt sabotager.

Trespassers on private or common land must have the intention of "residing there for any period" to come within the meaning of the law. The CLA themselves are pleased at the implications for travelling convoys, but do not expect the HSA to fall foul of it. Their legal advisor, Jonathan Cheal, notes in the November edition of *Country Landowner*, *"It may well not apply to hunt saboteurs and those who seek to liberate animals, but they tend not to hang around long enough to get caught so that no matter how many new laws might be passed, it would still depend upon apprehension and enforcement."*

He puts his faith in the new public assembly and disorderly conduct laws contained within the Public Order Act for the suppression of the HSA, but it could equally well be argued that these too depend upon apprehension and enforcement and nobody is pretending that saboteurs are going to stand around waiting to be arrested for unlawful assembly any more than for criminal trespass.

SOME RECENT CASES

Two women from the New Forest Animal Protection Group were taken to court recently in a private prosecution brought by the New Forest Foxhunt.

Jane Colbourne and Lorraine Alcock were accused of unblocking a badger sett in the forest, to the 'annoyance' of terrier man, Mark Ferrett, and his friend Robin Cooper. The defendants claimed they were only checking that this was so, but the hunt insisted that whether or not they had been actually unblocking the sett, Ferrett and Cooper suffered 'annoyance' and this was contrary to a Forestry Commission byelaw. This states that it is an offence to *"willfully obstruct, disturb or annoy several persons lawfully in or on such land."*

The magistrates however did not concur and the women were aquitted and awarded costs of £300. Legal action for malicious prosecution is now being taken against Ferrett, Cooper, and joint master Jeremy Whaley.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOU AINT JUST GABBIN' ABOUT SABBIN' WE'RE NOT ONLY BLEATIN' ABOUT EATIN'

The main difference about fox hunting and eating meat is – the fox has a chance – animals don't want to become meat its just they can't run away. Help us to stuff the meat trade – free literature, sae to:

Dept HS, The Vegetarian Society, Parkdale, Dunham Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 4QG.

LAW REPORT continued - -

A saboteur arrested during the action reported in the last HOWL against the W Yorkshire Minkhounds was found guilty in November of action likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Although he was not involved in any violence, and was himself peacefully occupying a rabbit burrow at the time, the magistrates bound him over for a year in £100 and awarded £45 costs to the prosecution. They assured the saboteur that "although they had personal opinions" these had "nothing" to do with the outcome.

The expected prosecutions against three hunt members for assault appear as usual to have vanished without trace, although we have heard a rumour that the saboteurs who had their windscreen put in by a hunt supporter are themselves to be prosecuted for 'dangerous driving!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Six members of West London HSA, waiting in a car outside the kennels of the Garth and South Bucks FH, were arrested on September 6th for 'going equipped to cause arson'. The evidence or this includes a few old bottles and some petrol (funny thing to have in a car . . .). All six were released without charge since it became obvious that they were only intending to follow the hound van. This didn't prevent BFSS spokesperson Robin McKenzie letting his normally dormant imagination run riot with the truth when the local paper rang him for a comment. In the McKenzie version, a carful of sabs became 4 vanloads of desperados who were only prevented from blowing up the kennels by the quick witted clue-solving of the sleuths from Scotland Yard.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Latest contender for 'Most Ridiculous Breach of the Peace Case 1986' is that of three Portsmouth saboteurs who were arrested in November while they waited for the van to turn up at the start of the day. They were, of course, acquitted.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Surrey police made two token arrests of saboteurs on November 1st to appease the peeved and constantly whining members of the Surrey Union hunt. Both were Action Likely charges, one for hornblowing and the other for spraying. Since no hunters were present at the time of the offence, magistrates could not see how a breach of the peace could be provoked by the saboteurs action and the case was dismissed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Two saboteurs from the South West were found not guilty on charges of unlawful assembly and assault arising from an incident with the Taw Vale Beagles. A doctor testified that the alleged injuries caused to the plaintiffs were virtually non-existent and identificatory evidence was flimsy at best. The interesting thing about the case however is that it was tried before an impartial jury in crown court. It is remarkably similar in substance, but not in result, to the case of assault brought against the 2 Exeter and Bristol sabs reported in the last HOWL. That case ended with a guilty verdict and hefty fines. But then, it was heard before a bench of local magistrates and we all know how impartial they are . . .

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

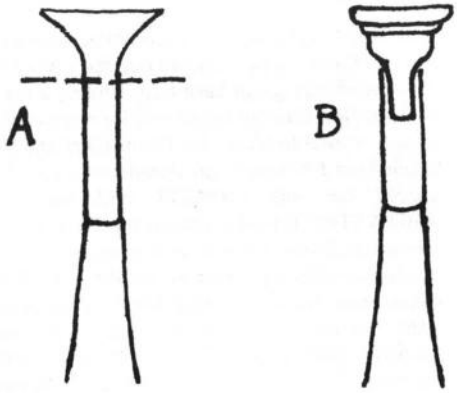
Two saboteurs were in court on January 2nd, charged with spraying substances into the faces of hounds under the Cruelty to Animals Act, and with common law breach of peace.

Anthony Martyn and Martin Popplewell both denied spraying onto hounds at the opening meet of the West Norfolk FH. They were accused on the evidence of a solitary policeman who had confiscated the spray can and sent it off to be analysed. The forensic scientist charged with the task did not turn up to give evidence but sent word that he wanted an adjournment as he had not yet managed to identify the spray. The accused found this strange since the harmless contents of the anti-mate cannister was clearly printed on the label. The magistrate thought so too and dismissed the charge. He found both saboteurs guilty of breach of the peace and dished out 6 month bind-overs in £20 each.

FROM CHEAPO TO COTSWOLD . . .

A DIY GUIDE TO CONVERTING A CHEAP HORN

In past editions of HOWL, we've concentrated on what to look for in a quality hunting horn and given a few tips on where to pick one up reasonably cheaply. Now, for the benefit of those sabs for whom junk shop Cotswolds are still too expensive, we present the Portsmouth HSA DIY guide for making a cheap HSA hunting horn blow like a Cotswold.



A CUT OFF OLD MOUTHPIECE WITH A HACKSAW TAKING CARE NOT TO FLATTEN SHAPE OF HORN IN THE PROCESS.

B SHORTEN THE STEM OF NEW MOUTHPIECE SO THAT ABOUT ¼ - ½ INCH PROTRUDES INTO HORN.

GLUE WITH ARALDITE RAPID AND SECURE WITH SOLDER.

The major problem with £4 HSA hunting horns is the mouthpiece. The horn can be greatly improved by replacing the original, which is too thin, with a mouthpiece from a trumpet, cornet, or bugle. These are not expensive and can either be obtained from junk shops or in a great variety from larger shops which deal with brass instruments.

Most shops keep a boxful of different mouthpieces in stock. To take advantage of this, cut down your cheap horn (as shown in the diagram) and take it with you when you go to the shop. Try out various types until you find one which fits and which you can blow comfortably. It should cost you not more than £5.

When you get home, simply follow the diagrams to secure the new mouthpiece to the horn. You will not necessarily have produced a perfect instrument, but you will have produced a considerable improvement on the original. Further improvements to the tone of your horn can be made by carefully cutting it down at the bell end with a hacksaw to raise the tone (carefully is the operative word here; cut off a bit at a time until you get the note required); or by wrapping two or three thicknesses of insulating tape tightly around the bell to deepen the tone. The general sound of the horn is best maintained if you carefully clean out the inside with pipe cleaner.

For under a tenner you should now have a better hunting horn. £4 horns, complete with a training tape, are available from HSA Sales Goods.

If you have any queries or other suggestions, please write in and let us know:
Portsmouth HSA (c/o PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX)

GROUP NEWS

Group News is compiled from the reports of those groups who are organised enough to send them in. They are the best indicator to both the committee and other groups of how the HSA's strength is distributed. If your area seems under-represented - ask your local contact to make sure your group's reports are regularly sent in.

NORTH



Tyneside HSA show off their new transport.

Sabotage in the North is enjoying a period of growth at present. New groups at DERBY and POCKLINGTON have been formed and new links are being forged between isolated saboteurs in CUMBRIA. Cumbrian sabs know they're doing a good job from the series of threatening and abusive phone calls one HSA member has been receiving from demented followers of local hunts.

SHEFFIELD HSA have settled down to ruining the *Badsworth's* season and have also been on hand to sabotage the *York & Ainstey North FH* and the *Claro Beagles*. The group had an excellent day against the *Badsworth* at Kirk Smeaton when a classic intervention between fox and hounds halted the pack in its tracks and left them totally confused. Like other Yorkshire groups, Sheffield are making themselves as unpredictable as possible, hitting a wide variety of hunts so that large gangs of heavies cannot be sure where the group will be each Saturday. *Rockwood Harriers* and the *Grove and Rufford FH* have both been visited. LEEDS and HUDDERSFIELD HSA have been making life miserable for the *Grove & Rufford FH*, the *West of Yore FH* and the *Bramham Moor FH*. This last pack is the only Yorkshire hunt to record a kill whilst sabs have been present this season; and this only happened because a dig-out took place while sabs were occupied with the hounds.

The *Grove & Rufford's* opening meet was wrecked by these two groups, with saboteurs from MANSFIELD and MANCHESTER in attendance. The BBC filmed a pre-beat and then made fools of themselves by reporting that sabs had caused a road accident between two hunt vehicles by calling hounds onto the road. The sabs were one and a half miles away at the time! The *York and Ainstey North's* opening meet was also visited with BRADFORD and HULL groups joining in after it was discovered that the hunt were planning to release two bagged foxes. Continued success against this hunt culminated at the end of November in a meet being cancelled when it was learned that sabs were coming. Two weeks later, police were called in and all roads leading to the meet were 'officially' blocked. Against this background of state protection, the hunt have begun advertising again for the first time in years. Saboteurs have been threatened with arrest if they attend.

MANSFIELD group spent the summer and early autumn on low-key angling and shooting sabotage and then maintained a steady and worthwhile presence with the *Grove & Rufford* throughout November. The group is small but intends mounting a recruitment campaign this year. WIGAN, LIVERPOOL and LANCASTER groups have had outings against the *Vale of Lune Harriers* but have found the pack quite incompetent. The incompetence extends to their huntsman who took his hounds off to a working stone quarry at Nether Kellet on October 9th. The hunt was rescued from total annihilation by the generous action of a quarry worker who ran out to tell them that they were about to start blasting. Police have been no help. Saboteurs have had their whips confiscated as 'offensive weapons' and one saboteur, arrested on some vague breach of the peace charge, was clapped in handcuffs and taken to the police station. He was released without charge.

Mounted police and hunt thugs have been attempting to hamper saboteurs from the HOLCOMBE ACTION GROUP as usual but have not prevented good sabotage on most weekends and at some midweek fixtures too. New master of the harriers, Ray Hongiter has tried to rally his demoralised field into attacking saboteurs, but the hunt often end the day with more bruises than sabs thanks to their expertise at falling off at jumps and fences.

The *Holderness FH* are joined most weeks by sabs from HULL HSA who have used horn and voice to great effect this season. The hunt like them so much they've started filming them – probably in an attempt to learn how to control the pack. Police have confiscated whips from saboteurs and the group is looking at alternatives and have been experimenting with a cap-gun. The police made themselves slightly more useful at a meet near Arram when they cautioned the huntsman for threatening saboteurs and told him they could not prevent the sabs from blowing horns.



Under new management. Hounds from the West of Yore FH vote for the Huddersfield group.

WALES

After a period of lying low in which much research on local hunts has been carried out, the VALE OF GLAMORGAN group have been lending a hand to their West Country neighbours for much of the season. Closer to home, the *Pentrich FH* and the *Glamorgan FH* have been visited and a joint hit carried out with BANGOR HSA and the ABERYSTWYTH group against the *Teme Valley FH* in mid-Wales. Fruitful fundraising at a benefit gig has enabled the group to buy their own long wheel base landrover. Aberystwyth sabs joined with Bangor HSA again and with the LLANDUDNO group to visit the *Tanatside FH's* opening meet. A dig-out at the end of the day was prevented by a mass occupation of the fox-earth.

MIDLANDS

COTSWOLD HSA, together with sabs from WORCESTER and ROSS-ON-WYE have been making life miserable for the *Ross Harriers, South Herefordshire FH* and the *VWH* during October and November. Police have tried to put a spanner in the works by blocking footpaths and threatening arrests but have had little effect on the high quality of the sabbing. Cotswold sabs have lent a hand to groups to the south of their country as usual and maintained a presence with local packs like the *Cotswold, North Cotswold* and the *Cotswold Vale Farmers*. On December 13 they joined a group of over 80 sabs from OXFORD, WEST MIDLANDS, DUDLEY, LEAMINGTON, COVENTRY and PORTSMOUTH (Portsmouth?!) to hit the *Bicester and Whaddon Chase FH* near Banbury. The hunt spent the day running around trying to escape sabs but failed dismally. Violence erupted when a hound grabbed a pheasant. Sabs reacted angrily and vocally and one sab was severely attacked receiving bruises and cuts to the back. Other riders tried to whip and ride into sabs. There were no kills. 40 saboteurs from Leamington, Coventry and RUGBY did a good job on the *Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles* in November, making a complete shambles of every attempt made to hunt.

The WEST MIDLANDS and WORCESTER groups have been busy with the *Croome & W Warwickshire FH*. A slashed tyre on the West Midlands van was speedily repaired by the AA, of which the group is a member. KEELE and STOKE POLY sabs have successfully tracked down the shy *North Staffordshire FH* several times this season despite the hunt's unsporting refusal to advertise its meets. Whilst brushing up their hornblowing, the sabs have been concentrating on very thorough pre-meets and have been rewarded by the hunt's complete inability to 'show sport' afterwards. The police have made life confusing for sabs by coming along one week and demanding that all saboteurs leave the area or be arrested, and then the next week telling them they can use sprays provided it doesn't get into the faces of hounds.

EAST

East Anglia has a low density population of hunt saboteurs but the NORWICH group is one of the most active in the country. They were occupied throughout the cubbing season with their local pack, the *West Norfolk FH* but paid several visits to the *Waveny* and the *Dunston Harriers* as well. The opening meets saw the group travelling to help the HADLEIGH group with the *Suffolk and East Essex FH*. Sabs are trying to encourage a growth in activity across this part of the region, especially around Clacton, Colchester and Ipswich. Some good subsequent days have been had with the *Suffolk*, whose hound control is abysmal. The *West Norfolk* have meanwhile been confined to kennels with kennel cough.

Saboteurs from CAMBRIDGE have joined forces with the newly formed SAFFREN WALDON HSA to sab the *Puckeridge & Thurlow FH*. Herefordshire police have been fair to the point of being helpful, but their counterparts in Cambs very obstructive. The Saffren Waldon group are often out in very small numbers and have had good days with only three sabs.



Saboteurs from Bath Uni greet the Berkeley FH outside the kennels. Physics lecturer Alan Underwood is the hunt's secretary.

WEST

BRISTOL HSA had an unencouraging start to the cubbing season with the gentlemanly *Beaufort FH* putting two of the group in hospital during September. The *Beaufort* have been visited many times since to prove to the hunt that violence will get them nowhere and sabbing has been effective with groups from BATH, COTSWOLD and SWINDON joining in. The newly formed WEST WILTSHIRE HSA has been the most frequent visitor to the *Beaufort*, getting to many of the mid-week fixtures as well as Saturdays. The hunt now has a silly and self-important little man called Julian Sturgess running about with a field telephone and monitoring sab movements but for whose benefit is anyone's guess. West Wilts group have also been on hand to make sure the *Tedworth FH* go home empty handed, though this is what the hunt usually does anyway without any need for sabotage.

BATH and BRISTOL sabs paid a suprise visit to the mentally disturbed *Mendip Farmers* on November 8th and had a good day which boosted everybody's confidence. Thugs from the hunt were present however at a meet of the *Blackmore & Sparkford Vale* in December when the Bristol landrover was persued backwards at full pelt up a narrow lane by several vehicles bulging with overweight farmers. The quick-witted sabs broke through the hunt's attempted road block at a T-junction and made a dramatic escape.

Bath University sabs have been a source of discomfort to physics lecturer, Alan Underwood, who is also secretary of the *Berkeley FH*. Several visits to the hunt culminated in a huge banner demo and Western joint sab at the opening meet with generally good press coverage, a spot on national TV and no kills. Sabs have also been out with the *Avon Vale FH*. From July to October, Bath sabs pre-meeted several fishing matches on the Avon. Pegs were removed or their numbers painted over, but feeding and water disturbance during the match has not been done for fear of damaging fish or their habitat.

The EXETER group has had some good days away from home with the *Cattistock FH* and the *Blackmore & Sparkford Vale* whilst back in Devon some of the packs have had their first visits from saboteurs for many years. Two such hunts are the *Tetcott FH* and the neighbouring Stevenstone FH. Reaction to sabotage has been mixed, the former acting in their usual violent manner whilst sabotaging hunts in other areas has been generally peaceful. The group is joined most weeks by a large number of new saboteurs from PLYMOUTH, a product of the success of Devon Week in the summer.



"This grubby hippy's wearing the jacket I stormed Port Stanley in and I want it back!" Aldershot & Sandhurst Beagler meets saboteur from Brighton; October 1986.

SOUTH

Saboteurs from various groups in the South East have maintained the campaign against the *Surrey Union FH* with continued success. The hunt is sabbed every weekend and had still to kill in the presence of sabs (yet to kill foxes that is – see separate feature). Due to the diverse problems and embarrassments plaguing this most unlovely of hunts, cubbing was delayed and the pack is virtually uncontrollable. A bleak season looks certain as sabs have to spend most of their time keeping the hounds from rioting and they are wondering how much longer this can be allowed to go on. The area remains one of the few in which relations between sabs and police is generally good. Sabs from NORTH DOWNS group put this down to the considerable effort they have made with police liaision.

Another hunt to see plenty of saboteurs this year is the *Old Surrey & Burstow FH*. Groups from BRIGHTON, TONBRIDGE, NORTH

Group News contd

SOUTH

LONDON, HASTINGS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS and CROYDON harrassed them throughout the cubbing season and were regularly assaulted by the aggressive mounted field. One sab had his teeth broken at Marsh Green in October when a rider swung her horse into him. Despite provocation, sab tactics with horn voice and whip have saved lives. Policing has been heavy handed and biased. FOLKESTONE sabs have paid a few visits to the utterly hopeless *Wye College Beagles* and found them quite capable of sabbing themselves without any assistance from the group.

Violence has consistently been shown to sabs by riders and followers of the *Crawley & Horsham FH*. Sabs were ridden down, attacked with sticks and headbutted in incidents which led up to the assault upon the TUNBRIDGE WELLS landrover detailed in the news pages Hunt staff from the *Hursley Hambledon FH* rammed **Portsmough** HSA's van during a September kennel blockade and damaged the front end. Thugs borrowed from the *New Forest FH* were called upon to intimidate the group during hunting but saboteurs stood their ground and prevented at least one kill. A very good day was had at the expense of the *Meon Valley Beagles* in October with advanced tactics being used. One group of saboteurs hunted hounds on while the other checked half the pack with whips and turned them back on the heel line. It left the hunt completely split for some 20 minutes. When the huntsman did regroup the pack, saboteurs swamped them and further confusion reigned. After two hours of this the hunt gave up and went home.

The group helped SALISBURY sabs at the opening meet of the *Wilton FH* and had a run-in with heavies on the *Chiddingford FH* which left one saboteur in hospital and another itching with dog fleas for the rest of the week. They usually go out twice a week these days and have sabbed on a broad front including local wildfowlers on their hit-list. Simply standing still on the shooters' rear skyline and on the main bird flight path was enough to prevent a shot being fired on one occasion near Chichester and most birds stayed well out of range.

NEW FOREST saboteurs have, as usual, been the thorn in the side of the *New Forest FH* but have, as usual, been subjected to much over-zealous policing from Hampshire Constabularly. They have given more attention than usual to the *New Forest Buckhunt* but this has been limited by the hunt's refusal to go out on Saturdays. 66% of Forest residents now want this bunch of deer killers banned according to a recent opinion poll.

OXFORD saboteurs have been out in their characteristically small numbers against the *Old Berkshire FH, Vale of Aylesbury FH, Bicester and Whaddon Chase FH, Warwickshire FH, Heythrop FH, Grafton FH, Warwickshire Beagles* and the *Old Berkeley Beagles*. (phew . . .) A solitary sab with horn and voice has sometimes been enough to wreck a day's hunting and baffle the hunts who search hoplessly for the culprit to no avail. Tape cassettes have been used to record hunt horn calls and cries, and these learnt and used to great effect. Special attention has been given to the *Old Berkeley Beagles* who have stopped advertising in response. All their October outings bar one and several in November were visited and completely controlled by saboteurs.

WEST LONDON group has maintained its traditions as a travelling group, calling on many hunts, but mostly beagle packs, within a wide radius of its base. Although a small unit, they aroused great interest amongst the police on January 3rd, who sent out 40 officers and a helecopter video crew to observe them at a meet of the *West Oxfordshire Bassetts*. The chopper stayed with them for over 2 hours and must now have some excellent and educational footage of how to sab a bassett pack. Perhaps we could borrow it for the tactics video . . .?



Saboteurs thwart the terrier men of the Surrey Union at Peaslake on December 20th. Police took no action against this occupation since the landowners, the Forestry Commission, were not in attendance!

HUNTSMAN-BALLS

"I think he wants to watch his step a bit . . . any damage he does by using hunting horns to distract the dogs will be entirely his own responsibility"
Capt. Charles Barclay, Master, Puckeridge & Thurlow FH, of hunt saboteur Kevin Saunders (Saffren Waldon Reporter 14/8/86)

"If you don't get these bloody people off my land I'll burn your house down".
Subscriber, Grove & Rufford FH to police constable 28/10/86.

"This aint no Beaufort or Berkeley Hunt 'ere – We're the bloody Mendip Farmers and if you come 'ere again we'll rip yer fuckin' bollocks off!"
Tim Pullin, Huntsman, Mendip Farmers FH to Bath hunt saboteur 8/11/86.

"Most foxhunters are perfectly decent people . . ."
Leader column, Leicester Mercury, 28/8/86.

"An unlucky blow in defence against someone with an unnaturally thin skull can easily result in appalling tragedy for all concerned."
Michael Clayton, editor, Horse & Hound 24/10/86.

"Some important questions need answering. Who actually pays the saboteurs their daily rate to engage in demonstrations which cannot claim a shred of spontaneity? Who are the politically motivated organisers of the strife?"
Michael Clayton, (ibid.)

"They get £15 and a packed lunch for coming along. They're recruited off the street. If they weren't here, they'd be fighting at a football match somewhere . . . It's impossible to talk to these people."
Tim Langley, former huntsman, Berkeley FH, (Bristol Student News 5/12/86)

"The hunt says they're going home now and can they have the hounds back please?"
Policeman to saboteurs, Surrey Union FH (Cranleigh Mail 22/11/86)

"Their motives are not conservationist, not humanist., They are politically motivated to destroy everything traditional in the British heritage. They are the tail wagging the socialist dog."
Ernest Bird, Badsworth FH spokesman, of hunt saboteurs (Yorkshire Post 22/12/86)

"Maybe he's heard something; let's follow him."
One of three lost redcoats from the Puckeridge & Thurlow FH on seeing a lone running saboteur, 29/11/86.

All nonsense in a similar vein gratefully received.

FORUM

Forum is an irregular column for which readers of HOWL are invited to submit their outspoken views on any subject related to bloodsports and their sabotage. It does not have to represent the 'official' view of the HSA but conbtributors are asked to put their name(s) to their work.

THE WALLY

Recent years have seen the emergence of a new breed of anti-hunt protester; 'the Wally'. It's easy to be a wally. All you need is a balaclava, a small stick, a large ego and a small brain.

The Wally is not usually a very good sab and not usually a member of the HSA. It spends most of its time running around in circles in woods shouting "Kill!", "Napalm!", and "Where's the hunt?"

Unfortunately for the HSA, the Wally seems to be breeding, possibly in the back of all those Ford Transits, and is producing more Wallies, all smaller and more ridiculous in appearance than the last generation.

The Wally, however pathetic it may look, is dangerous to the HSA and the cause of animal rights generally for the following reasons:

1. The Wally alienates our public support by making wally comments to the press like "All hunters should be machine-gunned", "Gas their horses" and so on. And every so often, Wallies get their photos in the papers looking menacing in IRA poses and destroying the HSA's 'non-violent direct action' image.

2. The Wally is an egotistical poser who tries to be trendy and radical with no thought for the animal cause and who accuses TV and radio reporters of being Fascist lackies, so destroying our chances for useful mass publicity.



3. The Wally turns the police further against us with its usual cry of "You're just imperialist Thatcher boot-boys" or "Nipple-headed wankers" etc., and then stands in front of the police and shouts at the hunt, "We've got all your names and addresses and you're all going to be firebombed!" After all this, the wally cannot work out why it gets so much hassel from the police making it impossible to sab efficiently.

4. The Wally's radical and trendy comments are destroying the wider animal rights movement. Phrases like, "The League against Cruel Sports are wimpy and non-militant' disregard the good work they do. We are all in this together and all have the right to choose our own way to oppose cruelty.

5. The Wally even turns away potential sabs with its behaviour and comments.

The time has come for all HSA groups to dispose of their Wallies before they damage our cause irreversibly. Without Wallies, we can win in our efforts to fight the TRUE WALLIES, the scarlet-coated clowns who kill for fun!

Colin Skilton

DON'T PAY THE FINE – DO THE TIME

During the next few years, a lot of people in the animal rights movement, especially 'border-line legal' activists such as hunt sabs can expect to get pulled in for petty offences like obstruction, breach of the peace and all those new laws in the Public Order Act. The State has realised that we do pose a threat to the present order and it thinks that by making picketing, blockading and disruption illegal, it will nip the 'revolution' in the bud, so to speak.

We appear to have two choices. Firstly, to go totally underground. This would allow us to take more short-term effective action (eg. destroying hunt kennels). Or secondly we could carry on protesting as long as we don't upset anyone or prevent the suffering of the hunted quarry.

The first option may lose us some public support, and since we will not be so much in the public eye anyway, we'll get little opportunity to explain outselves. The second option is defeatist and should be left to the RSPCA and other legislation-seeking welfarists. In fact, both these approaches exist at the moment and have their place. But the strength of the animal rights movement lies in its diversity. The HSA and other anti-hunt action groups rely upon direct action within certain limits. We cannot afford to stop sabbing, especially as its the main training ground for activists, and it converts so many people to veggie/veganism. But we will get arrested and charged, and if found guilty can expecty small fines (£10 – £100).

Let The Fines Build Up

Is that so bad? Most sabs don't have steady paid jobs or any material possessions of any value. Therefore, why not carry on as before? Let the fines build up and just don't pay them. eventually you'll get pulled before the courts again. If the fines total about £1,000, then you'll get a three-month sentence or less. It will take a few public order offences before anyone tots up a fine of £1,000. Of that, you will serve eight weeks, which is nothing is it? It costs over £250 a week to keep you in prison and at the end of the day, the state still hasn't had the fine paid.

You can learn a lot whilst in jail and it gives you a lot of time to think about things. The food may be crap and the company is pretty sexist and racist, but you will quickly settle down and the time flies past. There's some good people behind bars and at times it becomes almost a joke – a sort of funny nightmare.

Nothing To Be Scared Of

When your time is up, they let you go and give you about £30 in your pocket too. I ended up getting a two year sentence for the Unilever raid. I have virtually finished it now. The months in jail have gone really quickly and the major lesson I have learned is that whilst jail should be avoided, it is by no means something to be scared of. I would never pay a fine again, no matter how small. I don't respect this state and will pay no money to it for what they class as a 'crime'.

I think we must show that the Public Order Act will have no effect on the animal rights movement. After a few years, they will realise that fines and short sentences will not beat us. What they do after that is anyone's guess. We are fighting for animals and have no option but to carry on. Whilst they enslave our bodies, our spirits remain free. One day the prison doors will open and the struggle for liberation can carry on.

Duggs Carré

NEWS continued – –

WATCH OUT – PROVOCATEURS ABOUT!

Saboteurs should keep their eyes open for a BFSS video team which is currently touring the country filming hunts and attempting to create "compromising" footage of hunt saboteurs as well.

The BFSS propaganda film is presumably intended to demonstrate to the public that hunting is compatible with civilised behaviour – a daunting task for any film producer – and is budgetted at £60,000 (about what one would expect it to cost!).

Two groups of saboteurs believe they may have encountered the film crew this season and all groups are asked to keep an eye out for them and to be wary of their provocative behaviour. On both occasions, the crew has consisted of three men and a woman and they have hit, pushed and insulted saboteurs and invited them to react violently. Just before Christmas, the Hull group met them at a meet of the Holderness FH. While one of the film crew held the camera, others goaded the saboteurs and pushed into them. One saboteur was opportunistically filmed when he picked up a stick to defend himself and warn them off. The video team were in a red Mitsubishi, reg no. C196 EKH. On New Year's Day, they were out again, this time with the Holcombe Harriers and in a different vehicle, a Range Rover. Sabs were initimidated in the same manner.

Please report any further sightings to PO Box 87.

WOMEN AND THE HSA

There have been a number of discussions recently both inside and outside the Committee of the HSA on the position of women in the movement and the problems posed for all of us by the possible existence of conscious or unconscious sexism. The four contributions printed here, two from women and two from men, reflect some of the themes that have come up.

NEVER MIND THE POLITICS, SAVE THE ANIMALS!

Are sexual politics a live issue for hunt saboteurs? It's a question which has to be answered if we are to get beyond the sort of response where men nudge one another in the ribs, have a little giggle about 'lesbians in green monkey boots', and declare that women must sort out their own problems.

Like foxes I suppose.

The point is that some men might just be a part of the problem. Especially if they won't even address themselves to the issue. Which makes it a little difficult for women to resolve the issue on their own.

Let's see. Have a look at these questions and ponder over the answers for a while. Women, by the way, are not a significant minority in the total HSA membership.

1) How many HSA contacts are women?
2) How many past and present committee members are female?
3) Of these, how many have played a dynamic role (eg. tactics officer) and how many have played a more secretarial role?
4) At group level, how many women have key responsibilities (map-reading, CB operator, hornblower etc)?
5) In your group, what is the sex of the person(s) who makes most of the 'important' decisions in the field?

If I answer these myself, I conclude that there is a problem somewhere. Lots of women in the HSA; relatively few active women; and even fewer taking 'leadership' roles.

It's not just a 'womens problem', it's a problem for the whole HSA. Sexual politics are deeply involved in the anti-bloodsports argument. What is it that so gets under our skin about bloodsports? I think it's that they represent nothing so much as a completely gross and cowardly act of senseless arbitrary violence against a fellow creature. Like most gratuitously violent pursuits, they are dominated by men. This is unlikely to be an accident any more than it is an accident that the majority of people in the 'caring' professions are women.

A feature of radical opposition to violence in society during the 1980s has been the increasingly active part taken by women. It is seen at its most obvious within the struggle against nuclear weapons and militarism, but runs deeper into women's solidarity against rape and abuse of all kinds.

Using this fact as a model, an outsider might expect to look at HSA, with its policy of direct action against the violence of the hunting field, and find it brimming over with female activists; new, non-physical tactical initiatives and so on.

Oh dear. Instead, we remain a reactionary monolith, probably the only modern radical direct action organisation to refuse to look at comparative issues and do something about them.

Steve Poole



Which way for women? Beagler obstructs a woman sab while her male comrades stroll past, unimpeded. Women in the HSA may suggest a soft option to some hunters.

SABBING WITHOUT MEN

This short piece first appeared in the newsletter of the Southern Anti-Bloodsports Society.

The idea of collective women sab groups was first conceived in the South East area. Since then, I have spoken to many women sabs who feel extremely apprehensive about going out sabbing in large groups, mainly dominated by men.

I am unsure in my mind whether or not it is the fault of women that we do not take a more active and dominant role in sabbing. I would like to see a lot more women in the front line of sabbing instead of just being there in the background as we have been in the past. It is our responsibility to take a leading role; to learn to blow a horn, map-read correctly and to become more educated in the ways of the hunt.

I have been going out sabbing for three years now, yet in the last few months I have learnt much more than I ever did in the past. I have been practicing the skills of hornblowing for a few weeks and already I have gained a lot of confidence from sabbing my first hunt almost totally by myself. My hornblowing was by no means good, but it was effective enough for me to have been jostled by a rider and subsequently threatened with physical harm if I blew my horn again.

Women sab groups in the short term will give women much more confidence in themselves. I believe that in these times of growing hunt violence it is a good thing to have women openly taking a leading role – we are less likely (although not always) to hit by hunt heavies.

Linda Blackburn

SABBING WITHOUT MEN – A MAN'S VIEW

This is an edited version of a longer piece.

Whilst not agreeing totally with separatism, as it takes us further from our goals of living together as equals regardless of sex or sexuality, I think at the moment there is a place for this sort of action.

It is for women to decide how to increase their confidence. Most groups are led by men and unfortunately the easiest way for people to learn how to hit a hunt is to sab by themselves. Otherwise all you become is the puppet of a more experienced group. If women set out to do this, I do not think they are in any more danger than if men were about.

For a start, most sabs (male and female) can't handle themselves in a fight situation anyway! Hunt heaviest tend to be pretty sexist and if they hit a woman they tend not to go in quite so hard. Also, the sight of an assertive woman telling you to move on or something similar is a new situation for many of them to comprehend. Women on sabs often know all the theory but seldom get to put it into practice because it's always a bloke with the map or blowing the horn. 'Women-only' hits get around this problem.

Dictators

On hunts, people understandably get very serious. WE are in control of an animal's life and don't want any mistakes made. This leads us to think "I know best and there is no time to debate (or even explain) the tactics to use". The result all too often, is a dictator coming to the fore, but no doubt this could happen in a women-only group too. All groups should learn to slow down on hunts – even whem hounds are in full cry, there is still time to talk things out as a group and make sure all opinions are expressed.

But women-only groups do not solve the problem totally. There are a lot of non-assertive men about who would also benefit from the same sort of experience. And ultimately, if we are to be effective, we must act together, exchange ideas and information and work as a national team covering every hunt in the country. Further fragmentation does not help in any way toward this goal, but if done properly, women-only groups can help us all – including the hunted!

Duggs Carré

– – WOMEN – –

FOUR PROPOSALS FOR POSITIVE ACTION

There has been a growing awareness in groups and on the committee that the number of active women sabs is small. One reason put forward for this is that sexism is rife in some groups. Women feel intimidated, not only by the insolence of huntspeople, but by the macho image portrayed by some male sabs. To quote one male committee member, "There is a growing trend towards excitable and silly posturing by some male sabs who seem to see themselves as 'Bronsonesque' avenging angels or SAS commandos, waving sticks and mouthing wholly unrealistic threats of retribution instead of learning how to blow a horn properly."

Before the last committee meeting, I wrote to all committee members asking their views on the subject. Since there are only two women on the committee, most of the replies were from men. The response was positive, the majority feeling something should be done to encourage more women to be active sabs and to remain so.

Many suggestions were made. Firstly, to invite women to contribute and share their views and their experience of deliberate or unintentional sexism by writing to HOWL about it, and also of their experiences of women-only sabbing.

Secondly, to encourage all groups to experiment with male and female-only sabbing. Many women, with some notable exceptions, do not find it easy to overcome conditioning and assert themselves within a group that includes men. Women sabs tell me that although they are experienced sabs, the fact that they are women may mean their views are not listened to.

Opportunities

Female only sabbing could provide opportunities for the less confident to develop an ability to control a situation or make suggestions for on the spot action. Male only sabbing could give men an insight into the difficulties they may face without women. They cannot use women to play upon the chivalry of huntsmen. Is there more or less violence as a result, and are they more or less effective because of it? A mixed meeting could then be held afterwards for discussion and exchange of ideas and problems.

Thirdly, the HSA committee should positively encourage women sabs to stand for election, and that creche facilities should be provided at committee meetings if necessary.

Womens Officer

Lastly, it was suggested that a Womens Officer be appointed to the Committee. I have volunteered to do this job for the remainder of the committee year at least. I have started to meet with women sabs, and these meetings have been very positive. As a result of a meeting with women sabs from Huddersfield, a day of discussion and tactics has been planned for women in the north (see committee page).

I would like to stress that this is not a move towards separatism, but a move towards increasing the number of effective sabs. Together, we will be all the more powerful in the struggle to end bloodsports.

Wendy Holborow.

Contact me via **Mid Wales HSA**
PO Box 9
Llandrindod Wells
Powys



DON'T ABANDON MIKE!

Many of you know Mike Huskisson, either from his slide shows and talks or by having read 'Outfoxed' which chronicles his deep infiltration of the bloodsporting fraternity over a two-year period in the early 80's whilst doubling as Press Officer for LACS. His photos and films of kills and their aftermath have appeared on TV and in numerous magazines since.

On September 25th 1986, Mike was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for his involvement with the burglary of documents from the Royal College of Surgeons. These documents had, in February 1985, led to the College's conviction for wantonly and unreasonably causing unnecessary suffering to a ten year old female monkey called Mone. The RCS were fined £250 but sadly the conviction was subsequently overturned on a technicality.

Sabbing

Mike's history with the HSA has been long and intense. He joined in November 1972 at the age of 19 after earlier forays against his local Cambridgeshire pack using aniseed drags. He was out every week, either with Ronnie Lee's Luton group, our London group or by himself. It was on his solo expeditions that he learned the art of undercover work – become a hunter for the day, win their trust and use it to help the quarry. It was very effective but there were many narrow squeaks.

In May 1974, Mike was elected on to the HSA's Committee where he was to remain for three years and stay closely allied thereafter, always benefitting discussions with his intuitive ideas for our planned campaigns against all aspects of hound sports.

In 1975, soon after the jailing of Ronnie Lee and Cliff Goodman for their Band of Mercy activities, Mike and another sab liberated Major and Noddy, two of ICI's infamous 'smoking beagles'. When ICI's propaganda machine claim ed that they were simply control dogs and all the smoking beagles remained imprisoned, he immediately hopped on his motorbike and went back to Cheshir to rescue a third beagle, Snap. Unfortunately, they were both caught in a Manchester suburb. Snap was never seen again but Major and Noddy both lived on happily for another nine years.

By 1976 he'd become the HSA's national Press Officer and was one of the Altcar 7 – the first sabs to be arrested for invading the hare coursing fields at Altcar. Just three days before Christmas, 1977, he was jailed for his part in the attempted disinterment of John Peel the redcoat's ace hero.

Sacked!

On his release, Mike determined to expose the cruelties of hunting in other ways. In almost four years on the LACS payroll, he achieved an enormous amount as its Press Officer. He also totally updated its library stock with photos and films taken during his infilatration of the bloodsporting camp. Nevertheless, he was sacked by them in February 1985 because his determination to expose Mone's plight jeopardised their desired 'non-criminal' image.'

At his trial for involvement in the RCS case, the court accepted that he had not committed any criminal damage nor stolen any documents himself (he had returned them) but, because he had been present with others who had (the 'common enterprise' referred to by the recorder), the state decided to make a harsh example of him.

Appeal

In addition to losing his job and his liberty, Mike also lost his cherished wish to be with his wife, Sue, at the birth of their first child in October. Sue is now left with the task of bringing up Grahame alone for the first year of his life.

Mike has contributed an enormous amount to the animal rights cause over the past 14 years and it's only right that we should help him and his family in their hour of need. This is why we have set up a fund to help him. We urge you to support the fund and please inform any LACS members you know of its existence – the League has refused to do so itself. Thanks.

Dave Wetton, for the
MIKE HUSKISSON APPEAL
100 London Road
Crayford
Kent DA1 4BT

COASTAL WILDFOWLING AND CONSERVATION – WHAT EVERY SABOTEUR SHOULD KNOW

In the last few years a few local HSA groups have broadened the scope of their activities beyond the now traditional sabotage of hunting with hounds; several angling matches have received attention from hunt saboteurs; individual anglers have had their activities disrupted; grouse and pheasant shoots have not been neglected and thousands of animals have been saved by the destruction of snares and traps. This year a few groups in Southern England have taken on the most elusive and hardiest of bloodsporters – the coastal wildfowler.



Lone wildfowler and decoy geese. *(Pic Fred Hess)*

Traditionally the wildfowler operates alone during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk on the lonely expanses of tidal mudflats which forms the coast. The quarry are wild birds, many of them migrants from northern, arctic breeding grounds who seek their winter sustainance on the British and European shores of the North Sea. The wildfowler's sport, however, involves more than the folklore view of "a man alone against the elements, in tune with nature" would have us believe.

The term "wildfowl" covers many species of birds belonging to the separate families of geese, ducks and waders. Of the geese the wildfowler's quarry are mostly migrants and include the greylag (a small breeding population of which can be found in Northern Scotland and the Hebrides, reinforced in the autumn by winter migrants from Northern Ireland), and the pink-footed goose (from north-east Greenland). Other geese arriving during autumn and winter, all of which are now "protected" although they can be shot under license for "crop protection", include the whitefronted, bean, brent and barnacle geese. One other goose, the Canada, which has established a breeding population here thanks to its introduction as an ornamental bird some two hundred years ago, may be shot but is not favoured by wildfowlers since they consider it to be semi-domestic.

Brunt Of The Lead-Shot

Duck are divided sharply into sea-dwellers and inland feeders; the former, which include scaup, goldeneye, long tail, the scoters, eider and the saw-billed mergansers, gooseanders and smew, are thus largely outside the interst of most wildfowlers; the latter receive the brunt of most lead shot fired by wildfowlers in Britain. Mallard form the bulk of the annual "bag" and throughout the country are reared for the purpose, other quarry includes the teal, gadwall, garganey, pintail, widgeon, shoveller, tufted duck and pochard.

Additional to geese and duck many species of plover and wader were formerly shot by wildfowlers but today many of these species are protected by law. Golden and grey plovers are still legal quarry and of the waders only woodcock (an inland bird), and snipe may be legally shot. Moorhen and coot may also be shot, largely on inland waters for the purposes of control.

Blurred Distinctions

Traditionally the wildfowler's country is the coast (although in recent decades the establishment of inland wildfowling on resevoirs, lakes and "flight ponds" has blurred the distinction between the wildfowler and game shooter). In theory any subject of the Crown, legally in possession of a firearm, may take any quarry not protected by law between the tide lines. In practice there are modifications to this: much of the coastline does not hold wildfowl; they need estuaries, marshes and stretches of flat muddy coast where small creatures – the mainstay of the diets of many species – live.

The best wildfowling areas are thus the sea lochs of Scotland, the Humber, the Wash and the Thames Estuary, the wide river mouths between the South Coast marshes of Romney, Pevensey, Chichester Harbour, Pagham, Farlington, the Solent, Poole and Exemouth; on the West Coast, both shores of the Severn Estuary, the Welsh Dee, Merseyside, the coast of Lancashire to Morcombe Bay, the Solway and the Firth.

Here, wildfowling as a means of securing food and "sport" has developed in the last four centuries from its rude beginnings with a few poor adherents for whom ducks and geese provide the mainstay of an otherwise starvation diet to its modern proportions involving at least 13,000 participants.

The wildfowling season for inland and foreshore shooting begins on September the first each year and closes on January the thirty-first, for geese and duck, shot below the mean high water mark of ordinary spring tides there is a further extension of the season to February the twentieth. No wild bird may be shot in Scotland on Sundays (as is the case in some English counties), and Christmas Day. In Northern Ireland all wildfowling finishes on January thirty-first.

Wildfowling Strategies

The aim of wildfowling, both inland and coastal, is to shoot the birds as they fly from their feeding to their roosting grounds and vice versus. Geese and ducks (other than sea-ducks), feed mainly by night and sleep by day, roosting either on an offshore sand bar or swimming, head to wind, in large assemblies, known as rafts.

The wildfowler's strategy then is to ambush the quarry at dawn or dusk, moving into position long before the birds begin their twice daily flights. Experienced wildfowlers thus take a great interest in the locations of feeding sites in order to guess the flight paths. In bad weather they have to take account of wind direction, for a strong, steady wind will channel the birds into a foreseeable pattern, enabling them to position themselves at tactical points below.

Wildfowlers take large numbers, of what in the case of migrant birds, represents an international population; as reported in Howl 30, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation's National Shooting Survey, while failing to give figures for the number of geese shot, gave a figure for ducks (mainly mallard), of one million annually. The birds that are hit and killed are the lucky ones: many more birds are hit and wounded but not recovered or despatched by their tormentors. This problem is paricularly acute for geese as Authur Cadman, a well-known wildfowler and contributor to the bloodsport's press, explained in the *"Shooting Times"* of 11/11/82:

"But, alas, there is another side to goose shooting. Geese are powerful birds, immensely strong, and all too often they are out of killing range, or only just within extreme range. A few weeks after they have arrived, there are crippled geese on the shore . . .

Grey geese are the most unfortunate in that far more are wounded, and not recovered, than any other species. That is because they are such powerful birds. A wounded game bird seldom flies more than 200 yards and then it comes down on land and a high proportion is recovered. A wounded goose may travel half a mile, or more, and come down on a large expanse of water from which recovery is extremely difficult."

Some Misses Are Clean

A further writer, Freddie Dalgety, in the *"Shooting Times"* of 15/10/81 wrote:

"Sadly, there have been increasing numbers of wounded geese on the shores of many northern firths; some dead among the wrack left by the receeding tide, others limping in groups accompanied by apparently nursing friends on the mud or well-cropped shoreside grass. One wonders why, for most shooters are avid BASC members and one can hardly place all the blame on the few that are not . . .

Some misses are clean, others result in wounded birds. These we must make every effort to retrieve and despatch, though on occasion, wind, weather, tide and circumstance can combine to make a normal retrieve impossible, and it is better that the odd bird should take its chance of survival on the mud rather than a fowler be drowned in a futile effort."

I'm afraid, Freddie, that I, for one, do not agree.

His article was accompanied with a photograph of a dead goose captioned with the following legend:

"This goose died in the night. It weighed just over 3lbs and two pellets under the breast skin had created festering areas."

Since these geese weigh some 12 – 15lbs it is clear that this bird had suffered a prolonged and agonising death.



The neglected victims of another shoot.

Not Rare

This is not a rare occurance, in 1955 the Wildfowl Trust (which was started by the well-known "conservationist" and wildfowler, Sir Peter Scott and which still supports wildfowling), captured greyleg and pink-footed geese with rocket nets and found that out of 1,721 adult geese examined between 36.6 and 44.5% of them were carrying pellets, indicating that they had been hit but not killed. In numerical terms this meant that a total of 723 adult birds were carrying pellets. The report noted that:

"Less than 5% of the juvenile geese experiencing their first gunning season had yet acquired lead pellets. This strongly suggests that the shooting pressure they have sustained prior to reaching Britain is not very great and that perhaps most of the pellets they will acquire will be from British guns."

Even the pellets which miss their target are a future threat to wildfowl. The discharge from a shotgun, the weapon of the wildfowler, takes the form of lead pellets or "shot" similar to the anglers' split lead shot about which we hear so much in connection with lead poisoning in swans. Tons of this highly poisonous material is fired into the environment each year: a one ounce load of lead shot consists of about 270 pellets, each one a potential killer despite having lost its velocity. In most shooting areas lead pellets are probably quite harmless but when literally millions of them fall onto the mud of our foreshore wildfowl habitats and inland waterways they become a sinister threat to successive generations of birds.

Toxic

Birds require grit to help them digest food in their gizzards; lead shot is mistaken either for grit or food, once taken in the pellets are ground down and literally digested by the bird's gizzard. As a result the lead levels in the bird's bodily tissues rise to a point at which they become toxic to the nervous system, leading to muscular paralysis and the eventual death of the bird.

In 1976 the RSPB, Wildfowl Trust and BASC (then known as WAGBI), agreed that deaths among birds by this cause was a problem but they were unable to agree whether or not this problem was sufficiently serious to call for lead shot to be replaced with a non-toxic substitute. They organised a two-year research project during 1980 and 1981 to investigate the matter. The results were published in 1982.

Around 2,500 birds of 24 species were examined for the presence of lead shot in their guts. Pellets were found in thirteen species including all three species of swans, greylag geese, mallard, gadwall, pochard, tufted duck and goldeneye. Overall about 5% of mallard, 11% of pochard and 12% of tufted duck were found to be carrying pellets in their gizzards.

As a result it was tentatively estimated that a miminum of 8,000 mallard would die in Britain between September and February each year from the effects of lead poisoning.

Lead Poisoning

Collections of soil samples at wildfowling sites revealed that in the Ouse Washes densities of 16.6 pellets per square metre existed; most of these pellets were within 5 centimetres of the soil surface, within easy reach of feeding wildfowl. The rate of sinkage into the mud was found to be very slow. Higher densities of up to 30 pellets per square metre were found at flight ponds in Norfolk and Gloucestershire.

Between 1968 and 1973, a Dr. Thomas, working for the RSPB, found in a study of birds shot by wildfowlers, that up to 13% of mallard and 17% of pintail duck were suffering from lead poisoning at the time they were shot. In addition he calculated that between 400 and 700 birds would die from lead poisoning on the Ouse Washes alone. Some birds do recover from a small dose of lead but between 60 and 80% of mallard die after ingesting just one pellet.

No Real Defence

Wildfowling has no real defence and a lot of good reasons why it should be discontinued. Some birds, such as the brent and barnacle geese are protected by law, but may be shot under license for "crop protection", yet killing individual birds does not protect crops, it is the noise of the guns which scare the birds away; there are plenty of commercially produced "bird scarers" on the market which could fulfill this pupose without killing. Mallard too cause problems for farmers yet over a million of these birds are reared for shooting by wildfowlers and then shot to "protect crops" and provide "sport".

The only defence wildfowling has to offer is that some people enjoy it – and that is not good enough.

The cruelty involved in the activity, the fact that little is known about our migrant wildfowl (except that their populations occasionally fall dangerously low, despite any temporary increase in their numbers), which represent an international population subject to many dangers both abroad and in Britain, and the insidious threat posed by the accumulation of deposits of spent lead shot to many waterfowl, the disturbance of the birds by shooting during the harsh winter months when feeding and rest are important are more than enough good reasons for an end to wildfowling.

Ralph Cook



ANIMALS IN
MEDICAL RESEARCH
THE
FACTS

- Introduction of blood transfusion delayed over 200 years by the misleading results of animal experiments.
- Introduction of corneal transplants delayed nearly 90 years by misleading results of animal experiments.
- Florey, who purified penicillin, said it was a "lucky chance" that he had not tested it on guinea-pigs, for it kills them.
- Drugs like Opren, Eraldin, and Flosint were passed safe in animal tests; but damaged many humans, and killed others.
- The heart drug digitalis was discovered without animal research. It was later found to cause dangerously high blood pressure in dogs. But not in man.

FIGHT VIVISECTION
. . . ANIMALS CAN'T

For Further information please write to:
The National Anti-Vivisection Society Ltd
51 Harley Street, London W1

FOX DESTRUCTION PACKS – A NEW CONSIDERATION FOR SABOTEURS

Dave Weeks finds something nasty in the forest

To some saboteurs, the words 'Fox Beagles' would have no significance, but if the words were substituted for the more appropriate term, 'Fox Destruction Pack', then it would probably cause a few raised eyebrows.

What is a fox destructionn pack? Well, if one were to gather together approximately a dozen hounds and up to a hundred armed farmers with the intention of killing every fox one came across, you'd be well on your way to joining this rather mysterious clan.

In some areas of Britain, most noteably Wales, certain forestry plantation are havens for foxes. If a combination of forestry and rugged terrain are present, then foxhunting as we know it can be made difficult and in some cases, impossible. The fox destruction packs are usually to be found operating in such conditions, although it isn't always the case, as will be explained later.

How it works

The tactics of the hunt are quite straight forward. A pack of hounds, usually trencher-fed foxhounds or beagles, are brought to the area to be shot through. In all cases the hounds are under the command of a huntsman who hunts them on foot as with fell-hunting. One may see the huntsman in traditional livery, yet this seems to be the exception, the huntsman usually being indistinguishable from the shooters.

Once inside the wood, the huntsman will draw the hounds through, encouraging them in the usual manner to flush a fox. However, instead of the fox or foxes being allowed to run from the wood to begin a chase, the fox will be met by a large number of farmers carrying shotguns, the intention being to kill the fox as soon as it leaves the covert.

As one would imagine, large numbers of foxes are killed in a day. I have witnessed one fox destruction pack in West Wales account for more than 50 in one day. But it isn't only foxes that are killed. Because of the free-for-all manner in which the shooting takes place, hounds as well as foxes may be shot – or even shooters. A large number of foxes get away injured and die hours or days later having been clipped by lead-shot.

Where they operate

Details of the number of fox destruction packs in the country are sketchy due to the rather secretive manner in which they operate. A conservative estimate would be about 50, although more probably exist undetected.

As stated earlier, these packs work in mountainous areas, but they are also known to exist alongside as well as inside recognised foxhunting countries, much to the anger of the Horse & Hound brigade. Fox destruction packs such as the Cwrt-y-Cadno Farmers and the Rhydycymerau Fox Destruction society in Wales, and the Virginstow Fox Beagles in Devon, actually operate inside registered hunt boundaries in low-lying territories, advertising their Saturday fixtures in the local press.

A determined effort on the part of every hunt saboteur is called for to gather information from all sources as to the numbers and whereabouts of these packs. Sabotage can be effective if common sense is adhered to, as the people they attract are similar to the very violent hare coursing fraternity.

Sabotage!

On Saturday, November 29th, whilst sabotaging the Lamerton FH in Devon, the Exeter HSA stumbled upon a meet of the Virginstow Fox Beagles. On following the convoy of a dozen small vans, sabs were led to a car park adjoining a large forestry plantation. With the police in attendance, sabs watched as the hounds were unloaded from the rear of a transit-sized van.

Despite the obvious attempts of the lone police officer to persuade both parties to go their separate ways, the hunt took place. firstly, the huntsman took his pack to draw one section of the plantation, followed closely by 20 or more guns and only 12 hunt saboteurs. With the guns on the borders of the wood, and the hounds being drawn through, the sabs positioned themselves outside the wood and began calling the pack out. At first only a couple of hounds responded, but eventually the majority of the pack were outside the wood to the considerable anger of the hunt, one of whom responded by discharging his shotgun over our heads.

A few minutes spent blowing the horn was all that was required to split the pack across a large acreage. At the onset of dusk, only some of the hounds had returned to the hound van with no kills recorded for that wood. On investigation of a hunt vehicle, however, two foxes were found, fallen victim to the hunt earlier in the day in another wood.

As far as we can deduce, this is the first time a fox destruction pack has been sabotaged, thankfully with complete success.

Safety first

If any other groups are contemplating a similar sab against such a hunt (and hopefully they will), please remember that these people are not only potentially violent, but armed with shotguns. At close range a shotgun can kill; over a distance it may maim. Think before you act, size up the opposition and don't take chance. Mistakes could have very serious consequences. Above all, stay together and close to your vehicle if you feel the need to.

Any information that you may come across regarding fox destruction packs should be forwarded to PO Box 87, and if you are contemplating sabotage and have any ideas or questions relevant to it, we'd like to hear them.



A hound from the Chiddingfold lends an appreciative ear as this saboteur from Portsmouth calls to the rest of the pack.

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG

Incurable killer Prince Charles, who once had us thinking he was about to hang up his guns, has now taken his two infant sons on a pheasant shoot. William and Henry were each given a toy gun for the day.

Meanwhile, Princess Anne appeared in festive mood on the front page of the Sun at Christmas, merrily wringing the neck of a pheasant. A spokesperson for LACS was given space on the front page to comment on the "immorality" of the incident. All well and good of course, except that the League don't actually have a policy on shooting.

BOOK REVIEW

"Against all Odds" (Animal Liberation 1972 – 1986).

Published by ARC PRINT, 265, Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4

PRICE £1.95.

This book is a must for anyone involved in the Animal Liberation Movement; veterans of the struggle will find much to nod their heads about as they read this very personal view of the last decade or so of the movement; new comers to the movement, whilst gaining a historical background to the direct action struggle should note its warnings about the dangers involved, and discover the way in which the national Animal Rights organisations control the movement.

For those who control the national organisations and attempt to manage the future of the movement there is also good reason to read this book; they might not find much solace in its views and conclusions, but they will recognise that many activists share the views expressed, and still have a chance to rectify the situation.

"Against All Odds" is specifically concerned with the development of direct action from its early beginnings with the founding of the Hunt Saboteur's Association, The Band of Mercy and the Animal Liberation Front through to the sudden explosion of activity with the creation of the regional Animal Liberation Leagues.

It looks into the way in which the State, through the Police set out to destroy the Leagues and at the conduct of the Leagues and national bodies during the long court cases which resulted from their activities. It offers opinions as to the reasons behind the successes and failures in these cases which resulted in so many activists going to prison.

The chapter on the Public Order Bill is well worth reading and the last chapter offers reasons for optimism, reminding us that the strength and success of the Animal Liberation Movement lies with the local groups – as does its future and its hoped for success.

An important book which I recommend.

Ralph Cook



One of the 102 rabbits that were rescued by ALF activists from the Hylyne Rabbit Breeding Farm near Warrington, Lancs on September 19th. The rabbits, which were destined for laboratories, the meat trade or fur, are all now in safe homes.

HELP NEEDED FOR IMPORTANT NEW BOOK

ARC Print, the animal rights printers and publishers, are currently researching a book on the history of the anti-bloodsports movement from 1924 when the LACS was formed, to the present day.

The bulk of the book will deal with the HSA and its widespread influence, while individual chapters will deal with other aspects, such as the Labour Party, the League, the Co-op and so on. We aim to have the book published by the start of the 1987/88 foxhunting season, and so allow an assessment of the effects of the new Public Order Law to be available for discussion in time for the 1987/88 Campaign.

The Public Order Act represents the most serious legal obstacle the HSA has every encountered. It effectively criminalises peaceful protest. The new offence of 'Disorderly Conduct' is different and distinct from any previous public order legislation in that it is now only required of the police to show that your behaviour was an annoyance for you to be guilty of a criminal offence.

How You Can Help

We would like HSA members to help us with this book in three ways.

1) By providing a personal account of the trials and tribulations of their particular group. How old is the group; has it encountered violence from hunters and/or arrests from the police; what tactics has it adopted; and is it involved in campaigning or just sabbing?

2) Active sabs should support us by keeping detailed notes of any incidents (whether verbal warnings, arrested but released without charge, or arrested and charged) involving the new Public Order Law. Briefing notes on the Law and Legal Incident forms are available.

3) The production and printing costs of the book are in excess of £5,000. This money must be raised before the book is printed. We are looking for 200 people to sponsor the publication of the book. Anyone who donates £25 or more will be an official sponsor of the book and a list of sponsors will appear in the book.

Alternatively, you may wish to support this and other important animal rights publications by a standing order donation to Arc Print (details available on request). All sponsors will of course receive a presentation copy of the book and as an added incentive will receive a copy of Arc Print's acclaimed pamphlet 'Against All Odds – Animal Liberation 1972 – 1986', reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

Rush donations, information, and requests for further information to:
ARC PUBLISHING,
265 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD,
FINSBURY PARK,
LONDON N4.

NOTICE-BOARD

A benefit TDK C60 tape has been recorded by northern band, Chumbawamba, for Leeds HSA. It was made at a live performance in Bradford and is yours for only 80p plus a 50p donation. Available from Box 25, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds, LS2 3AW. Include 20p for p&p.

Artists for Animals, the animal rights arts umbrella, has produced a mini-LP entitled 'Abuse'. All proceeds go to ALF. AR groups can bulk order (minimum order of 5) at £2.70 each plus 50p p&p or free if you can pick them up from Manchester. For orders of 10 or more p&p is 25p per record. This disc features Style Council, Robert Wyatt, Madness and five others. Available from Slip Records, PO Box 18, South PDO Manchester M14 5NB.

A new animal rights group has been formed in Wigan and meets on the first Thursday of each month from 7 – 9pm at Parson's Walk Technical College, Wigan, in the staff room. Videos, speakers, and open discussions; all interested people welcome.

Activists in the south east are trying to raise funds to start an animal sanctuary. The people involved have pledged any money gained from the sale of their property. Any donations gratefully accepted. Send to Freedom Animal Sanctuary, C/O Beauty Without Cruelty, 11 Lime Hill Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1LJ.

Fight Animal Cruelty Everywhere (FACE) have produced a record on the animal rights theme, entitled 'Who Are We?'. The initial 5000 copies are on picture disc. Details from FACE at Danbury View, Peverel Avenue, Nounsley, Hatfield Peverel, Nr Chelmsford, Essex.

A set of nine new badges on a theme of hunt sabotage and depicting wild animals are available from Bristol. HSA at 20p each. All proceeds go directly to help rescued animals. Contact the group for details of designs etc.

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 1987

Once again, applications are invited from HSA members who would like to stand for election to the Committee.

The 1987/88 committee year begins in July, following the election of officers for the year. Those interested must:

1. Be paid up members of HSA of at least one year's standing
2. Be proposed & seconded by currently paid up members of the HSA (please check this carefully)
3. Supply a written CV of not more than 250 works to include the following: name, age, occupation, diet; why you think you are suited for committee work; and how you see the future for HSA
4. Send their CV to 'Committee elections', PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX to arrive no later than **March 31st 1987.**

Candidates should recognise that committee work is unpaid although basic expenses will be met. Committee business will occupy you for perhaps one hour each day and you will be expected to attend monthly meetings (Sundays). First and formost, a good committee member is an efficient administrator whether he or she is a tactical genius in the field or not! Areas of committee work include: Chair, Secretary, Press, Membership, Legal, Research, Contacts Liaison, Women's Officer, Treasurer, Fundraising, Youth, Student Liaison, and HOWL.

CVs will be printed in HOWL 36. A postal ballot of all members will result in 12 persons being elected to form the new committee. The result will be announced at the AGM.

WOMEN SABS!

A Northern Region HSA Women's Meeting will be held on
Sunday February 8th, 1987
at
Huddersfield Polytechnic
10.30am

Workshops & Discussions, Vegan lunch, Sales Goods & Creche
Day to Include:

1. General discussion on women & sabbing
2. Violence & women
3. Tactics
4. Practical self-defence
5. Horn-blowing workshop

All active or supporting women members welcome, irrespective of sabbing experience.
Phone 0484 516476 for accommodation details etc.

SALES GOODS

HSA's Sales Goods department will soon be expanding and updating its stock. New A5 sized handbills are now available for general distribution and in the near future we'll be introducing sew-on HSA cloth badges and a low-priced booklet from ARC about the new Public Order Act. Many people have remarked that our current lines of T-shirts & sweat shirts are not only of poor quality but old fashioned in design as well. We're hoping to offer some rather more up-to-date designs as soon as possible, and if anyone out there with a talent for graphic art can come up with any good ideas, we'd be pleased to see them.

MEMBERSHIP

A large number of saboteurs are still not HSA members. Please do all you can to encourage any people in your group to whom this applies to join HSA. Without their subscriptions it is just not possible for us to efficiently maintain and improve the services we provide for the movement.

PRESS

HSA's Press Officer, Graham Clarke, wishes to remind all groups who photograph anything unusual or newsworthy whilst sabbing that it is important to act quickly with the film. Notify Graham by phone as soon as you get home and be prepared to send the film, undeveloped, to a newspaper or television station immediately he tells you they are interested. Most papers prefer black & white film so try to get into the habit of using it. Some important opportunities for good media coverage have been lost this season because sabs have not realised how quickly the national news media drops stories for being too old. They must be reported the day they happen.

SLEEPING BAG NEEDED

Would the person who borrowed a brown sleeping bag (orange lining) from Ralph Cook's house after Devon Training Week please return it as soon as possible. It is urgently needed by a saboteur watching badger setts in the south west.

TEMPORARY CONTACTS WANTED!

HSA committee is looking for saboteurs in the Beds, Bucks, Northants, Suffolk, Essex & Cambs area who can drive and/or would be willing to act as temporary contacts. There is no shortage of activists in this region, but very few group organisers. So that the potential of the area can be fully realised, we need people to volunteer as temporary contacts; to act as an intermediary between the committee and the activists. If you think you can help in this way, please get in touch via PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX.

CLUB DRAW

It is still not too late to join. Simply fill in the enclosed Bankers Order form and return it to the Fundraiser at PO Box 87. Alternatively send a cheque/PO for £24.00 (membership for one year) together with your name and address.

This month's winners (December) were Mr C Buck of Reading (£15) and Leonard Kay of Macclesfield (£10). There will be three winners of the January draw and prizes will be higher.

FUNDRAISING

Collecting Boxes, lapel stickers and posters are now available for street and door to door collections. Groups organising collections are entitled to retain 50% of any proceeds. Further details and assistance may be obtained from the Fundraiser. Additionally, an information sheet has been produced with outlines of tried and tested ideas for raising money. Please send an SAE for your copy.

HOWL

Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to the contents of this HOWL. Please keep us deluged with group news, photographs and newspaper clippings. We welcome articles of any kind for publication but try to keep them under 1000 words (full page) and allow for editing 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. We'd particularly like to see more photos of hunt saboteurs in action; hornblowing, spraying, calling to hounds and so forth, close up if possible. If you see a hunt release a bagged fox or commit some other indiscretion, then try to take a picture of that too.

We often receive calls from contacts asking for copies of some of the photos we use in HOWL, for display board purposes. Unfortunately, unless photo contributors are prepared to donate their negatives to us as well, this isn't possible. If you have any old sets of negatives which you don't need anymore, however old, perhaps you'd consider giving them to us.

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.

HOWL is edited and produced by Steve Poole & Janette Kerr. Copy date for HOWL 36 is March 31st.

HSA PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX