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

HSW

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Chris Ogilvie, huntsman with the Coniston FH, realises the awful truth . . .

MURDER IN THE MOUNTAINS!

HSA TARGETS FELL HUNTING



Huddersfield Women's Day

The HSA women's meeting at Huddersfield on February 8th has produced a large postbag. The following letters have been edited for reasons of space.

Dear HOWL.

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed the 'Women's Day'. It was so reassuring to meet other women sabs.

Although I do agree up to a point that the exclusion of men on the day could be seen as sexist in iteslf, I think it was necessary in order that timid women sabs with no self-confidence could voice their opinions. It was great seeing them coming our of their shells, myself included. Although I sometimes disregard ardent feminism as nasty aggressive stuff (shaved heads and noserings obligatory), that day I basked in the warmth of female strength and solidarity. There were no men to inhibit me or deride what I said. Women either agreed or disagreed.

In sabbing groups, any timid, ego-less male sab who gathers enough self-confidence to pitch in with his ideas and energy is always welcomed. Sadly there still remains a silent consensus that a woman who does this is over aggressive and over assertive. I know. I have experienced it.

Elizabeth Maisonpierre
Leeds

. . One of the most encouraging things was the number of inexperienced or virtually inexperienced sabs who went. When asked whether or not we would have attended a meeting if it was just a tactics meeting, we found that very few women would have done. I think a lot of the non-active members were attracted by the fact that it was women-only meeting.

For me, the most interesting talk was on beagling. We came to the conclusion that you do not need to depend upon physical strength or fitness since you don't need to keep up with the pack but can play a waiting game and get between the hare and hounds when they re-pass you.

It seemed to be felt by many women that we can build our confidence by going out on women-only sabs then return to our own groups and play a more active part in both decision making and action in the field. This will benefit the whole group, not just the women members.

Barbara Dickenson
Leeds

. . . The women I spoke to all feel that women-only meetings and sabs can only be advantageous to the HSA because they will encourage more women to go out sabbing and prevent women dropping out due to sexism in groups. Every one of them seemed to feel that such meetings and sabs were not particularly separatist, and that women would simply gain more confidence. I hope the HSA Committee will be behind any future women's meetings or sabs and I am looking forward to going on some womens-only sabs and another meeting in the South.

Joanne Smith
Huddersfield

Women and the HSA

Dear HOWL,

I feel I must put a few points forward after your article on women and sabbing (HOWL 35).

Personally I have little sympathy with women who stay in the background and do not take an active and equal role as a sab. It is up to women to speak out and make decisions; be positive, never mind waiting for the men in the group to accept women sabs and their views.

In many cases women are the cause of sexist attitudes. If they realised from the beginning that they were equal instead of making a big issue over whether or not they were being accepted, the matter would not arise. The male sabs who are genuinely sexist are merely pillocks who are not worth bothering with anyway.

On the subject of hunt violence, women should stick up for themselves. We should show men that we are not easy targets and that we can be just as aggressive as them. It does hurt when you get whipped or thumped but it hurts men also. Aim for retribution; don't let them get away with it. Snatch the whip off whoever is using it; when obstructed, knee the person in the groin. They may think twice about singling out women the next time.

When women show that they are equal members, that's when they are accepted as such. Martial arts and self-defence classes are a good way of gaining confidence.

Karen
Grimsby (Contact)

Dear HOWL,

Women-only vans and women only hits should not be seen as a distration from the main objective of saving foxes. It is simply another part of it and is therefore a move forward. I don't think there is anything wrong with taking this more holistic approach.

Hunting, after all, is not only concerned with killing foxes. It is also about the use, abuse and oppression of other animals (horses and hounds etc). It too is male dominated. In other words, hunting is a whole subculture and can be broken down by another subculture.

Reynard

Dear HOWL,

I was reading wimmin and the HSA and was disappointed. Firstly, I think the debate should have been totally written by wimmin since that's who it was about. Of the wimmin who did write, one implied wimmin should assert themselves more and that wimmin are to blame if a sab is male-dominated. The other stressed her views were not a move towards separatism.

What are these wimmin apologising for? And what is wrong with separatism anyway if wimmin prefer to work that way? I have not been sabbing yet because I don't want to be ordered about by some man who's been doing it for years who I don't know or even trust.

Are there any wimmin who want to form a wimmin only sab-group in the South?

Jane Bone
Violet Gate
Greenham Common

Wallies!

Dear HOWL,

After reading last issues article on 'the Wally', I felt I must write about a much more dangerous breed of sab, The Commander.

It's easy to be a Commander. All you need is a complete camo-suit (English pattern only, chaps), a loud voice and a willingness to shout down or over everyone else. Or, if that doesn't work, the ability to totally ignore any good suggestion you didn't think of yourself. Wearing a brightly coloured badge is a must, but be sure it's not an animal rights one (you don't want to be associated with those fanatics).

The Commander generally spends all day in the car/van except for strategic times during the day when it leaps from the vehicle to be seen by the police or the press acting as the leader. Although the Commander makes a great show of appearing to lead sabs, it makes sure that it is never involved in anything semi-legal like blowing horns, spraying anti-mate or trespassing. It also goes about saying what a good job the police are doing and things like "We must preserve our relationship with them," even if it means walking away from a dig-out.

In short, the Commander generally takes over the group, directing and leading them to the hunt (heavies) and the police, and then condemns sabs for defending themselves and for protecting their IDs by wearing balaclavas because it is unacceptable to the press.

The best thing to do with a Commander is a) ignore it, or b) laugh at it till it goes away and joins the League Against Cruel Sports.

Simon Russell
Kent

Dear HOWL,

With reference to the Forum article penned by Colin Skilton in HOWL 35, there are three points we would like to raise.

Firstly, Colin refers to hunt saboteurs as 'anti-hunt protesters'. Anti-hunt we are, but protesters we certainly are not. Protesters demonstrate their disapproval in a non-interventionist manner (static banner demos, leafletting sessions and the like) whilst a true hunt saboteur actively employs the tactics developed over the last 24 years by the HSA to prevent animals from being killed.

Secondly, we read of the 'good work' supposedly carried out by the League Against Cruel Sports Ltd (LACS). Recently this 'good work' has included preventing the HSA from appearing on a televised debate, asking another animal rights organisation not to pass press enquiries on to us and drawing the following distinction between certain bloodsports:

"They (the BFSS) are trying to hide hunting which is universally condemned behind the acceptable shooting and fishing . . ." (James Barrington, Daily Telegraph, 24/3/87). If further proof be needed, the LACS has made no secret of

its dislike for animal rightists and all we stand for. All in a day's work for the League Against (Some) Cruel Sports?

Finally, we cannot agree that 'the time has come for all HSA groups to dispose of their Wallies.' We feel that where such people exist, (if at all) the fault lies partly with the National HSA and partly with the local contacts and other experienced saboteurs. Many well-meaning and committed people, through lack of training, become what Colin labels 'Wallies' since, in the absence of tactical knowledge, they see violence as the only effective way of sabotaging a hunt. The opposite is, of course, true. By understanding how hunting works and by using a combination of hunting horns, voice calls, sprays, whips and commonsense against it, lives will be saved without the need for intimidation and/or violence. It is the task of all experienced saboteurs to ensure that this is understood by everyone who goes to a hunt for the stated purpose of saving lives. This way, many potentially good people would achieve the aims which first took them into the hunting field. And furthermore, in our view, they would be more likely to remain there.

Chris Bishop & Ralph Cook

Dear HOWL,

I must take issue with Sid and reinforce the words of Colin Skilton (HOWL 35) over the idea that hunt sabotage is in any way related to 'class war'. The following quotations illustrate why this is such a dangerous connection to make:

From a sab almost turning a hare into the pack by indiscriminate shouting: "The hare will be alright; the important thing is to shout at these rich bastards."

From a sab after being asked if he'd read the HSA tactics booklet: "The HSA represent authority. We shouldn't obey authority."

As I see it, a sab has three main responsibilities. To prevent as many deaths of hunted animals as possible by effective sabotage; to act in such a way as to win as much media and public support as possible; and to act in such a way as to minimise the risk of attack or injury to ther sabs.

Sabs not prepared to accept these responsibilities are a danger to the animals they're trying to protect and to their fellow sabs. Talk of 'class war' is as detrimental to these interests as it is incorrect; many hunting atrocities are carried out by terrier men who can hardly be called upper class, can they?

Arthur Fairfull
Cambridge

Prison Is No Joke!

Dear HOWL,

I feel I must reply to Duggs Carre's article on going to prison in the last HOWL.

Being a hunt sab may well involve going to prison, but to do so for the non-payment of fines seems pointless. It will mean the most committed and long-term members of groups going to prison. Where will this leave many smaller groups?

I also disagree that sherrifs or magistrates will wait until fines accumulate to anything near £1,000 before they bung someone in prison. I hope the point about the £30 discharge grant was meant as a joke. Although it's £30 in your pocket, if you're claiming Supplementary Benefit it will have to last a week before any benefit will be paid. And what has happened to your house while you were in prison? All housing benefit will have been stopped, so many people will come out homeless.

I squirmed at the part about most sabs not having steady paid jobs or material possessions. Some generalisation! What are material possessions? A car, a stereo, a book collection, a house? I'm sure many sabs do have possessions and I can't see that having a moral view of animal rights has to adversely effect the bank balance so much that we're all penniless!

It's vital we continue sabbing, but if convicted I can't see the real dilemma of paying a fine at a couple of quid a week. I'd rather be an effective sab, out against the hunt, than spend weeks in gaol moralising about how much it is costing the state. I wonder who will be the most grateful when activists are behind bars and no longer active. Certainly not the hunted animal!

Mary Innes
Edinburgh



Flashback to '84. Hunt saboteurs trying to get onto the Waterloo Cup coursing fields.

Waterloo Cup

Dear HOWL,

Just a line to express my disappointment at the small number of sabs, animal rights and LACS supporters who turned up at the start of the infamous Waterloo Cup. I heard comment from a lady that the antis are losing interest (god forbid!) or is it just that we are too passive?

E. Morrison
Merseyside

Dear HOWL,

I have sent this letter expressing our feelings on the Waterloo Cup. We were very angry that the committee decided that a sab on this event, and the tactics planned were not to be backed. Even more annoying was the fact that the £50 which was asked for to get a PA was going to be used for banners.

I suggest that the committee should perhaps join the LACS. No matter whether the sab on the Cup was to go ahead, to waste £50 on a 'publicity stunt' is a waste of sabs' money. With groups in desperate need of funds (£50 could pay a group to sab a hunt), to see it wasted has not just angered us but other groups too. I thought the HSA was more interested in sabbing and direct action than in marches and publicity.

Mike
Hull HSA

The HSA committee felt that the conventional sabotage of the Waterloo Cup has been made virtually impossible by saturation policing and police sanctioning of Mark Prescotts private army of thugs. They were unwilling to use members' money on experiments with ultra-sound which may have an adverse effect on other forms of wildlife that come within its range and which are at best of unproven value. If groups are committed to saving hares, they might more profitably channel their energies into sabbing smaller, local coursing meets where success does not depend upon running the guantlet of several thousand coursing layabouts.

As for publicity, I should have thought it was obvious that the HSA's campaign against the Waterloo Cup has always been fought primarily in the interests of publicity. The £50 towards making a banner was intended to ensure that the HSA still got some publicity at this year's demo.
(Ed.)

Hesitation Or Intimidation

Dear HOWL,

I am writing this letter after an incident occurred during a joint hit in February on the York & Ainsty North FH. After staying with the hunt all through the day, the hunt went into a covert just off the A19 near Carlton Husthwaite in North Yorks.

After a silence of about 15 minutes, it was apparent that something 'dirty' was going on so eigtht Sheffield sabs went into the wood, contrary to police instructions, and found the dig-out.

Around 25 – 30 sabs were left standing on the roadside doing NOTHING! The police (about seven of them) said they would arrest people who went in. After hounds started to cry, I started to shout to the sabs to get into the covert and that a

dig-out was taking place. It took five minutes for around half of the sabs to respond and by the time we got to where the hunt had been they had vanished.

We don't know if they killed or not, but it's about time people got things into perspective. Breaching the peace and saving lives is a lot better than leaving foxes to be thrown to the hounds; and in the end NO-ONE WAS ARRESTED.

Don
Sheffield

Mike Says Thanks

Dear HOWL,

Thankyou for the marvellous support you gave my family and I during my imprisonment on charges arising from the raid on the Royal College of Surgeons.

I received a flood of letters and cards and the Appeal Fund raised on our behalf by Alun Davies and Joy Thomas did exceedingly well. With my outgoing mail restricted, I was unable to thank everyone individually – to those who wrote but received no reply, may I now say a big thankyou!

Leaving prison, my thoughts were for those I left behind – for Mone and her companions at the RCS who remain incarcerated and for the millions of laboratory animals worldwide for whom the hell of captivity is broken only by the short trip to the incinerator. I also think of those in our movement who receive ever harsher sentences for trying to end the likes of vivisection, factory farming, hunting and the fur trade.

The only hope for terminating such a catalogue of misery for animals lies in each and every one of us doing a little bit more.

We need greater determination within and co-operation between all sectors of our movement and our priority whould surely be to protect our own actions rather than find fault in those of our colleagues.

I would be delighted to continue a correspondence on bloodsports and other animal rights topics and can be contacted c/o NAVS.

Mike Huskisson

Enjoyed HOWL

Dear HOWL,

I wish I could take away some of my years (69) and take a more active part since there seems to be little hope of ever achieving an end to bloodsports through legislation, something I have yearned for throughout my life.

I enjoyed reading HOWL and have passed it on. Perhaps I will be able to get the next one put into our library, for already the librarian is helpful enough to take the Vegan etc.

It is good to know that there are so many young people dedicated to trying to save the hunted animal and I wish you well.

A Sheppard (Mrs)
Whitland
Dyfed

PS Thought HOWL was extremely good!

Just Whose Side Is He On?

Dear HOWL,

According to a recent edition of Anglers Mail, Jim Barrington, a committee member of the League Against Some Cruel Sports, is accusing 'Hunt Saboteurs' of 'attacks' upon anglers. "In no way do we support or want to be linked with these violent people", he is quoted as saying.

Now Jim knows very well that the HSA does not ensorse or carry out attacks upon anybody (even anglers!) and if he is in any doubt about that he should consult one of the ex-HSA comittee members who now make up his own committee. If he means to draw a distinction between 'Hunt Saboteurs' and members of the HSA, I think he should do so very carefully, especially when talking to a magazine like Anglers Mail.

If, on the other hand, Jim is simply trying to distance his own pressure group as far as is humanly possible from the animal rights movement, then statements like "Shooting and fishing are under no threat from us" begin to make more sense. Mind you, if the legislative influence on the LACS since 1924 is anything to go by, neither are hunting and coursing.

It is one thing to persue a different method of defeating bloodsports; but it is quite another to knowingly attempt to damage the HSA and insult all those HSA members who loyally fork out their pennies every year to keep the League in sanctuaries.

I cannot believe that Jim does not read HOWL so no doubt he will take the opportunity to write in and explain himself to 4000 HSA members who have probably all lent their support to the League at some time or another. What do your other readers think?

Henry Vincent
Bath

TROPHY-TAKING FOILED

Saboteurs prevented Holcombe Harriers huntsman, Alex Sneddon, from indulging his grisly appetite for ceremonially dismembering hares when they caught him at it at Withnell, Lincs, in January.

Just as he was getting his knife out, a sab grabbed the carcass and tossed it to the pack. Angry huntsmen chased the sabs until mounted policemen arrived on the scene and threatened the saboteurs with arrest. When one pointed out to them that it was the hunt who were behaving violently, he was hoisted up by his coat collar and told to "fucking well shut up or else".

ANOTHER GREAT PR JOB

When Stutton Parish Council chairperson, Chris Frith, complained to Bramham Moor FH members about the mess their horseboxes were making of council verges, he was met with threats and abuse.

"One lady said she was going back to tell her husband and friends and from now on I'd better keep my doors locked," he said. "But I am not going to be intimidated and will be taking the matter further."

A couple from Sherston, Wilts were equally angered when the Beaufort Hunt churned up a verge outside their home in February. Victor and Barbara Vagg tend the grass and plant bulbs on it but the whole lot was destroyed by horseboxes and landrovers when the hunt met in a nearby field.



A hunter from the Vale of Clettwr FH concedes defeat.

HUNT ENDS BEFORE IT BEGINS

When Vale of Clettwr hunt master, Lyn Lloyd, saw saboteurs from Bangor and Aberystwyth waiting at his meet on February 7th, he led his paltry twelve riders into a field, lost his pack to sab horns, and abandoned the hunt.

"I called off the hunt as I thought the demonstrators had sprays which would have affected the noses of the hounds," he explained. "The hounds cannot work if their noses are affected."

Lloyd had cancelled another meet two weeks earlier for the same reason.

SABS THREATENED WITH SHOTGUNS

Members of Norwich HSA were chased by two landrovers full of armed thugs on March 7th after a successful sab on the Dunstan Harriers near Diss, Norfolk.

Three hares were saved before the frustrated hunt called in the heavies; first to put the boot into the sabs' van and then to chase it out of the area. The shotgun-toting hunt supporters pursued the sabs for three miles to Diss police station, ramming the van's rear end several times along the way.

Police came out and interviewed one of the thugs but made no arrests. Saboteur Chris Brunning estimates it as the worst attack the group has suffered in over two years.

NEW RAT PACK BORN

A small army of drunken Gloucestershire terrier men descended upon a barn near Stanton in February, entered their dogs into bails of straw, and poked about in dark corners with long wooden poles.

It was the second meet of the Stanton Rat Hunt. At the end of an absorbing afternoon of traditional country fieldcraft, twelve rats lay torn and bleeding and the hunt's thirty or so supporters, including several children, left for home with a warm glow in their hearts.

Four of them however, have been receiving unappreciative phone calls from local people who do not share their love of quaint rural pageants like rat hunting. "Some people really seem to think that every moving creature has a right to live," concluded one unusually bright terrierman afterwards.

A VINTAGE YEAR OF SABOTAGE



Alistair Jackson, huntsman with the Cattistock FH, charges into hunt saboteurs with whip flying. This assault, for which he was not arrested, took place on March 7th.

From the point of view of the average hunt saboteur, the 1986-1987 hunting season has been the best on record. Thanks to the weather which delayed the harvest last autumn, cub hunting started late in most areas. The first half of the main season was a difficult time because, in general, scenting conditions were very good but once the New Year was over and the cold grip of winter took hold, most hunts were forced to cancel their meets and saboteurs got a welcome respite from the field. *Ralph Cook* **presents an overview.**

Good or bad however, HSA groups countrywide were out on about 1,800 occasions (although it must be remembered that several groups may act in concert against one hunt). An average of fifty hunts were visited by hunt saboteurs each week, with about 800 saboteurs out. About 60 hunts were blessed with the attendance of saboteurs at the time of the Opening Meets and the National Anti-Hunt Day (Boxing Day), saw saboteurs at nearly 100 meets. We estimate that around 1,000 foxes and nearly 200 hares have been saved by hunt saboteurs this season. To this may be added animals saved as a result of the removal of snares and traps and by actions against angling, grouse shooting and wildfowl shooting. At the beginning of the season the HSA had just under 100 groups listed and despite the usual losses we finished the season stronger than ever before with 124 groups nationwide. Better still most groups have reported stronger and more persistant support for their actions.

The HSA has certainly moved some way in the last few years. In the 1974-1975 hunting season the HSA reported just 131 "strikes", as they were then called, against hunts involving fewer than 40 regularly active groups. We can see the effect that this is having on our opponents. In 1978 most of the country's 200 foxhunts and half of its 80 harehunts advertised their meets in the *Horse and Hound* Magazine and *Shooting Times*; this season only half the foxhunts and just five of the harehunts regularly advertised in the *Horse and Hound* whilst the *Shooting Times* announced that it no longer intended to advertise hunting appointments because it was known that "antis" were using the information.

Today it appears that most HSA groups no longer see hunt sabotage as just one other form of activity vying with all the others for precedence. Now at last it is viewed as a chance to really save lives, to positively tip the balance in favour of the animals.

Notable Events

Some notable events stand out: the West London Group rescuing hounds belonging to the Aldershot Beagles from certain death on the M4; the southern groups who stopped a train and saved the entire pack of the Garth & South Berkshire Foxhunt and were then rewarded by the hunters by being assaulted by them. Then there was the Liverpool saboteur who saved a fox by leaping on top of it just as the hounds were about to kill it.

The season's success is best shown by the statement from a Scottish Hunt that despite the presence of hunt saboteurs at every meet they still managed to kill two foxes.

The angry backlash is always to be expected and the worst occurred at the York and Ainsty (North), the Duke of Beaufort, Garth & South Berks, the Ullswater and the South Pool Harriers. The Crawley and Horsham Fox Hunt, it is claimed, actually paid a group of people over a thousand pounds to attack saboteurs whilst one hunter unwittingly offered to pay two hunt saboteurs £20 each to "deal with the antis" if they appeared at his Kent hunt.

Violence and the ceasation of advertising meets is a clear sign that we are winning and that our opponents recognise the threat that the HSA and its groups pose.

Next season sees the start of the HSA's 25th year. If groups spend the summer months ahead (those that cannot find minkhunts, that is), leafleting, fundraising and recruiting support, next season could be the best yet – possibly in some areas rendering hunting impossible and thus achieving more in a few weeks than 100 years of political campaigning.

Think about it, get organising and make next season one they'll never forget.

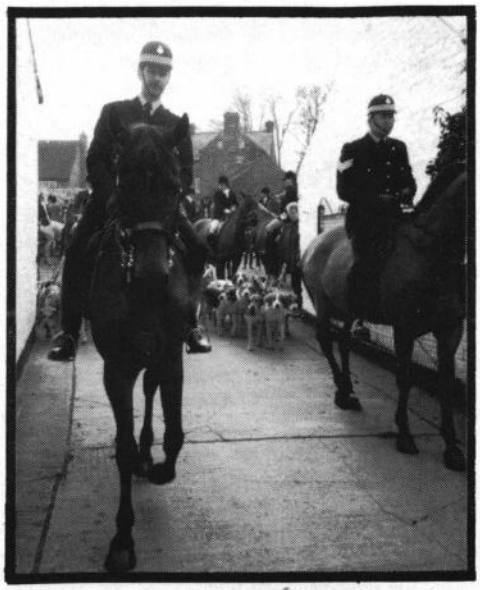
HUNTING ON THE NEVER NEVER

The disaster-prone Surrey Union FH has made a desperate appeal to its ever dwindling circle of friends to buy it out of trouble with a cash injection of £12,000.

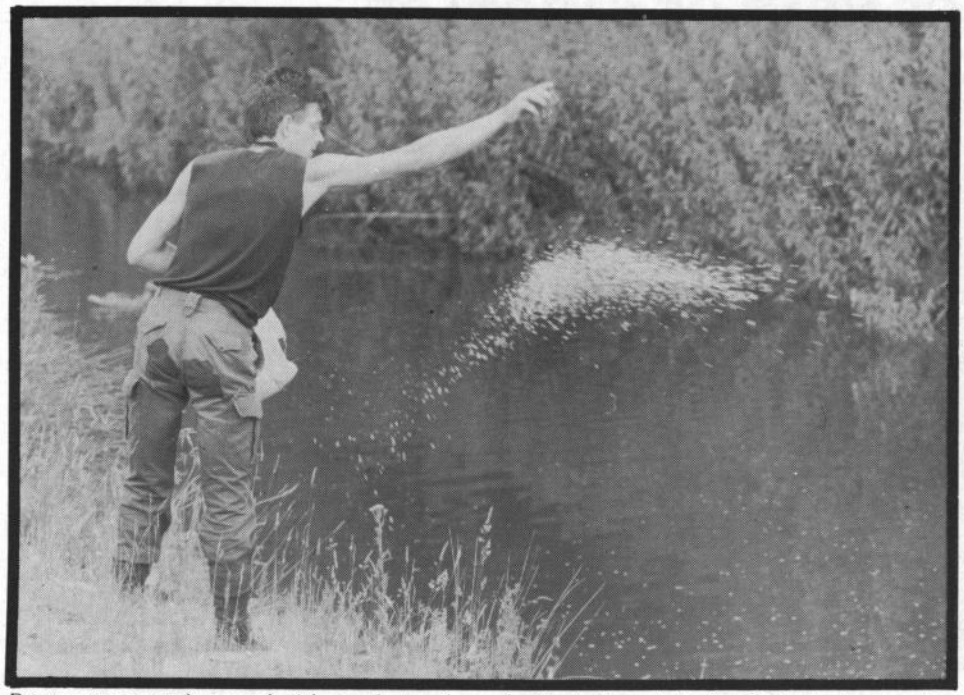
The continuing problems of the hunt, highlighted in HOWL 35, are at last threatening to close it down. Loss of sponsorship and falling subscriptions together with an impending court case over the derisory pay-off offered to sacked huntsman George Holder have amounted to a serious financial crisis for the hunt.

Since the pack is completely uncontrollable, a number of farmers have banned the hunt from its traditional meets and the chairman, Col Philip Drew, has had to negotiate agreements with other hunts to hold meets in neighbouring countries.

Since HOWL 35 went to press, the Surrey Union's hounds have chased a farm labrador near Cranleigh, killed two hunt terriers in the kennels, and chased a deer into oncoming traffic at Wotton Hatch. The deer was knocked down and killed, then retrieved by a hunt landrover and removed from the area. "Deer get killed there every day of the week and I really don't think its worth commenting on," explained Joint Master Rosemary Peters in a characteristic display of charm and candour.



The closing meet of the Bramham Moor FH in March. Hounds are led out by two official representatives of Her Majesty's Government.



Pre-meeting an angling match. A hunt saboteur throws food onto the water before fishing begins on a river in East Anglia.

ANGLERS DISTURB ECOLOGY

A new book from the National Environment Research Council, "Angling and Wildlife in Fresh Waters", focuses on the damage anglers cause to riverbank ecology.

Not only wildlife but "the banks of rivers and lakes also suffer from disturbance, scaring away the few remaining otters and other aquatic mammals and birds", it concludes.

Paul Barnes, editor of Eastern Angler, argued in the Ipswich Citizen during March that this was not the case although he freely admits that at the opening of the season "thousands of anglers arrive and trample the banks down". He offers this as evidence that the closed season in angling should be abolished.

"The problem of discarded fishing tackle is not as great as it seems either," he went on. This will be heartening news for the local Irish Setter which returned from a walk beside a reservoir in December with two fishing hooks, a stretch of line and part of a weight lodged in its stomach.

DRIFT-NET CARNAGE

Sea Shepherd activists will sail into the North Pacific in June to remove hundreds of vast Japanese drift-nets.

Monofilament nets of up to 30 miles in length are set each summer evening by fishermen in pursuit of salmon, trout and squid. But the practice catches a great many more species than that of course. 100,000 marine mammals and a million sea birds are thought to die in the nets every year; particularly seals, porpoises, puffins, murres and auklets.

Sea Shepherd say they will locate the nets, pull them up, photograph their contents, free anything still living, feed the nets through a shredder and store the remains in the hold.

ANGLERS COME CLEAN

A combination of a media war waged by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling and increased sabbing of fishing competitions by HSA members has resulted in anglers diving into the welcoming arms of hunters and shooters.

At the end of March, angling's governing body, the National Anglers Council, joined with the BFSS and the BASC to launch the Campaign for Country Sports; a revamped parliamentary lobby.

The action of the angling authority effectively confirms what we have always believed; that the "sport" of angling is just as sadistic as the more traditional hound-based bloodsports.

FISH FEEL FEAR

New research at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, sponsored by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, the Agricultural and Fisheries Ministry and the Dutch Angling Society – which claims that the research "reveals nothing new" – has suggested that fish (in this case, carp), not only experience pain but also fear when caught on a hook (*New Scientist 2/4/87*).

It was found that the fish displayed a type of behaviour known as "spitgas" (prolonged spitting of gas from the swim bladder), associated with distress whenever they were hooked and pressure exerted on the line; when hooked but not on a taut line the fish dived, darted, spat and shook their heads but did not spitgas or sink (sinking occurs as a result of reducing the amount of gas in the swim bladder through spitgas, therefore making the fish less bouyant).

The researchers discovered that they could produce spitgas in fish using other alarming situations, like electrical stimulation in the mouth, confining them in small jars or by adding to the water pheromones normally associated with distress.

It was also found that the fishes' response to being hooked appeared to confirm the scientists' conclusions: fish hooked but not held on a taut line ate again soon after release, those subjected to line tension avoided food for a considerable time once released.

The head researcher, John Verheijen, concluded that:

> "the pain resulting from injury by the hook contributes less to the fish's suffering than fear."

The only controversial part about the research is that John Verheijen, likes to call a spade a "spade". He happily applies terms such as "pain" and "fear" and "suffering" to animals which he recognises as having such feelings; other scientists use the more "scientific" mechanistic terminology which takes no account of a creatures' feelings and makes no call to the conscience.

FUND FOR RONNIE

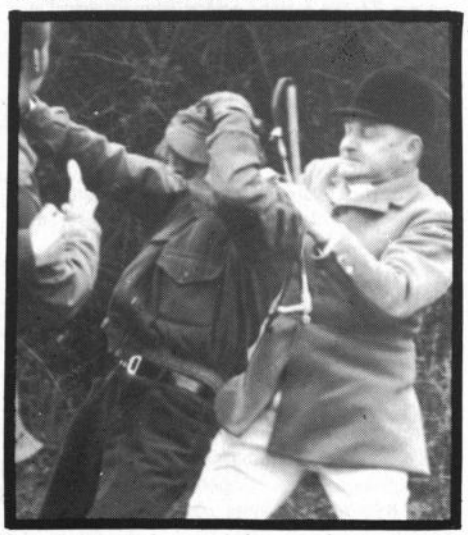
Readers of HOWL will have heard by now of the heavy sentence dished out by the judge at the end of the ALF "smoke-bomb trial" at Sheffield in March, and the particularly harsh ten year stretch given to ALF co-founder, Ronnie Lee.

Ronnie was not charged with committing any direct act of damage, but with the much vaguer offence of conspiracy. He re-emphasised his commitment to non-violence more than once during the trial.

He is not eligible for parole because he is serving a sentence of more than five years and he is a category "A" (top security) prisoner. Two warders guard Ronnie whenever he goes to the cage for exercise and he spends 23 hours a day in a cell which is lit at night by an infra-red lamp. They take his clothes away each evening, he is not allowed to see the weekly film and he is kept in solitary confinement. He may presently receive and reply to a maximum of three letters a week.

To make use of his time inside, Ronnie has decided to resume his studies and the ALF Supporters Group has opened a special fund to provide him with books and other materials.

Individuals or groups wishing to contribute can send cheques or P.O.s (payable to ALF Supporters Group) to: Ronnie Lee Fund, BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX.



Ronnie Lee under attack from a whipper-in with the Vale of Aylesbury FH back in 1972.

FOXHUNTING AND 'COLLATERAL DAMAGE'

Packs of hounds all over the country have, as usual, been demonstrating that once on the scent of an animal, they become a law unto themselves and cannot be adequately controlled by hunt officials.

We do not contend that when hounds kill a domestic dog or, for that matter, a fox in someone's garden, it is ethically any worse than when they kill their quarry in the normal barbaric manner. But members of the public are often confronted with three significant issues when a hunt riots: that hunting is brutal, uncivilised; that huntsmen have little control over what happens; and that when huntsmen are challenged about it they are usually either suspiciously cagey or else downright arrogant and abusive.

A six-year-old boy watched in horror from a window as hounds from the **Southwold FH** tore up a fox on his front lawn on February 7th. The hunt at first denied having been in the area but later admitted it and claimed that they were usually more careful not to bring their sport into contact with other people.

A deer was attacked and dragged 15 feet by hounds belonging to the **Southdown and Eridge FH** at a wildlife sanctuary near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in February. Hunt master Richard Benstead claimed it had been unavoidable since there were no signs up to tell them it was a sanctuary.

Thirty of the **Aldershot Beagles** went out of control on an RAF base on February 2nd causing chaos as helicopters tried to land and take off on the airstrip. It took RAF personnel half an hour to round them all up.

The **Holcombe Harriers** rioted on February 7th in a garden full of geese and ducks near Chorley, Lancs. Birds were chased everywhere but fortunately none were killed.

At the beginning of March, hounds from the **Beaufort FH** raced wildly across a busy main road and chased a fox into the Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary near Tetbury, Glos. They caught up with it and ripped it to pieces. Sanctuary owner, Jean Brewster Price, had written to the Duke telling him to keep his dogs out but either he cannot read or else he does not control his own hunt. In fact it seems nobody controls it if huntsman Ian Farquar's remarks are anything to go by: "When the hounds get that close to a fox it is very difficult to stop them," he said.

A multiple car crash was caused near Cirencester, Glos., on February 18th by hounds from the **Cotswold FH** rioting all over the A435. One dog was hit and several cars damaged. Hunt master Tim Unwin did not consider it serious. Two days later, the neighbouring **Cotswold Vale FH** did exactly the same thing near Newent. This time a hound was killed.

Clifftop gardens at the village of Osmington, Dorset were invaded by hounds of the **South and West Wilts FH** on February 26th. Their fox stumbled over a cliff and swam out to sea before coming ashore a hundred yards down the coastline. . . . Hounds were careering about all over the place. "Children saw the most appalling scenes," said one local resident. Hunt master Simon Clarke at first refused to tell anybody which hunt he was from but then thought better of it and owned up.

Hounds from the **New Forest Buckhunt** pursued a deer across lawns and flowerbeds in a wildlife sanctuary and cattery near Fordingbridge in January. The terrified animal crashed into a perimeter fence and was in a "terribly distressed state" according to the sanctuary's owner. Her own animals, including a 3 month old fawn recovering from a savage attack by lurchers were petrified she said. The hunt denies the incident every took place.

CALL THIS PEST CONTROL?

The Badsworth FH seem to take an unusual line on pest control. Instead of ripping up foxes, hunt master Fred Firth took his hounds to a farm yard near Selby, Yorks, on March 4th and set them loose upon a flock of free-range hens. Six were decapitated.

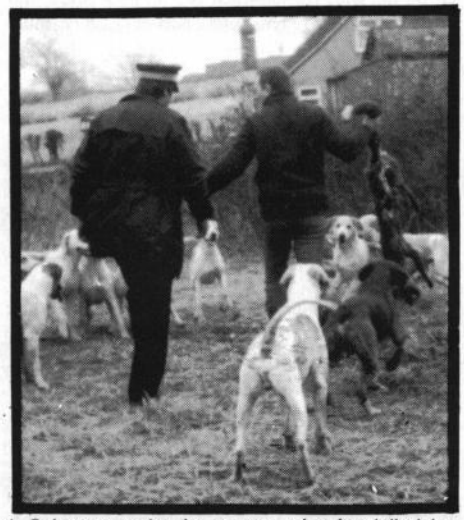
Farmer Teresa Davies said: "The Badsworth had no permission to be on our land. I screamed at them to call the hounds off but one red-coated rider simply put two fingers up at me as he went by. Another dismounted, jumped over the wall into my front garden, picked up the corpse of one of my hens, threw it into a hedge and then rode off without a word."

She now threatens to shoot any hounds who come onto her property again and is demanding compensation and an apology from the hunt.

Earlier in the day, Badsworth riders destroyed a flagstoned public bridleway near Pontefract. A council spokesperson said at least 50 flagstones had been broken.



Two Beaufort FH sportsmen preparing to bolt a fox from a drain using drain rods near Calne in January. After this picture was taken, a terrier was entered at one end whilst the rods were shoved in at the other. A terrier man held a sickle over the exit to the drain and waited for the combination of rods and terrier to evict the fox. When a saboteur from West Wilts HSA shouted at him however, he looked up and the fox ran out under the sickle to freedom.



A Saboteur grabs the carcass of a fox killed by hounds from the East Essex FH at Greenstead Green on March 21st. Denying the hounds their prize, he ran across several fields with it before being apprehended by police and charged, along with two companions, with action likely to cause a breach of the peace. They were later released without charge.

PUBLIC SCHOOL REBELLION

Pupils at the £5,500 a year Ardingly college at Haywards Heath in Sussex have organised a 200 signature petition to have the Old Surrey and Burstow FH banned from the school premises. The hunt has traditionally met there for many years and the school's headmaster has agreed to hold a referendum of all pupils and masters on the matter.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Edinburgh HSA bumped into an old friend amongst the foot followers of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH this season; ex-huntsman Thomas Potts.

The hunt gave him the boot last year after an unseemly punch-up with a whipper-in (who has also been sent on his way). Potts, staring bitterly over a hedge at his former colleagues, told saboteurs that the hounds were just "a rabble" and that the hunt's new officials "couldn't run a piss-up in a brewery". Fair comment of a hunt which has killed virtually nothing all season.

BADGER DIGGING HUNT UNREPENTENT

The South Devon FH have refused to give an undertaking to local conservationists not to interfere with Dartmoor badger setts.

A letter from the hunt's Peter Ripman to the Dartmoor Badgers Protection League disputes that the South Devon dug into an occupied sett at Cleave Wood at the end of February. It was "clearly not in use", he says.

The letter goes on to claim that the hunt has no wish to disturb badgers but, "I do not think that I or Mr Herring (huntsman) can or should give you any undertaking".

LAW REPORT

WRONGFUL ARREST ADMITTED

HSA photographer Simon Wild took a picture of a police motorcyclist on March 17th and found himself under arrest.

Hampshire police constable 2086, attending a meet of the Hampshire FH near Upton Grey, went up to Simon, demanded his film, and announced that he was going to process it for him. "He pushed me about, grabbed my camera and pulled it so hard tha the strap broke", said Simon.

"Right", declared 2086, "action likely to cause a breach of the peace", and he bundled the saboteur into a barred police transit.

Since no members of the public or the hunt were present at the time, it is difficult to see how Simon's picture or his broken camera strap could have occasioned a breach of the peace unless 2086 was suggesting that he was likely to cause one himself (which, from his disgraceful behaviour, looked more than possible). After 5 minutes, Simon was released by police sergeant 135 because, according to 2086, the sergeant was "a reasonable fellow."

Simon did not let the matter rest however, and he demanded a written apology (which is on its way) and £6.80 to buy a new camera strap (which has arrived).



Simon Wild's 'sinister' photograph of PC 2086. Seconds later, he was arrested for action likely to cause a breach of the peace.

THE OLD BILL AND THE NEW BILL

Herefordshire police were a bit quick off the mark in February when they descended in droves upon 18 sabs from Luton and North London and threatened them with a law that had not yet come into force.

According to a police sergeant, the group's intention to sabotage the Vale of Aylesbury FH at Wiggington was "likely to cause a breach of the peace under section 5 of the new Public Order Bill" and saboteurs were promised an afternoon in police custody if they so much as left their vehicles. Section 5, the 'disorderly conduct' clause, is the one in which the causing of 'harrassment, alarm or distress' to bloodsportsmen becomes a criminal offence punishable with a £400 fine. However, the Act did not come into effect until April 1st and could not have been used on this occassion.

As HOWL went to press, we learned that two hunt saboteurs from Bristol have been charged with affray under section 3 of the Act. The use or threat of unlawful violence towards another so that they may fear for their safety is what now constitutes an 'affray' and it carries a maximum of three years imprisonment and a fine. The case is expected to revolve around an alleged attempt by the saboteurs to resist a 'citizens arrest' by a member of the Beaufort Hunt's anti-sab unit in April.

VICTORY IN FIFE

Five saboteurs from Stirling who were charged with action likely at the beginning of the season (they were apprehended in control of the Fife FH . . .) were aquitted at Cupar Sherrifs Court on May 5th. The hearing represents something of a turning point for saboteurs in Scotland who had previously not won any cases in the Fife FH's country.

COLLAR THE LOT!

Essex police were taking no chances at the closing meet of the Essex FH at Matching Green on March 21st. When the sabs got the better of the day and members of the hunt appealed to the law for assistance (muttering darkly about 'repercussions' if there weren't a few arrests made soon), the police did the proper thing and arrested 40 hunt saboteurs as they sat quietly in their vans.

In fact, they'd picked up four sabs for action likely earlier in the day, but all had been released and the hunt were clearly not satisfied. The arrested multitude were held at the side of the road and questioned in an attempt to discover who the 'leaders' were and where they all came from. When this inquiry was unsuccessful, a senior officer was wheeled out to announce that if any of them came back and darkened his hedgerows again they'd be arrested on arrival, "because I can't afford to have 30 or 40 of my officers tied up here." (Chance would be a fine thing!) The cases have not been proceeded with.

BREACHING THE PEACE

We've had the usual crop of 'action likely' arrests reported to us, and as is normal in these cases, none have been proceeded with.

On February 7th, two Nottingham sabs were arrested for walking with garlic sprays at a meet of the Grove & Rufford FH. Both were kept in custody until 5pm. Further north, two saboteurs from Merseyside were detained during a hit on the Holcombe, one for whistle-blowing and the other for spraying. On February 21st, three saboteurs were arrested for carrying sprays at the neighbouring East Essex FH. A saboteur from Birmingham was arrested for pushing a South Shropshire FH hunt supporter who jostled him. On February 28th, two West Midlands saboteurs out with the Croome & West Warks FH were arrested when they refused to give police their names and addresses. They were released as soon as they complied. On March 14th, another saboteur was arrested for spraying during a hit on the Essex FH.

Spraying still seems to be the cause of most arrests but saboteurs should note that the police are generally reluctant to prosecute in these cases for the very good reason that the charge appears ridiculous when scrutinised in a court of law. That being the case, you may wonder why they persist in making so many daft arrests. A suitable answer is provided by the police constable who wrote to the Guardian on March 25th: "The means by which they show themselves to be good officers are the number of arrests made, persons reported for summons, and more recently, fixed penalty tickets issued . . . The policeman whose name crops up with the greatest regularity is thus 'the good copper' . . . The cultivation of good coppers is bought at the expense of those who are policed."

MINKHUNT CASES STILL PENDING

Information is still filtering through about the cases arising out of the violence at the W Yorkshire MH sab last summer (see HOWL's 34 & 35). Alan Barnard, the saboteur whose windscreen was shattered by a hunt supporter's stick as he drove past, was indeed told by local police that he would be charged with dangerous driving. However, when the charge sheet came through it read 'action likely' instead. His case was first adjourned and then abandoned by the police a few weeks later.

Three hunt members attended Skipton magistrates court on October 7th, 1986, two facing action likely charges and the other a charge of malicious wounding. The fate of the first two is unknown but it is understood that the BFSS was happy to pay any fines imposed. The third man elected for a jury trial and so far as we know, the case has not yet re-surfaced.

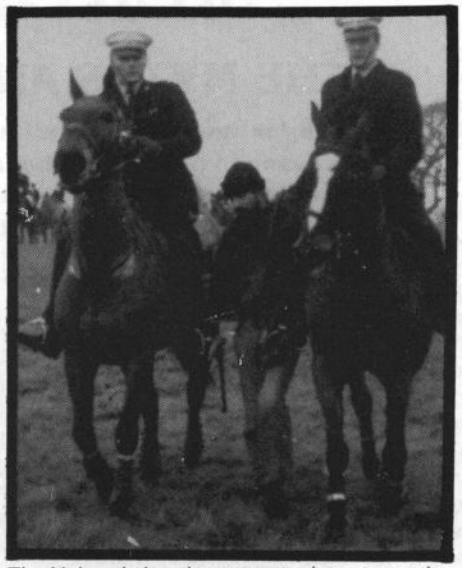
HUNTS GET MORE MOUNTED POLICE

Labour members of Hampshire's Police Authority have called for a full report on Chief Constable John Duke's secretive arrangements with the army to supply his men with horses for the policing of hunts. They say he has gone behind the backs of members of the Authority.

Other hunts using mounted police now include the Holcombe Harriers, the Duke of Beaufort's FH, the Grove & Rufford FH and the Bramham Moor FH. The excitable behaviour of many police officers when given a horse to ride up and down on leaves much to be desired. On February 7th, an officer attached to the Grove & Rufford allowed his mount to collide with a saboteur, knocking her unconscious.

POLICE QUESTION HUNT RIDERS

Subscribers of the Holcombe Harriers launched a cavalry attack against saboteurs on January 24th during which one girl was almost trampled underfoot. Police later accompanied sabs on an ID check and pulled out two riders for questioning. Both were released without charge since the testimony of the plaintiffs alone was considered unlikely to stand up in court. Odd then, that police later arrested a saboteur on the identificatory evidence of a single hunt member and accused him of striking a horse with a stick!



The Holcombe's police mounties bring in another subversive element from Merseyside.

CROWN COURT CLEARS SAB

A saboteur arrested during an attack by members of the New Forest FH back in August '86 has come to crown court and been aquitted. On February 11th, Andy Carnegie from Southampton was found not guilty of ABH on a woman hunt member during the cub-hunting incident.

HUNTSMEN IN COURT

Hunt members facing criminal charges for allegedly violent behaviour towards hunt saboteurs are more plentiful than usual. Coming up in the near future is the kennel-huntsman of the Fife FH for assault (June 25th), a terrierman with a Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH for assault (June 22nd), a redcoat with Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH for assault and another rider with the same hunt for assault and breach of the peace. One supporter of the Ullswater FH has been charged with assault and two others with theft and criminal damage, and a whipper-in with the Essex FH is awaiting trial for malicious wounding with intent. Full reports of all these cases will follow as soon as we have them.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

It's always nice to hear of policemen who discharge their duties with impartiality. This month's Fair Cop Award goes to the conscientious constable who watched a whipper-in from the Essex FH charge his horse at a saboteur on a public road at Great Canfield on February 14th:
PC (leaning out of police car): "If you do that again, you're knicked!"
Whipper-in: "He was trespassing."
PC: "On the road?"
Whipper-in: "Well, he was spraying the hounds then."
PC: "No he wasn't, he was spraying the road."

Of Scottish hunt saboteurs:
"Most of the demonstrators are impressionable young people recruited at universities . . . While the footsloggers are getting cold, tired, and wet, their leaders – usually radical middle-class adults, drive around in cars masterminding the campaign of action. . ."
Derek Parker, columnist and L&R foot follower, (Paisley Daily Express 23/12/86)

Yvonne Ridley, a hungry and carnivorous hack from the Sunday Sun, spent a day with Tyneside HSA at the end of February:
"I told one nice bloke of my dark secret. 'I'm hungry you see, and I have these chicken legs . . .' That was as far as I got. He looked both ways as if he was going to tell me something of international importance. Then, in a furtive whisper, he said, 'Don't mention it in front of the Scottish sabs. They've just had a furious row about vegetarians and scumbag meat eaters.'"
(Sunday Sun 1/3/87)

"Hunting-free days also allowed much speculative gossip on the existence of a mole in the field, as somehow the saboteurs always managed to run the hunt to ground when they were least expected."
Article on the Beaufort FH (The Tatler, March 1987)

"In October 1881, a mob of almost 200 who disapproved of hunting, pelted him and a group of his guests with stones when they were cubhunting. Incensed, he immediately disbanded the hunt . . ."
Article on the 5th Marquis of Curraghmore, (Country Live 28/8/86)

HUNTSMANBALLS



"What do we get out of it? . . . It's the joy of getting out into the countryside and being at one with nature."
Ray Longster, Master, Holcombe Harriers, (Lancashire Life, Feb 1987).

"I think there's more to antis than meets the eye. Some are very dedicated, prepared to do anything to destabilise society. The rest of them are paid. I've spoken to students from Dundee University and they're there for the hell of it. They get £5 a day, a free lunch and a bloody good afternoon's enjoyment."
John Gilmour, Master, Fife FH, (Harpers & Queens, March 1987)

"The fact that the fox may or may not be a pest is totally irrelevant as far as the hunt is concerned, as foxes are in fact bred in compounds to safeguard the future of foxhunting. I have witnessed such a compound in Wiltshire."
Anonymous ex-rider with Vale Of Aylesbury FH, (The Free Observer 1/4/87)

Of saboteurs:
"Most of them are perfectly good chaps when you get to know them. They're bored, they want to make a protest and they haven't anything else on hand. That's all it is."
Lord Paget, former Labour MP for Northampton and ex-master of the Pytchley FH, (Daily Telegraph magazine, Feb 1987)

"The idea that Labour's going to abolish fox-hunting is all such nonsense. They've got the same sporting instincts as anybody else."
Lord Paget (ibid.)

"Constantly it is claimed that fishing is to be the next target. But which of the manifold animal organisations has the conviction or the courage to take on the country's millions of anglers?"
Editorial, (Kent & Sussex Courier 10/4/87)

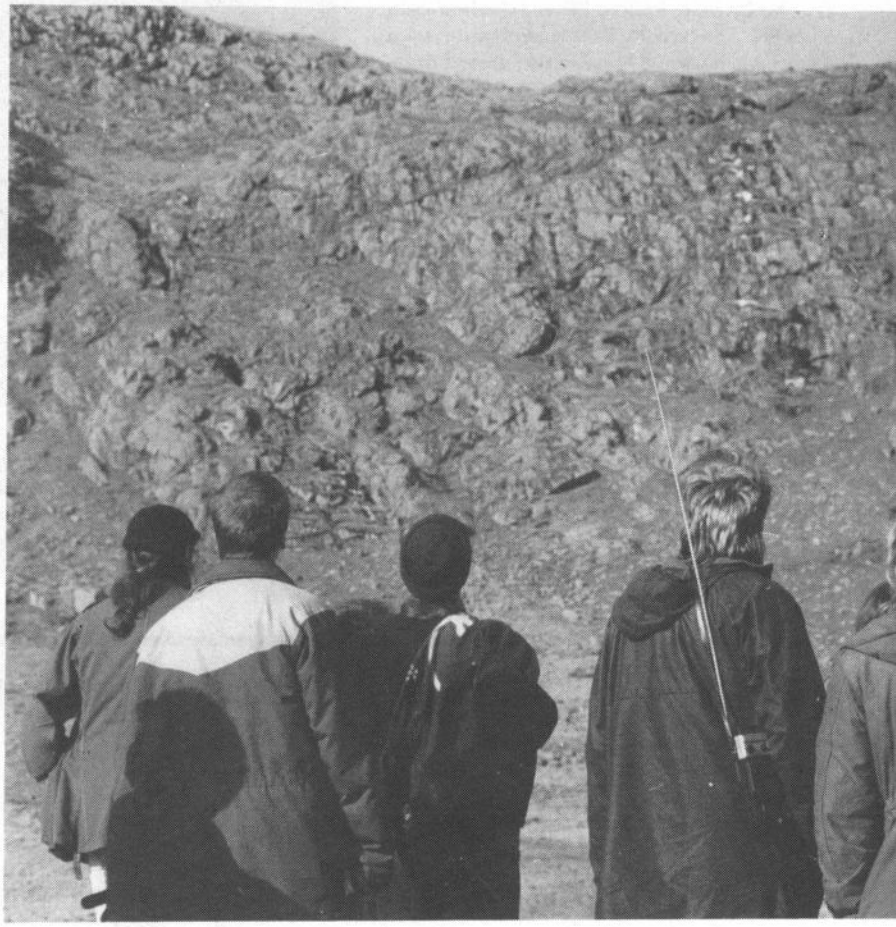
"Mink are voracious creatures and kill for fun rather than the need to eat. There is no reason to think that, if provoked, they won't attack a baby in a pram, or perhaps a small child."
MAFF spokesperson (Sunday Mirror 4/1/87)

"We terriermen hunt the fox because we enjoy it, not because the fox is a pest, a rogue, or a killer of stock."
B Mills (Shooting News 6/3/87)

MURDER IN THE MO

THE MYTHS AND REALITIES OF LAKEL

Hunting in the Lake District has a long history and a lively folklore; man songs sung in pubs throughout the Cumbrian fells at the end of the huntin known figures, the coarse, foul tempered drunkard, John Peel, is regarde the "father" of foxhunting (rather appropriate one supposes, since hunti someone).



The prospect before us. Fellhunting may take place on foot but it's not a lot like beagling! Saboteurs scan a

The Lake District has three main industries; tourism, timber and sheep. The latter are scattered thinly over every fell, most of them are looked after very poorly and in winter are exposed to the elements. In spring, hundreds of thousands of lambs are still-born or die shortly after birth on the hills (nationally out of over 20 million lambs born in the UK 4½ million of them will die of "natural", but often preventable, causes). Thus in the spring the hillsides are littered with the small corpses of lambs and these form the mainstay of the diets of adult foxes and their growing cubs. The fox utilisation of lamb carrion, and its partiality for sheep afterbirth (which it will wait all night for near lambing fields), has brought it into conflict with sheep farmers who are convinced that foxes kill lambs. The foxs' habit of carrying lamb carcases to their earths means that farmers, on discovering lamb remains at the entrance to a fox earth immediately assume that the lambs are killed by the resident fox. Thus the fox has few friends in the fells and many enemies who use both illegal (poison and gin-trapping), and legal (snaring, shooting and digging with terriers), methods of killing foxes. Hunting of course has the advantage of being a means of killing foxes and also an enjoyable pursuit (at least for some).

Different System

The six Lakeland foxhunts (Blencathra, Coniston, Eskdale & Ennerdale, Lunesdale, Melbreak and the Ullswater), operate a completely different system from that adopted by most lowland foxhunts. For a start their stated aim is to kill foxes; that does not mean that they are not primarily interested in "sport" as are their lowland brethren. Far from it, the "sporting" element is just as strong in the fells as anywhere else, but here hunters would soon outlive their welcome if, in this predominantly sheep rearing area, they did not place the killing of foxes at the top of their list of priorities.

It is because of their reputation as fox killers and the fact that all six of the fell packs offer a lambing season "emergency call-out service" in which they will attempt to kill any foxes which are alleged to be helping themselves to lamb chops that these hunts are used to reinforce claims that hunting is necessary in the control of foxes.

In actual fact fell hunting has almost nothing in common with lowland hunting and the six fell hunts are not even members of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association (MFHA), or at least, as we shall see, not in their own right. The reputation for fox killing is not exactly deserved either.

All fell hunts are followed on foot, the ruggedness of the terrain precluding the use of horses. Unlike lowland packs the advertised time of the hunt meet denotes the time that the hounds are taken to their first draw. Few followers attend the meet, the keen and experienced among them will already be stationed on the best vantage points. The hounds are taken to draw by the huntsman (only two of the packs have a paid whipper-in), and they will work along the fellsides and bracken beds until they either put up a fox, or as more usually happens, they come across a fox's overnight trail and pick up its stale drag. Once a fox is put up, usually accompanied by a considerable amount of shrill holloaing from the followers, the hounds will press it hard.

Tough Hounds

Fell huntsmen are usually very proud of the fell hound: it is a vastly different animal from its "soft" lowland cousins. The nature of the landscape demands a tough, powerful, resilient hound, and one which, because the huntsman will not be able to keep up during the hunt, can hunt unaided. Fell hounds tend, therefore, to be very independent animals.

Once on the scent, the fox will either be lost, caught or driven to seek refuge underground as is the case in lowland foxhunting. Once underground the fox will either be dug out or bolted; foxes are only given best if their chosen sanctuary is difficult to work. The entrances to such sites are normally "manned" by experienced supporters and any foxes heading for them are "headed" away. Fell foxhunting, like staghunting in the south allows for considerable spectator participation and followers will holloa more freely than would be considered polite in the south.

The hunting season is spent doing the rounds of the hunt's country. Some hunts still maintain the tradition of taking most of the hounds away to one district after another, spending a week in each and hunting on three or four days in that area. During the week the hounds are kennelled in a supporting farmer's barn and the hunt staff are welcomed into the farmhouse as honoured guests.

The fell foxhunting season lasts from September to April but for two months following the end of the season the hunts operate their "call out" service to sheep farmers. After that the hounds are farmed out (usually to the families which were responsible for "walking" them as puppies), the huntsman, meanwhile is given a few days to clean up the kennels and then adds himself to the unemployment register or finds a temporary job.

Two aspects of fell foxhunting require further discussion; fox control being one and bolting foxes being the other.

No Nonsense

Fell hunts promote themselves as no nonsense fox killers which can find and kill a single individual fox accused of lamb killing. In the lakes you will not, therefore, find fox coverts (woods), planted and maintained for the benefit of the fox nor artificial earths for them to breed in. Nor are foxes given "best" (allowed to escape after giving a good run), as sometimes happens elsewhere; in

UNTAINS

ND FELLHUNTING

of its exponents are remembered in day. One of fell hunting's most well the length and breadth of Britain as is certainly the coarse progeny of



eland rockface for some sign of the Coniston FH

the fells if a fox can be caught and killed it will be. Yet despite this "business-like" attitude to fox "control", it is doubtful if fell hunts are any better at this than any of the more fashionable lowland hunts. Hunting is probably the least effective method of killing foxes. Many other methods used in the fells and elsewhere achieve higher tallys in a given period and over smaller acreages than hunts. For instance, Colin Purves, a Scottish farmer reported killing 23 foxes on his farm last winter, in a letter to the Shooting Times of 17/4/87: his methods included shooting, snaring and digging with terriers. A few years ago a fell farmer reported killing 30 foxes in three months on his land by shooting and yet "still the foxes came". Similar tales are regularly reported in the bloodsports press. Yet the fell hunts, operating over vast areas and on a regular 3 or 4 day week from September to May score tallys rarely exceeding a hundred a year. The best of them, the Ullswater, killed the highest number of foxes ever killed by a fell pack in one season last year; its total was 131, less than half the annual tally of the Tiverton Foxhunt in Devon.

The fact that year after year the total number of foxes killed by all methods is more or less the same would indicate that these methods of control are having little impact on the fox population and that some aspect of fox biology is playing its part in confounding the would be fox controllers.

Population Control

As regular readers of Howl will know the fox population of an area is subject to far more rigorous and exacting control mechanisms than the purile efforts of humankind can achieve. The population is controlled principally by the food supply and to a lesser extent by territorial availability and breeding earth availability. Food supply is influenced considerably by the habitat type; the barren scree slopes of the Lake District support little wild food and the fox population is therefore rather low. Nevertheless, if foxes are killed on a regular basis in these areas then those that are left have more resources available to them. Life on the fellsides is tough for foxes as well, many will die each year from lack of food or inability to secure a territory. Every fox killed thus represents a better chance of survival for those that are left. Further, fox control, in lessening competition between foxes ensures that vixens are healthier at mating time than would otherwise be the case and are thus able to give birth to larger litters than the habitat would normally allow. Researchers such as David MacDonald, H. G. Lloyd and Stephen Harris have all investigated these features of fox biology and have all reached the same conclusion: that foxhunting does not control foxes and that the fox population is quite capable of compensating for losses caused by human agencies.

The second aspect of fell hunting worth looking into is bolting. With lowland foxhunts bolting is a fairly common practice. Put simply it involves evicting a fox from any place of sanctuary to which it has fled whilst being hunted or in which it is fresh found. A fox can be bolted from a tree, farm or any other place but most are bolted from fox earths and badger setts. In lowland packs the fox is given a head start, "Law", as it is known to enable it to put up a good run in front of hounds. It also serves to prolong the hunt and thus improve "sport".

Of course bolting often enables the fox to escape, something which would be unpopular with the hill farmers upon whose land the fell packs hunt. Thus these packs do not give "Law". In effect a fox bolted in the fells is bolted into almost certain death. The hounds have little trouble in quickly overrunning the victim and killing it.

Of course any hunt which bolts a tired fox is effectively doing the same thing but in the fells the action is highly visible, the fox being bolted on the open hillside rather than in the seclusion of a wood.

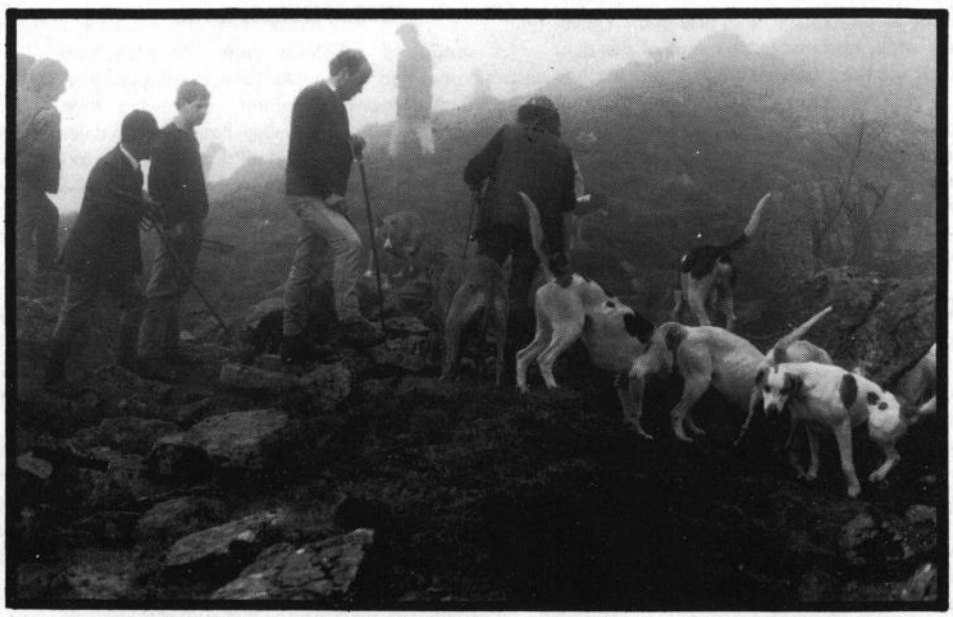
Against The Rules

According to the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) rules, foxhunts must hunt the fox "in its wild and natural state" which according to the Horse and Hound Magazine of 16/4/87 precludes the use of "bag foxes". It is possible that the hunting of a fox which has little chance of escape would offend against the spirit, if not the letter, of this rule and would certainly bring scorn upon hunting if the act was filmed and shown publicly.

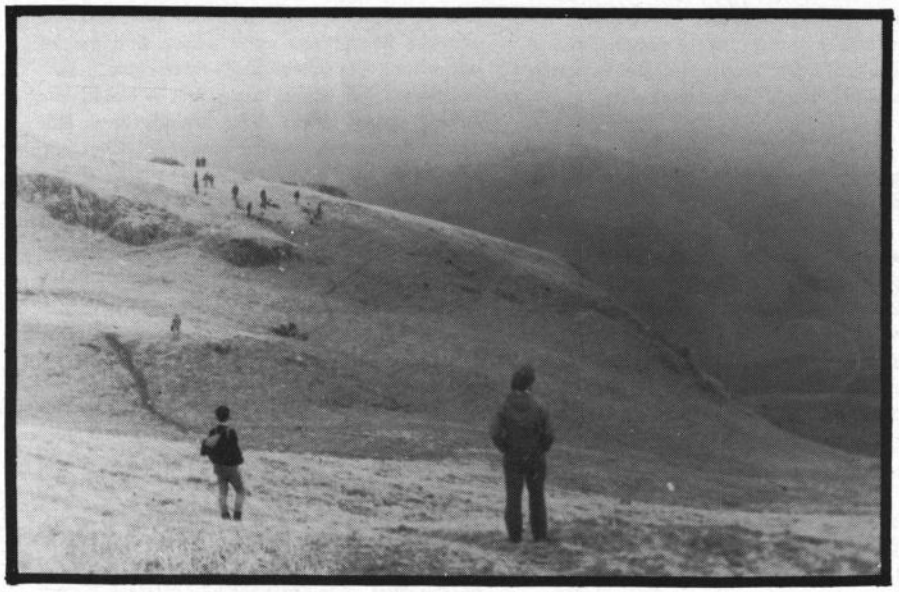
Thus the fell packs were viewed as a potential threat to more orthodox foxhunts and could not be too closely associated with the MFHA. Should the fell hunts ever be pulled up regarding the bolding issue the MFHA would immediately disassociate itself from the pack concerned. The device by which this would be done is already prepared; on applying for registration with the MFHA all six of the fell packs were refused. Instead of directly registering them the MFHA instructed them to form their own representative body which the MFHA would immediately recognise. This was done, recognition by the MFHA of the Central Committee for Fell Packs gave the six fell packs all the advantages of the MFHA recognition without the MFHA accepting any risk.

Once again the hunting world is revealed for what it truely is: cruelty whitewashed as a useful and honourable sport when in fact it is nothing more than the creed of the selfish coward.

Ralph Cook



Fell hunt bolting. Terriers are put into the rocks by members of the Ullswater FH in an attempt to flush out a fox.



Fell hunting country can be open and desolate. Saboteurs in the foreground await developments as the Ullswater FH progress across a distant hilltop.

SABBING A FELL PACK

A first hand report

The sabotage of fell-hunting is demanding and potentially hazardous. Mountain weather is unpredictable and the terrain can be a real test of stamina. Fitness is important but it's equally vital to turn up in suitable clothing and well equipped for emergencies. This season, saboteurs from the north of England and Scotland have put considerable effort into organising actions against the lakeland packs.

In February, a 100-strong banner demo was held at a meet of the Coniston FH before 30 saboteurs made for the fells in a bid to pull off the hounds with horns. Then on Easter Saturday, April 18th, it was the turn of the Ullswater FH. Tyneside HSA sent us this report.

The Easter Saturday hit on the Ullswater foot pack was carried out by small contingents from Tyneside, Cumbria, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Huddersfield. About thirty gathered at the meet; the field and support numbered roughly the same.

Hits on fell packs have been rare in the Lakes. Consequently, no-one seemed sure of the right approach and the sabs were left to improvise their own tactics group by group. Since communications were not as well co-ordinated as they might have been, what follows is only the view of Tyneside HSA.

The hunt left the meet at the Patterdale Hotel and started for the fells around Deepdale Common. These fells form a horseshoe opening onto the southern end of Ullswater. From the northern arm, the hunt could either have gone around Deepdale or across Grisedale to the north and onto the fells below Helvellyn. Scottish sabs followed right behind as the hunt ranged its hounds all over for the scent of a fox. The huntsman called his hounds together in the area around Gravel Pike to allow the terrier men and their dogs a chance to bolt a fox from the large rocky outcrop. But this being blank, they pushed on towards Deepdale House which was by now shrouded in thick mist and heavy rain with just six saboteurs in close attendance. Visibility was little more than ten yards; the hunt and the saboteurs moving in single file. As the hunt went over the top, hounds seemed to pick up a scent and began baying. At this point, hunt supporters threatened to assault the sabs who had kept up with them and since they were outnumbered, they had to retreat into the mist.

Called Hounds Down

A group of saboteurs from Tyneside and Liverpool had meanwhile been making progress 1000 ft beneath the hunt, shadowing their movements along the valley floor of Grisedale. The intention was to head off the hunt at the top of the valley but as the pack went into cry at the western end of St Sunday Crag, the sound carried down the fell and the sabs began calling to the hounds. Soon the pack was running around the valley bottom beside Grisedale Beck. With mist on the fells, hounds in sab hands and the opposition literally out of sight, all seemed well.

Two sabs went off to inform the other groups, 400 ft up on the opposite side of the valley, of the situation; partly because of communications failure but also because CB radios and 2000 ft fells do not mix. By now, large and small parties of walkers on their way up Helvellyn began to appear. Most of them assumed the sabs to be hunters, but without exception, all who asked were pleased to find out that we were out against the hunt. The Lake District is a crowded place at Easter. My lasting impression from the day is of a saboteur coming down the path in front of up to 200 passing hikers.

Gathering up the hounds, the sabs set off to take them back down the valley to their kennels. Then all hell broke loose. About twenty followers ran out of the cloud, down 1000 ft of steep fell and up another 400 ft, screaming at the sabs all the while. As the sabs ran down the track towards Patterdale, they were persued by the hunt who yelled obscenities and shouted threats, seemingly unconcerned at the 100 or so walkers they were passing.

Sabs Attacked

Further down, in the vicinity of the Broomhill Plantation, the saboteurs were ambushed and attacked by six hunt followers who had driven up the valley from Patterdale. The six sabs were trapped by the hunt and its supporters who were seen taking up positions along both sides of the narrow Grisedale valley. Most did nothing to prevent sabs from passing, but escape unnoticed was impossible. Now, the lack of communication with other saboteurs turned from being a mere inconvenience to something more dangerous.

Two of the sabs, found to be epileptics were thankfully left alone. Ben Ponton from Tyneside and a saboteur from Liverpool were caught and beaten. Ben was knocked to the ground and kicked repeatedly. He suffered bodily and facial injuries including a suspected broken nose and needed stitches in a gash in his face. His bag was taken from him, and his camera smashed. His companion was mugged of £2.50.

The remaining two sabs did not run down the valley but turned and faced their pursuers and talked to them; just as it says in the tactics book. This was due to injuries they'd already incurred, not to self-discipline, but it worked and they were not assaulted. Keep this in mind; read your tactics book!

Conclusions

Looking back, some areas for imrovement are obvious; better communication and co-ordination stand out. But other problems are more difficult.

Fell hunters are extremely fit and can out-run most saboteurs. Sabs may be left adrift, and if scattered are easy prey to hunt heavies. CB radios may not work because of the terrain, but in those areas where we can use them we have to expect the hunt to be using them too. The difficulty the hunt faces in trying to reassemble a pack when on foot in rough country is a point to our advantage.

The fells are difficult to work on. The terrain often prevents a general view, for even on top lower ridges obstruct the line of vision. Just relying on mapwork in the field is not enough; prior knowledge of the country and the likely hunting routes needs to be gathered.

The police arrested three hunt supporters following the assault at Broomhill Plantation and publicity was gained in two national newspapers. The local press largely ignored the entire event, which is a useful indication of where their sympathies lie.

There are always plenty of potentially sympathetic people about in the Lakes, walking in the fells and touring on the roads. The injured sabs were fortunate enough to receive prompt expert first aid from an Outward Bound absailing instructor who was in the area.

BANANA SKINS ON THE FELLS

HSA members in the North of England may have seen a programme called "Face the Public" which on the 20th of February starred Chris Ogilvie, huntsman of the Coniston Fox Hunt of the Lake District, but for those of you less fortunate I'll outline the highlights of the programme although I can hardly do justice to the moments of high tension and the cut and thrust of argument and counter argument.

The most interesting aspect of the programme was the fact that Mr Ogilvie had clearly not attended the media relations seminars organised by the British Field Sports Society for its public relations staff for here was a hunter who was sincere and honest, totally lacking in guile, a man who would not resort to the double-talk so beloved of his more "political" friends. Chris told the truth about his activity and did us a great service.

For openers Chris responded to a "plant" question about the value of hunting in the control of foxes by stating that hunting is not:

. . . *"necessarily the best way"* to control them.

He suggested that more efficient methods would include shooting at night over lamps (lamping as this is called), using gin-traps, which he stated although illegal are "quite humane" and also the snare of which he said is "quite efficient but they're not very kind" which leaves us wondering why therefore the gin-trap is illegal and why the BFSS so diligently defends the snare.

When a saboteur in the audience stated that there was a mass of scientific data to support the claim that foxes do not require control since their population is limited by the available food supply, Chris replied:

"Yes, I quite agree that the population of foxes depends on what they eat, but I also say that I don't justify hunting because its controlling foxes; all I am saying is that it is a good way of controlling them if you want them controlled."

Further:

"As I said, I don't hunt foxes to control them and neither does any hunting person. . . . "

Coming from the huntsman of a hunt which the BFSS openly holds up as proof that foxhunting, at least in the Fells, is all about fox control, this statement was clearly too much for the programme's host, he interjected with a series of short, telling questions which left Mr Ogilvie squirming:

Host: *"So what do you hunt them for?"*
Chris: *"We hunt them for sport."*
Host: *" . . . for enjoyment?"*
Chris: *"Yes."*
Host: *"For pleasure?"*
Chris: *"Yes . . . for pleasure."*

A few minutes later whilst answering a question from a Scottish hunt saboteur about what happens to a fox which has gone to ground (see elsewhere in this issue), the host once more interrupts:

Host: *"You also get pleasure as well even if the fox is suffering?"*

Chris' reply betrays emotions running close to persecution mania:

"The fox is not suffering, we make sure he doesn't . . . we have very strict rules to make sure the fox doesn't suffer, we're human beings like anyone else, we don't want to see a fox tortured, we want to give it a fair chance but if its lost the game, that's it, we'll claim it."

Chris appears to like the idea of it being a game for later he suggests that killing the fox is:

"Like scoring a goal at football it's the aim of the game . . . "

A saboteur present, like a terrier with a rat (excuse me), sees his chance and retorts:

"Yeh, but the goalkeeper doesn't always bleed."

Chris with a reply possibly drawn from his immediate feelings replied:

"His heart might."

From the back of the studio, however, faint but audible is the response:

"With his entrails hanging out?"

The electric atmosphere in the studio is broken by yet another question and in reply Chris states that he has been chased by bloodhounds (presumably whilst laying a trail in draghunting), the host, sharp as a knife, plunges in again:

Host: *"But not into the ground?"*
Chris: *"No."*
Host: *"And torn limb from limb?"*
Chris: *(looking hunted): "No."*

From here the questions move to dogfighting and Chris denies any responsibility for it, the host, displaying a unique ability to spot Chris' Achilee's heel, asks:

"You don't support it?"

Chris replies:

"I–, I–, I'm open minded, I mean the dogs enjoy it."

A saboteur's gasp of breath and an exclaimed "Good grief" somehow encapsulated the mood of the audience and underlined the seriousness of the statement.

Never mind Chris; it can't be easy running across the Fells with your foot in your mouth.

Ralph Cook

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.



Impartial policing? Police attending a meet of the Old Surrey & Burstow FH on March 14 blocking the road with a transit to prevent HSA landrovers from driving past.

SCOTLAND

Fox bedding stuffed into old socks and used as a drag has proved an excellent false trail for EDINBURGH sabs pre-meeting the *Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH*. The pack is continuing to decline under HSA guidance and has not killed above ground in the presence of sabs all year. Joint hits against the *Fife FH* have involved saboteurs from TAYSIDE, STIRLING and CLYDESIDE, and the latter have concentrated as usual on the *Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH*. At this hunt's last meet on March 14th, hounds were split with voice and horn at the start of the day and most of them spent the afternoon trotting around on a nearby golf course instead of hunting. An attempted dig-out provoked an occupation of fox earths by no fewer that 70 saboteurs and the police were called. Eventually, a sergeant instructed the landowner to evict the hunt since this offered the only conceivable option for removing the sabs, and no digging took place. In fact, the hunt were unable to account for a single fox from November to January and the group assumes that the increase in this hunt's loutish behaviour towards them is simply a measure of the hunt's frustration and the HSA's success.



Two worlds meet. A hunt saboteur from Norwich exchanges pleasantries with Dunston Harriers' Whipper-in, Conrad Locky.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST HSA dropped in on the *Sunnyland Beagles* at Crossgare on March 14th and found this motley crew still idling around in a farmyard a full hour after the hunt was due to begin. Two farmers with a shotgun drove up and indicated that neither the sabs nor the hunt would be welcome on their land and then sped away again. The next to arrive were the police who spent half an hour searching and questioning the 20 saboteurs and then released them. Meanwhile the hunt began a brief 15 minute run across fields before the sabs caught up with them and the huntsman made his excuses ('the sheep are lambing'; 'there's too many people' etc), and went home.

NORTH

False holloas and horncalls from members of SHEFFIELD HSA turned the second half of the *Badsworth FH's* season into an incompetent shambles. Direct intervention saved five foxes from the pack and thorough pre-meeting has often prevented them finding any scent at all. Police have not been too much of a problem and sabs have been able to satisfy them that their occasional tresspasses were due to faulty map reading! Followers of the hunt can now be counted on one hand and when even these die-hards failed to show up at the end of the season, the last three meets had to be cancelled. As usual, the paper-thin 'fraternity of hunting folk has collapsed and the hunt servants are all blaming one another for the poor sport. The knives are said to be out for huntsman David Randall, and first whipper-in Stuart Masters has had enough after just one season – he's packing his bags and heading for Surrey. (I wouldn't give much for his chances down there at the moment!).

Sheffield sabs had a day out with the LEEDS and HUDDERSFIELD groups in mid-February when a poorly attended meet of the *York & Ainsty North FH* was outnumbered by saboteurs.



Terrier men with the Essex FH are prevented from bolting a fox from this field drain by the non-violent intervention of hunt saboteurs.

This hunt has started switching some of its weekend meets to Fridays in an abortive effort to avoid sabs from Leeds. All they've succeeded in doing is reducing their support still further and financial troubles cannot be far away.

The Bramham Moor FH released a bagged fox in front of sabs in early March and their terrier men completely destroyed an occupied badger sett. Is the MFHA concerned? Is it hell!

HULL and GRIMSBY groups have been out against the *Holderness FH* but the hunt's unparallelled violence has limited their success. Appeals to neighbouring groups for assistance against this pack have not resulted in the degree of support the Hull group were hoping for and they are now having to re-think tactics. YORKSHIRE HSA members sabotaged a fishing match on February 22nd along the River Hull at Beverly. Anglers arrived to find all the pegs had been removed.

MERSEYSIDE, MANCHESTER, ROCHDALE & WIGAN groups have stuck close to the *Holcombe Harriers* all season and have occasionally outnumbered them. Sabs often split into several groups with this pack so as to outmanoever the mounted police. Police horses seem very reluctant to jump fences. The Master, Ray Longster, has been leading cavalry charges at saboteurs as usual but the sabs just take it as a sign of their effectiveness.

WALES

ABERYSTWYTH HSA had a couple of good days in March with the *N Herefordshire FH*, preventing any kills and finding the supporters fairly well behaved for a change. They are a smallish group with a lot of confidence and a good team spirit – especially after their mere presence at a meet of the *Vale of Clettwr FH* in February caused the Master to call off the hunt.

The Vale of Glamorgan group, now calling themselves VALE & VALLEYS HSA have been visiting two packs every weekend to familiarise themselves with a wider variety of local hunts, including the *Monmouthshire, Ystrad, Pentrych and Talybont Foxhunts* and the *South Wales Bassetts*.

MIDLANDS

DERBY, NOTTINGHAM and TRENT POLYTECHNIC sabs spent much of the season with the *Grove & Rufford FH* but had to contend with repressive policing and the unsporting refusal of the hunt to advertise its meets. At Rampton in February, a police van was driven at crawling pace in front of the sabs' vehicles. The saboteurs got out and walked in front of the police van, but when they tried to prevent the police from overtaking them they were all threatened with arrest for 'playing silly buggers'. Roadblocks, mounted police and closed footpaths are regular hazards but the sabs' perserverence has paid off and hounds have tasted very little blood. By keeping to the fields, saboteurs have neutralised the effectiveness of the police, although it didn't stop two police vehicles driving across country after them on one occassion. The Nottingham landrover is now protected by heavy metal grills on all sides; a good job as it turned out, because a Grove & Rufford heavy flung a lump of concrete on a chain at the windscreen during a sab on the hunt at Laxton on March 27.

When Nottingham sabs arrived at a meet of the *Per Ardua Beagles* on Saturday, the hunt wouldn't even unbox their hounds. They took them home without hunting.

The bored faces of *North Staffs FH* supporters throughout February showed how effective a good pre-meet can be. NORTH STAFFS POLY and KEELE sabs were out twice a week against this pack with continuing success. The police too were impressed, and one even said he'd join the sabs if it wasn't that his uniform would make him a bit conspicuous! Saboteurs from WEST MIDLANDS HSA and BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY have been concentrating on the *Croome & West Warks FH* all season. Sabs carefully immitated the huntsman's horncalls at the Church Lench meet on February 28th and quickly scattered hounds over a wide area. This

did not please the whipper-in (who was not on overtime) and he spent nearly as much time in trying to gather them up as he did in trying to flatten the hornblower with his horse.

EAST

CAMBRIDGE, LAVENHAM, SAFFRON WALDEN, WALTHAM CROSS and MID ESSEX groups were occupied with joint hits against the *Essex FH* throughout February and March. Terrier-men failed to dislodge a fox from a drain at Great Canfield when sabs stood their ground, despite an attempt to remove them violently. The following week, the hunt's terrier-men were joined by a pugnacious character in full combat gear who started a fight with the sabs and then, during a moment of crisis, suddenly produced a police ID card. When several more conventionally dressed policemen arrived, the paramilitary PC, one Ross Luke, ordered the arrest of three sabs (including one who had committed the dreadful offence of trying to photograph him) for action likely.

The hunt's last meet of the season was completely wrecked when two sabs from Saffron Walden laid a fox-bedding trail at the unusual time of 3.30pm with the hounds only minutes behind them. Hounds went for it avidly and the hunt couldn't pull them off. There were no kills but a ridiculous number of arrests (see legal page).

Over-zealous policing seems to be a regular feature of country life in Essex at the moment. The Halstead-based EAST ESSEX HSA have had their share of legal harrassment but have continued to sab effectively by doing a thorough pre-meet every week. SAFFRON WALDEN and CAMBRIDGE sabs spent a few days with the *Puckeridge & Thurlow FH*. On February 28th, Cambridge found themselves between the hunt and an unspecified bassett pack and were able to carry oiut two hits at once – an enviable distinction!

Transport problems which had dogged NORWICH HSA for some time were sorted out in March when a benefit gig brought them enough cash to get their van back on the road. The group devote most of their time to sabbing the *Dunstan Harriers* whose hounds they always greet with several gallons of garlic solution tipped out all over the road. Hounds that have trotted through an anti-mate flood are not terribly good at hunting. Horn blowing has worked will; at the Wattlefield Hall meet, two exasperated whippers-in humbled themselves before the sabs and asked them to help retrieve some fo the pack at the end of the day. The hunt's frustration culminated in an attempt at organised violence at the closing meet on March 7th. The sabs' van was attacked twice by a bunch of psychos waving spades and shotguns (not Dunstan followers but unknown mercenaries) and the group had to drive at 60mph over a ploughed field to finally escape. The remaining days of March were spent at the expense of the *Suffolk & Essex FH*, *Suffolk FH*, and the *Sproughton Foot Beagles*.



A Dartmoor landowner argues his point against a hunt saboteur with the aid of a small hand axe.



Two saboteurs clutch one another for safety as Hampshire FH joint-master, Frank Momber, rides at photographer Simon Wild on March 7th. As the picture shows, he has his whip wound around one hand so that the handle can be used as an offensive weapon.

SOUTH WEST

COTSWOLD HSA tackled a couple of pheasant shoots in late January and ended both of them simply by occupying the fields. A particularly good day was had on March 21st when sabs outnumbered the *Berkeley Hunt* at Brookthorpe and sent them home for an early bath at 1.30 in the afternoon. With that victory under their belts, saboteurs moved on to find the *Cotswold FH* trying to dig out at Charlton Abbots. They halted the dig-out, then split the pack with voice and horn; and as soon as the huntsman got his hounds back together again he left and went home. The group don't get it all their own way though – their landrover had a tyre slashed at a troublesome meet of the *Beaufort FH* at Tresham on March 14th. Sabs from BRISTOL and WEST WILTS were attacked with sticks, iron bars and boiling coffee after second whipper-in, Charles Wheeler ordered thugs into a wood to remove them. The attack was the predictable consequence of a wretched season for the hunt. Sabs from WEST WILTS, BRISTOL & BATH systematically destroyed the confidence of the Beaufort, taking the hounds every weekend and on plenty of weekends as well. The prestigeous pack wears a haunted look these days and is a pale shadow of its former self. Bristol and Cotswold groups carry folding spades in their landrovers and these were particularly useful during a pre-meet on the Beaufort at Grittleton where an extensive badger sett had to be unblocked.

West Wilts and Bath HSA had other good days against the *Marlborough College, Shrivenham and Clifton Foot Beagles* and the *VWH, Avon Vale and Old Berks FH*. MID-SOMERSET HSA are a new group with a solid rural base (membership includes farmers) and they've been learning the ropes this season with all of the above groups, preparing to strike out in their own right against unsuspecting local packs next season.

SOUTH

LUTON HSA joined with sabs from NORTH LONDON in February for a hit on the *Vale of Aylesbury FH* which was interferred with by the police (see legal page). Saboteurs from ASHFORD, kept a few minutes ahead of the *E Kent FH* at Wye on February 18th, pre-spraying coverts just before hounds were entered. Heavy snow flurries and strong wind were difficult conditions to work in, but sab horns remained effective on the pack. Some badly built shooting hides beside a local duck pond were later found to have fallen down (must have been the wind)

BRIGHTON and PORTSMOUTH sabs ventured out in a blizzard on March 7th to call in on the *Hampshire FH* at Ellisford Manor. Sabs calling hounds out of covert were charged at by joint master Frank Momber and friends during which a fox slipped away unnoticed. When a second fox cleverly used the back Portsmouth's van as cover before making a dash for it, the huntsman recognised that it wasn't his day and blew for home just two hours after leaving the meet.

The final meet of the *Meon Valley Beagles* was visited by sabs from WEST LONDON and Portsmouth. Police arrested one saboteur for spraying and then dusted up their public relations by challenging the groups to a charity hockey match when the hunt was over. This is apparently ongoing.

SOUTH LONDON HSA have had transport

PRISON – LOOKING BACK

"In truth, I find our friends are rapidly becoming inmates of prisons," wrote the Chartist, George Bartlett, resignedly in 1839. Today, many people in the animal rights movement find the same prospects hanging over them. But what is it actually like behind bars? Duggs Carre, HSA's Contacts Officer, looks back upon ten months spent as an animal rights prisoner for his part in the raid on Unilever.

When I got out of prison, I had done ten months of a two year sentence and was released on parole. In those ten months, I had been kept in three very different boxes.

Firstly I was at a Youth Custody Centre (the old borstals), a very petty establishment with petty rules. It was full of very sad cases; young kids who had got on the wrong side of the law because of greed. They want all the stuff they see in the adverts, so they steal to get it. It was a very racist and sexist environment and few people could understand that I was inside because of what I had done for animals and not for myself.

When I was 21, I got moved to an overcrowded local prison at Bedford. It was just like the prisons you'll have seen in programmes like "Porridge"; rows and rows of cells, big clangy doors and big bunches of keys attached to mindless automatons whom we affectionately called screws. All this time I was awaiting my sentence. Four months passed before the judge finally decided what to give me – two years. Well, it came as a shock to everyone, but at least now I had a date to look at and the time went faster. I also got moved to an open prison.

"Open" basically means you become your own warder. There's a little fence, about three foot high, but if you're caught crossing it, you'll serve an extra ninety days at least.

Sentences aren't as long as they sound. If you are of good behaviour you'll serve two thirds of the time and if you are doing over a year and are deemed to be suitable, you could get parole after one third.

Days Flew Past

Looking back now, it's like it never happened. Those ten months just disappeared. At the time, the days usually flew past because of the repetitive routine that hardly changed seven days a week. I managed to get on education courses so I used my time quite well and by writing letters to people every day I didn't feel quite so isolated from the outside world.

Vegan diet is now accepted in prison and there is a set amount of foods that you are supposed to get. Whether you get it or not is another matter. I seemed to spend a great deal of time complaining about food or refusing to wear leather shoes and arranging for alternatives. This is getting easier as there are now more vegans in prison (though most of them have nothing to do with animal rights).

Censors can be a hassle too and one should expect to have a lot of mail stopped because of its "subversive" content. Most alternative magazines also get stopped. All porn mags seem to get through, no matter how sick their content. Such is the perverted system you live in when in gaol.

But even in gaols there are some great people and I made a few good friends. I was lucky enough to always have a couple of other animal rights prisoners with me although the mere fact that they are animal rights prisoners doesn't mean you'll get on brilliantly when you share a cell with them 23 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Coping

Prison affects all of us in different ways. Most people who did time for Unilever seem to have coped really well. And the effect of the shorter sentence you could expect for the non-payment of fines etc. would be less. Human beings are very adaptable and with the strength of our cause behind us, we can cope with most of the shit the state throws at us.

On a lighter note, I even managed to disrupt the local hunt on two occasions whilst in prison. The open prison I was at is opposite the kennels of the Cottesmore FH and they maintain a large covert that borders the prison fence. When they were cubbing I managed to pull hounds out of the covert by using voice calls and took great delight in watching the hunt staff give up and ride off to another covert, even though a fox had been seen in the prison covert.

Then later on in my sentence, on Boxing Day someone ran into my room and said the hunt were outside. They were casting the covert again and from my window I called six couple of hounds right out and held them by the fence. Meanwhile, a fox broke across our playing fields and, try as the hunt staff might, they could not get the pack together for over half an hour. Really made my day to disrupt their Boxing Day meet so much from the confines of my gaol!

Please write to all animal rights prisoners. The only reason I coped so well was that I got so much support from people outside and if you're doing four or ten stretches, you need all the help you can get. Whilst one person or animal lives behind bars, we will never achieve true liberation.

"It's not broken," said the chicken.
"Kick it again," said the rooster – then it broke.
Keep kicking, kick it till it breaks.

Group News contd

problems since January but have taken part in joint hits with TONBRIDGE and NORTH DOWNS groups. The *Surrey Union's* unpopular new huntsman, Peter Ellrich, had a lousy time when his hounds met at Rusper in February. Sab horns split the pack again and again until he was left with only four hounds to hunt with. He then had to abandon hunting for the day and hack off to search for his strays. Earlier, an irate gamekeeper had to be restrained and relieved of a whip when he tried to give a sab hornblower a bit of a thrashing with it. If hunt servants continue to lend offensive weapons to their unruly supporters, they will of course be confiscated. On February 14th, hunting in unfamiliar territory near Crawley, Ellrich had to pack up at 2.30pm when he was left with only three hounds. Joint Master Rosemary Peters was seen knocking on doors asking for directions and offers of OS maps from concerned saboteurs were declined.

When 40 sabs from several South Eastern groups turned out to bid a fond temporary farewell to the *Old Surrey & Burstow FH* at their closing meet on March 14th, the hunt rudely ran away and tried to hide in thick woodland. Saboteurs soon caught up with them and stayed close all day, preventing any kills, although the pack's imaginitive huntsman claimed to have 'broken up' no fewer than four foxes while the sabs weren't looking!

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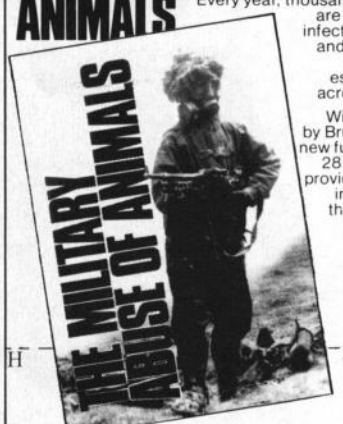
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THE MILITARY ABUSE OF ANIMALS

Every year, thousands of animals are shot, blasted, infected, irradiated and electrocuted in military establishments across the world.

With a foreword by Bruce Kent, this new fully illustrated 28 page booklet provides a concise introduction to the widespread abuse of animals for military research and its ultimate application to humanity.



The booklet is available priced £1.20 including p&p.

Please send me ..... copies of **The Military Abuse of Animals**

I enclose cheque/P.O. made payable to BUAV for £

Name .....

Address .....

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Please send to BUAV, 16a Crane Grove, London N7 8LB

A TACTICAL DIGEST

The short articles on this page were all submitted to HOWL as tactical ideas by individual members of the HSA's local groups. If you'd like to contribute an idea or you have a query which you'd like the HSA tactics officer to answer, send it to HOWL.

OVER-HUNTING YOUR LOCAL PACK

Any master of hounds will tell you (well, probably not, but it's true) that a pack of hounds can be over-hunted. If you leave a pack of hounds to themselves in a big covert, you will find that they hunt with little encouragement required, just being kept in check by the whippers in. However, if a huntsman is hunting upwind (and, like the fox, he will prefer to move downwind), or over ground that doesn't hold much scent, the hounds will need to be "hunted" or hassled forward with whip, horn and voice. An over-hunted pack will become disobedient and discouraged. if it is over-hunted on one day, the huntsman will try to leave the hounds to hunt by themselves (possibly in a very large covert) on the next meet.

The implication for saboteurs is obvious. If you sab your hunt often enough, it will very quickly become over-hunted and lose its effectiveness as a result. This, twinned with sabbing during cubhunting, could conceivably render a pack unhuntable and useless for the purpose of killing. The tactic has proved very important on the Beaufort who can't catch much that isn't out of a bag or three-legged these days. Thanks, I'm sure, from the wildlife of Wiltshire to saboteurs from Bath, Gloucester and Bristol for making it possible.

Skunk, West Wiltshire (Beaufort) HSA.

SABOTAGING RABBIT SHOOTS

On the way to and from hunts, we have encountered on more than one occasion, small groups of people with guns, standing in fields while a thin line of beaters moves slowly towards them. Once this season, we left our van to investigate and found it to be a rabbit shoot.

We positioned ourselves in front of the shooters and began making as much noise as the seven of us could make until the police came and moved us. The total interruption we caused lasted for about an hour and during this time not a single rabbit was shot. Also, because the beaters hadn't stopped, the shooters had to move to a new area and set up a new beat line. We had held them up for approximately two and a half hours all together with no serious confrontation.

Hull HSA.

INSTANT WHIP

One way of sidestepping possible police hassle over using whips is to dispense with the handle and rely on five foot or so of clothes line or rope with a shoe lace at one end. With practice, this will crack almost as loudly as a conventional whip with a handle. The advantages are twofold: Firstly, it is simple to conceal, and secondly, it would be far harder to make out a case for this being an offensive weapon than for a conventional whip. It's also cheaper and doesn't take long to make!

Paul, Portsmouth HSA.



Small group sabbing. Most of a small west country HSA group mingles unimpeded with hunt and hounds at the meet.

SABBING WITHOUT AN ARMY

Whilst some HSA groups find security and tactical advantage in large numbers, there are others who purposefully limit the size of their group and play little part in joint actions with other groups. A saboteur from a small south western group explains the thinking.

Small group sabbing has often been tried and talked about. During the past season, our group has sabbed in numbers that range from between one and seven. We go out two or three times a week and sometimes do two hunts in a day.

One of the most important factors in sabbing with a small group (or any group) is knowing your hunt. If you know where they will hunt, the position of fox earths and the types of calls used, you are nearly there.

A good pre-beat with rookies will clear every likely covert of foxes and hounds will not willingly go near a wood full of rookies either. With all local earths unblocked, gates wired up and so on, a hunt will probably decide to change its route as soon as it moves off, and as readers of HOWL will know, that doesn't make for good hunting.

Pre-beating in small numbers is very effective as you can move faster and in a small group every sab will have a particular job to do. There is much less room for uncoordinated confusion and you are that much more subtle. Subtlety is very important. Attracting attention to what you are doing does nothing to improve the chances of the hunted animal and it also arouses suspicion and anger, even amongst people who are not hunters. A small group of people quietly going about their business will not be seen as some kind of a threat and therefore the reaction of hunters and the general public will be much less aggressive.

Picking Up Knowledge

When sabbing a hunt which is in progress, you will of course draw attention to yourself, but a knowledge of hunting, which you pick up much faster in a small group, teaches you when to intervene with whips, horns or voices, and when you don't need to. Many large sab groups turn up at a hunt and immediately 'get stuck in', often when it is unnecessary.

Often, chatting to supporters will improve your chances. They know you're antis, but have talked to you and are much less likely to attack you or even get in your way. In a small group you will be much more mobile and each sab will, as I have said, know their own job and get on with it.

Of course, some hunters will get aggressive and in a small group your response to this is important. First and formost, KEEP YOUR COOL. You cannot afford to get into slagging matches or fistycuffs. Secondly, and this is important for sabbing as well as for coping with aggression, BE CONFIDENT. You are right, you know what you are doing, and you are going to do it. No one is going to stop you. Show them that they cannot put you off and you won't take any stick. Stay calm, stay confident. We didn't see a kill this season and we don't intend to see one next season.

Skunk

Fox Cubs



PO BOX 87
EXETER
EX4 3TX

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.

UP AGAINST THE LAW

Animal Rights & The 1986 Public Order Act



UP AGAINST THE LAW:
by J. J. Roberts.
ARC PRINT.
Cover price:– £1.50 (available for £1.00 from HSA.)

It is perhaps, too early to gauge the effect that the Public Order Act 1986 will have on animal rights activities, if any. It may be years before the HSA has any real idea on the extent of its impact on traditional hunt sabotage techniques. It is, nevertheless, the responsibility of all of us to become as familiar with the Act and as aware of its potential impact upon our actions as possible. For the furtherence of this I would recommend "Up Against the Law" as a simple basic guide to the Act. It is also, as far as I am aware the first attempt to analyse the Act and examine its implications for animal rights activists to be printed and made available in book form.

The book is divided into four parts with two appendices. Part 1 gives a short history of public order law in Britain and explains why the largely politically biased extensions to police powers contained in the Act are in reality only a tidying up of previous legislation and police activity which thoughout history has always had a political as opposed to crime-solving bias. It also explains that, contrary to popular opinion, there is no "right" to protest protected in any British legislation. Part 2 outlines the principle extensions to the powers of the police brought about by the Act and explains its other provisions. Part 3 urges a more organised and vigorous readiness to fight any charges brought against us in court. It explains the author's views that all court cases should be fought both inside and outside the court room with effective support campaigns being waged on the behalf of defendants, and the need for the provision of funds and expert legal advice to be made available to the defence. Part 4, the conclusion, has an optimistic tone, explains the danger of allowing the Act to undermine our chosen paths of protest and action and makes it clear that it is only through building our experience and fighting the law in court that we can have any real impact on the way in which the police handle us in the streets or countryside.

The Appendix includes extracts from the Act itself most likely to have an impact on animal rights type actions and a Legal Report Form, modelled on that used by the HSA.

It is a shame the book does not look very deeply at the expected effect of the Act on hunt saboteurs. It is often forgotton, that, at least in the sphere of animal rights, the HSA is the most organised and persistently active organisation in Britain today and its members and supporters are likely to take the brunt of the convictions brought about under its provisions.

Still, "Up Against the Law" is a start and there will probably be room for a sequel at some later date when more is known about the Act's true, as opposed to predicted, impact on our activities.

Ralph Cook

THE MILITARY ABUSE OF ANIMALS: by the BUAV with a foreward by Bruce Kent. Price £1.20.

This little booklet was produced by the BUAV to provide background information to its proposed mini-campaign against the use of animals in military experiments which was to culminate in a march and festival in Salisbury on the 22nd of August. Unfortunately, the Council refused permission for the planned festival and the campaign has had to be postponed until next year.

The foreward is by Bruce Kent, C.N.D.'s Vice Chairperson, in it he writes:

"Now here, under out eyes in photograph and print, comes another whole area of human wickedness . . . the torture and awful deaths of so many animals who are sacrificed in coutry after country to keep the "defence" machine going. Those victims are the absolute innocents. What is done to them is yet another example of the ruthlessness of the strong and the exploitation of the week."

Kent concludes by urging a new understanding of the connections between the peace and animal rights movement and also joint action.

After further introductions, the book looks at the various ways in which animals have been exploited by the military which includes being tethered near to nuclear weapon test sites to study the effects of radiation right through to their deliberate wounding with firearms to enable soldiers to practice battlefield surgery on living flesh. The catalogue of abuse listed in the book is truely horrific: animals' eardrums have been destroyed during the course of battlefield noise studies; animals have been sent made during attempts to understand aggression (one would have thought that there were plenty of examples of human aggression worth studying in the world today from Nicaragua to the Middle East and thence of Afganistan without having to drive animals into pointless displays of aggression.

Then the ultimate perversion, the training of animals such as dolphins to act as substitute soldiers in war . . . and peace?

The book also demonstrates how in many cases the use of animals in miliary research has been extened to the use of unwitting humans ; the acts of the Nazis and Japanese military in the last war differing only in degree from experiments involving servicemen being subjected to radiation doseages whilst "observing" nuclear test explosions.

The book is essential reading for all of those concerned about animals and/or military issues.

Ralph Cook

VICTIM OF SCIENCE



This horse was photographed by members of the ALF's southern Investigations Unit at a lab owned by Wellcome Pharmaceuticals at Frant, Sussex on March 27th.

It was one of several with shaved necks and large badly sewn or open wounds. The pictured animal has an infected open wound caused by quantities of dirt and straw adhering to pus. A number of horses had four or five incisions like this and were unable to stand. One horse and a donkey were taken away for treatment by a sympathetic vet but the horse, a pedigree ex-racer, is causing concern. A large part of its trachea is missing and it cannot lower its head to eat. Its neck and all four feet are badly infected.

Pigs, goats and sheep in a similarly disgraceful condition were also photographed by the ALF and a video showing all of these and the liberation of the donkey and horse is available from the ALF Supporters Group at £6.50 incl. P&P.



An ALF member member holds a rescued piglet after the raid on Bibby's agricultural foods research station at Neston, Cheshire on February 6th. Just days after the Sheffield 'fire bomb' trial at which nine activists were jailed for a total of 38 years to 'discourage' further activities by the ALF, four piglets and 52 broiler hens were taken and given safe new homes.

DRAGHUNTING ANYBODY?

Hunt Saboteurs who still follow the line that draghunting is the "humane alternative" to foxhunting might like to ponder over events on Anglesea at the end of January.

The island's draghound pack rioted near Beaumaris and attacked a corgi dog, the sole companion of 70 year old widow, Mrs Kit Greenwold, who was taking it for a walk. Its injured throat and flank needed 12 stitches.

Hunt master Eddie Roberts was not very sympathetic. "Dogs fight in the street every day," he said. "It's just that Mrs Greenwold turned away. If she had carried on as normal she'd have been alright." Spoken like a true foxhunter; which is strange because according to Bangor HSA there is widespread local concern that the pack deliberately hunts foxes from time to time on Saturday mornings. A spokesperson for the group has called upon the hunt's master to either confirm or deny these rumours.

BELFAST HSA BACK IN ACTION

Members of the Northern Ireland Animal Rights Movement are to revamp hunt sabbing in the Belfast area next season.

There are fifteen registered packs of hounds in Northern Ireland and they have never been more unpopular with local farmers. Far from welcoming hunting as an agency of pest control, most farmers, especially in the Hillsborough, Ballynahinch, Dromera triangle, have been telling the hunts to stay off their land.

FUR COATS ARE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN YOU THINK



Join Beauty Without Cruelty and help us campaign against the atrocities committed in the name of beauty.

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● *I enclose a donation of _____ towards your work*

● *I would like to become a member £5 annual subscription (£3 unwaged, £100 life membership)*

Beauty Without Cruelty, 11 Lime Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1JL

According to the magazine "Farm Week" (20/2/87), pregnant cattle and sheep have been regularly worried this year by cavorting foxhounds causing stress to the animals and still-born young.

SHOOTERS 'THOUGHT GEESE WERE DUCKS'

Police surprised two wildfowlers on the River Stour in March and arrested them both for shooting Brent Geese.

A flock of the protected birds were flying over the estuary when police heard shots and saw two geese fall from the sky. On investigation they found Adrian and Darren Sadler holding an unlicenced shotgun and trying to hide a dead goose.

In court, the Sadlers claimed they thought the geese were ducks and that it was not against the law to fire an unlicenced gun, only to own one. They claimed the shotgun was not theirs. Ipswich magistrates fined each of them £20 and Adrian Sadler an extra £30 for the unlicenced gun.

DO HUNTS SPREAD TB?

Following an article in the "Veterinary Record" which suggested that hounds may be responsible for depositing germs causing liver damage in lambs, the Dartmoor Badger Protection League is wondering whether hounds are also the "missing link" in the spread of bovine TB.

The possibility was never investigated by the Dunnett Committee in 1985 despite calls upon it to do so and despite the fact that the areas of Britain where the disease is most prevalent correspond exactly to the areas which have the most hunting.

The DBPL comments that hunting hounds range freely from farm to farm, sniffing, salivating and urinating on the ground, even on farms that have cattle reactors. The carcasses of cattle are often fed uncooked to hounds at hunt kennels but the League does not believe regular checks are carried out for tubercular lesions in the corpses.

NOTICE-BOARD

HELP WANTED IN YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire HSA wants to stimulate new HSA groups at Doncaster, Leeds Poly, Halifax, Wakefield, York and Retford during the summer in readiness for the 1987 cubhunting season. Anyone willing and able to help them should contact Yorks HSA at Box 25, 46 The Calls, Leeds, West Yorks.

BENEFIT GIGS

HSA is compiling a list of bands willing to do benefits for local groups. City Indians from Derby will play animal rights gigs in return for petrol money. Contact them c/o Promotions, HSA, PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX. Any musicians reading this who are interested in being added to our list, please get in touch too.

Leeds-based band, Chumbawamba, have recently played for sabs in Bath, Bridgwater and Cardiff. All dates were very successful fundraisers.

COURSING ACTION

A new petition demanding the outlawing of all hare coursing is being organised by the National Anti Coursing Council. Forms can be obtained from NACC at PO Box 8, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0 D X .

The Irish Council Against Bloodsports has called for an international lobby of the European Parliament, particularly to oppose 'enclosed' coursing (where the hare can only 'escape' into a holding pen to be re-coursed). "In Ireland, hares considered unsuitable for coursing, as well as cats, rabbits and birds whose legs have been broken, are fed live to the hounds to make them more bloodthirsty. This practice, known as 'blooding', is thought to enhance a greyhound's performance on the coursing field," say the ICAB. Letters should be sent to Frau Beate Weber MEP, Chairperson, Environment Committee, European Parliament, Sickingenstrasse 1, 6900 Heidelberg, W. Germany. Further info from ICAB, 26 Millmont Ave, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Eire.

NEW CAMBRIDGE GROUP

A broad umbrella group is being formed in Cambridge for sabs and non-sabs alike; the Cambridge Anti Bloodsports Society. Info from Box CABS, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

STAMPS WANTED

Freedom animal sanctuary volunteers are appealing for used stamps to help raise badly needed funds. Send all your unwanted stamps to them at 12b, Dudley Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1LF.

ALF BOOKLET

Partly as a response to Peter Singer's dismissive treatment of tactical direct action in his recent summary, 'The Animal Liberation Movement', ALF Supporters Group has produced 'Animal Liberation – the Road to Victory.' The 56 page booklet appeals to the movement to abandon parliamentary politics (which it regards as energy wasting and impractical) and mobilise wholesale support for the direct action groups. "It is morally reprehensible and an abdication of our responsibilities to expect that animals should await the whims of politicians before they are relieved from their suffering." Copies through Greenpeace (London) from 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 at 75p each (incl p&p). Cheques payable to Greenpeace (London).

VEGAN AGM

A note from the Vegan Society reminds us that their AGM is on October 10th at the Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre, London, at 2pm.

PROPAGANDA

A new catalogue of animal rights t-shirts, badges and posters can be had from Missing Links, 24 Caroline St, Benwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 7TX. Send them an SAE for a copy; at least 17 designs currently available.

ANIMAL LIBERATION LP

Wax Trax Records have released a compilation LP of music on an A/R theme as a benefit for the US-based People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. Featuring ten tracks from the likes of Nina Hagen & Lene Lovich, Colourfield, Howard Jones and the Smiths, you can order a copy or get further info by phoning 01 888 8949.

HSA BENEFIT TAPE

'We've Had Enough' is a benefit tape for Nottingham HSA and includes music by Dirge, Ripcord, MDC and The Waste. Send £2.00 and an SAE to: ALF Box G, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St, Hockley, Nottingham.

THE 1987/88 COMMITTEE

Unfortunately, there were not enough nominations for committee posts this year to cause an election so the twelve candidates who stood will make up the new committee. They are:

Chris Bishop, Anne Blunden, Mark Breedon, Duggs Carre, Ralph Cook, Mark Dent, John Hale, Wendy Holborow, Ian Jennings, Angie Majenik, Graham Taylor and Aubrey Thomas. A copy of the cvs submitted by any of the above persons will be sent to any HSA member who writes to us requesting them and copies should also be available at the AGM, when of course all HSA members will be able to meet them in person.

Although details of committee posts will not be finalised until after the AGM, we can tell you that Angie is hoping to take over the job of student liasion officer and that membership will probably pass to Graham. Chris is busy carving our a new niche for himself as HSA promotions officer. HOWL will continue to be edited from outside the committee by Steve Poole.

MEMBERSHIP

Last July around 15 to 20 people a month were joining the HSA. Membership Secretary, Chris Bishop, reports a healthy increase in membership with over 400 new members joining in the first quarter of 1987; an average of 100 a month throughout January, February and March. The long-awaited New Members Pack is now in print in booklet form, similar to HOWL. We hope the detail it contains will encourage new active and supporting members to become involved in our campaigns.

Renewal notices are being sent to a number of people who would have lapsed by the time of the AGM in order that they can renew beforehand. Remember, you must be a paid-up member to attend and vote at the AGM, so please either renew first or be prepared to pay your sub on the door.

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL

The HSA will be staffing a stall and running practical sabotage workshops at this year's Glastonbury CND Festival at Worthy Farm, Somerset on the 19th, 20th and 21st June. Along with all the usual sales goods, we will be launching a brand new summer line – a running vest with a stylish new logo – which will only be available by post after the event. Please drop in at the stall and meet members of the HSA committee, discuss with them the direction the HSA should be moving in, or put your feet up and watch continuous videos of the HSA in action. Workshops will take place on the Green Field.

SALES GOODS

Whatever items you are ordering, please remember to fill in your name and address CLEARLY. We've had a number of orders in the last three months with no name and address on them at all!

Back copies of HOWL are now available subject to availability, of numbers 9, 16, 23, 30, 32, 33, 34 & 35 at 50p each (incl. p&p).

NEW HANDBILLS

Thanks to all of you who have braved the cold to distribute the new handbills and spread the word. We've decided to continue the policy of giving leaflets free since your efforts so far have meant that they are paying for themselves.

Purchase of a printing press will reduce our overheads even further, enabling us to produce our own leaflets in even greater volume than we could previously afford. We'd also like to hear from any member who has experience of operating an offset litho press who would be willing to help with forthcoming printing projects.

CLUB DRAW

Feburary's prize winners in the HSA Club Draw were: **J Gripton (£25), A Friend (£15) and D Plowes (£6).** Many thanks to Ms Gripton who generously returned her prize to the HSA. Prize winners are drawn every two months; if you want to join them, write to the HSA Fundraiser for further details.

SELL THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS!

Enclosed with this HOWL, you'll find another book of raffle tickets. The first batch were sent to you with HOWL 35. Please note that all ticket stubbs and money MUST BE RETURNED TO US BEFORE JUNE 25th. That means you've got just a few days to sell and return both batches of tickets. Our thanks to those of you who have already sent back the first batch. Our Summer Draw is HSA's biggest annual fundraising event and carries generous prizes. Please help us by selling as many tickets as you can in the time still available!

WANTED

HSA's rapidly expanding membership has now outgrown its filing cabinet! Does anyone have a spare one we could use for the overspill? It needs to take 3" × 5" index cards.

Artists –We need a talented graphic artist to make pen and ink line drawings of animals from photographs, used to illustrate a new range of HSA wildlife fact sheets. Please send a sample of your work together with an SAE to us at PO Box 87.

We also need a good new recruiting poster to replace the old skeleton huntsman, and new designs for sweat shirts and t-shirts. Any artwork will be gratefully received and considered and any accepted designs will be rewarded. If you want your artwork returned, please specify and enclose a SAE.

BEQUESTS TO H.S.A.

Are you considering leaving a legacy to the H.S.A. in our struggle against Bloodsports? We can assist you with legal wording. Please contact H.S.A. PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX)

WOMEN'S MEETING – A REPORT

The Women's discussion and tactics day at Huddersfield Poly was attended by about seventy women from as far afield as Glasgow and Portsmouth.

The day began with an introductory session before splitting into small groups to discuss problems women sabs had found in their respective groups. The feedback session found that most of the sab groups represented, with one or two exceptions, were male-dominated. The women felt they had little confidence, and were not really listened to for their ideas and opinions. This was more so in larger groups. It was also found that some men in the groups were patronising to the women and that they did all the horn-blowing, driving, organising and so on. It was felt by some that male sabs were quicker to retaliate to violence and therefore escalated violence at hunts.

Following this session, there was a demonstration of self-defence techniques. Although not specifically geared towards sabbing, women who felt so inclined could participate and learn, and it gave some the impetus to join local self-defence groups.

After a vegan lunch cooked by men from the Huddersfield group, three workshops were held, on foxhunting, beagling and hornblowing.

The day ended with a wind-up session to discuss ideas and future plans. It was unanimously decided that more days were needed in other parts of the country. Weekend meetings, to include a women-only sab, were also requested. Regional women-only sabs were requested. More was wanted on tactics, the law, coping with violence, assertiveness training and group dynamics.

There are now two more women's days in the pipeline, one on the south, probably at Portsmouth, and one in Scotland. If anyone would like notification of the dates, please, write to Wendy Holborow at PO Box 9, Llandrinod Wells, Powys.

W H

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.

Copy date for HOWL 37 is August 1st. **HSA PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX**
HOWL is edited and produced by Steve Poole & Janette Kerr.