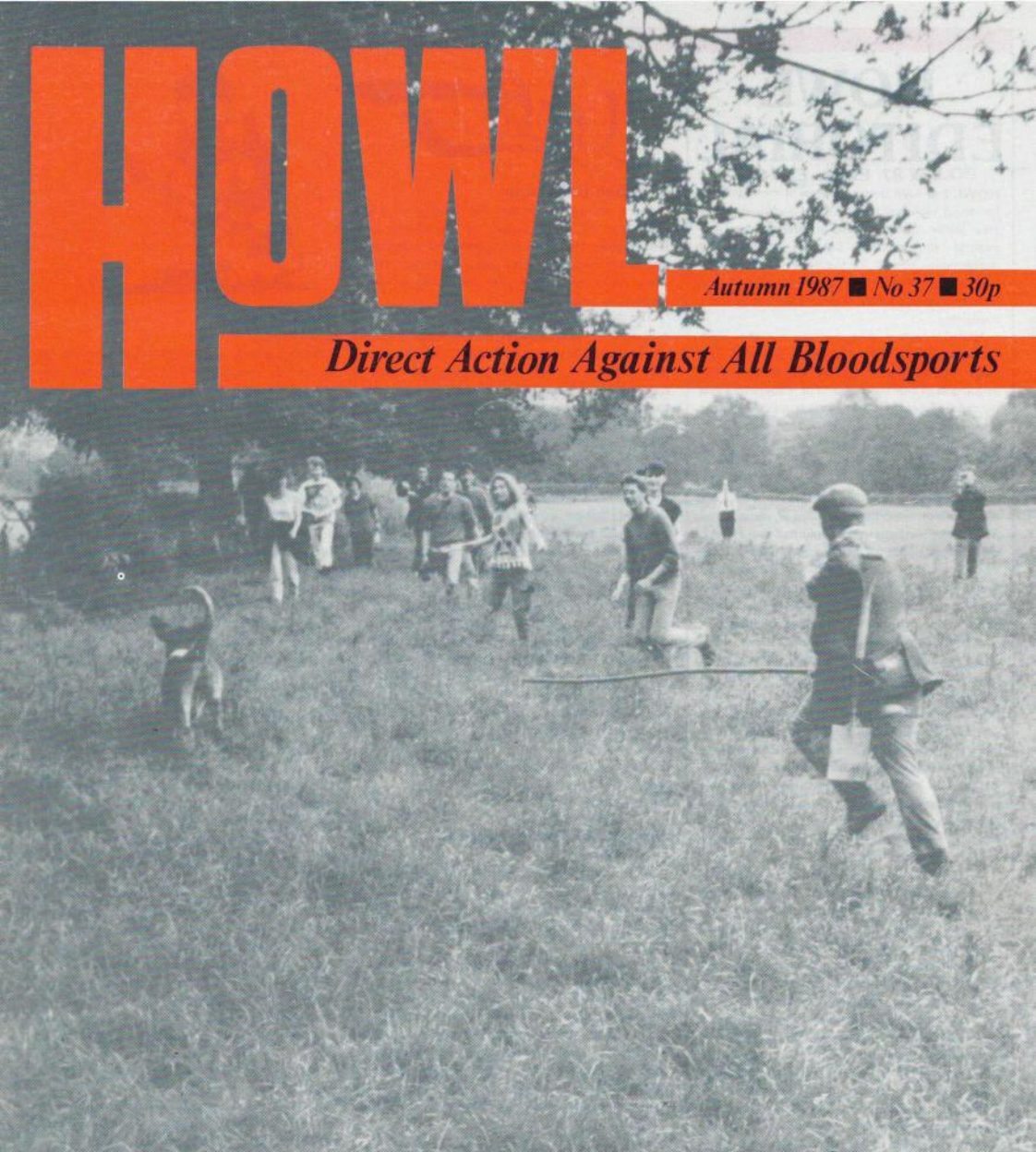
HOWL

Autumn 1987 ■ No 37 ■ 30p

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

HSA

HOWL EDITORIAL

PO Box 87 Exeter EX4 3TX

HOWL *has been under its present management for about eighteen months now and during that time we've tried not only to smarten up and expand the content but to establish an independent identity for the paper in its working relationship with HSA Committee and the membership as a whole. Perhaps this needs some explaining.*

HOWL's editor is appointed by the HSA Committee but is not a Committee member. The editor, and not the Committee, decide upon what to include in the magazine. The Committee has no right of veto over any article submitted and would not try to exercise any. Instead, the editor is answerable to the Committee and may be reprimanded or removed from office by a simple majority vote.

Now, this may sound all very boring to you, but we think it an important safeguard on the editorial freedom of the paper. You may find that HOWL occasionally publishes articles which you think are contrary to the stance of either the Committee and/or the activist in the field. But we feel that it is vital that HOWL does not share the same relationship with HSA Committee as PRAVDA does with the Kremlin. In fact, HOWL sets out to be an open access platform for the frank exchange of views between all HSA members, whether on or off the Committee, in the field or in the armchair. There are plenty of debates to be held and HOWL is the ideal place to air them. HOWL is the paper of the whole movement. Please use it.

You may think that HOWL is written by too few people and that it is often the same few people that get their work printed. This may be true, but it is certainly not a matter of policy. By and large, we print most of what we get and some people submit a lot more than others.

If you'd like to submit an article for HOWL remember that 1000 words makes a full page and anything under 500 words is best sent as a letter rather than an article. Your work should be typed if possible with a clear margin of two inches on the left hand side so that we can mark it up for typesetting. Either insert your own subheadings or leave enough space between paragraphs for us to do it ourselves. Anonymous contributions will not normally be used because we feel that if you've got something worth saying you should be confident enough to put a name to it. It isn't ego-tripping, it's an admission of responsibility.

There's no group news in this HOWL because few groups have sent anything in over the summer. As usual, once your group gets back into business again, please keep the hit reports flowing in, together with any relevant clippings from your local paper and copies of all your best action photographs (not all violent ones if you can help it!).

Opinons expressed in HOWL are not necessarily the views of the Hunt Saboteurs Association or of the HOWL editor.

HOWL is edited and produced by Steve Poole and Janette Kerr.
Copy date for HOWL 38 is November 16th.

COVER PHOTO: Saboteurs call over another hound from the Kent and Sussex Minkhunt as the hunt's spade man tries in vain to retrieve it.



Childish Behaviour

I am writing to express my disgust at the behaviour of some people at the AGM in Nottingham. The event was a complete shambles and many members in my group said that if the hunt could have seen us, they'd have wet themselves with laughter.

The furore that broke out as a result of the proposed ammendment to clause 4 was totally unnecessary. Okay, maybe Ralph Cook did mean well when he put the proposal of non-discrimination forward, but most people could see that it was an ambiguous statement and one that could be easily abused in the wrong hands. The behaviour that followed was childish and pedantic. Everyone was getting flustered and no-one was prepared to listen to anybody else's point of view. For God's sake, lets grow up out there. We can't expect to agree on everything and if people had been a little less concerned about just having their say, and had been more tolerant of other people's opinions, maybe we'd have solved the issue more effectively.

We were furious that other important issues, such as dealing with the law and hunt violence, were neglected because of the time wasted on that one issue – and I think the meeting left a lot of people angry, worried about the future of the HSA and contemptuous of the Committee. After all, at the end of the day, we will go out and sabotage bloodsports in the way that works most effectively for our own individual groups, irrespective of what the constitution says.

Sylvi
Nottingham

Anarchists And Authority

Dear HOWL,

I am writing with reference to Arthur Fairfull's letter in which he quotes a sab, presumably an anarchist, as saying, "The HSA represents authority. We shouldn't obey authority" (HOWL 36).

Surely the HSA, as a voluntary association that operates through direct action, comes close to the anarchist ideal? To read the tactics booklet, a direct action manual, is not to submit to authority but to ensure that animals are saved as effectively as possible without waiting for the eventual support of the authorities in the campaign against bloodsports. As such, anarchists need not worry that their pedigree will be tainted by supporting the HSA.

Steve
Bath

No Help From The League

Dear HOWL,

After reading your article in this month's Due South mag, I felt compelled to write.

I am at present a member of the League Against Cruel Sports, and when offering help to actively stop hunts etc., I was told nothing goes on in my area. I am now training in Southampton until November and wish to do something supportive. I would like to thank the HSA for its help in this matter.

Adrian Rickett
Long Ashton
Bristol



Bad Language

Dear HOWL,

Whilst I greatly admire the youngsters who go out and do a marvellous job showing their care and opposing the ignorant morons who apparently find pleasure inflicting pain and terror on other creatures, I do object to the printing in HOWL of the obscenities mouthed by some of these cretins on some occasions.

We know this language exists but is it really necessary to put it in detail in black and white? A couple of dots or dashes is quite sufficient to indicate to any reader what has been said. I would not pass on the magazine to any place where children could read it – yet they should see the literature.

My thanks to all who go out and oppose the tormentors. I wish I were 60 years younger, then I could do more than just help financially and write letters to all parts of the world on behalf of our friends the animals.

Leonard Kaye
Macclesfield

Point noted. We do try to exclude gratuitously offensive language from HOWL but feel that replacing somebody's actual words with a series of suggestive dots and dashes is exactly the kind of infantile jounralism indulged in by newspapers like the Sun whose editors clearly want everybody to know what has been said but are too coy to spell it out like adults.

Offensive language is not tolerated in news or feature copy, but in direct quotation or readers' letters it may be. Which is why you've just got away with comparing cretins (people who suffer from an acute thyroid deficiency) with people who kill wild animals for amusement. Offensive? I certainly think so. Censorship's not as simple an issue as it at first appears I'm afraid, but please tell us if we continue to get it wrong. (Ed.)

A Mouthful for the Monster

Dear Howl.

I was, until February 87, a passive member of the HSA and had not met any of my Tyneside colleagues. That was soon to change.

The Border Hunt, led by Hound Monster (whoops, typewriter key slipped – I meant Master,'of course) Michael Hedley, met on Elsdon village green on Saturday, 7 February. Meets are not uncommon here. They've been coming for years ever willing to smile down graciously at the doffin of a cap or the pulling of a forelock – and never a sab in sight.

I was away for the day – fortuitously perhaps as I don't possess a cap and the pulling of forelocks does so mess up the hairstyle!

My neighbour phoned the next morning and told me in graphic detail how the hunt had chased a fox into the village. It had jumped a wall and run through my property, closely followed by the hounds. The kill took place in a small field

adjoining my garden.

I contacted Hound Master Hedley whom I (knew). Won't quote verbatim but the word 'thug' did appear in my politely spoken but vitriolic tirade. The police were next on my list, followed, the next morning by the newspapers. The nasty little incident was reported in three different papers and can't have done the hunt's reputation any good at all.

Meanwhile M. Hedley Esq. was plaintively complaining to the police that he was fed up of being hounded by the press (appropriate phrase) and said he found it ironic that the fox should have chosen to go through the land of the one person in Elsdon who would complain. Clever Mr Reynard.

This policeman (a copper's lot is not a happy one!) dare I say it, earning his salary for once, came daily to the house, drank endless cups of coffee whilst trying, unsuccessfully, to placate me and stressing over and over that he always remained neutral, never siding with hunt or anti-hunt. His composure slipped a little when I told him I belonged to the HSA but had yet to meet them. "You won't get on with that lot – they're not anti-hunt, they're anti-establishment" he intoned. So much for not taking sides. As I greeted that with the disdainful, stony silence it deserved, he looked rather anxiously at me and said the saboteurs had never been to these parts but he thought they would soon arrive. I agreed with relish.

And what of the cap-doffing, forelock-pulling Elsdonians during this? Much discreet, and not so discreet, pulling aside of curtains to watch police and press calling on 'that peculiar woman who doesn't approve of fox hunting'.

The fox was killed, poor little beast, but hopefully not in vain. The Border Hunt has said it will never meet in Elsdon again. I now regularly go to the Tyneside HSA meetings and, best of all, the Saturday following the Elsdon meet, Tyneside HSA successfully sabbed Michael Hedley and his bunch of hunting.hoodlums at Bellingham – the first time that had happened, but not the last (what a prophetic policeman!)

Poor Michael. His long reign of undisturbed killing sessions seems to have come to an end. How sad.

Hazel Jordan,
Tyneside HSA

Hijacking The Mail-out

Dear HOWL,

I rarely feel either compelled or think it worthwhile responding to irritating pieces in magazines, but I was rather angry to find a note from the Leeds Sabs stapled to the proposals for constitutional changes at the HSA AGM. Surely the proposals had been worded quite clearly and comprehensively and do not need an undemocratic disclaimer attached. The points listed that "WILL be used AGAINST women" were quite reasonable subjects for debate at the AGM. Perhaps women (or men) who organise or support "women only sabs and meetings" are guilty of discrimination on the grounds of sex. The same would also apply to blacks or whites only groups (many individuals would not slot easily into this sort of arbitrary system of racial segregation as the authorities in South Africa have found to their cost). The same would of course also apply to exclusively homosexual or heterosexual groups. Surely the place to attempt to influence conference decision is at the conference and not by hijacking the magazine distribution.

Bone who made the ridiculous and one-sided assertion that the "Wimmin and the HSA" debate should have been totally written by "wimmin", as she quite myopically suggests "that's who it was about." That's who the debate primarily concerned, but what affects men affects women and vice versa. "What's wrong with separatism anyway?" she asks. How about a holiday in South Africa, Jane?

It seems a pity to be wasting our time fighting amongst ourselves over such silly issues when we consider what is happening around us. I personally would not want to be turned away from an anti-bloodsports meeting because of my gender, colour and/or sexual orientation and would under no circumstances do the same to any other person.

B Steedman
Bristol

Contacts Officer

Dear HOWL,

I am writing to inform all the local contacts that I am no longer the contacts officer of the asociation – the committee unfortunately failed to tell the contacts in the last mailout. The post was taken off me at the first August committee meeting after a long discussion and 2 votes, the first of which failed to get a majority.

I find it hard to believe that I am no longer deemed suitable for the post as I received not one complaint from any contact or member during my term of office – in fact the only time I heard a committee member complain was at the last meeting. I believe I did the job well and that my mailouts were regular, accurate and informative.

The main issue seemed to be the fact that I enclosed a leaflet from the "Federation of local animal rights groups" in the mailout, and asked contacts to write back with their views on this new direction within the A. R. movement.

I always considered myself answerable to the membership, and to act on their behalf – therefore why can't I ask for their opinion?

I do now believe that all the national organisations, including the H.S.A., need to change. They need to become more democratic and put their faith and resources back with the local groups – NOT with "all powerful" committees. These are also the same demands being made by the "Federation".

Just maybe some of the old guard in the movement feel threatened by progress.

Huggs 'n' Sluggs,
DUGGS

p.s. please reply to P.O. BOX B20, HUDDERSFIELD.

Women's Meeting

Dear HOWL,

I attended the women's Hunt Saboteurs meeting in Brighton last week. I find these meetings really beneficial and encouraging to me as a woman sab. I prefer to work in women-only groups and feel it is necessary for women to get together every now and then to talk over their experiences as well as discussing sab tactics.

It was especially good to have Angie (Angela Majennik) there in Brighton, as she really boosted my confidence and is very good at explaining tactics in a clear, non-patronising way.

I am joining the HSA now (please find enclosed cheque) and will continue to renew membership as long as the post of Womens Officer remains. Thanks.

Lou
Bristol

Barbs For Barrington

Dear HOWL,

I am a life member of HSA of many years now, a senior citizen, and also a life member of LACS and feel deeply hurt by the remarks of Jim Barrington to the magazine, Anglers Mail, ie. "In no way do we support or want to be linked with those 'violent' people" (Letters, HOWL 36).

Does he mean by 'we', all LACS members? If so, Jim, count me out. To save all life we must have the guts to tell anglers that their 'sport' is also cruel, and until all genuine animal welfare groups support each other we have precious little hope of ending all the cruelty.

Connie M Bedmarz
Blackpool

Dear HOWL,

I reckon Jim Barrington needs stringing up on a fishing hook to be shot at by bad shots along with the rest of the snivelling LACS. See how they like what they condone.

A Birmingham Sab

PS. Keep up the good work, HOWL!

Fellhunting Barbarities

Dear HOWL,

I was interested to read Ralph Cook's article, 'Murder in the Mountains' (HOWL 36) and I think I can reinforce the barbarism that goes on there with this extract from an article on the Blencathra Hunt which appeared in the toff's magazine, The Tatler, about two years ago:

"This was the vixen's earth and three ugly little terriers – none of your Lakeland show-dog nonsense here – were slipped in between the rocks. More hounds arrived and Johnny whistled to them in the tune of a hunting horn and they stood around him unconsciously wagging. From inside the borran you could hear the sound of the terrier fighting the fox. It went on for an hour, a terrible screaming (Whingeing, Barry called it) mixed with silence and barks, followed by a complete silence. Badgers, rock-falls and flooded borrans will all kill a terrier, Barry told me, but a fox very rarely will. "These little dogs in here are nailers to fox, they're fox-fighting machines." Johnny looked benevolently on; the preferer of Birmingham was nearly crushed by a large bit of Cumberland rolling onto him, and eight feet down the terriers began to chew at the warm corpse in front of them. They wouldn't come out until it was finished and they were full."

'Barry' is Barry Todhunter, whipper-in. 'Johnny' is Johnny Richardson, Huntsman.

Now Mrs Thatcher claims, "I don't hunt myself but I don't object to others doing so." Frightening, isn't it, to think that we have a monster like that ruling us who defends the above activity?

Simon Wild
West Sussex

The Federation

Dear HOWL,

By now most HSA members will most likely have heard something about the Federation of Animal Rights Groups. Most of it most probably misinformed or downright lies. If anyone would like to know more about the Federation, please write to the address below for a copy of the first discussion document, or attend the national conference in Manchester on September 26th which will give everyone a chance to be involved in the future plans of the Federation.

Good sabbing

Tunbridge Wells Animal Rights.

SHOOTING MONUMENT 'DISAPPEARS'



A five-foot marble monument commemorating a day in August 1872 when six shooters killed 2,070 grouse on Wemmergill Moor, Lunesdale, was removed from its plinth in August this year by ALF activists.

A week later, employees at the Wrexham offices of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) were reunited with it as they arrived for work on the morning of the 'glorious' twelfth. The one-ton Victorian column had been dumped, suitably decorated, over the railings during the night and the gates padlocked.

Moor owner, Sir Anthony Milbank, great great grandson of one of the original shooters, had been under the impression until then that the monument had been stolen by marble thieves. "I should imagine it is very valuable", he said. "You can quite clearly see tyre tracks through the heather and we believe a winch must have been used to lift the marble... I used to fear that it might be daubed, but never for a minute expected it to disappear completely."

An ALF spokesperson said that the dumping of the monument by the BASC's gates was intended as a symbolic blockade to remind the public that shooters restrict access to the moors every year while the guns blaze in the heather. In the Guardian that day, the BASC's Director, John Anderton, declared that the ALF were "strange and sick people" and added somewhat hopefully that he thought the public were sick of them too.

Mass Murder

The Wemmergill monument recalls an era in British 'sporting' history when members of the aristocracy vied with one another to produce record kills. Hit by the agricultural depression of the 1870s and 80s, landowners began to rely more on income from their grouse moors than from their failing farms. Rents on previously unproductive stretches of moorland rose dramatically as wealthy shooters from the south queued up to destroy birds and pay what ever was asked of them for the privilege. Grouse were overbred in their thousands to meet the demand. In 1872, the year recorded on the monument, the 14,000 acres of Wemmergill Moor produced an estimated 17,073 grouse for the sporting guns to play with.

The practice of 'driving' birds towards the shooters, introduced at about this time, greatly increased the possibility of huge daily bags. In fact, bags went up by 800 per cent between 1880 and 1910.

In a climate like this, the Wemmergill death toll of 1872 was by no means unique. In 1888, Lord Walsingham claimed 1,070 grouse in a day with one gun on Blubberhouses Moor; the Marquis of Ripon boasted that he had accounted for 556,800 grouse in a single season and Earl Grey 370,728. Lord Walsingham's little effort was recalled by a friend of one of his former drivers in the Shooting Times of 28/7/1973. Desperate for a record kill, the noble lord ordered his drivers to work the birds backwards and forwards until by the end of the day "men killed more tired game with their flagsticks than were shot."

It was for protesting against the uncritical Romanticisation of this kind of senseless slaughter that John Anderton has now accused the ALF of being "strange and sick."

EARLY CUBHUNTING GETS OFF TO A BAD START

Cubhunting in the South of England gets under way at the beginning of August in some upland and forest areas, so hunt saboteurs return their attentions to foxhunting there much earlier than in other parts of the country.

The New Forest FH have been out on the first Saturday in August for at least four seasons, but were completely outplayed this year by the HSA. On August 1st, over a hundred hunt saboteurs travelled down to a pre-arranged meeting place in the forest at 5am, staked out the kennels and the houses of hunt officials and waited. The hunt decided not to come out, leaving the sabs not only satisfied that they had prevented the first cubhunt of the season, but free to head off and disrupt an afternoon's minkhunting in Sussex.

The New Forest FH ventured out of kennels for the first time three days later and attempted to cubhunt from the meet they had abandoned the previous Saturday. If they'd expected an easy time by going out midweek, they were soon disappointed. Coverts had been thoroughly prebeaten and sprayed by a handful of local saboteurs long before the hunt got to them and when the pack did arrive it was easily split four ways by a saboteur's horn.

On August 8th, four saboteurs discovered a gang of New Forest hunt terriermen interfering with a suspected badger sett, went closer to question them about it and were assaulted. One local resident did a bit of impromptu sabbing of her own that morning when, annoyed at having been woken up by the yapping of the hunt's dogs at 6am, she got out of bed, leapt into her landrover and drove it through the pack blowing an air horn loudly. Hunt officials were not pleased.

Fifteen saboteurs sent the hunt home after less than two hours hunting the following Saturday as once again the hounds were quickly split up through good hornblowing and huntsman and whips fought unsuccessfully to keep order.

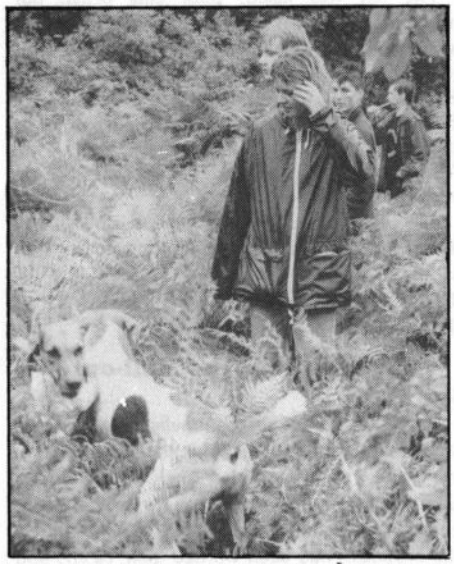
Despite warnings from the police that the new public order laws would be used against saboteurs in the Forest, there have been no arrests and the hunt have had yet another dismal start to their season. New Forest saboteurs would like to thank all those sabs from other areas who got up in the small hours of the morning to come down and keep the hunt kennel-bound on August 1st.

EXMOOR

Saboteurs from Barnstable were up before the lark on August 15th to welcome the Exmoor FH back for another season. As thick early mist lifted on the hills, Captain Wallace and his cronies were discovered entering terriers to a foxearth and preparing for a dig. As saboteurs moved in, confrontation with hunt thugs was unexpectedly avoided when the fox suddenly bolted and, in dense undergrowth, made a speedy departure. Hounds looked bewildered and then marked to ground at an empty earth. Sadly, a kill was later achieved with terrier and spade whilst saboteurs were occupied with taking the hounds.

WILTSHIRE

The Avon Vale FH were found skulking about in the bushes on the kennel estate at Spye Park on August 29th. It was their first time out under the direction of new huntsman, George Hyatt (a man already well known to Western area saboteurs) and it was not an occasion he will long wish to remember. When West Wilts HSA pinched his entire pack without even leaving the landrover, George became despondant and took his dogs home for Winalot.



Early Cubhunting. Two of Mr Goschen's hounds frolic in the bracken while saboteurs from Farmham call on more of the pack to join them. September 5th 1987.

West Wilts and Oxford saboteurs quickly took command of the Tedworth's first cubbing fixture on September 1st. The seven sabs called hounds out of covert and walked them for half a mile onto Salisbury Plain before hunt officials could work out what was happening. While the huntsman and whips began scouring the country, most of the remaining supporters and riders got bored and went home for breakfast.

MINK HUNT ROUTED

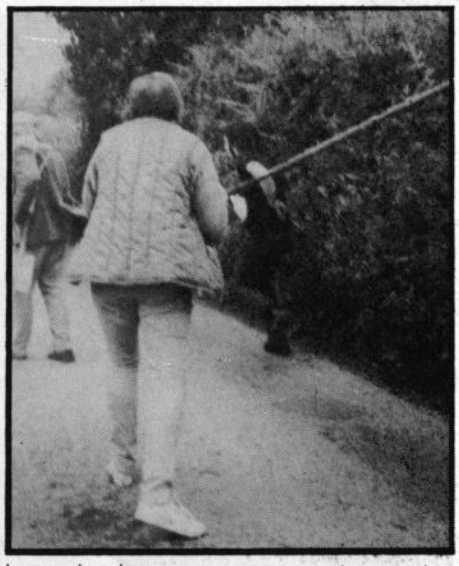
Twenty three saboteurs from the South East caught up with the Kent and Sussex Mink Hounds for the first time on June 27th and sent them home with a flea in their ear.

South of the meet (the Royal Oak at Merle common near Edenbridge), the river Eden had its banks and tributaries pre-sprayed while the hunt hung about waiting for the police to arrive. Hounds were then taken for a fruitless wander, first upstream for a hundred yards, then back again and downstream for about the same distance, before the huntsman took them back to the road and remonstrated with the police to have the saboteurs removed. He didn't make much headway with this so he gave up and took his dogs back to the pub, boxed them up and drove off.

The Brighton group's landrover gave chase and followed them to the Kent brook where hounds were hunted for an unproductive half hour. Saboteurs called the pack away from the huntsman again and again until he gave up once more and took refuge in a farm yard for a further half hour.

Not beaten yet, the hunt boxed up again and sped off, nearly accounting for two saboteurs who tried to block the path of the hound van as it moved away. Warming to the chase, saboteurs persued them all the way to Heathfield in Kent where the hunt finally stopped at a supporter's house and refused to come out. By the time the police turned up and asked the sabs to move on it was virtually tea-time and it was clear that no more attempts at hunting would take place that day.





ABOVE: Minkhunters raise their poles against hunt saboteurs but their aggression is ignored, even when the woman on the left whacks on sab across the back (right).

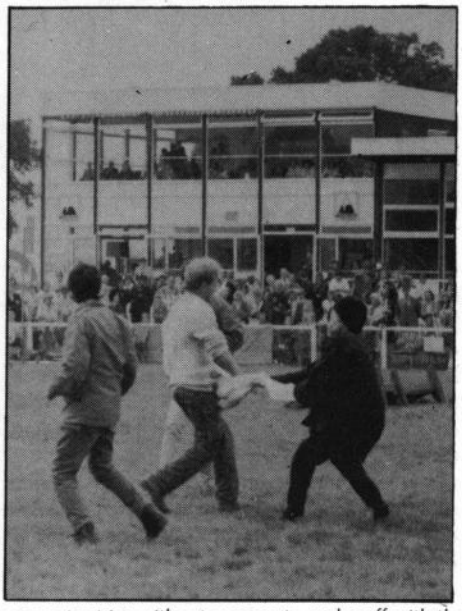


As saboteurs call away their pack for the umpteenth time, desperate minkhunters arrange themselves into a line (ABOVE) and 'beat' hounds back to the huntsman. It is not enough. Saboteurs quickly tire of this nonsense and bring the hunt to a complete standstill (BELOW).



HOUND PARADE DISRUPTED





Saboteurs run on at Ardingly in front of hounds from the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH while a hunt supporter tries without success to make off with the banner (right).

Hunt saboteurs from the South East held a successful banner demo against the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH at Ardingly on June 13th when the hunt tried to parade its hounds before the public.

Despite a foolish attempt by hunt supporters to keep saboteurs at home by gluing up the locks on a car door (and even someone's private home) during the night, the protest went ahead as planned.

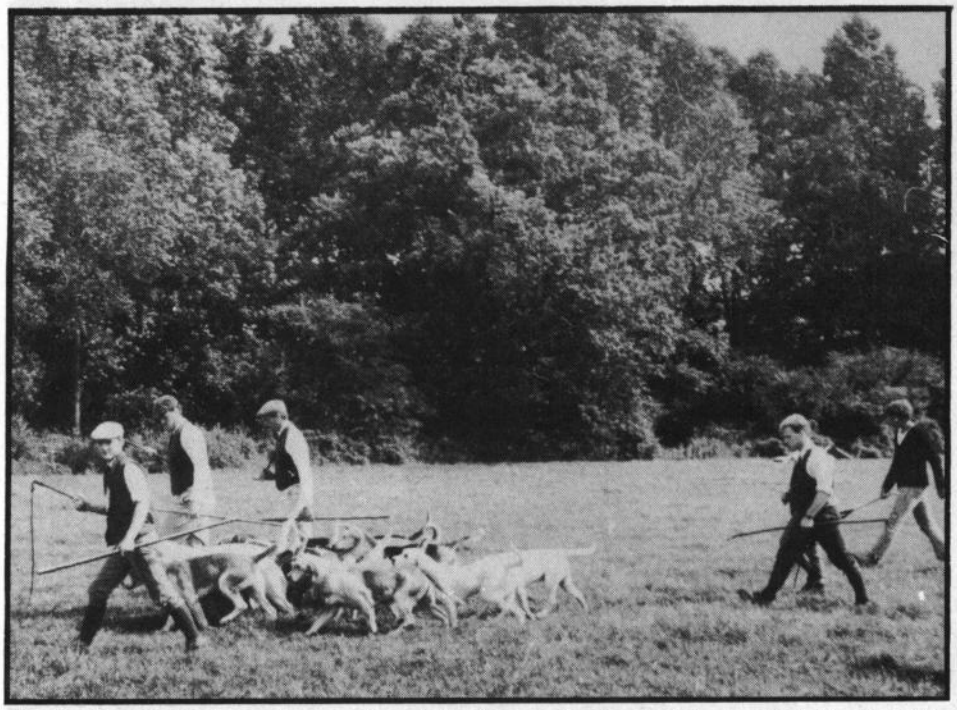
There were a number of violent assaults committed against the sabs both inside and outside the South of England showground by hunters who were obviously not prepared to risk letting the public read anti-hunting literature. One was attacked as he tried to enter the ring but the hunt was unable to prevent the invasion of 17 saboteurs as the hounds were entered and the banners were unfurled.

ANOTHER MINKHUNT RUN TO GROUND

The Wealden MH in Sussex gave hunt saboteurs a good run for their money on August 1st but were eventually tracked down with a bit of inspired map work by a few dedicated activists.

The hound van initially gave saboteurs the slip as they tried to follow, so they split into three groups with a map each and used their knowledge of minkhunting and a bit of common sense to find the hunt grouped around a bridge over the river Arun soon afterwards. Banks were immediately pre-sprayed to mask scent and as soon as the 15 hunters sighted the saboteurs ahead of them they turned on their heels and walked back to the meet. A police helecopter and two squad cars were called in for reasons known only to the Chief Constable of Sussex and the saboteurs were evicted from fields adjoining the river.

But hunt followers, probably a bit miffed by the disturbance caused by the sound of the helicopter, called it a day and went home, followed not long afterwards by the huntsman and hounds.



The Wealden Minkhunt goes home on August 1st after spending the day being humiliated by the HSA.

MOTOR BOAT TACKLES ANGLERS

Hunt saboteurs from Oxford celebrated the opening of the fishing season on June 16th by taking a motor boat out onto the Thames and cruising between Oxford and Sandford where a number of anglers had taken up position.

Handfuls of gravel were scattered around each fisherman's float to disturb the water and keep fish at a safe distance. As the saboteurs returned along the river to Oxford, they found far fewer anglers left on the banks than they had encountered on the way out. The same HSA group has been busy removing angling match marking pegs on several local rivers throughout the summer. Angling clubs in the Oxford area have now abandoned the practice of putting their pegs out the night before a match takes place for fear they will all disappear before morning!

In July, three Norwich hunt saboteurs went out to pre-feed an angling match at the University of East Anglia with bread crumbs. A local newspaper report on the match confirmed that there was a mysterious absense of fish willing to bite along all the stretches of river the group dealt with.

Anglers have also been under attack this summer from an organisation called CRACK – the Campaign for River Access for Canoes and Kayaks – whose members have vandalised fishing club property in Yorkshire and taken part in a day of defiance and confrontation with anglers by trespassing on a private stretch of the river Ure. Apparently, reports Campaign for the Abolition of Angling's newsletter, Pisces, confrontation between anglers and canoeists is quite common. Canoeists want access to as much white water as possible in order to create slalom courses. Such courses make fishing impossible.

RSPCA GOES CAGEY OVER UNFIT HOUND

The RSPCA has refused to divulge details of a visit one of its inspectors made to the kennels of the Kent and Sussex Minkhounds in July.

The kennels were visited by the Society after hunt saboteurs notified them that Crackshot, a hound belonging to the hunt, had been seen and photographed with a large and bulbous tumour on its chest. Crackshot scratched persistently at the growth during an afternoon's hunting near Edenbridge, causing it to bleed, and was obviously in some discomfort.

Hunters tried to prevent saboteurs from photographing the hound and responded angrily when questioned about its condition.

Crackshot was given to the Kent and Sussex by the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH some time ago when the tumour was considerably smaller. Instead of operating to remove it in the normal manner, the minkhunt has allowed the growth to swell up and had clearly done nothing to treat the animal.

A letter received by a saboteur from an RSPCA Superintendent states:

"I am sure you will appreciate that during the course of enquiries, information is often obtained from those complained of which is of a confidential nature. In order to remain effective, that condifentiality must be maintained and details cannot be disclosed, certainly not for publication. The enquiry has certainly been dealt with to our satisfaction."

This peculiarly covert reply leaves us guessing as to what has actually happened. Presumably the hound has either been operated upon, or put down, or given a new home. Alternatively of course, Crackshot is still at the kennels in the same condition, and the RSPCA were simply misled when their inspector called.

This last option is not out of the question, for the devious behaviour of the hunt's kennel staff was demonstrated before the date of the inspector's visit when a saboteur purporting to be from the RSPCA phoned the kennels and asked for information about the state Crackshot was in. This was just days after the hound had been seen and photographed by the HSA. Because the kenneler did not realise that the caller knew otherwise, she claimed that the matter of Crackshot's tumour had been dealt with "ages ago". A downright lie, as our photograph shows.

Continued enquiries into Crackshot's welfare are being made and we'll be covering all future developments in HOWL.



Crackshot, as photograped on June 27th, hunting with the Kent and Sussex Minkhounds. The bleeding tumour (which the dog is scratching at) is clearly visible.

FISH LEFT TO DIE AS TESCO MARCHES ON

Hundreds of fish were left to suffocate at the botton of a dried-up river bed when the water was re-routed into an artificial channel to make way for a supermarket, Watford residents have claimed.

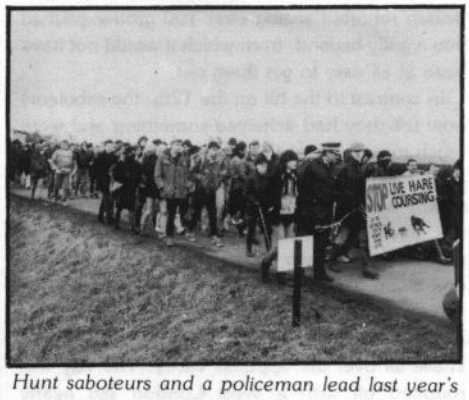
The river Colne was diverted in May because it was in the way of a Tesco superstore under construction in the town.

According to a Thames Water Authority spokesperson, "every effort was made to rescue the fish" by 'experts' equipped with nets and buckets, although "it was inevitable that certain of the smaller fish would die." In fact, they left thousands of stranded crayfish, dace, chub, roach and trout behind them.

Mr Arthur Crawley, a Watford resident, said, Fortunately, the workforce of several small workshops were more humane and about seven or eight self-employed workers pooled their resources and collectively netted and saved about 2,500 to 3,000. Yet, in spite of their efforts and at great labour cost to themselves, many hundreds of fish still died." This was denied by both the Water Authority and the site contractors.

In a great civic ceremony attended by the mayor of Watford, Tesco executives and property developers, the new concrete waterway, devoid of either weeds or reeds, was restocked with 200 fish by local schoolchildren. And whilst that was going on, the Water Authority was fighting to hold back a slick of spilt heating oil a couple of hundred yards upstream with an inflatable boom. The Authority said, "We are told by our pollution people that the film is so light that it wouldn't have any bad effect on the fish", but another resident, Mr Bill Howard, was not convinced. The smell from the spillage was so strong, he had to shut all the windows in his house, he said. Whoever was responsible had shown "a complete disregard for wildlife... Now they're putting fish in the water knowing that there is pollution in the river. It's crazy."

MARCH AGAINST THE WATERLOO CUP



Hunt saboteurs and a policeman lead last year's march against the Waterloo Cup. NACC have more ambitious plans for 1988.

The National Anti Coursing Council (NACC) is appealing to HSA members to join them in a march from the coursing fields at Altcar, Merseyside, to Downing Street, in February 1988.

It is hoped that more than eighty marchers will complete the two-week walk which is timed to coincide with next year's Waterloo Cup. The NACC petition will be formally presented at the front door of the Prime Minister at journey's end.

Prime Minister Thatcher is just the person to receive it of course. When she came to power in 1979, the BFSS was acutely worried by the support she had given to a Hare Coursing Abolition bill in the Commons. Her conscience is thought to have been 'bought off' by her sister, Muriel Cullen, after a BFSS scheme to get at Thatcher through her has put into effect.

During the run-up to the march it will be up to all of us who oppose bloodsports to help the NACC to reach their target of 250,000 signatures on the petition. Enclosed with this HOWL is a copy of the NACC petition. Please do all you can to get it filled and returned to them before Christmas at the latest.

Further information is available from NACC at PO Box 8, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 0DX.

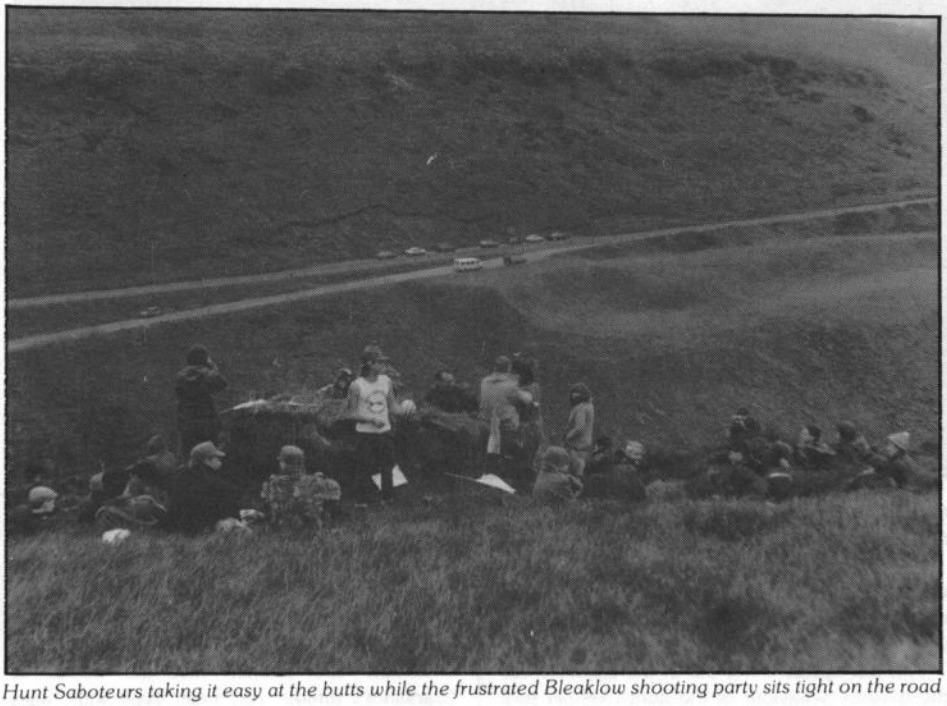
ETIQUETTE BREACHED AT HUNT BALL

Four Devonshire foxhunters were hospitalised in the early hours of July 19th when two hired musicians at a hunt ball took offence on being told they could not join in the party.

Tiverton Hunt officials tried to eject the musicians after the band had played its final number. "They were dressed in open-necked shirts and slacks and were quite obviously not invited guests", rasped an indignant Peter Pugsley, hunt chairman, after the incident. "They tried to chat up young women who were with partners and in parties. It was not etiquette."

Not wishing to leave, the musicians stood their ground and a fight ensued during which four hunters were carried out nursing wounds from bottles and a microphone stand.

SHOOTERS SILENCED BY SUNBATHING SABS!



Hunt Saboteurs taking it easy at the butts while the frustrated Bleaklow shooting party sits tight on the road below.

Unlike last year, a Peak District moor was lined up for an intended shoot on the 'Glorious Twelfth.' Our response was 60 saboteurs from 14 groups arriving at Crowden Moor at 6.00 in the morning ready to pile on, get to the butts and occupy them.

All the prior uncertainties about police actions came to nothing and the sabs were able to stroll onto the moor unhindered. The weather forcast was expected to be in the saboteurs' favour and this was certainly the case. Visibility was down to 20 yards which rendered the planned pre-beat dangerous so this was abandoned while a small party of sabs went up to the nearest line of butts. All due precautions were observed in the appalling weather as they remained in C.B. contact with the main party of sabs at the vehicles. A head count of was also taken.

A waiting game now took place with much to-ing and fro-ing on the parts of the game-keeper and a couple of park rangers.

Around 10 o'clock a party of keepers went on to the moor seemingly intent on checking that there had been no damage to the butts. The remainder of the sabs followed them as the mist began to lift and it finally looked like the shoot could be on!

However, it was not to be. Once agian in the Peak District the mere presence of a large number of sabs on the moor meant the shooters weren't going to get a look in. At around 2.00 in the afternoon the sabs decided their job was done and they left the moor. By this time boredom was beginning to get the upper hand but all credit to those who stuck it out to make the day successful. successful.

Target

Not being prepared to let the shooters off lightly this year, a second grouse hit took place on Saturday 15th August. The target this time was North Bleaklow moor a couple of miles from Crowden. Crowden Moor was lined up for the shooting on this day also. Unfortunately, only half the number of saboteurs who had promised to come turned up. This meant the planned sab on Crowden had to be abandoned.

Once on North Bleaklow the saboteurs quickly established a pre-beat line and cleared a large part of the moor of birds. The line worked very well as it was largely kept straight and fairly noisy. A saboteur at the butts over which the birds were beaten reported seeing over 100 grouse pushed into a gully beyond, from which it would not have been at all easy to get them out.

In contrast to the hit on the 12th, the saboteurs now felt they had acheived something and were much more content to lounge around for the rest of the day in occupation of the moors. Various means were now found by the saboteurs to pass the time including watching the inexplicable movements of the attendant police vehicles; organising a party to obtain provisions for crisp sandwiches, playing rounders, and sending a Rochdale sab on a highly amusing wild goose chase all over the opposite valley. The day was rounded off with a West London sab nearly wetting himself as news that his team was winning was relayed over the C.B.

At 4 o'clock the sabs gave up their sunbathing at the end of yet another successful hit. On their return to Huddersfield the West London group were not to be seen for dust as they wasted no time finding the nearest pub.

. Further hits on grouse shoots are planned for this season. For details contact the Huddersfield group.

Dugg Carre & Ian Jennings.

BAN ON THE BADSWORTH

The Badsworth FH have been banned from the banks and tow-paths of the Stainforth and Keadby canal near Fisklake in Yorkshire.

British Waterways have refused to renew the hunt's licence "in view of the damage that horses have been causing to the canal banks and the risk to other tow-path users." Canal tow-paths are increasingly popular with walkers.

The favourable attitude of the Water Authority in this case means that there is scope for further bans in other areas if enough public pressure can be brought to bear.

GERMAN HUNTERS TRAIN DOGS ON LIVE CATS

In its edition of April 15th, the leading German magazine, Stern, reveals how some German hunting dogs are trained to kill and retrieve the wild animals shot and injured by their huntsman masters.

It shows how the breeders of such dogs trap cats, usually by means of cages placed on the outskirts of towns or villages, and then throw them to the dogs in tracts of open countryside where they have no means of escape. This serves the double purpose of making the dogs more savage and increasing their selling price, as many hunters are happy to pay generously for a dog with a proven killing instinct.

Questioned about these practices, the Hesse Hunters Association denied all knowledge of them but German animal rights campaigners have since discovered the identity of several of the culprits, using photographs supplied by Stern. One of them turns out to be a church minister (Pfarrer Bock of Fritzlar-Lohne) who has admitted to regularly using cats as live-bait for training hunting dogs. According to his wife, the minister also goes hunting with his bishop.

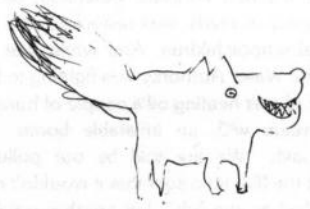
Dennis Stuart.

HUNT DISBANDS THROUGH LACK OF INTEREST

The 223 year-old Wensleydale Harriers have called it a day because increasing costs are no longer being met.

The source of the footpack's impoverishment is the complete lack of interest shown in its activities by young people in the area. The recruitment of new members to take over the reins from decrepit hunt officials who can no longer keep up with their hounds has therefore been virtually impossible. The joint master, Guy Thompson, is 74.

The hunt's 13-couple pack has been re-kennelled with hunts in Norfolk, Somerset, Staffordshire and Jersey.



A TACTICAL DIGEST

Ian Jennings answers some often asked questions

What is a reed horn?

Basically the reed horn is a normal looking horn with a metal reed in the mouthpiece. The idea is that instead of having to vibrate your lips to produce a note, you simply blow straight into it to vibrate the reed. This also requires less puff. The note is similar to that produced by a Cotswold and is varied by tonguing in the same manner.

Unfortunately the question of their availability would seem to be a big problem, just as it is with Cotswolds at the moment. Keep your eyes open when wandering round antique/second-hand fairs and junk shops as finding such a horn would be an obvious boost to any group who has people who can't get the hang of blowing a Cotswold.

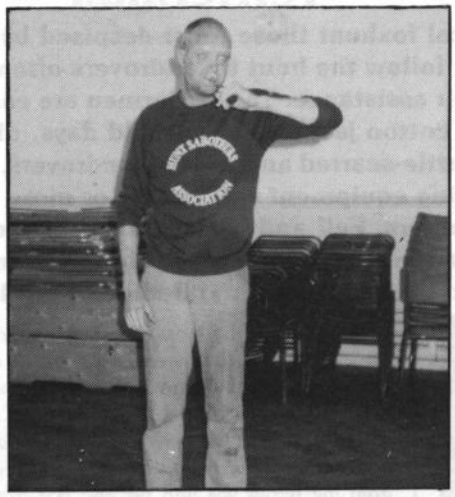
What are the particular problems for foxes in kale and sugarbeet and how should saboteurs respond?

These two crops are usually maturing in fields in some areas around the time of cubhunting and are often not taken in until the first frosts. The problems arise from the plants' stalky, broad-leaved nature which affects the quarry rules. The plants are around a foot to a foot and a half in height. This means that a fox's, and more so a foxcub's speedy passage through the crops is greatly obstructed as they have to weave their way between the stems. A foxhound, being much taller than an adult fox, can bound over the crop and gain on the quarry very quickly. Therefore, we have to ignore the quarry rule which says that in the initial stages of the chase the quarry will pull away from the pack.

Because the movement of air through and immediately above these crops will be interrupted by their physical form, it is thought that a fox in kale or beet loses its awareness of wind direction. Therefore, saboteurs tend to ignore the wind direction quarry rule when tackling a pack in kale/beet. Similarly, the disrupted flow of air through kale/beet may not bring the scent and sound of the approaching pack to the fox very well so it may not realise very quickly that it is likely to, or has, become the quarry.

Furthermore, we have the added problem that the crop's height means we will not see the passage of the fox through it and cannot tell in which direction it is heading.

Tactically speaking, the ideal would be to prevent a pack from being entered into kale or beet. This is usually very difficult. On the whole we have to plan for when the hounds are in the crop. Tactically this situation is nothing short of a sabbing nightmare. My experience says that if there is a fox in a kale field you can act to give it two chances. You could try getting the pack out from the direction they've gone in. The noise you make might stir the fox into getting a move on in front of the pack. If the hounds won't answer your calls you will have to follow their path in and rate them back from the front. The other much more dodgy approach would be to hunt the pack through the kale/beet very quickly in the hope that they will miss any fox in there. If they do get onto a fox you should observe the direction of the line, if possible, and attempt to call the pack off, from behind preferably. The problem here is that kale/beet is notorious for its chopping potential so you may have less than 50 yards of chase in which to act successfully. To make things worse, the pack may not respond anyway.



The winner of this year's hornblowing competition letting rip at the Nottingham AGM.

So we can see that kale and sugarbeet are fraught with lethal problems for which there appear to be no easy answers. I have often been left hoping that the field of ominous dark green leaves into which the pack has just been cast is either blank or that the quarry can somehow make it to more open country where the chase becomes more predictable.

What is the heel line?

When a pack is running the heel line it is simply following a scent in the reverse and incorrect direction. The pack will have no idea that it is mistaken as there is no immediate directional clue in the scent or the way it lies (this is why a pack which has checked is always cast forwards).

The opportunity to get a pack running on the heel line should always be seized by saboteurs whenever possible if they have stopped the pack or if it has checked.

If you are in front of a stopped pack a combination of whips and severe, persistent rating should get hounds going in the desired direction. Once they are running they can quite safely be hunted-on by whatever means appropriate, bearing in mind hazards such as roads and railways.

Is the Cotswold horn still an effective sabbing device

In short the answer to this leading question has to be 'No, not to the degree it once was.' However, this does not mean that we should by any means be thinking about abandoning what is still a highly important tool for hunt sabotage.

The problem arises through the fact that probably from the moment horns were introduced to hunt sabotage (with phenomenal success) hunts have been breeding and training their hounds to depend less on the horn as a means of instruction and more on the voice, and obey only a certain horn pitch and style of horn blowing unique to a particular huntsperson.

The result for us nowadays is that with most foxhound packs the saboteur hornblower has to choose his/her moment to intervene very carefully and be of a standard comparable to the huntsperson whose pack is being sabotaged. A very few F/H packs will, during the regular season, answer a hunt-on call while being walked down the road or cast. A few more can be pulled off a line while in full cry. However, these are most usually packs which are not, or have not been, sabbed very often. Saboteurs would only cost the hunt a couple of day's 'sport' each season so it's not worth the bother of them having to alter their packs in any way.

In the case of packs which are done regularly, while saboteurs are around the huntsperson has adopted a technique whereby the hounds are kept as close as possible during the approach to the cast and during it. This is to increase the likelihood of the huntsperson being able to counteract any usually distant calls from saboteurs by the mere proximity of his/her voice. Add to this the fact that the hounds will be trained to respond to the voice rather than the horn when they want instructions and we can see that at this stage in the foxhunting procedure the horn-blowing saboteur's lot is going to be an increasingly unhappy one. As one of the occasions when the huntsperson's control over the pack is likely to be at its most vulnerable, when the pack requires instructions during the cast, is now increasingly devoid of the opportunism saboteurs need to be effective with the horn.

Similarly, it is increasingly rare for saboteurs with a horn to be able to pull the pack of an often sabbed hunt off a line when they are in full cry. The increasing steadiness being bred into hounds as a result of generally poorer scent and greater foil probably doesn't and won't help here either.

What are we, therefore, to do? Experience should tell us that any approach to the cast made by saboteurs eager to get in range for their voices to be effective will be greeted by the hunt abandoning the draw and shooting off to the next.

There will undoubtedly be room for a correct and well-timed horn call to be effective during the cast. Unfortunately the above trend will make this more of a rarity.

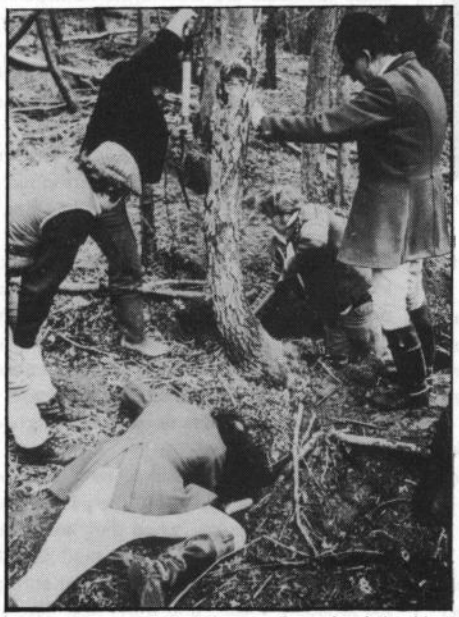
A much more clear-cut moment to intervene in both fox and hare hunting remains when hounds check. This usually happens at a ditch, river, stream, road, hedgerow, or where grass changes to plough. Hounds who have lost or overrun a scent will also eventually check when they realise their error. In the case of foxhounds they will mill around waiting to be re-cast by the huntsperson. Beagles and Bassetts will often re-cast themselves naturally. In all cases, from the saboteurs' point of view, a 'helping-hand' won't go amiss. Again, well-timed, quality horn calling should do the trick on a lot of F/Hs and on some Beagle and Bassett packs although generally they are likely to be more responsive to voice calls. Better still to cut across the line after the hare has passed and stop the pack.

So the motto of all this is, get brushed up on your horn blowing, especially with regard to the calls which are unique to certain hunts. More than this, think very carefully about when you should use the horn. In my opinion a lot of saboteurs use it too much in too willy-nilly a fashion. I feel economy and recognition of that decisive moment are going to be the keys to successful horn calling in the future.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

HOWL takes a look at the sordid world of the working Terrierman

Of all the followers of the typical foxhunt those most despised by hunt soboteurs are the terriermen. These people (usually exclusively male), follow the hunt in landrovers often in convoy awaiting the moment when the huntsman calls upon them for their assistance. The terriermen are easily spotted on any hunt: they tend to wear flat caps and battered old waxed cotton jackets, or on mild days, dirty faded chucky jumpers with pushed up sleeves. In the rear of their old, battle-scarred and muddy landrovers, tethered amongst an assortment of picks, spades, drain-rods and other digging equipment will be one or more terriers. These may be of the recognisable breeds such as Jack Russells, Borders, Fell and "Patterdales" or cross-breeds of dubious ancestry. When not digging for a fox which has been driven by the hounds to take refuge in some underground sanctuary, this motley crowd will be found gossiping into their Citizen Band Radios or lurking near the local country beerhouse.



Peter Cross and Sir Newton Rycroft of the New Forest FH lends a hand as their terriermen dig around the roots of another young tree in search of a fox to kill.

Despite their appearance the terriermen are an important element in any hunt without which "sport" would be sporadic and slow. Many hunts which receive regular attention from hunt saboteurs will mobilise and organise their terriermen along the lines of an unoffical militia designed at best to dissuade effective hunt sabotage or at worst to "deal effectively with the sab menace". The more traditional work of the terrierman brigade, however, is to ensure the quality of the sport. Before the hunt meets local terrier lads will be found scouring the countryside over which the hounds are expected to hunt blocking the entrances to every badger sett, fox earth, rabbit warren field drain and any other place which might afford a fox sanctuary. Although many holes will be left unknown, most earths will be blocked and the fox running from earth to earth will be denied respite and have to keep running. If by chance it finds an unblocked hole, this will be noted by the terriermen and blocked on future occasions.

Again, in the event of a fox going to ground in a hitherto unknown and consequently unblocked earth it is to the terriermen that the hunt must turn to rescue the "sport".

It is the task of the terriermen under these circumstances to "bolt" the fox so that it can be hunted further or if required by the hunt Master or landowner to dig it out and kill it.

The terrier is the most important tool in both these tasks. A terrier is entered into one of the holes and once underground it will seek out the fugitive fox and bay at it. Meanwhile, above ground the hunt will stay well back as quiet as possible. In many cases the fox, under pressure from the terrier will turn tail and bolt from the earth. In fashionable hunt countries the hunt will give the desperate animal "law" (a head start), and then put the hounds on its scent again. Other hunts, preferring to achieve a higher tally of foxes killed with deny the fox law and put the hounds on to it straight away giving it little real chance (see Howl 36).

Some foxes, however, as if aware of the fate in store for them refuse to bolt and the terriermen will have to start digging down to the fox and its combatant, the terrier. In the event of the hunt Master or landowner wanting the fox killed, the terriermen will normally have to dig to the fox but some will simply put a purse net over the hole entrances and hope the fox will be bolted by the terrier into one of the nets. Once captured the fox can be despatched with a humane killer, spade handle etc.

Digging to a fox can be very slow process taking many hours and normally if a dig is necessary the hounds will be taken away to seek fresh foxes. The normal practice is to block all the earth's entrances except one into which a terrier is entered. The terrier will seek out the fox and having found it will "bay" at it. The terriermen then have to start digging following the sound of the terrier's barking or digging down at a point indicated as being directly above the terrier by signals emmitted by a special collar on the terrier and received by a "bleeper".

Underground the beleaguered fox rarely accepts the annoying attention of the terrier without taking action. Hunts, at least the more fashionable ones, prefer terriers not to fight with a fox, its purpose is either to bolt or "hold at bay" its fox but few terriers will take a bite without giving one back. Less restrained terriers are popular with many hunt terriermen and whilst the terrier owners dig through the earth, the fox and terrier are doing battle and sustaining injuries. If you arranged a similar duel between two dogs, you would be unquestionably in breach of the law.

War of Attrition

Of the 30,000 foxes killed annually by British hunts well over half are killed following a dig and an underground war of attrition with one terrier or more. A further per centage will have sought sanctuary underground only to be bolted by a terrier. Without the terrierman and his four-legged companions, foxhunting as we know it would be impossible.

Being a hunt terrierman gives prestige to the man in question and also ensures that there is always land to work his terriers on but being a hunt terrierman also means that the person must be in attendance at every hunt; most terriermen are unpaid for their work and many are not prepared to be committed in this way, preferrring to work as and when they wish. Even official hunt terriermen will operate on non-hunting days. As a result more foxes and other animals are killed by freelance terriermen working alone or in small gangs on land on which they have permission to hunt or on land where they do not.

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people working terriers on live quarry. This increase has partly been a result of the publicity terrier work has received thanks to the holding of literally hundreds of working terrier shows throughout Britain. Such shows began in the 1960s and attracted spectators and exhibitors from both town and country. The rapid rise in unemployment in our urban centres during the late 1970s and early 1980s left thousands of potential recruits into the working terrier world with plenty of time on their hands but little money in their pockets. Working terriers to live quarry demands little financial outlay but requires access to the countryside, thus the most significant increases in the numbers of terrier enthusiasts occurred in those areas where depressed suburban areas were in close proximity to the countryside. The only limits on the number of terrier owners working their dogs is the availability of land on which permission to hunt could be obtained and the amount of quarry available.

Where permission to hunt can not be obtained many terrier owners will risk arrest under the complicated "trespass in pursuit" laws and where quarry becomes difficult to find due to over hunting, keen enthusiasts simply travel further.

Working Terrier Clubs

Working terrier enthusiasts are well served by numerous local working terrier clubs most of which are members of the recently formed National Working Terrier Club (set up with the backing of the British Field Sports Society which if the truth were out sees terriermen and the types that this lot attract – badgers diggers, cock-fighter, dog-fighters and poachers – as a threat to the "good name of fieldsports). Also organised on a national and regional basis is the Fell and Moorland Working Terrier Club formed in 1967 by Cyril Tyson from Cumbria (now an old man),



"We terrier men 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). A bunch of terrier men determined to enjoy themselves even if it takes all night.

to assist in organising the rescue of terriers trapped underground. The F&MWTC is reported to have a staggering 6,000 members.

The terrierman's quarry animals include fox, wild cat, mink, rat, rabbit and (for those willing to break the law), the badger.

It is, however, against the fox and the badger that most terriermen want to pit their terriers. Unfortunately, as in all facets of human life, the unpleasant characteristic called pride enters the scene at this juncture. Terriermen, like anglers, are constantly boasting about their exploits and about the qualities of their dogs. In the eyes of the proud terrier owner, the most important quality in their dog will be the degree of "gameness". The word "game" means courage, tenacity, the degree to which the dog will stand and fight its opponent. A dog lacking courage is despised and to prove a dog's degree of courage it will be pitted against fox and badger and encouraged to fight. If it gives as good as it gets and stands firm, if the dog will close with its fox and kill it (one terrier is not expected to kill the powerful badger alone but simply to fight it), if the dog will do these things it is considered game and will be described as "hard" and is, therefore, a valuable commodity indeed.

The greater interest in hard fighting terriers and their breeding means simply a greater degree of suffering for both the victims and the terriers.

So great is the desire to prove the abilities of their dogs that prosecutions for badger digging and baiting under the terms of the Badger Act 1973 are currently running at some 40-50 a year. We can be assured that as with all convictions for criminal offences they represent only the tip of the iceberg.

It has also been shown by the spate of prosecutions for dogfighting and cock fighting in 1984, 1985 and 1986 that terriermen are linked to these cruel activities as well as badger digging.

Taking Action

So what can be done about this activity?

For several years now a network of Badger Protection Groups have organised Badger Protection Patrols (often involving hunt saboteurs), to watch badger setts in areas where badger digging is a common occurrence. They have had an impact on badger digging in these areas, forcing the diggers to go elsewhere, entailing long journeys into unknown country. The badger patrol do not intervene but simply report the dig whilst in progress to the police. Obviously an expansion of these patrols would offer badgers even more security.

Unfortunately such patrols do not help foxes. As we know from our experiences in the hunting field, hunt saboteurs can prevent the digging out of foxes which have gone to ground during a hunt. This experience could be similarly used against freelance fox diggers if they are found with a dig in progress. It is always worth while informing the land owner who may not have given permission to the diggers to enter their property.

Unfortunately the scope of action against this sort of unorganised activity is somewhat limited and other solutions may need to be found.

In recent years it has, however, been noticed that a loophole in the 1911 Protection of Animals Act which was designed specifically to deny protection to wild animals may open the door to prosecuting working terrier enthusiasts.

According to the Act is is a criminal offence to:

"cause any unnecessary suffering, or, being the owner, permit any unnecessary suffering to be caused to any animal....."

and also anyone who:

"shall cause, procure, or assist at the fighting or baiting of any animal....."

is also committing a criminal offence. Unfortunately because "any animal" in the Act is defined as a domestic or captive animal (specifically excluding all wild animals), protection is not granted under this Act to any fox or badger. However, terriers, being domestic animals are protected under the Act and by encouraging terriers to fight with a fox and receive injuries, terrier workers are surely permitting unnecessary suffering and the fighting of a domestic animal.

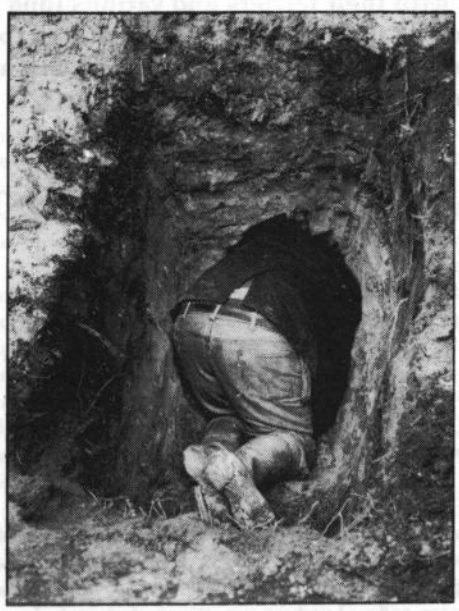
Test Case

Of course the HSA was not the only organisation to see the potential in this, although unfortunately the lack of funds prohibits the HSA taking legal action against a terrierman.

In August 1985 the RSPCA took out a test case against four men who used two terriers to kill a fox. The trial was held at Bingley Magistrates Court, West Yorkshire. The men denied the charge that they procured the fighting of dogs with a fox in a local wood. Unfortunately, despite that the facts of the case were not denied and that two of the dogs had facial injuries the men were cleared on the grounds that the men did not intend that their dogs should fight with the fox.

It is clear that if those are the grounds for the acquittal then success in future cases will rest upon the prosecution being able to show that the terriermen involved must be aware that fighting between the terriers and the fox are inevitable. Clearly the failure to succeed in this single case is not grounds to give in and it would be useful to know if the RSPCA is still considering future attempts at securing a conviction under the 1911 Act. Success would of course make the working of terriers against any animal likely to fight and inflict injuries on a terrier illegal, and will have foiled the efforts of those MPs and Lords who in 1911 ensured that a person could do anything they liked to a wild animal simply so that their precious bloodsports could continue unrestricted.

Ralph Cook



'A LITTLE SHORT OF HIDEOUS'

The Fate of the Working Terrier

Whilst it is true that many terriers used by hunt terriermen are expected merely to bay at their fox to encourage it to bolt or so that the terriermen can dig down to it rather than to attack the fox, it does happen. Hard, fighting terriers are favoured in some remote hunting countries, ie the Lakelands, Borders and moorland countries, but are preferred more especially by terrier owners operating individually or in gangs and not in concert with a fox hunt. Indeed many of these working terrier owners regard a dog which does not engage in battle with its fox as a coward, lacking in mettle and useless for work.

According to D. Brian Plummer, a famous name in the world of the artisan hunter and a prolific author of books about lurchers, poachers and working terriers:

"Hard terriers.....are becoming more common each year, terriers which quickly throttle a fox, terriers which close with their quarry and take a bad mauling as a result of the encounter, terriers which tackle badgers in catch-as-can duels and get torn to pieces."

How a terrier actually kills a fox underground is a matter of conjecture, Plummer tells us that at least one authority on working terriers believes that the dogs learn a knack for killing a fox, eschewing the jaw-to-jaw duels beloved of the terrier owners at the beginning of this century. Such terriers go for a throat hold and strangle the fox with their powerful jaws. The type of injuries frequently seen and described prove that such killing methods are not common and that both the fox and the terrier usually engage in single combat of a most vicious nature.

Frank Buck, a leading breeder of black-type fell terriers once gave one of his colleagues a terrier which later died of fox bites. In 1921 Fred Barker, a Lakeland hunter owned a terrier which had lost



half its face through repeated encounters with foxes and was called "Chowt" (chewed, in Lakeland parlance) — faced Rock.

Michael Shaw in his book, "The Modern Working Terrier" wrote:

"A terrier prevented from retreating and whose face is inches away from a snapping, biting fox often takes savage punishment. Old badger diggers often talk of the havoc wreaked when a terrier working close to a badger is trapped by a similar earth fall, but a fox, fighting for its life and trying to escape by pushing the terrier out of the earth, can cause just as much damage to terriers."

he adds that:

"the damage a fox can inflict is also a little short of hideous."

Further he describes how "a vet based near Droitwich" being "presented with a dog, the mask (face), of which had been removed, as though it had been skinned with a knife" by a fox.

He gives an illuminating comment on terrier owners when he says:

"It is always bewildering to see owners of terriers, proud owners at that, parading badly bitten terriers with faces still swollen from recent combat, around the shows. Such terriers are best left at home to recover before taking to shows."."

Clearly, foxes which inflict such injuries have not died an instantaneous or painless death.

The terriers themselves face one further hazard; when underground terriers are always at risk of becoming trapped. Many are lost each year and presumably suffer a lingering death in the cold, dark and damp tunnels of ancient earths, potholes, fissures etc. In 1967 the Fell & Moorland Working Terrier Club (F&MWTC), was created to provide a national terrier rescue network, today it takes on hundreds of rescues more than half of which are unsuccessful the dog being discovered dead after many days of digging, or the rescue being abandoned due to the risk to human life. Even dogs rescued alive often die later as a result of exposure or injury. Only the toughest dogs stand a chance of full recovery after an ordeal lasting several days.

Shaw states that he has "dug out many dead terriers" and adds that "if hunters told the truth, and I'm afraid few do (?), many would admit that their rescued terriers have either become very ill or have died shortly after rescue."

It seems incredible that in a country which provides a degree of legal protection for domestic animals (contravention of which can on conviction result in a term, albeit short, of imprisonment), that the working of terriers to live quarry, in subterranean places entailing a high risk of injury or lingering death should not be regarded as an illegal activity.

Ralph Cook

THE LURCHER BOYS

Most groups will have noticed an increase in a certain breed of hunt follower over the recent years – the group of thugs (frequently of the male gender) who lean over the bonnets of battered out Landrovers and pick-ups with their terriers and various long dogs. They are not the hunt terrier men and their dogs are rarely entered to fox when the hunt is around. They do attend the occasional foxhunt, but usually to deter saboteurs and have a ruck, than follow the hounds.

These people are the real dirt of the bloodsport world and their connections with badger-baiting, dog and cock-fighting are strong. They work purely for pleasure and advertise themselves as "pest controllers". The methods used are many; as well as digging out foxes with terriers, they will bolt them into nets or bolt them and shoot them. A popular method of fox control is to slip lurcher dogs onto the bolted fox and course it, as with hare-coursing. The fox has little chance of getting away as, unlike fox-hounds, the lurcher is bred for short, fast, sprints and rapidly brings down the slower fox.

Intelligent Dogs

Lurcher dogs are cross-breeds, usually involving a sight hound such as a greyhound, whippet or salki and a more intelligent dog such as a border collie. Lurchers are strong, fast and intelligent dogs, once kept by gypsies and other poachers to take rabbits for the pot. Now there are well over 5,000 kept in Britain and they are used to take hares, rabbits, rats, foxes and even deer by a whole variety of bloodsports enthusiasts.

Lurchers are also used to drive rabbits and/or hares into fine mesh nets placed between gate-posts or in front of warrens. But by far the most effective killing method is "lamping". This involves using high-powered lamps to tranfix the quarry and then "slipping" the dog to attack the two shining eyes reflected in the lamps beam. In this way bags in excess of 50 rabbits or 5 foxes a night have been taken with one dog!

A recent letter in "Shooting News" even asked about the legality of using lurchers to control feral cats. The pseudo-solicitor that the paper uses recommended the method, though he did mention that live traps were better from a "public relations point of view".

The lurcher "boys" have a very romantic image of themselves and often boast about their exploits and see themselves as the modern-day poacher. In fact they usually do have to poach for their "sport", as hunting rights are very hard to come by at the moment. As I said at the beginning, this "breed" of people is on the increase and presents a major problem for us. It is very hard to locate these people, and even harder to sabotage them at work. They mainly operate outside the law, so local landowners and even the police may be useful. Don't attempt to tackle these people alone, but it is well worth compiling lists of addresses and car numbers, so we know who these scum are and where they live.

A small group of these people operating in your local area can "account" for a far greater loss of life than your local hunt. Groups must realise this and do what they can to discourage them from continuing. For example, local smear campaigns and hassle for the local constabulary or the R.S.P.C.A. inspector.

For more information read some of D. Brian Plummers' books. He is seen as a guru of the terrier world and also writes on lurchers. A really informative magazine, that is increasingly available is "Shooting News", which covers all aspects of lurcher/terrier work, as well as articles on shooting, ferreting and even falconry.

A lot can be gained by going to the local country shows and hanging around when the judging of the terrier and lurcher dogs takes place. Show dates and other information are available through the HSA.

If anyone has any further views, ideas or information, then please get in touch.

C. J. REYNARD.

"DAERGI" EXPOSED

Among the worst of those who work terriers to live quarry must be those who write about their exploits in the columns of bloodsports magazines such as Shooting Times and more recently the Shooting News. Among these are Bert Gripton, Bill Galpin, Colin Haynes and the irregular columnist who writes anonymously under the pen name "Daergi".

Daergi's wirtings cater for a particularly nasty bunch of terriermen who work "hard" terriers bred for the purposes of fighting and killing any fox which refuses to "bolt" from its underground sanctuary. During these unseen battles both terriers and foxes suffer incredible injury before the fox finally succombs; it is not unheard of, however, for the terriers themselves to die from their injuries. Daergi and his mate, Pete, who comes from Nayland in West Wales are also accompanied by lurchers, which should the fox bolt and attempt to escape on foot, are trained to give chase, battle with the fox and kill it. Again injuries are suffered by both parties. Daergi's annonymity has of course made it something of a challenge to discover his true identity. After much detective work, the HSA is able to announce that it is the first to obtain his true name. Daergi is in fact a Mr. Adrian Simpson, who at the time of writing lives in Roch, a tiny West Wales village. Mr. Simpson is terrierman for a West Welsh Foxhunt and a Minkhunt, thereby ensuring that he can enjoy his idea of sport throughout the year. Nevertheless this appears to be not enough for him and on non-hunting days he is often to be seen in a small gang of men searching a ridge of hills near his home for yet more foxes to terrify and kill.

His writings in Shooting News hide little apart from his true identity. He tells his readers of his terriers and their sufferings as well as those of his victims: *"In fact December ended with Brock, a first class Border/lakeland dog . . . being very badly punished on Boxing Day. . . "*.

So he wrote in Shooting News 7/6/85, and later in the same article he wrote:

"February saw Brock recovered and on his first day back in action he was underground for five hours on a fox. Being a fairly robust dog, we were wondering why he hadn't killed his fox. After eventually reaching him we found the biggest dog fox of the season on his last legs, but having certainly left his mark on the dog."

Knowing of the need to disseminate such information the HSA has passed Daergi's true identity on to other interested organisations which had tried unsuccessfully to identify him and whose greater financial resources will – we hope – bring Simpson to heal.

BADGER PROTECTION IS FOR ACTIVISTS!

What can the hunt saboteur do to counter the threat now posed to the Badger by spade and trap? In this article, a member of the South West Badger Patrol Group, identifies the problem and offers some solutions.



A patrol group member stands in a completely dug-out west country badger sett.

Having observed for some time that the badger is in need of rather more than the protective legislation provided by the 1973 and 1981 Badger Acts, it appeared obvious to us that some direct action was needed. Surely the beautiful and harmless badger deserved the same approach that we had used successfully for 25 years to protect foxes, stags, hares, game birds, fish etc., in the wild.

Some of those who have now joined the group were already patrolling setts on their own initiative, but there was no organization behind this, so if one encountered (or anticipated) a problem at a sett, there was little that could be done. Also, of course, some setts would be patrolled by two people who never met, and most setts not at all.

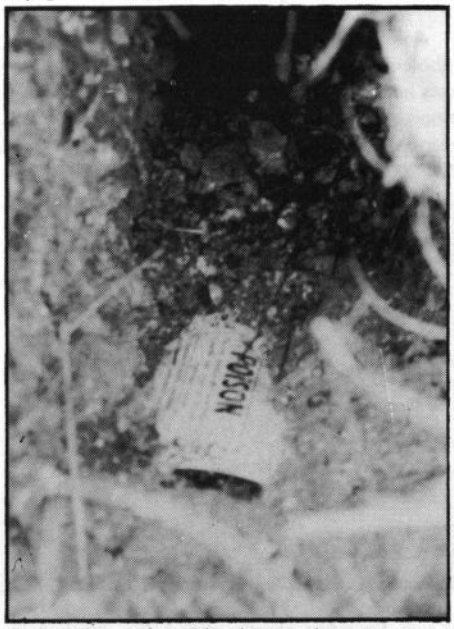
It was therefore decided to set up a co-ordinated Patrol Group in our area. The area we cover is very large, and although some sections now have patrols on every sett, there are others in which sett locations are still uncertain. We ask all active patrollers to check their setts once weekly, at least, and in view of the "other" activities which make the patrolling necessary, active patrollers themselves have to be carefully vetted. We also have a non-active membership, who help to spread interest in the group's work and contribute to fund-raising.

Our patrollers check their setts for any signs of disturbance, the most common forms of which would be caused by:

1) Badger-diggers (so similar to hunt terrier-men as to be almost indistinguishable). The actual dig will have to be done in daylight, as brock has to be in his sett to be dug out. This is done in exactly the same way as fox-earth digging, using the same terrier breeds. All terrier breeds used for fox killing are "game" to badger and were bred for both, though since badger digging is illegal, the terriers (having read the 1981 Act) are now only after fox. So if a person is entering a terrier at a badger sett, whatever he says he's after (fox, hare, rabbit, etc) the terrier, not unnaturally, will go for whatever it finds. Hunts therefore commit thousands of offences each year – though there is yet to be a prosecution. Now for some more delightful characters.

2) Lampers (who – here we go again – bear a surprising resemblance to hare-coursers) use lurchers at night to hunt an animal that is blinded/dazed by a high-powered torch beam ("lampers"). This is a fast-increasing sport used in the killing of deer, badger, fox, hare and rabbit. Only the lamping of the first two on the list is likely to constitute an offence, since the others are, legally speaking, vermin. Therefore any lamper with two brain cells to rub together will say, if questioned by an officer of the law, that he was after fox, hare or rabbit. Both these bloodsports are illegal where the badger is concerned, and any patrollers who know their setts can see the signs left by these people, who check up and even stake out the setts in advance.

To deal with these charming ancient rustic practices (well documented in sporting books of some 8-10 years' antiquity) we organise a surveillance of the sett (night time for lampers, daylight for diggers), take any suspicious car



A cyanide can found by the patrol group in a sett near Devizes, Wiltshire.

numbers etc, and generally keep our eyes peeled. We have the choice of either lying in wait and remaining unseen, or making ourselves really obvious, and both have advantages. Each situation has to be assessed carefully and individually. Sometimes we tell the local police we will be patrolling a given area, to quicken their response and lessen the chances of embarrassing mistakes! It is important to maintain a good relationship with the police (particularly the local Wildlife Liaison Officer) though we never give them or anyone else sett locations unless it is entirely necessary. The RSPCA can be helpful and it's useful to be in touch with a local "badger expert" if a prosecution is being brought.

If necessary we would set up a permanent camp, and may do so next April on a sett that has been dug persistently for four consecutive years.

We do have names and addresses of known local diggers and lampers, though following them up tends to be a fruitless effort and may lead you into a "difficult" situation. It it worth remembering that, although the BFSS claims to hate this illegal "sport", it was not so long ago that it was a recognised and respected field sport. Brian Peachey (BFSS legal officer) is often present at badger-digging cases and many successful prosecutions are of BFSS members, who are usually closely linked with their local hunt and terrier club.

We do also work on tip-offs, but only with extreme caution.

3) The Ministry of Agriculture still trap and kill badgers (1200 a year) in the belief that they spread TB, though this has already been disproved, and only one in every 400 of the badgers they kill shows signs of the disease. We monitor their activities in our area, finding them through the large traps they place to catch and then kill the badgers, and through the dyed pellets



Ministry of Agriculture badger trap, found on a known run by patrollers this summer.

and peanuts they put by the sett to check where the badgers travel (feed them to your dog, then walk round the adjacent fields!) But most indicative of all are the guilty looks on the workers' faces: "No, no, these aren't for badgers." They steal around as covertly as possible, but have to be invited in by the landowner, so you won't be getting a cup of tea from him! If you live north of Watford or east of Oxford you'll never see the trappers, but if you do come across any, the foolproof method of getting rid of them is to TELL THE PRESS. People who kill badgers – even people who receive a salary to do so – do not like publicity. So let everyone know they are there and what they are doing.

4) Building work and other interference. In many cases the badger is not threatened by evil, dog-fighting types, but simply because it is in the 'wrong place'.

Badger setts are bulldozed by building firms, filled in by foxhunts and gasses (often illegally) because lawns and golf courses are "snouted" up. We were called out a few days ago to "get rid of" the badger family that had been snouting someone's lawn.

We keep a close check on building work near setts, and public pressure alone will usually force a building firm to change its plans. Certainly no council should give planning permission for a site known to be occupied by badgers, though it does happen.

We recently found an empty cyanide gas can in a badgers' earth. It is hardly necessary to point out that the danger of such methods is not restricted to the badgers.

Each situation has to be met as it arises. Though running the group – and the Landrover to cover the wide and varied terrain – are costly, many people are willing to part with a few pounds to Save the Badger.

We spend as much time as possible encouraging other groups to patrol setts, and publicizing the plight of this beautiful mammal.

Our active membership is spreading fast; people of all sorts are surprisingly helpful when it comes to badgers. We have non-active members living as much as 200 miles away! For information on badgers, or to join our group, send an s.a.e. to **P.O. Box 94, Cheltenham, GL50 4AB.**

LAW REPORT

TWO MORE GET AWAY WITH IT

A violent assault upon Saffron Walden hunt saboteur, Kevin Saunders, which left one of his ears hanging off and his whole head covered in blood, has resulted in the man who was responsible walking free from court without even a caution.



Kevin Saunders shortly after being attacked by Martyn Blackmore.

Kevin had been calling hounds out of covert during a sab on the Essex FH at Felsted in March when the hunt's whipper-in, Martyn Blackmore, rode up and demanded to know how long he wanted to live. Kevin's wife, Carol, aimed a camera at Blackmore to discourage him but when Kevin turned his back and walked slowly to his car, the whipper-in lurched his horse forward and brought down the bone spike of his whip handle onto Kevin's head.

"I received numerous blows", said Kevin. "My ear went instantly numb and I went down on my knees and he still continued to hit me until I collapsed flat on the floor. On the way to hospital I realised my ear was hanging off and my whole head was covered in blood. I received seventeen stitches to my ear and one to the top of my head."

Blackmore was cleared of assault at Chelmsford Crown Court in July after claiming that he had only struck out with his whip because he was fearful of being unsaddled by Kevin. Paul Dixey, hunt chairman, embellished the lie with a ridiculous story about "warnings from the Special Branch that we must expect personal attacks on prominent members of the hunt."

A further case of assault against a gang of terrier men who allegedly put the boot in on Kevin when he was on the ground after the first attack has still to be heard.

Eight Inch Scar

In another assault case, Brocklesby FH whipper-in, Brian Parker, was let off with a caution for causing ABH to a woman saboteur from Grimsby. Police decided to go ahead with a prosecution after interviewing Parker and looking at photographs and forensic evidence. Parker had let fly with his whip against four saboteurs, leaving one of them with an eight inch scar across her thigh. The Criminal Prosecutions Board however rejected all this and ruled that Parker, who is an employee of Lord Yarborough, should be let off with a caution.

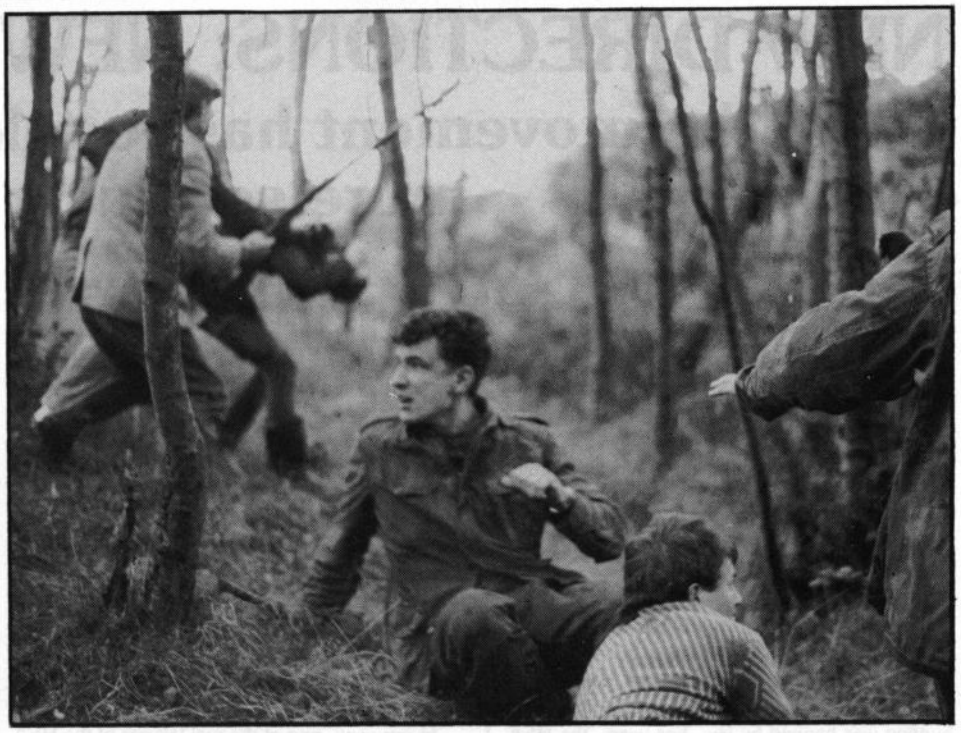
HUNTING AND THE FOOTPATH LAW

Hunt saboteurs might like to keep an eye on the conduct of their local hunts with respect to public footpaths. In a letter to a saboteur from Hampshire Chief Inspector Trevor Rabjohn, it is confirmed that under the 1835 Highways Act, an offence may be committed "where riding takes place on a public footpath over which the only public right of passage is on foot." The most likely offence would be one of damage; a very likely consequence of any meeting between an un-made-up path and a number of heavy horses.

Mr Rabjohn points out that in such cases police officers would be expected to exercise discretion and saboteurs will know that this has traditionally been interpreted as turning a blind eye. Hampshire hunt saboteurs are intending to watch their hunts closely this season and press for prosecutions wherever possible.

THREE HUNT THUGS BROUGHT TO BOOK





HUNT VIOLENCE IN SCOTLAND: A supporter of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH wades in with a stick (left). The seated saboteur (right) had his cheekbone smashed by John Waters' spade.

A terrier man, a kennel huntsman and a whipper-in were all found guilty of assaulting hunt saboteurs this summer in three separate cases arising from incidents last season. But the partiality of the courts showed up yet again when two of them received fines of only half those imposed upon Ronnie Boyd for hornblowing (see story above).

John Waters, terrierman for the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH, attacked a Clydeside saboteur with his spade during a dig-out back in November 1986. The spade smashed the saboteur's face and shattered his cheekbone. Sherriff Hunter fined Waters £300 at Paisley Court on June 23rd.

Two days later, at Cupar Sherriffs Court, Ian Scholes, the Fife FH's Kennel huntsman, was fined £100 for riding his horse into a saboteur and striking him repeatedly about the head with his whip-handle. The saboteur had been trying to film the hunt when he was attacked. Scholes had his whip confiscated by the court.

Puckeridge FH whipper-in, Robert Leverton, escaped with the lightest fine when Saffron Walden magistrates found him guilty of assaulting a Cambridge hunt saboteur with his whip-handle. Leverton was ordered to pay just £70 for the offence although costs and compensation brought the figure up to £200. The saboteur, Glen Lyons, had to have two stitches in his head and suffered severe headaches as a result of the attack last January. He had been spraying in front of hounds when Leverton came up behind him and lashed out with the whip. Leverton's defence counsel claimed that he was only "doing what he thought necessary. He did not use unreasonable force."

JAILED! TWO SABOTEURS WHO 'BREACHED THE PEACE'

Two hunt saboteurs spent part of the summer behind bars this year as a result of cases arising from minor breach of the peace charges.

The legal silly season started when Hampshire saboteur, Tony Faramus, lost his appeal against the prison sentence imposed on him a year ago when he refused to be bound over. He had been arrested for sabotaging the Hampshire Hunt at Bentworth (see HOWL 34, Page 3).

Judge Raymond Stock dismissed the appeal on May 22nd and sent 68-year-old Tony, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald, to Winchester prison for 28 days. "It is a matter of principle", said his wife, Mary. "If he accepted the bind-over it would be like admitting he was guilty and he doesn't believe he is guilty".

The terms of the binding-over order itself had been absurd enough. Tony, who had not been arrested for doing anything in specific, but simply for being present while saboteurs were trying to get to a dig-out, was told he must be bound over in the sum of £500. This was a sum without precedent for saboteurs in the Hampshire area. The same court had bound over an Aldershot beagler in just £100 when he assaulted Tony with his whip on an earlier occasion.

Tony did not receive remission after serving two thirds of his sentence as he was led to believe he would. He served the full term, spending 23 hours a day in his cell.

Not The First

He received strong support throughout the four weeks from both fellow animal rights activists and other members of the public, and wishes to thank all those who sent flowers and messages of solidarity. Tony is not the first hunt saboteur to be jailed for a month for refusing to be bound over to keep the peace. Many HSA members will remember the 1977 case of Val Waters who went to court as a police prosecution witness after being assaulted by hunt thugs and was herself ordered to be bound over under the 1361 Justices of the Peace Act. Her refusal to comply led to 28 days in Jail.

This year's second case is perhaps more outrageous than Tony's because although the saboteur it concerns did not spend so long in a cell, he was imprisoned not through his own choice but by a direct order of the court.

Ronnie Boyd of Clydeside HSA was arrested at the close of the last foxhunting season whilst sabbing the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH. Two plainclothes men arrested him for a breach of the peace, alleging that he was blowing a hunting horn which was at the bottom of his rucksack at the time.

At Greenock Sherriff Court in June, Ronnie was remanded in custody 'pending further reports'. He then spent six days in jail before being released on appeal. When Ronnie appeared back in court again on June 24th, he was found guilty of committing a breach of the peace (blowing his horn) and fined a punitive £200.

HSA APPOINTS NEW LEGAL OFFICER

After a long period during which the HSA has had no national legal adviser, we're very pleased to announce that Danny Jerome from Manchester has agreed to do the job. Danny has already gained experience from working on animal rights cases and will be working with the Manchester barrister, Rhys Vaughan in about a year's time. He will be prepared to travel to give legal talks, answer your queries and be on call each Saturday to deal with problems as they arise. He is currently working on some new legal advice sheets for HSA members, and he will be contributing articles to HOWL on legal matters. You can contact Danny by phone on 061 860 6342.

NEW DIRECTIONS; NEW PRIORITIES

Why the movement has to take recruitment more seriously

In our view, we are at present looking at an HSA which will never come near to achieving its aims without a change in direction and priorities. Lack of money and lack of people are not so much the root cause of the HSA's problem as a symptom of our failure to think beyond what's going to happen at eleven o'clock next Saturday morning. Naturally, the hunted animal must always remain the be-all and end-all of everything we do, but we are convinced that unless we can look beyond next Saturday's meet, an end to hunting will never come.

A brief analysis of the two other organisations who are in conflict with us either through their tactics or their aims puts all this in context.

Until recently, part of the HSA constitution implied that we would continue our actions until hunting was banned by law. For years, the HSA perceived its role as one of marking time, going out and saving lives whilst the League Against Cruel Sports got on with the job of campaigning for a ban, which was usually thought of as something which was not more than one or two General Elections distant. Anything more than a cursory glance at the situation reveals the flaws in this logic. The League's only tactic, bar raising enough money to pay its five figure salaries, is lobbying politicians. So far, the results have been pitiful when compared with the vast sums of money that have been poured into Westminster and council chambers over the years.

The reasons for this failure are simple. The Campaign for Country Sports were able, at the drop of a hat, to amass sufficient funds to more than adequately defend bloodsports. This, coupled with the fact that the CCS has friends in higher places than the League has, means the parliamentary campaign against hunting will never succeed in anything other than providing employment for a handful of apprentice politicians and diverting money away from the real fight. Instead of exploiting the weaknesses of the opposition, the League chooses to fight them where they are at their strongest.

Minority

The weakness of the opposition is that they are in a minority. The League's opinion polls reveal that upwards of 65 per cent of the population are opposed to hunting. There's the raw materials for a mass movement out there; all we have to do is get out and grab it, and translate the gut feeling of the majority into the escalation of activity in the field and hard cash we need to do the job. So far, so good—all we have to do now is set about doing it.

In our view, one of the real failures of the HSA is its sheer neglect of promoting itself. As promised at the AGM, we have launched a recruitment campaign which will double our membership this year, and, judging by the response so far, it will pay off. If everybody reading this HOWL supports us, we will draw even more of that 65 per cent mentioned earlier where it counts—into the hunting field, or channel their support into other directions such as supporting us financially with donations.

Those 65 per cent are not some figment of a pollster's imagination. They are the people who live next door to you (the ones that always bang on the wall when you practice hornblowing, perhaps!), drink in your local pub, rub shoulders with you at work or college; in fact some of them probably live with you or are related to you. Think about that person you spoke to recently who said how much they agree with what you do and that maybe they'll go out one week. Why let the conversation trail away when you could tell them there's a spare seat going in the van next week? It's not enough to advertise in the Guardian every few months when we could all be actively devoting some of the time we spend out of the hunting field making others aware of what we do.

Leafleting

Leaflets are available free from the Exeter PO Box. Why not order and use them to get more people out there saving lives? An hour so spent each week handing them around the local, putting them through letter-boxes, under every car windscreen wiper in the local college car park, or leaving them in wholefood shops etc, probably means somebody will join and around half the people who join become active. Imagine for a moment if we could all involve just one extra person each month...

The profit generated by the first two months meant we were able to give away more money to local groups in two committee meetings than we had in two years. It is a commonly-held criticism of successive committees that not enough money was given to local groups, but before money can be given out it has to be raised. If we all do our bit this year, not only out in the field but by all promoting the HSA as much as we can, we will have begun to bring in the people and money we so desperately need to bring an end to bloodsports.

Chris Bishop & Angela Majennik.

There's a good dog! The West Norfolk FH show who they like best.



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

ARE WE OFF COURSE?

A Personal View from Dave Weeks

Joining the Hunt Saboteurs Association in the early eighties was, for myself, personally, a logical step. Having pondered the subject of bloodsports for some time, I decided that the only way that things were going to change was via a course of direct action.

However, after a short period of time ionvolved in hunt sabotage, I quickly realised that one simply had to make do with the resources that came to hand. Locally this meant drafting in people from all walks of life, professions and backgrounds to assist in the weekly hounding of fieldsports. Typically, our group consisted of the vegan/vegetarian concerned with a wide variety of issues, whilst on the other hand we were joined in the struggle against the local hunts etc by such people as butchers and even ex-soldiers.

During my couple of years on the committee, these initial experiences held true for the national level of affairs, Resources were too thin on the ground to justify the HSA's abstinence from the real world which consisted of a majority of meat-eaters, dairy consumers, and Coca-Cola buying humans. Recently my resolve has been hardened by the painfully slow progress of the HSA in acheiving its aim – not to mention the nuts and bolts of the organisation, namely recruitment. Having done a large amout of soul-searching, my experiences have led me to believe that unless the HSA examines itself in its present condition and asks itself where it is going, then the HSA as an effective anti-bloodsports movement will fester and be forgotten about in a decade or so.

Stopping Bloodsports

Personally, I am content to put a stop to bloodsports (this being an anti-bloodsports movement) by using any person that has the courage to assist in the field or from the armchair. Let the HSA accept meat-eaters, Conservatives, shooters, terrier-men or huntsmen as long as at the end of the day, we as a movement can say that we tried our damnedest to put a stop to bloodsports. If, however, we continue our present holier-than-thou attitude, then I'm afraid that the public will desert our cause and many years from now small groups of saboteurs will still be getting assaulted and possibly killed all beacuse 'the group' has a policy of no meat-eaters, no materialists, etc etc. I for one would not like to be associated with a movement that gladfully bounced along from hunting season to hunting season, passing off all the great opportunities that came our way just because of 'the group' policy.

As of late, particularly the last couple of years, many peripheral issues have found their way into the HSA at both local and national level. Although some are completely irrelavent to any logical and intelligent person, some are of great importance to any society. But we must ask ourselves the question, are issues such as male rights, female rights, gay rights and lesbian rights, to name but a few (and which I am sure we would all agree are important), really anything to do with an anti-bloodsports movement? I for one think not.

Alienating People

I am of the belief that this type of thinking creates a waste of precious resources, alienates the very people we as a movement do or may rely upon, and lastly and possibly more importantly, sells short the animals that we wish to protect.

Firstly, with so few people involved in the HSA all through its history, resulting in shortages of cash, time and influence; can we really, honestly hope to help sentient creatures if we pour our resources into peripheral and sometimes pointless causes. How would the movement feel if I, as a native of Wales, along with a small number of other people, succeeded in changing the constitution at an AGM for the adoption of a bi-lingual policy within the HSA? Can we hope to recruit people into the HSA by insulting their lifestyles, behaviour or whatever, even before they have had time to contemplate joining or supporting the HSA?

And I beg the question to every hunt soboteur who has been, is, or may be involved to help animals; can they honestly forgive themselves for self-indulgence in their own chaste way of life whilst millions upon millions of animals are killed in the name of sport under their very noses? These peripheral matters will kill off many campaigning groups if they are allowed to detract from each movement's aims.

Pausing For Thought

Let us, as we move into our 25th year, pause for thought. Let us put aside issues not concerned with saving the lives of animals; these issues will and can be dealth with outside of our movement. Let us force our energies at the goal for which most of us joined the HSA. Given time, all other issues will affect and change us, the benefits of which we, like any other groups, will carry indirectly into our lifestyles. Let us respect each other's viewpoints and each other's way of life, but let us not forget that there is a time and a place for everything.

With the greatest respect, my message is: if you want a perpiheral matter changed, please find another movement to carry out the campaigning and not the HSA. Here's to the future of our movement, the HUNT SABOTEURS Association. **Dave Weeks**

NOTICEBOARD

Animals Diary

Animus have been in touch to tell us that unfortunately there will be no 1988 Animals Diary because they've been to busy with the rest of their work. HSA members who would like to see the diary reappear in 1989 are asked to get in touch so that Animus can get some idea of the demand.

Fur Booklet

A benefit 16 page A5 booklet about the fur trade, 'From the leg-hold trap to the ignorant's back', has been produced to raise money for LYNX and can be obtained for 20p and an SAE from Paul at 5 Crozier House, Ebdon Way, Kidbrooke, London SE3 9PT.

TV Smith's Cheap

A new addition to our growing list of bands willing to play HSA benefit gigs is TV Smith's current band, Cheap. TV Smith fronted the Adverts in the late 70s when they had chart success with 'Gary Gilmore's Eyes'. Cheap also includes former hunt saboteur and HOWL cartoonist, Mik Heslin on guitar. The band will play for travelling expenses only and can be contacted c/o 99 Oakdale Road, Leytonstone, London E11 4DJ.

Rubicon Distribution

This is a tape distribution service run by two members of Cheltenham HSA and a regular source of income for the group. They handle a wide variety of punk tapes, fanzines and records and can be contacted c/o PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX.

Meat-Out

A coalition of pro-animal societies is organising a national day of vegetarianism and veganism for October 2nd (World Farm Animals Day) under the title, 'The Great British Meat-Out'. And for those of you who want a night out in London, there's a Meat-Out Beano at Imperial College, South Kensington on Saturday October 3rd. Running from 8 till midnight, it includes vegan buffet, disco and other entertainments. Tickets and details from Animal Aid, Vegan Society or CIWF.

McDonalds

London Greenpeace have again initiated a worldwide day of action against the McDonalds hamburger empire on October 16th, World Food Day. Attention will be focussed upon the multi-national corporation's links with world poverty and ill-health and the exploitation of humans and other animals for fast food profits. HSA groups are urged to plan and take part in their own actions; further details from London Greenpeace at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Vegan Bust Fund

The Vegan Action Group in Glasgow is appealing for donations to help pay off a total of £270 in fines accumulated by animal rights activists in the area. They have set up a Bust Fund to assist with these and any future fines and can be contacted c/o Room 16, 136 Ingram St, Glasgow G1 1EJ.

DO THEY MEAN US?

A Huntsmanballs Special Report

An amusing side effect of the leafletting and advertising campaigns now being run by the HSA is the effect our literature has upon the beleagured sensibilities of the nation's bloodsporters. Occasionally, the better educated amongst them even reach for paper and pen and sally forth with apopleptic volleys of scribbled rage from the country piles of Olde Englande, putting us in our rightful place with pages of the kind of incoherent, ungrammatical drivel that passes for rational arguement in hunting circles. It would be a shame to consign all their literary efforts to the rubbish bin without sharing them first so, without more ado, HOWL presents a few choice snippets from the fan-mail file.

Bloodsporters are invariably very keen to display their pedigree in the saddle before they begin. A writer from Shrewsbury has been hunting *"for the past 30 years"* whilst one from Bideford in Devon has *"hunted foxes both on horseback and on foot since I was five years old."* Needless to say they both take *"great exception"* to the leaflets they were handed but like most hunters, they are happier dishing out personal abuse than in actually defending their *'sport'*. So, letters that begin, *"These people that you hired were a bunch of scruffy looking people and smelt terrible"*, are about par for the course. One writer found her local HSA group *"the most extraordinary collection of noisy, scruffy and ill-disciplined individuals I have ever seen"*, and another was appalled to find that, *"Every sabateur (sic) I have seen looks lazy with coloured hair and of the NOW student class, idling their time at colleges because they are too idle to get a job"*.

In fact, the need to get the country back to full employment is a recurrent theme in most letters. *"COME ON GET A JOB TO DO"*, rants one correspondent. The majority of these budding Einsteins then launch into an accompanying paragraph accusing the HSA of paying its members to turn up. You can't have it both ways you know. *"Now these people were certainly not the type who cared at all about little foxes. They were just doing it for the money"*. And another says, *"I suppose your adverts account for the LOUTS you employ going round the countryside in transit vans disrupting the traditional Field Sports"*.

That'll Teach You!

One writer who didn't manage to remember his or her name or address, hit upon the inexplicable tactic of teaching us a lesson by sending our advert back to us. *"I have pleasure in returning your advert"*, she/he writes, after noting that it was a *"pity"* we hadn't chosen a *"better class of newspaper"* than the New Musical Express to advertise in (the NME is *"such trash"* apparently, and it remains a mystery how our highly cultured correspondent actually came across it in the first place). *"And there will be many more adverts coming in from other people"*, s/he warns confidently (there were none). *"Perhaps you will not be so STUPID next year"*. Certainly not and keep taking the tablets.

When they get down to argueing in favour of butchering wildlife (and they usually get there eventually), bloodsporters often kick off with the notion that hunting is the only thing standing between many species and oblivion. *"Without Field Sports"*, says one, *"quarry species would all eventually become extinct"*.

For Queen And Country

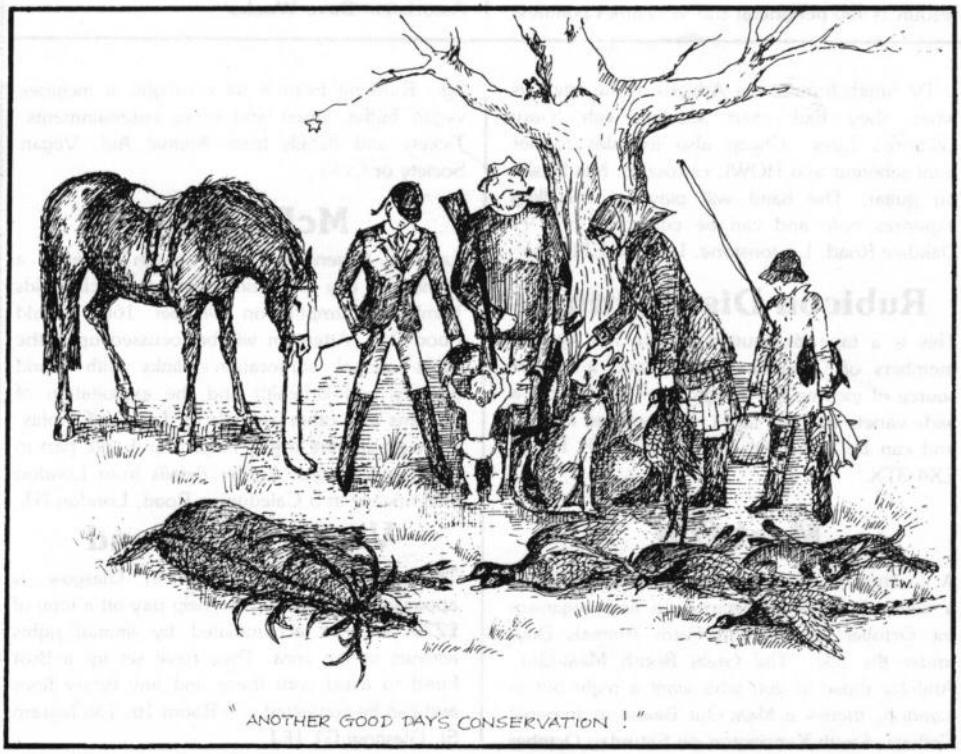
It is also quite extraordinary how frequently they seek to justify a thing without making out any kind of a case for it, simply by appealing to a Christmas-card impression of rural history (the glorification of the squirearchy) and expressions of loyalty to the Crown. *"Hunting is traditional"*, says one, *"and a lot of people enjoy it. The Royal Family agree with it and they are a good example to the public are they not?"* You could write an entire psychology thesis on that. . . Another incredulous patriot (in fact the same genius that masterminded the send-back-the-adverts offensive), *"never thought BRITAIN would breed such a load of IDIOTS"*, meaning us presumably, not the Royal Family.

Our Bideford correspondent states that *"hunting is not cruel"* because *"foxes are far from extinct"* and have *"a 50/50 chance of getting away"*. Mrs A. Hunter from Shrewsbury goes further, claiming that *"the odds are most certainly in his (the fox's) favour"*, although she does concede that in digging out, which is *"not sporting"*, and which she has witnessed *"literally hundreds of times. . . the odds are heavily against the fox"*. Something of an understatement, but Mrs Hunter is clearly a pragmatist. On the subject of trophy-taking she says she *"cannot begin to imagine what harm this does to an already dead animal"*. No doubt she held the same view about the attempt to dig up the corpse of the tenth Duke of Beaufort and chop its head off two years ago. The point has not completely eluded her for she qualifies her support for trophy-taking with an assurance that *"it is not a practice of which I particularly approve"*. But it is difficult to see why not and she offers no clues.

Bloodlusting Morons

Mrs Hunter's parting shot is a revealing one. After accusing saboteurs of being violent louts, she extends an invitation for us to attend a foxhunt *"with no attempts at sabotage"* and *"not in a gang . . . Stay out all day and attend a dig if possible"*, for then we shall see that *"hunting people are not bloodlusting morons"*. This is all very well, but she also warns that we *"must dress to avoid suspicion from hunt supporters"*. Are we to infer that if *"hunting people"* suspect that we are out of sympathy with them that it would make any difference to our welcome? Surely she's not suggesting we'd be attacked. After all, *"hunting people are not bloodlusting morons"*. Are they?

SP



"ANOTHER GOOD DAY'S CONSERVATION !"

'People say that as a churchman I should not pick up a gun, but shooting has been a pastime of the clergy for many, many years.'

Shooting vicar, Rev. William Quinney of Nuneaton, B'ham Evening Mail 3/2/87.

of coursing:

'I think it is a temendously good thing because it has always been so maligned.'

Capt. John Barrow, Chairman, Cotswold Coursing Club, Glos Echo 19/2/87.

of coursing:

'Sometimes the sport is just a cover for poaching'.

PC Paul Sutherland, Gloucester Police, Glos Echo 19/2/87.

BADGER DIGGING BOOK 'INNOCENT'



"An attempt to redress the balance regarding reports of badger digging shown in a bad light."

On June the 26th 1987, Abergavenny Magistrates cleared David Harcombe, author of the book,"Badger Digging With Terriers" of incitement to injure a badger, ill-treat badgers and dig for badgers contrary to the Badger Act (1983).

The "Shooting News" hailed the decision as a victory for freedom of speech and claimed that since the book was merely recounting past experiences, when badger digging was still legal, the reverse decision would have meant that any book about the Second World War or Genkis Khan would have to be withdrawn on the grounds that they incited people to carry out illegal acts described within.

Harcombe, himself, according to the Shooting News had told the police that the book was "*no more of an incitement than the many books on cockfighting, bear baiting etc. were incitements to commit those offences.*" In his defence, he pointed out that he made regular references in the book to the fact that badger digging was illegal and that cruelty to badgers was reprehensible. The book, as he puts it "*was an attempt to redress the balance regarding reports of badger digging shown in a bad light, it was merely a matter of putting the record straight.*"

In the book, however, Mr Harcombe did not help his case by stating that:

"An acquaintance of mine in Ireland, whom I hold in very high regard, and who is familiar with the dog-fighting scene . . ."

How can anyone hold such people in high regard? Take the following paragraphs from the book:

"Humane terrier work, which could have prevented all this (the alleged over-population of badgers), is outlawed and it is now impossible to assess a terrier's level of excellence. Many terriers will work the fox, but a badger was the ultimate test."

and:*"What real terriermen regard as work (for their terriers), is the work below ground to fox or badger, not once, not for eighteen months, but for a lifetime. Alone, with only his adversary for company . . . A worker can only be tested by continuous work; he should only make his reputation by continuous work."*

and:

"I believe the good terrier should be able to work both (fox and badger), to be highly regarded."

As stated elsewhere in this issue, workers of terriers are very proud of their dogs and are eager to 'test' and 'prove' their animals with work on their traditional quarry; with exhortations like those above coming from the pen of one as respected in terrier circles as David Harcombe, it is clear that some will translate his thoughts into positive action. I understand that over one thousand copies of this book have been sold, largely one would assume to working terrier owners. The implications are obvious.

It is true that there are several passages in the book condemning badger-baiters and referring to the present illegality of badger digging, but not all the references to badger work are clearly written in the past tense:

"Badger cubs are usually born in February . . . and for this reason, terriers should not be entered to badger from, say, December to May."

Clearly this passage is a piece of practical advice to those intending to dig for badgers. Terriers should not be entered to badger at ANY time, doing so is breaking the law.

Strangely enough A. G. Fox (real name Barry Peachey), the legal correspondant for the Shooting News, agrees that the book could be seen as an incitement to break the law. He said, in Shooting News (20/6/86) that:

"The author takes great pains to draw the distinction between 'genuine' diggers and badger-baiters . . . There is no such thing as a genuine badger digger anymore. Digging is just as much a crime as baiting. When this book first came on the market I was given to understand that it was an historical account of badger work. This is simply not true. In many sections, the author writes about badger work as if it was a popular and ongoing activity, indeed it is a good practical guide to working badgers with terriers."

He concludes by saying:

"In my opinion Badger Digging With Terriers is sufficiently dangerously written to amount to an incitement to go out and break the law."

If I never agree with Mr Peachey about anything else, I find myself totally in agreement with him on this score. The book is a disgrace and should be banned.

Ralph Cook

THE 1987 AGM

The Nottingham AGM on July 4th was nothing if not lively. Officers reports and a vegan lunch were followed by an interesting and entertaining address from Mike Husskison who illustrated his continuing commitment to the movement with a series of excellent colour slides.

The meeting then moved on to debate the proposed changes to the constitution outlined in the last HOWl mailout. The results of these, after much vigorous debate, were as follows:

Proposal 1 – Passed as tabled. For 62, against 2, abstentions 12.

Proposal 2 – Duggs Carre proposed to amend the proposal by striking out all words after 'beliefs of the Association'. Chris Dobson seconded. Voting on the amendment was, for 39, against 17, abstentions 21. The amended proposal was then passed. For 68, against 0, abstentions 14.

Proposal 3 – Chris Bishop proposed to amend the proposal by striking the words all Association activists' and replacing them with 'any person'. This was accepted and the amended proposal was passed. For 50, against 9, abstentions 19.

Proposal 4 – Mark Breedon proposed to amend the proposal by adding 'sexuality' after 'colour' in both sections. Angela Majennik seconded. This was accepted. John Page then proposed to amend the proposal as previously amended, above, by striking 'sex' from both clauses. This amendment was rejected. For 2, against 45, abstentions 14. Ralph Cook proposed to amend the proposal, as previously amended, above, by adding to the end of each clause the following: '... with the exception of a special provision allowing the positive discrimination in favour of women'. This amendment was rejected. For 4, against 32, abstentions 22. The amended proposal (ie. incorporating 'sexuality') was then rejected by the following vote: For 16, against 44, abstentions 17.

Proposal 5 – Passed as tabled. For 78, against 0, abstentions 4. Hope you followed all that. Copies of the amended constitution will be sent out with the Christman HOWL.

The day was wrapped up with guidelines for the new Committee from the floor, and followed by the usual disco, bar and hornblowing competition (won this year by Pez from West London HSA).

The committee would like to thank all those who helped organise the hall and facilities, especially Andy from Sheffield who worked tirelessly in the creche throughout the day, and all the good people of Nottingham who gave up their floorspace to visiting saboteurs over the weekend.

THE 1987/88 HSA COMMITTEE

At time of going to press(!) the new committee comprises the following: Chris Bishop (Contacts & Promotion), Ann Blunden (Fox Cubs), Ralph Cook (Secretary to the Association & Research), Mark Dent (Computer Assistant), Barbara Dickenson (Fundraiser – co-opted), Brian Dobney (Sales Goods - co-opted), John Hale (Treasurer), John Innes (Press), Angela Majennik (Womens Officer), Graham Taylor (Membership), Aubrey Thomas (Tactics).

The following have all resigned since taking office in July: Mark Breedon, Duggs Carre, Wendy Holborow, Ian Jennings.

MEMBERSHIP SOARS AS RECRUITMENT DRIVE PAYS OFF

All the hard work put into promoting the HSA this summer has already resulted in the virtual doubling of our membership and funds are healthier now than they have been for some years. HSA's national secretary has spent the last few months submerged in mail as enquiries and completed membership forms flood into the PO Box at a rate unknown since the aftermath of the BBC Open Door programme more than a decade ago.

Apart from the success scored with our new cubhunting leaflet, good responses have come from display adverts in the New Musical Express, the Guardian and News on Sunday, lineage ads in the Independent, New Society and the Guardian, feature articles in Due South magazine and News on Sunday, and insert sheets in several animal rights movement journals.

MORE MONEY TO THE REGIONS

The general increase in membership and prosperity has enabled us to give greater financial help to local groups. In August, £473 was loaned to Tyneside HSA to assist them in organising the national sabotage of the Northumberland Beagling Festival; £200 was set aside to help one Tyneside saboteur with an impending court case (should he need it); £150 was loaned to Norwich HSA to help them get two vehicles on the road; £150 was donated to the South London Animal Protection Society to assist with the purchase of a landrover, and £50 was donated to Mid Somerset HSA towards the cost of their landrover.

Whilst the Committee does not, unfortunately, preside over a bottomless pit of wealth, we hope to continue the policy of helping local groups while funds are available. If requesting a loan, please set out your needs clearly on paper and give us as much information as you can on how and when you intend to repay the money, how much fundraising your group has already done and precisely what the loan will be used for. Whilst money is tight, every application has to be considered on its own merits by a full meeting of the HSA committee and clearly we will not be able to help everyone immediately.



HSA ran two very worthwhile stalls at national events this summer, at the Living Without Cruelty Exhibition in London (above), and at the 3 day Glastonbury CND festival in Somerset. More than £500 worth of goods were sold at each event.

NEW LEAFLETS AND POSTERS

Following the success of the cubhunting leaflet, a new colour foxhunting leaflet is now available in bulk, FREE to HSA members, from the Exeter PO Box. We'd like to ask all our groups to order some TODAY for distribution this season. With your help, we can double our membership again by the new year, making still more money available for local groups, national campaigns and co-ordination, as well as bringing the obvious benefit of increasing our activists in the field.

New anti-foxhunting posters in two colours are also available. These come in two sizes, A2 at 15p each and A3 at 10p each.

Our sales goods department also intends to make available by Christmas an HSA silver jubilee badge and HSA coffee mugs. Watch this space folks!

GETTING THE MAIL IN ORDER

People writing to the HSA sometimes make a number of requests on a single sheet of paper. Because the HSA is not run centrally but by separate departments in various parts of the country, the secretary's life is made difficult if one letter requires attention from three different officers. Could correspondents therefore use a separate sheet of paper for each item or request; for example, 1) request for leaflets, 2) membership renewal, 3) letter to HOWL, and so on. If you can do this, the service will be much more efficient and it should eliminate the risk of things getting lost or overlooked.

SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL

Steve Poole would like to thank all those HSA members who have sent contributions to the Jubilee Publications Project, and would like to assure them that all submissions are being well looked after.

Response to the appeal has been good, but although the library of material is now looking quite impressive, we're sure we've still only received a tiny proportion of the hidden valuables some of you have got stashed away in attic trunks and dusty drawers.

Please continue the search. What we need are copies of your old press cuttings and photographs. Any contribution, however small, is valuable. Even poor quality photographs sometimes have something to say about the period in which they were taken—so don't hold anything back. Perhaps your local paper has published pictures of saboteurs in action at some time in the past? If you can obtain copies of these, HSA will pay costs.

All submissions should be sent to: Jubilee Project, HSA, PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX.

CLUB DRAW RESULTS

There have been two sets of Club Draw winners since HOWL 36 and, as you can see, a fresh influx of members has again increased the prizes.

June

1) P McKinley £45
2) A Hampton £30
3) Wirral A/R £17

August

1) S Jiwa
2) A Woof
3) M Innes

Details of prizes for the August draw were unfortunately not available as we went to press. You'll find a Club Draw enrolment form enclosed with this HOWL.

ANNUAL SUMMER DRAW WINNERS

The winning tickets were drawn at the AGM as follows:

1st Lucie Gimpleson
2nd B Lewis
3rd Susan Couch

WANTED

HSA committee urgently needs a working electric, or good quality portable, typewriter and a filing cabinet. If anyone has either to donate, please get in touch via PO Box 87.

The committee would like to thank the donors of those items asked for in the previous HOWL.

Benefit LP For HSA

Artists For Animals have released a compilation LP to raise money for the HSA. Entitled 'Mindless Slaughter', the record carries a strong animal rights message on about half its tracks and many of the songs are previously unreleased titles. The LP features 14 bands including the Mekons, Chumbawamba, Rubella Ballet, TV Smith, and Conflict, and is available by mail order at the ridiculously cheap price of £4.49, incl. p&p (£5.00 in the shops).

HSA groups can order 5 or more copies at the even sillier price of £3.30 per record to sell on their own stalls. Doing it this way will not only help the national HSA, but provides a healthy profit margin for your group too. You can order your copies of Mindless Slaughter direct from Artists For Animals c/o Slip Records, PO Box 18, South PDO, Manchester M14 5 NB.