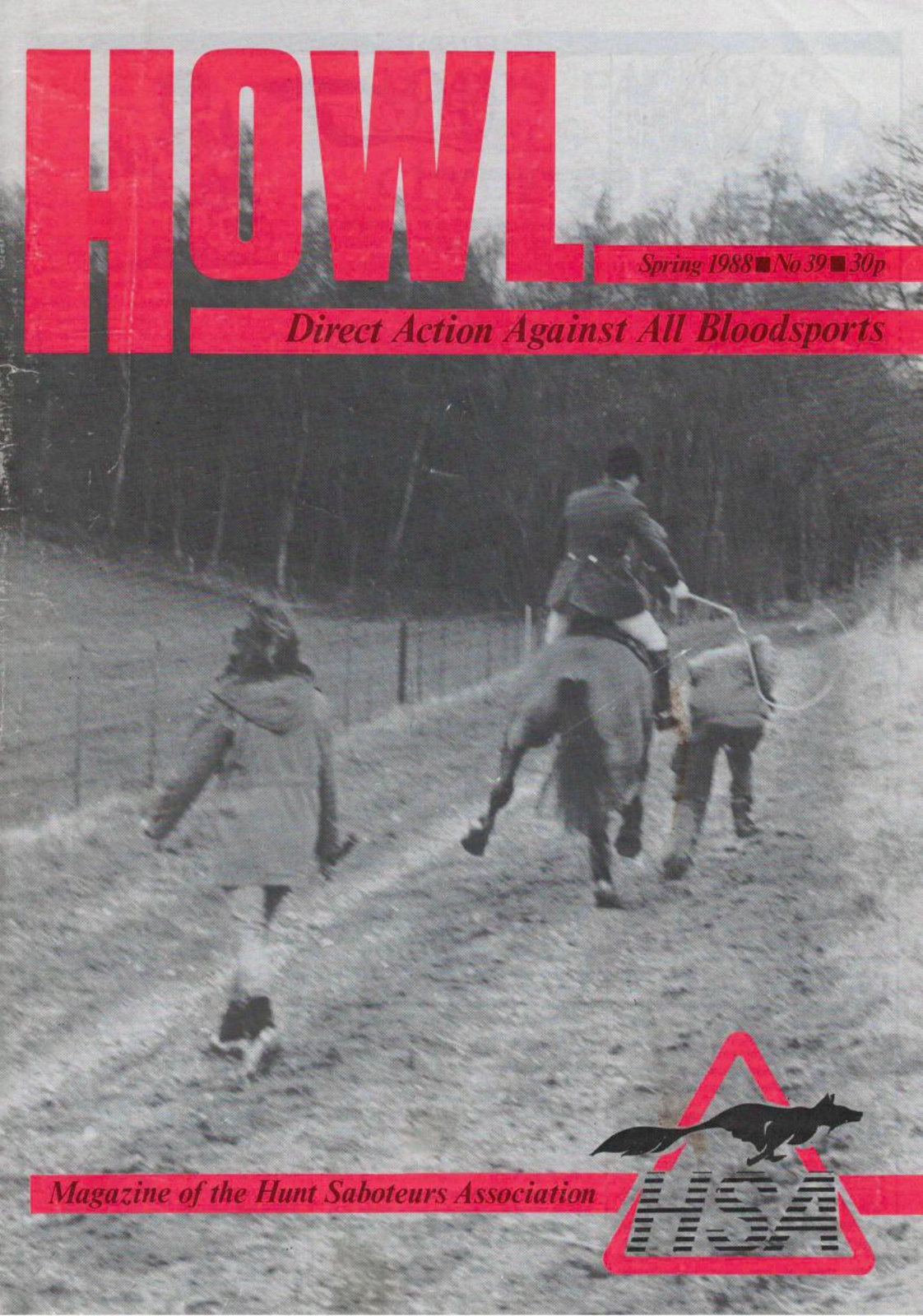
HOWL

Spring 1988 ■ No 39 ■ 30p

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

HSA



HOWL 39
PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX

This is the first ever 24-page HOWL. It's been made possible by a combination of the HSA's firmer financial footing and the growing response from readers. Two years ago we were lucky to get half a dozen lines of group news from most contributors, let alone longer articles, letters and photographs. Now we often receive more than we can print and HOWL is all the livelier for it.

This edition comes together with a separate booklet from HSA committee giving you all the information you need about the AGM and the committee elections. As you will see, an important constitutional debate will take place at the AGM this year. In the hope of informing the debate further, this HOWL carriers two Forum articles on the issues to be discussed.

We also feature a larger group news section than normal in response to those readers who have told us we don't write enough about this group or that group, or who have simply told us that they think group news is the most imporant section of the magazine. If you still feel hard done by, you probably need to amend the information you send us. We tend to give greater coverage to those groups who supply the most detail about their tactics, successes or disappointments. Be more specific without being long-winded. We'd also welcome longer articles about your group, local hunt, strategy or tactics, similar to Clydeside's in HOWL 38 or West Wilts' in this one.

Articles should not exceed 1000 words (page) except by prior arrangement and should be accompanied wherever possible with photographs. Letters should be kept to 300 words. Please type all work (or write legibly) in double spacing, leaving a wide margin on the left as well as plenty of space at top and bottom of each sheet. Articles will not normally be accepted without a name on the end. And please, keep us deluged with photographs!

Copydate for HOWL 40 is July 4th.
HOWL is edited, designed, and produced by Steve Poole & Janette Kerr. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or of the HSA.

COVER PHOTO by Simon Wild: Hunt saboteur, Pat Kelly, is horse-whipped by Hampshire Hunt whipper-in Mark Evans. To add insult to injury, Pat, who was on a public right of way, was immediately arrested. See legal pages.





Badger Guards Wanted

Dear HOWL,

Every year hundreds of badgers meet an untimely end, both illegally at the hands of badger diggers and baiters and lawfully by being trapped and snared by the Ministry of Agriculture.

For eight years our group has campaigned against this appalling slaughter, both through political channels and by using direct action in the fields and woods where it is carried out. Out Badger Guards protect threatened badger setts and habitat, seek to deter the illegal badger abusers and monitor the activities of Ministry of Agriculture killiny teams.

Each year brings increased pressures and with the best will in the world our volunteers can only do so much. Because of new threats we are now appealing for more people to come forward to help actively with our work. At present, we need, volunteers to help protect badgers in Devon, Cornwall, Wiltshire and Berkshire, though we would be interested to hear from anyone outside these areas who might be able to travel elsewhere in emergencies.

Obviously, because of the safety of the badgers, we have to "vet" anyone who wishes to become a Badger Guard (This is usually just an informal chat).

My we, therefore, use your columns to appeal to anyone who is interested in this kind of voluntary work to drop us a line. We will send applicants a Fact sheet and, if they are still interested, arrange a meeting.

With very many thanks,

Brenda Charlesworth
Dartmoor Badgers Protection League
Riverside Cottage, Poundsgate,
Newport Abbot
Devon TQ13 7N

BLOODSPORTS AND POLITICS

Dear HOWL,

So, some people are still claiming that by voting for a Labour government, bloodsports will be abolished. (Letter, Howl 38).

Can you not see that Labour's promise to abolish bloodsports is just an empty promise to get your votes as they know that animal liberationists are a growing breed, and because they are against the class system. Sure, some Labour candidates do dislike bloodsports for compassionate reasons but so do some conservative and SLDP candidates. I think we should be looking at which individual candidates, irrespective of party, are on our side; and let's not get fobbed off with the answer, "Oh, our party manifesto says...."

I am also unconvinced that banning bloodsports would see the end of them. The banning of badger baiting and dog-fighting did not stop either of these cruel activities did it? Both go on illegally. I know there has been some success in getting hunting banned from certain open space, but a total ban would never work.

Public opinion is changing slowly and the more the atrocities of the sport are published in newspapers, the quicker the battle will be won. Sabotaging hunts also seems to be having the desired effect; keep up the good work, Hunt Saboteurs!

S de-Groome (Mrs)
Wisbech, Cambs.

Dear HOWL,

I must support Chris Pegman in his assertion (letters, HOWL 38) that politics must come into the fight against bloodsports, for the reason that the Labour Party alone is committed to their abolition, but there is a great dilemma here. There must be a great many Tory, Liberal and SDP supporters who abhor bloodsports (my own Tory MP is one, if I am to believe her letters) and would there be an effect on HSA membership if HOWL exhorted them all to vote Labour?

Similarly, the popularity of angling causes great embarrassment generally to wildlife preservation societies. Should one sacrifice the fish to the greater good or lose the chance of outlawing, for instance, hunting with hounds by offending the anglers?

Personally I have never been so much a tactician as a bull at a gate and would be inclined to tell people how to vote, and for what reason. I feel there is no hope for animals unless bills with teeth are passed in parliament, but I can understand how organisations can be torn apart in their efforts to find the right approach.

Incidentally, there must be a lot of 'non-active' pensioners like myself who support the HSA and appreciate the activities of the young ones. I am doubtful whether, if this organisation had been in being in my youth, I'd have had the guts to do the same, but don't, please, underestimate the value of the non-active. We can (and do) write letters, spread the word and supply a little money (if only it could be more!). It's not a lot, but better than nothing.

Mary Jones
Wallasey, Merseyside

WATERLOO CUP

Dear Sabs,

Once again we have to say thanks to all of you who turned up at the Waterloo Cup demonstration. Despite the fact that we delivered 200,000 leaflets, we still only had a turnout of 800. I am afraid I do not know how to motivate a very apathetic general public.

I do know, however, that inflammatory remarks by representatives of the League Against Cruel Sports do nothing to help our cause. Here, I quote directly from several newspapers – Mr Lindsay Rogers, National Director (?) of the L.A.C.S. said, "I was sickened by the protestors. I hate them more than I hate the coursers". This individual has obviously lost sight of what the whole Animal Rights movement is about. Despite rumours to the contrary, he is not (thankfully) part or our organisation. We at the N.A.C.C. have not lost sight of our aims, and plans for continuing our campaign are already underway. For more information please write to us at our P.O. Box.

Yours sincerely, for the N.A.C.C. and the hares,

Roger Slade
Joint Co-ordinator, N.A.C.C.
PO Box 8, Widnes,
Cheshire WA8 0DX

Dear HOWL,

In my opinion, the disruptive behaviour at Altcar started two hours before we reached the killing fields and it came from one Policeman on Horseback.

I and a number of people were milling about. I was speaking to some people who I had met last year had not seen since. Then I was speaking to a family who were there for the first time. The mood of the whole group was very friendly and there was no sign of any trouble.

At this point a mounted policeman came trotting towards us for no apparent reason, we separated to let him through but when he reached the edge of the group the horse stopped dead and started to 'dance'. The rider did not control the horse and one of the young men was stamped on the foot by the animal. I shouted up to the rider to 'steady on' but my call went unheeded as he continued with indifferent arrogance. I pose the question why the mounted police needed to be on the narrow lane among the protestors when there were fields on each side of the lane where they could have waited.

I would also like to say how disappointed I was to hear Mr Lindsay Rogers on local television condemn the so called violence. To say the LACS would not support future venues by the N.A.C.C. is playing into the hands of Mark Prescot and his ilk.

Yours for Human and Animal rights

E, Morrison

Merseyside

Dear HOWL,

Just writing a few lines to express my sympathy to those people belonging to the Hunt Saboteurs and animal rights groups who have been prosecuted trying to help a dumb creature from being torn apart by so-called 'sportsmen' at the Waterloo Cup.

The law is not just. Why, in God's name, don't they ban hare coursing and foxhunting? Anyway, I hope the organiser meets with his just deserts. He said he didn't see anything cruel in hare coursing. I'd like to put him between two lions and watch him being torn to bits and I'd enjoy it. I'm a lover of all God's creatures and help when I can. God bless you and your companions for trying to help a defenceless creature. Don't lose heart!

F Taylor

St Helens, Merseyside.

DRIED BLOOD

Dear HOWL,

I was present yesterday at a talk on the tactics of hunt sabbing given by representatives of the HSA.

For the most part I found the talk very interesting and highly informative, however towards the end of the evening the subject of laying false trails arose and I eventually left the meeting feeling completely disillusioned with the HSA.

It was suggested that the best substance to use for laying a trail is dried blood which, we were told, comes from abbatoirs and can be bought from Garden Centres. It was said that some might find "ethical problems" in using the blood of animals but after all the animals from which it came were dead anyway and so why not make use of it? Few of the "animal rights" campaigners present seemed to find any problem at all, so we were treated to an account of how to reconstitute, mature, store and use the blood!

Let me explain why dried blood should not be bought or used. When an animal is killed at an abbatoir ALL of its blood is sold for profit. It flesh is used for meat, its fat is used in many foods, its skin is used to make leather or suede, its organs are used for human and animal food, it bones and its blood are used to make fertilisers, and as a teacher I know that its eyes may well be sold to schools for dissection. Selling every part of the dead animal makes the meat trade profitable.

Am I daring to suggest that hunt saboteurs ought to be vegan? Yes, of course they must! So must ALL animal rights activists. How else can they convince even themselves that their motives are concerned with ending animal abuse wherever it is found? When a sab buys his dried blood, which may well save a fox or hare, he contributes to an industry which causes great suffering to millions of creatures.

Please, let us stop using the old excuse "It's dead anyway" when buying the products of the slaughter-house, after all, so is a pork chop.

David Lane

Whitstable, Kent

HSA's Tactics Officer writes:

Having tried various types of false trail in my 14 years of experience, only dried blood has been able to hold a pack's interest long enough to enable it to hunt a false line. Fox-bedding and fox urine will only attract momentary interest because the scent that foxes follow is pumped out by the fox's adrenalin and these alternatives are a poor imitation.

The use of dried blood is an ethical issue, and one that a national organisation like ours cannot persuade or disuade individuals to take. As Tactics Officer, I can only point out the best methods for sabotaging hunts. Properly made and laid blood trails can render a hunt useless before it begins, thus saving lives even though the group that has laid it may have gone off to sab another hunt. The question is, are you prepared to invest £1.00 in the meat trade to sabotage up to 15 hunts which on average will save 30 foxes, or are you not? It is a matter for individual choice, as I explained before telling people how to use it should they want to.

Aubrey Thomas

WASTE OF SPACE

Dear HOWL,

I was disappointed on receiving HOWL 38 to find that, in response to a letter from Devon Saboteurs, Ralph Cook had been given over a page to reply to it. Committee members perks I suppose? Presumably any other member would have had to wait until HOWL 39 to get a reply printed. I resent both this and what I see as a waste of space in the HOWL. I want to see news from other groups, tactics, legal advice and other positive articles fill the pages, not items prompted by Devon group's internal petty squabblings about committee members expenses etc. I know the Scottish committee member only received his fares; what's wrong with that?

And, by the way, if Forum is to be handed over to a committee member to waste a page replying to this letter, I'd rather you didn't bother to print it.

Sarah J Hicks

Clydeside HSA

A reply from a committee member was sought and printed in the same edition as the letter because I though the matter needed an immediate response (Ed).

CABBAGES AND CREAM EGGS

Dear HOWL,

I read through your 'Committee Elections' plea with a wry smile because, as an expanding organisation, it always fails to amaze me how much the HSA seems to revel in housing itself within a fickle ghetto After an excellent article (Dave Weeks') suggesting we cast off our prejudices and accept whoever is willing to stand up against bloodsports, why oh why must we still reveal our diet when wishing to be part of the HSA Committee? Do you really want to know how many cabbages we eat? No – you are simply demanding the only acceptable response ("vegan"), for as any holier-than-thou HSA member knows, anyone who eats Cadbury's Cream Eggs is not only morally deficient and without the slightest dedication, but also can't be any good at their job!

Seriously though, don't you think it's about time to wise up? What we eat may be a good indicant of general beliefs, but has absolutely no bearing on our ability to do a committee job well. If the managing director of McDonalds turned out to be an absolutely brilliant Contacts Officer, then I for one would accept him being on the Committee and hope that in the future his work for the HSA would quickly show him the error of his ways, rather than self-righteously slamming the door shut in his face because he consumes Big Macs, and thus never giving him the chance to see what else is on our side of the fence and to change for the better.

Open the door or kick in the teeth? I prefer the former so please do away with the Tartex-or-else attitude and abolish the necessary word 'vegan' from everyone's CV. Of course we want everyone to turn vegan, but it should not be seen as a standard pre-requisite for any budding Committee member.

The Ghost Of Paint-Pots Deep

MYER UNDER FIRE

Dear HOWL,

If James Myer (letters, HOWL 38) is so keen on obeying authority, what will he do the next time a Landowner tells him to get off his/her land? It seems to me that as soon as we obey authority, most of our effective sabbing goes out the window.

Our group runs totally without leader figures but with plenty of organisation enabling us to sab twice a week. Without turning HOWL's pages into an argument on the AIDS campaign, I would just like to say that if the report is so wonderful and important, why did they print it so expensively and make most of the facts unavailable to those of use who cannot afford yet another four quid?

I don't know about other areas, but in the South East, the majority are in favour of the Federation plans and if that makes us all anarchists, so much the better.

Yours for a leader-free world

Simon Russell

Tunbridge Wells Animal Rights

Dear HOWL,

There is no such person as James Myer connected with Post Box 20, Paignton, though the writer of the letter in Howl is clearly identifiable by the statements he makes.

The unsubstantiated claim for Biohazard campaign, stems more from "Mr Myer's" sense of loyalty, after he enjoyed an expense paid weekend in London, rather than from any reasoned argument.

One could ask why the wealth of the National AV Societies had not been used to promote the work of Hans Ruesch which would have rendered the Biohazard campaign superfluous.

"Mr Myer's call for an authority structure, does not seem to apply to himself. He used the Post Box without seeking permission, and his reckless enthusiasm in contacting the press is charitably

met with amusement. However, after his attendance at a meeting of CAW, certain false allegations, concerning the original Torquay group, caused distress when reported without verification in ARC NEWS.

Authority structures, once established, become a law unto themselves, attracting meglomaniacs, climbers and hangers-on. Perhaps "Mr Myer" has forgotten the time when the local group to which he belonged had only five members. We wished to conduct a local campaign and begged a pittance from a National Society. The request was turned down, but ingenuity overcame poverty and the campaign was a success.

What is needed in the Animal Rights movement, is not more authority, but a sense of personal responsibility and a source of genuine uncensored information which is not available when vested interest is in command.

Elsie van der Steen
Paignton, Devon

Dear HOWL,

"James Myer" could at least have the courage to sign his own name to the preposterous letter which appeared in the last issue of "Howl"; if he feels so strongly about the views he expressed. He might also have admitted that he has no authority to use the PO Box address he gave or to seem to express opinions on the policy of the local group of which he is a member.

So "Mr Myer" is opposed to anarchists, Federationalists et al. Perhaps he should have been totally honest with your readers and confessed that he is also a self-admitted racist and anti-feminist – as many hunt saboteurs who have been out with him will testify. Perhaps "Mr Myer" would also explain to us all why vivisection has not miraculously stopped with the publication of 'Biohazard' as he claims it will and what he personally has done to end vivisection or any other form of animal abuse. I have known "Mr Myer" since he first crawled into our movement. I have somehow missed his endeavours in the cause of animal liberation.

However, I can understand "James'" attachment to the hierarchical structure of national groups. Right-wingers usually do have such yearnings – as the sieg-heil brigade in pre-war Germany aptly proved.

John Bainbridge
PO Box 20, Paignton

The Dress Sense of St Francis

Dear HOWL,

The remark by a Pytchley Hunt supporter reproduced in Huntsmanballs (HOWL 38) which says of saboteurs: "You couldn't believe how horrible they look; they are so sordid" is about the most ignorant and narrow-winded remark I've ever heard.

Did St Francis dress up in stupid garb to put his point of view across? No; in fact he was probably ridiculed and laughed at for dressing in rags. It was what he did that has made history; he defended those animals weaker than himself and praised God for their beauty. He was an extremely strong man who stood alone amidst much opposition. These weak hooligans who glory in gore and cannot appreciate the beauty of nature, should open their minds to the work of St Francis and realise how pathetic they are in thinking one's dress sense makes them into a better person. Attending hunts for 'show' that others will think them 'posh' is pathetic beyond words. Bloodhunters had better think of another, more convincing approach if they wish to stop those who wish to prevent the torture of God's creatures.

Ann James
Wellingborough, Northants.

MIKE NUNN APPEAL

Dear HOWL,

You will, I think, all be aware of the contribution made by Mike Nunn to the animal rights movement in this country. The achievements of the South East Animal Liberation League are now well documented. Much of the League's success was a direct result of Mike's expert organisational abilities and sheer hard work.

Following the Wickham trial, Mike Nunn not only had a lenghty prison sentence to serve, but also, as the result of a libel action, has suffered a heavy financial burden. As a result of this, an appeal has been set up with the target of raising £6000 for Mike.

He is still actively involved in the movement, recently assisting in re-activating the all-night vigils outside Shamrock Farms, Sussex, the major primate importers in this country.

Please help our appeal. Animal rights people are known to be a generous lot so, hopefully, it will not be long before the target is reached. Any amount, large or small will be gratefully received. Please make cheques or postal orders out to Mike Nunn Appeal Fund c/o 19 Perth Rd, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7EA.

Melvyn Dallas
(secretary).

THE OLD WOODEN LIE

Dear HOWL,

At a recent trial in Winchester of 17 animal rights campaigners, the presiding judge, Judge Lewis McCreedy, pointed out that the protesters had in fact been trespassing but added, "Trespass is not a criminal offence. You have all seen notices saying "Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted' – this doesn't really mean anything because you can only be prosecuted for a criminal offence".

It may be helpful to know that an experienced and extremely senior member of the Bench has spelled out the law so explicitly to an animal rights group and may perhaps give Hunt Saboteurs the necessary courage to follow the often elusive hunt into territory where they appear to believe they have absolute right of way, and nobody else should dare to challenge their authority.

P H Nelson
Gosport, Hants

SELF DEFENCE

Dear HOWL

I strongly advise all sabs to take up the offer of the self defence expert published in the last HOWL. In our group, eight people now train in at least one martial art each and every one of us is more confident, fitter and just that bit better able to cope with heavies. As time goes on, the more able we become, male and female sabs train together, spar together and gain trust in each other.

The sooner you start the better. You'll find an indescribable confidence in yourself in hairy situations which will improve the chances of saving lives. Try it. You've nothing to lose (but your teeth!)

Jack
West Midlands HSA

RSPB THREATENS DIRECT ACTION

THE deaths of 2000 Cornish sea-birds, caught and drowned in 'invisible' fishing nets during a single five week period in February, has been described as a "national disaster for birds" by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The sea-coloured plastic gill nets are being used off the coast of St Ives to maximise fish catches. But razor-bills and guillemots are diving into them too, attracted by ensnared fish. According to the RSPB's John Waldon, 538 birds had to be removed from five nets in just 90 minutes on one occasion. "At times, the toll is as great as three dead birds to every fish caught", he said.

The RSPB is campaigning for a court ban on the nets under the Wildlife and Countryside Act but says that if the carnage continues in the meantime, "we shall have no alternative but to go out in boats and confront them . . . there is no way we can sit back and watch thousands of birds diving to their deaths in these nets."

A fishing industry spokesperson commented, "What has happened is horrid, but it is the fishermen's livelihood and they are under great pressure at the moment."

FRUITS OF SPORT



photo: Chris Bishop.

A Hunt saboteur displays the carcass of a hare killed by the Holcombe Harriers on January 9th. It was put up at the end of an otherwise uneventful day as hounds were being walked off. Saboteurs grabbed the screaming creature and tried to protect it but were charged into a ditch by the huntsman and the hare lost its life in the melee.

HUNTER PUTS MORE THAN HIS FOOT IN IT

A RIDER with the Belvoir Hunt was completely immersed in slurry when he inadvertently toppled into a vast pit of it in a farmyard at Allington on February 7th.

He and his horse went headlong into the 10ft deep sea of stinking gloop as he picked his way across what he though was a concrete stackyard. Straw had blown across the surface, concealing its dark and dirty secret. The rider, Michael Toulson, and his horse, were pulled out by local farmers. "Luckily neither of us seemed to have swallowed too much liquid", said Toulson. Unfortunately, hunters spouting bull-shit is nothing new . . .

SAVAGERY GOES PUBLIC

FEW things inflame the sensibilities of your average provincial newspaper reporter more than incidents where hounds have killed the 'right' prey in the 'wrong' place or else killed the 'wrong' prey altogether.

The East Essex FH won themselves a great deal of unwanted publicity in February when their hounds chased and savaged an injured deer near Braintree. Hunt saboteurs who witnessed the incident said the hounds had to be physically pulled off the animal one by one before it could stagger away. The newspaper report that followed gave hunt master, Guy Lyster, the opportunity to tell the world, "It was no doubt suffering from great discomfort and possibly maimed so it was fortunate the hounds found it". With a great gash in its neck where hounds had bitten deep, it was certainly suffering from great discomfort after the attack, and was later destroyed by a gamekeeper. Earlier that day, the hunt had chased a perfectly healthy hind across the busy A131, but it escaped.

Three days later, Lyster's pack rampaged through village gardens at Church End and not without the local paper again taking an interest. Furious residents demand that their MP, Tony Newton, take action after Lyster's assertion that there had been "no danger" from the incident. The image was one of damage and invaded privacy, not 'danger', but perhaps one cannot expect someone like Guy to realise that this is an issue when applied to ordinary people.

Hounds from the South Cornwall FH had to have a gun fired over their heads before hunters would agree to remove them from a nature reserve at Gorran in February. Farmer, Louise Whetter, said the hunt were well aware they were trespassing but "either did not reply or adopted a very arrogant tone". She fired the gun to frighten hunt staff and is now seeking legal redress.

February also saw the Beaufort FH willfully trespassing over the land of Castle Combe conservationist, Paul Lysley, despite a 20 year old ban. The hunt has disregarded the incident but accepts it has a problem with what it calls "the present generation of the Lysley family".

In March when the Southdown and Eridge FH tried to hunt close to the Kit Wilson Trust Animal Welfare sanctuary near Hadlow, hunt saboteurs from Tunbridge Wells and Brighton were asked by the owners to make sure the hunt stayed clear. When the huntsman refused to leave a field just south of the sanctuary, saboteurs decided to take no chances. They called off his hounds, took them to an empty field owned by the Trust, and held them there.

The Isle of Wight Hunt were in the news on March 18th after its pack rioted into the grounds of Whitecroft Psychiatric Hospital and terrorised 40 stray cats which the staff have taken into their care.

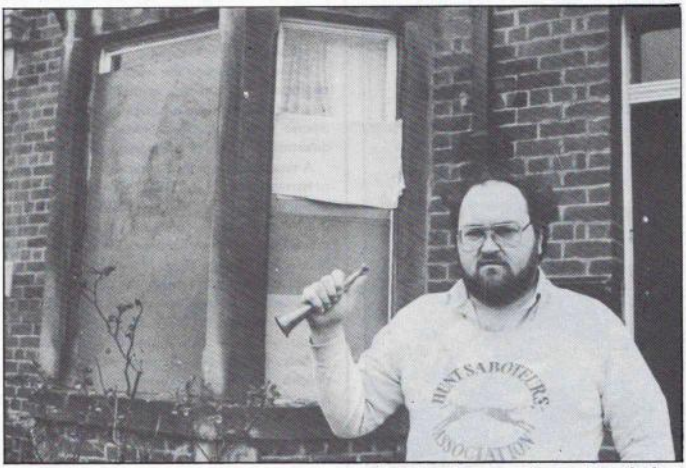
Callous And Cruel

The Devon & Somerset Staghounds killed a five month old deer in a garden at Luccombe in January and drew the usual storm of protest from angry villagers. Master's wife, Diana Scott was asked by a local paper to comment on the killing and could only come up with, "People call us callous and cruel but they should be more concerned about the awful things that happen to children"(!)

The village of Mullion in Cornwall was invaded by hounds from the Cury Hunt in February, chasing several pets and persuing one cat right into its owner's kitchen. Stuart Thornton grabbed his cat as it ran in, narrowly saving it from death. Other dogs trampled newly planted vegetables and the huntsman was told to remove them by resident, Brian Hyde. "But he just set there with a supercilious grin on his face", he said.

Most barbarous of all however, was an incident on February 25th, when the Atherstone Hunt tore up a pregnant vixen in a private garden, in front of the householders and left the tiny body of the unborn cub behind on the grass. "They were completely out of controll", Alan Smart told the Leicester Mercury. "The riders didn't know where the hounds were. They had ridden past our Close completely." Ten minutes after the killing, the hunt cantered up and took part of the vixen's carcass away. "They were arrogant", said Mr Smart (funny how that word keeps cropping up). "They just believed that they had the right to do what they liked". Despite the evidence of the discarded foetus on the lawn, an Atherstone spokesman who turned out to be no less an intellectual luminary than Brian Toon, told local TV news reporters, "There is some doubt as to whether or not it was a vixen"(!?).

ARSON ATTACK ON HUNT SABOTEUR



TYNESIDE hunt saboteur, Dave Shepherdson has become the victim of what is almost certainly a campaign of retribution waged by local hunt supporters.

Last December, Dave was acquitted of a charge of assaulting John Hewbrough, amateur whip with the Tynedale FH (see HOWL 38). Following the acquittal, Tyneside sabs returned to sabbing the Tynedale having stayed away while the trial was pending.

At first, the hunt adopted an attitude of studied indifference, but this uneasy truce soon became too much for the hunt's terrier man, Paul Hawkes. In January, at the hunt's Colwell meet, Dave's car was boxed in by Hawkes and his sidekicks and Hawkes made a move to put a metal pole through the car radiator. When Dave got out and began taking photographs, he was jumped on and punched to the ground by four supporters, one of whom also 'confiscated' his camera. The police have taken the matter seriously and the evidence has been handed to the Crown Prosecution Service. The CPS, however, seem to have a curious reluctance to persue the matter further. Strange.

On February 26th, in the late evening, Dave was visited by his neighbours who had called to say his car was on fire outside in the street. After being extinguished, the fire brigade confirmed that it was an arson attack. Petrol had been poured into the car and set alight and closer examination revealed traces of a trail of petrol leading under the car to the petrol tank. If it had exploded, as was clearly the intention of the arsonists, there could have been lethal consequences.

Later, in March, there were two attacks on Dave's flat. On consecutive Wednesday evenings (23rd and 30th), bricks were thrown through the windows. Both attacks happened while the flat was empty and at almost idential times (9pm). Dave lives in a small residential terrace of houses where it would be impossible to casually lob a brick without being noticed. But the fact that these have obviously been carefully prepared attacks has not instilled any concern into the CID who have adopted a shoulder-shrugging attitude. In Ulster of course, these would be regarded as acts of terrorism.

Tynesdie HSA are appealing for donations to cover the damages that Dave has recently suffered. Please send whatever you can to PO Box 33, Gateshead NE8 1JN.

Tyneside HSA

Boy hurt as more hounds cause traffic chaos

IN the worst of a late-season spate of traffic accidents caused by out-of-control foxhounds, a 12 year-old boy was hospitalised with head wounds after being hurled from his pushbike.

Karl Eastman, of Rogate, West Sussex, was cycling home for his lunch when hounds from Mr Goschen's hunt leapt into the road in front of him. His injuries required eight stitches to the back of his head and seven above one eye. His hands, grazed and gritted, had to be bandaged. Although several hunt riders passed by shortly after the accident, they did nothing to help Karl and offered no appolgies.

Goschen himself refused to pay the boy's family any compensation for his injuries and commented. "Boys do fall off bicycles don't they? Even if it is a stray dog from the pack, it is not the owner's fault. The hounds have a perfect right to be there".

Within weeks, however, Goschen's marauding dogs had piled onto the M3 near Hook and caused another accident. This time, two of the pack were killed and police had to close part of the carriageway. "In the end, no-one was hurt", said Hampshire Chief Inspector, Brian Johnson after the incident on March 8th. "But this was a very serious accident and we could easily have had dead people not just dead dogs."

Causing chaos on the roads is, unfortunately, not the preserve of a single hunt. On January 11th, a car carrying four children home from school in north Cornwall was badly damaged when three hounds from the Lamerton hunt leapt in front of it. One dog was hit and hobbled away; the car suffered a dented front grill and smashed distributor. The driver and children had to walk home.

A phone call to the kennels confirmed that one of the Lamerton's hounds had come home limping but the hunt secretary tried to deny responsibility. He insisted that the huntsman had been in control of the pack all day and that his hounds had not been involved in any accidents. Only when confronted by the evidence of his own kennel man did he change his tune and agree to pay for the damage out of hunt funds. He was very keen not to 'bother' any insurance companies; presumably motivated by a strong desire to avoid publicity.

Storm Of Protest

When, on December 7th, a hound from a Tyneside pack was killed on a railway line at Alnwick, train services throughout the North East were delayed for long periods. Alone among the incidents reported here, this one caused a storm of protest in the House of Commons with several MPs demanding that the hunt be prosecuted. The reason for all the concern turned out to be that junior Transport Minister, Peter Bottomley, had been kept waiting for half an hour on a platform at Darlington when his train was delayed.

Although Inspector Johnson was quite right to describe the second Goschen incident as potentially lethal, the other accidents were no less so and one would have thought the police would take them more seriously. None of these hunts have been prosecuted to date, and the question that must be answered is; how serious an accident do we have to have before the law is invoked to confine uncontrollable packs to their kennels?

In fact, what every saboteur knows and what most huntsmen will admit, is that when hounds are in full cry, they will outstrip hunt staff and keenly persue the line they have found. If that line takes them onto a public road, there is nothing the most experienced huntsman in the world can do about it unless he is right with them – and he seldom is. Road and railway accidents are part and parcel of hunting with hounds and our law makers must resign themselves to the former as long as they continue to allow the latter.

AGAINST THE LAW?

The difficulty of bringing prosecutions against foxhunters for alleged infringements of the 1911 Protection of Animals Act was highlighted in February when a probable infringement was actually witnessed and documented by a hunt saboteur.

STEVE Fowler took a series of photographs, including the one shown here, when Mr Goschen's FH put a fox to ground on Puttenham Common. As our centre page feature in HOWL 37 pointed out, it is unlawful to "cause unnecessary suffering to" or "cause, procure, or assist at the fighting or baiting of" any 'domestic' animal. The hunt obstructed all entrances to the fox's earth, either with netting or people, and introduced a terrior to locate it.

Obviously there is nothing unusual in this. It is the standard method for 'taking' a fox underground. The terrior, however, as a domestic animal is arguably being put wilfully into a situation in which it may be harmed by a captive wild animal; indeed they frequently are. In this instance, the retrieved terrier had blood on its muzzle, presumably from the cornered fox's bite. The difficulty of course, lies in proving the unlawful intentions of the hunt. An RSPCA inspector or vet would be required to witness the dig and verify the occasion and cause of the terrier's injuries.

Over a year ago, a dog belonging to the Goschen terrier man was so badly injured during a dig on Old Dean Common that a policeman reported it to saboteurs who were present. This later resulted in the terrier's injuries being checked by an RSPCA inspector, but difficulty in proving that the dog had not received its injuries by its own misfortune elsewhere prevented a prosecution.



photo: Steve Fowler.

DUG OUT AND SHOT: the fox is tossed to the waiting pack.

RSPCA RADICALS LAUNCH WATCHDOG

Dave Wetton writes:

THE importance of the RSPCA, as a link between the pet owning voting public and the parliamentary legislatory process has long been appreciated by animal welfarists and animal abusers alike.

History has proved the need for a vigilant and organised opposition, within the Society's membership, to those amongst its ranks who, for diverse and dubious motives, seem equally determined to stifle or dilute progressive attitudes.

A recent upsurge in the number of complaints of harrassment of local RSPCA branches by head office, in some cases leading to disbandment, plus the ruling council's continual vetoing of radical pro-animal proposals for the AGM agendas, have once again forced a group of concerned members to come together to remedy the situation.

As with similar previous groups, the aims of the recently formed RSPCA Members Watchdop group will be to persue democracy within the Society, and monitor its work in relation to its policies, particularly ensuring that they not only remain undiluted but are preferably strengthened where necessary. We shall also seek to mobilise the membership in support of badly treated branch members, staff members and officials.

If you share these aims, are already an RSPCA member (or intend to become one) and, like us, appreciate the value of a strong, radically minded RSPCA with a solid pro-animal branch structure, you are urged to add your strength to ours. We are already producing regular newsletters and can be contacted by writing to RSPCA Members Watchdog, 44 Kingsley Rd, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RH.

LEGS SMASHED IN VICIOUS ASSAULT

PAUL Connelly, a terrierman with Sir Watkin William Wynn's FH, has appeared in court charged with unlawful and malicious wounding.



photo: Notts HSA

Ambulance workers carefully life Nigel on board.

Connelly is accused of taking part in an alleged assault upon Nottingham hunt saboteur, Nigel Lohan, after the hunt met at Overton Bridge, Clwyd, on March 2nd.

Nigel's legs were so badly damaged as a result of injuries he received that he was unable to walk and had to be carried from a field to the side of the road to await an ambulance. He was taken to Wrexham hospital and then to Nottingham Casaulty that evening. The doctor attending him called it one of the worst cases of beating he had ever treated. Nigel's right leg had to drained because of internal bleeding and he had ten times the normal amount of sineuvial fluid. He has now spent four weeks on crutches, his legs so weak and swollen that they would not support his weight on their own. Police confiscated a pick-axe handle from the accused's vehicle after the incident.

Connelly appeared before Wrexham magistrates at the end of March and the case was adjourned pending further medical reports on Nigel's injuries. The court will sit to consider these in May and decide whether or not to refer the case to Crown Court. Nottingham HSA are appealing for financial help to assist Nigel in putting a claim before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. If successful, he would then be awarded considerable damages.

Worthwhile

TAKING cases before the board is well worth it, as Saffron Walden hunt saboteur, Kevin Saunders discovered recently. HOWL readers will remember that Kevin was beaten about the head with Essex FH whipper-in Martin Blackmoor's crop handle in March 1987. His injuries were so severe, that Kevin nearly lost his right ear (see HOWL 37). Blackmoor was inexplicably cleared of assault at Chelmsford Crown Court last July and Kevin was left with no alternative but to approach the CICB.

The Board listened to the evidence and questioned Blackmoor. Muddling his lines, the whipper-in at last told the truth about the assault; that Kevin had actually been walking away from him at the time and had offered him no violence whatsoever. The Chairman of the Board ruled that Kevin should recieve full compensation of £1000 (the maximum for an ear), making the verdict of the Crown Court look very peculiar indeed.

Essex Hunt Chairman, Paul Dixey, was visibly annoyed at the verdict, demanded to know how much Kevin had been awarded, and complained pompously that he had not been permitted to submit his own 'evidence' to the Board. The CICB Chairman had ruled it irrelevant.

If you can help Nottingham HSA with their expenses for a similar case, please contact them at Box J, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St, Hockley, Nottingham.



photo: Notts HSA

A policeman holds the retrieved pick-axe handle.

BARBARISM ON CAMERA

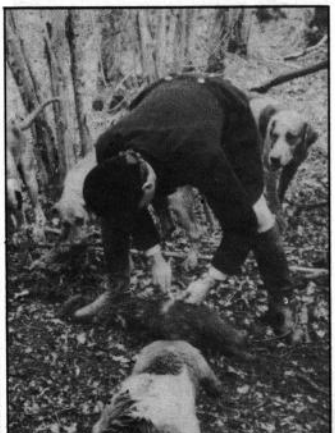




photo: Simon Wild

ABOVE: The Chiddingfold's huntsman carves off trophies from a fox that had gone to ground but was bolted and killed within fifteen seconds near Petworth on March 19th. RIGHT: A rider holds a severed pad. Other parts of the body were distributed to children.

PRINCE BACKS WILDFOWLERS

PRINCE Charles has ignored a masive local petition from wildlife campaigners and renewed a wildfowling licence on one of his Cornish estates.

The 38 wildfowlers were given permission to continue shooting ducks for another five years on the river Camel estuary on February 7th. The petition against the slaughter, backed by a number of internationally reknowned conservationists was signed by more than 2000 people.

Democracy in action . . .

HUNTING BAN IN CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE County Council voted to prohibit all hunting with hounds and all hare coursing from land under its control on February 25th.

They are making maps available to show where hunting has been banned and we strongly advise all HSA members (active or supporting) living in Cheshnire to obtaln them now in readiness for next season.

The Council are believed to be sincere in their determination to enforce the ban and will be relying to a great extent upon public monitoring to ensure that no hunts ignore the order.

As another coarse fishing season approaches, we have a message for those who bait with weighted death:

ANGLER, SLING YOUR HOOK!

THE HSA adopted a general policy of opposition to all animal exploitation, including angling, in 1979, followed by 1983 by our much-publicised decision to encourage non-violent direct-action against fishing for sport: nearly five years on from that decision, reports of the sabotage of angling by hunt saboteurs are, to say the least, only spasmodic. It is alleged that this is because there is

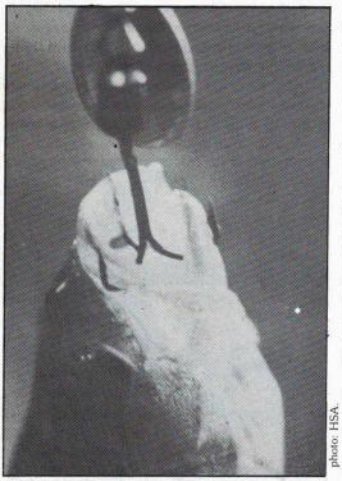


photo: HSA

HOOKED ON SPORT. The injury to this fish's mouth reduces its chances of survival following release.

little support for a campaign against angling but this is not the case.

Following the publication, in 1981, of the RSPCA commissioned report into the cruelty involved in shooting and angling, the RSPCA has made a tentative step towards outright opposition to angling by recommending that anglers adopt a number of suggestions designed to reduce the suffering to individual fish. In the same year the Campaign for the Prevention of Cruelty by Angling (CPCA), was formed (it now operates under the less compromising and less cumbersome name of Campaign for the Abolition of Angling, CAA), which although having a small membership has been able to sustain a newsletter and modest letter-writing campaign against angling. It has contributed to the steady erosion of the formerly irreproachable reputation of angling.

Even the League Against Cruel Sports has a policy against angling as the following, taken from the minutes of its August 1981 Executive Committee Meeting shows:

"Debate and Policy — John Bryant proposed, Jan Rennison seconded:

'The League Against Cruel Sports accepts that fish can experience pain and therefore condemns angling for sport.'

Agreed nem com."

Opposition to angling is a perfectly responsible, logical and sensible stance for anyone, who opposes cruelty to animals, to adopt.

Outside the Animal Rights movement angling has been severely damaged by the revelations that lead weights poisoned wild birds, especially swans, which led to the (unfortunately toothless), ban on the sale of lead weights. Despite the angling organisations' desperate attempts to portray themselves as guardians of our waterways their alignment with the British Field Sports Society in the Campaign for Country Sports, and the bad publicity generated by the thoughtless discarding of anglers tackle, which kills birds and mammals, has done little to retrieve the 'sports' 'good name'. Every year, for instance, useful bad publicity is brought to bear on angling when the youth section of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), publish the latest results of their survey into the amount of angler's tackle their members have found discarded along our rivers and canals.

UNFORTUNATELY little of the bad publicity angling receives is directed toward their abuse of fish. Only when "something happens" is the plight of the angler's intended victims considered by the media. It is, of course, only direct-action which provides the catalyst to such media interest; it is after all only the existance of the HSA which has kept the hunting issue in the semi-forefront of the news (much to the chagrin of many other campaigns for whom direct-action is not a feasible option); the backroom politiking of the League



photo: HSA

NET LOSS. Many fish die in keepnets because of the stress and injuries suffered in a crowded and poorly 'set' keepnet.

would go almost unnoticed if it were not for hunt sabotage. Thus if we want the angling issue to be aired in the press, if we want the campaign against angling to increase, we must take direct-action and it should be in concert with the campaigning of the CAA.

Fish, despite their appearance and reputation can experience pain; in fact their sensitivity is often greater than ours (for instance they can see in conditions that would render a human blind), the epidermis which protects their thin scales from infection is as sensitive as the lining of our eyes and just as easily damaged by human hands; and their mouths, heads and lateral lines — sensory cells along the sides of their bodies which detect vibrations in water — are probably more sensitive than any part of the human anatomy.

In addition they can learn. Fish get harder to catch after they have been caught once, despite the angler's attempts to disguise the hook with tempting, tasty morsels. This fact alone indicates that they must have found their last experience of being impaled on a hook, hauled into an alien environment in which they begin to "drown", having the hook torn from the mouth and being thrown into a crowded, turbid keep-net environment before finally (if it's lucky), being thrown unceremoniously back into the river in a stressed and disorientated state, quite unpleasant.

The angler's defence that all this does not harm the fish should be treated as a qualification for free mental health treatment on the NHS, or preferably in an asylum for the criminally insane.

BUT since it is not regarded as criminal, nor, unfortunately, insane, to go fishing, how can we best help fish? On June 18th this year, two days after the opening for the coarse fishing season, the HSA and CAA are running a National Anti Angling Day, this presents an excellent opportunity for us all to do something.

An angler may catch anything from nought to several hundred fish a day depending on his/her techniques, targets and location but even low key action can keep the 'bites' at bay. The angler is a sitting target (though they should not be used for target practice); why not persuade them to leave? In some cases the spoken word will be enough. Dropping very small pebbles into the water in the vicinity of the float will generally keep the fish away; a pebble every few minutes will be enough. If your angler's float is near the bank stamping your foot on the ground and moving vigorously where the fish can see you will keep them away, though again do not keep on doing it or the fish will get used to it. Noise also tends to work and you'll be rewarded by the anglers polite request for you to "desist" because you are scaring the fish away.

For more sophisticated tactics, buy the HSA Tactics Book (cost £1.00); this contains advice for sabotaging fishing. For details of what the CAA will be doing, or for details on membership, write to P.O. Box 14, Romsey, SO5 9NN.

Ralph Cook.

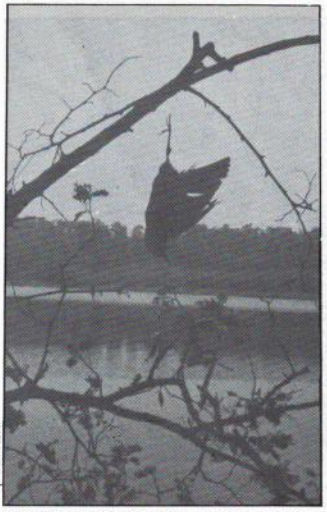


photo: HSA

HANGING ON THE LINE. Birds are frequent victims of discarded anglers' tackle.

WATERLOO CUP 1988

A good contingent of hunt saboteurs turned out for this year's NACC demonstration against the coursing at Altcar. John Hale was one of them and he sent us this report.

"We have more in common with the hare coursers than we have with these people." (Anti hare-coursing demonstrators) Mr Lindsay Rogers, Executive Committee, League Against Cruel Sports, Daily Telegraph 3rd March 1988.

Some 200 to 250 demonstrators assembled in Altcar for the march and demonstration on Tuesday 1st March. This was organised by the Northern Anti Coursing Council in association with the League Against Cruel Sports. The NACC had already held a successful 12-day march from Altcar to Downing Street in February to hand in a national petition against hare coursing. This long march had received good support and favourable local press along the route.

"There are 60 more Anti's than last year" the Officer in charge on Withins Lane told me. However, there were about 2000 to 2500 coursing supporters, at very most, on Tuesday the 1st. (The estimated numbers for the three days was 8000 – 9000.) Of these approximately 800 to 1000 were "hard core" lurcher lads, coursing club members, terrier types, diggers and baiters etc.

There was a heavy and well equipped Lancashire Constabulary presence working from their Altcar HQ with the Waterloo Cup security. The police contained the demonstration well, from their point of view, parking the coaches to perfection for an early departure and restricting it to the eastern part of Withins Lane. They also protected the demonstrators well, provided people stayed on Withins Lane, but not unexpectedly most officers felt that they could be best employed elsewhere. There were 12 arrests early on, as some people tried to reach the coursing field, however, unfortunately some of these people were beaten-up by coursing supporters and then thrown back onto Withins Lane.

If coursing goes as planned it is claimed that at least 64 courses will be run on day one, i.e. The first and second rounds of the Waterloo Cup and the first round of the Purse. Coursing started at 9.30am and finished at 4.00pm. The other competition lasted until about 6.00pm. However, only approximately 16 heats were run in the Cup proper.

The demonstration lasted until about 2.00pm. Then due to intense police persuasion, tragically, the NACC organisers withdrew from the Withins Lane position. However, it must be said that the police had little intention of letting the demonstration run much past this time. Up to this point about five or six courses were run and 2 hares killed. Most demonstrators sadly and incorrectly felt that they were of no relevance to the coursing in their Withins position, and moved off fairly quietly when the decision to leave was made.

Upon the demonstration leaving Withins Lane, the Waterloo Cup officials re-deployed and the event proceeded smoothly and efficiently with approximately 11 more courses being run. There were 5 more kills, (one out of sight at the run out-fence) and 2 or 3 trips (Injuries to hares that then managed to escape in these instances). In addition, in the courses run between 4.00pm and 6.00pm, approximately 4 heats, a further 1 or 2 hares may have been killed. There were 3 short slips, one very short, two resulting in kills.



photo: Edward.

Fed up with being pushed about by the police, a group of demonstrators at Altcar sit down and refuse to move.

"If I'd had a machine gun, I'd have been more tempted to turn it on the anarchists than the hare coursing enthusiasts." Mr Richard Course, Director, League Against Cruel Sports, Daily Telegraph 3rd March 1988.

The sort of activity greyhounds employ to catch and kill hares clearly fascinates the strange supporters of hare coursing. As I watched this shameful spectacle from the "Public Bank" the coursers enthusiasm rose to a crescendo as a greyhound killed or one of them lost a bet. As one pair of greyhounds were slipped short by about 18 yards of the white post, an elderly supporter exclaimed,

"This one's got no chance, they shouldn't slip so short, if the Anti's see this they will use it against us." The hare was killed.

One greyhound caught a hare and held it for about 3 minutes until the stewards approached. It then dropped the hare which ran away over a small dyke. The hound caught it again, and again dropped it as the stewards ran after it. The hare was away again to the end of the field dyke where the greyhound picked it up again. Finally, a steward made a rugby tackle on the dog grabbed the hare and then broke it's neck on his knee. The coursers thought all this was great fun.

The "Public Bank." This is the key to the prevention of effective action against the Waterloo Cup. It views and controls the Coursing ground, beating fields and all approaches, except the main one, which is controlled by the police. The "Public Bank" holds 800 – 1000 "hard core" coursing supporters who can be organised to prevent interference. Only one police constable is on duty here, looking after the "bookies".

Withins Lane. The holding of this position by demonstrators effectively prevented an estimated 50% of courses and therefore of kills. The holding of this position strains the coursing organisers to the limit. However, with time this position becomes more and more difficult to hold for a variety of reasons.

My conclusions to all this are as follows: The LACS are virtually ineffective. The NACC lack the experience to control fully the events needed to make the demonstration effective against the coursing.

However, in the past, the HSA has spent many years in the field against this event. With great public condemnation of hare coursing, the HSA was able to cause the Waterloo Cup as many problems in the field as it had in Parliament. When the Lords blocked legislation, the Coursing Club worked to promote coursing and finally gained the support of the BFSS. The tactic against the HSA was organised violence.

All in all the HSA could at least work with the NACC to maintain the Anti Coursing presence at the Waterloo Cup with some effect. Given that the strategy against coursing was largely set by the LACS but left to others to sort out after the political failure, it stands to reason that the opponents of coursing should now take a leaf out of the coursers book and rebuild the campaign until the scales tip again in our favour, once and for all.

John Hale.



SCOTLAND

THE *Larnarkshire & Renfrewshire FH* have been having a spot of bad luck with their digging out this season. Two have been prevented altogether by **CLYDESIDE HSA**. The first was abandoned when the hunt got bored of waiting for police to turn up and evict the twenty sabs occupying the earth. The police, for their part, were uninterested in trecking across muddy fields to do the job and stayed in their cars. The hunt then hit upon the cunning strategy of leaving the scene but with the intention of sneaking back later on when the sabs had departed. Sabs did not depart, however, but hid in the trees and waited. Sure enough, with darkness approaching, several hunters returned, complacently giggling. With a shout, the sabs ran from cover and sat once again upon the fox earth. The frustrated 'sportsmen' threw a few punches then left, followed back to kennels by some of the sabs. Since it was now dark, earth entrances were unblocked and the sabs left for good. The *L&R* have not managed a single hunt all season (they meet twice weekly) without saboteurs turning up to wreck it and morale and support are both at an all-time low.

TAYSIDE HSA have recently received widespread publicity concerning Fife's incredibly pro-hunt police force. This has led them to concentrate on a recruitment campaign within Fife itself.

Every Saturday of the 1987/88 season has seen saboteurs from **EDINBURGH** and **STIRLING** groups out against the *Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH*. The group has faced continuous and escalating violence from hunt riders and supporters, particularly the mobs of thugs mobilised each week by psychopathic terrier-man, Ian Marfleet (see Legal Page). On March 12th, the *L&S* took hounds across a nature reserve and finished the day trying to dig out on land belonging to Edinburgh District Council (where all hunting is banned). Although ordered off, the terriermen claimed that one of their terriers was stuck underground and would have to be dug out. This operation took three hours. When it was over, a bag was quickly thrown at the feet of Lord Linlithgow who had overseen the proceedings. Sabs tried to get hold of the bag to see inside, but were prevented by the police. When sabs persisted, the police grabbed the bag themselves which started a furious row with terrier-men shoving sabs into policemen and sabs trying to peer inside the bag. After several arrests (see Legal Page), a truce was called and saboteurs are now in the process of pushing a prosecution against the hunt for digging on council land. Despite the sustained violence of the hunt, only nine kills have been recorded all season and only one of those was achieved above ground. Initially police indifference to assaults on sabs has hopefully been dealt with by a meeting between **EDINBURGH HSA** and the local Chief Superintendent. It resulted in plain clothes police posing as supporters at one *L&S* meet and witnessing hunt threats against the group.

NORTHERN IRELAND

HUNT sabotage in Northern Ireland has been completely revitalised by **BELFAST HSA**. Their presence at a meet of the *East Down FH* early in January was enough to force the hunt onto MOD property beside the beach at Clough. The British army refused entry to the sabs but it was of little consolation to the hunt who could put nothing up but hares, and since sabs were watching they had to leave these. Hunt violence was counter-productive when the *North Downs Harriers* charged saboteurs and their Field Master rode full-tilt into a reporter from the Sunday News on January 16th. Sabs spent a useful day calling hounds off and there were no kills. A more problematic day was had in March against the *Sunnyland Beagles* who are a very tight pack and not so easy to pull. Despite this, the group saved a hare early in the day when it ran towards them, checked and jigged to the right, giving sabs an opportunity to rate the pack and turn some hounds off the line. The scent was not completely lost, but hounds had to be recast twice and with the extra four minutes this gave her, the hare made good her escape.

NORTH

ONE of **MERSEYSIDE HSA's** best days of the year came when they were joined by the **MANCHESTER** group to devastate the *Vale of Lune Harriers* on February 27th. Sabs first stopped hounds in full cry with long notes on the horn and cracks from home-made whips, pulling the pack off a strong scent and away from the hare. Then,



photo: Mat Cryer.

The window of Leeds University sabs' van minutes after a supporter of the Bramham Moor FH hurled a rock through it on December 12th.

when hounds were re-cast and found again, their hare twisted and they over-ran the line. Saboteurs were well positioned and took the opportunity to hunt the pack on for 60 feet, then walked them further still. The huntsman and master had to dismount to win them back, then foolishly entered the pack into a new covert. From a quarter of a mile away, long notes on a sab horn brought them straight back out, up the hill and to the feet of the saboteurs. The Liverpool hornblower was able to show first-time sabs from Manchester how to get control of a pack of hounds; and by using whips, the group kept the pack for ten minutes. Five **MERSEYSIDE** sabs followed this up by sending the *Royal Rock Beagles* home on March 5th. As soon as the whippers-in saw sabs approaching they ran to their huntsman who quickly called up the pack, told his whips to surround them and walked them over to a farm track. They waited here for five minutes before the hound trailer arrived to take them home. It was only half past two. The group have also been in action against the *Holme Valley Beagles*, the *Cheshire Beagles* and *Cheshire Forest FH*.

Thanks partly to the donation of £150 from national HSA to help them buy a van, **ROCHDALE HSA** have been out twice a week all season. As part of **NORTH WEST HSA**, they are putting most of their energy into sabbing the *Holcombe Harriers*. The group report that the hunt have managed to get their pack back into a workable shape (it's killing hares again) and that the mounted police protecting the hunt has for so long has now disappeared. Perhaps they couldn't afford the subs . . .

With several hunting days being lost to snow in January, **LEEDS** and **HUDDERSFIELD** groups paid a visit to the *York and Ainsty (North) FH* in February. A successful day was marred only by a frustrated redcoat smashing his whip handle through a window of the Leeds van. **LEEDS UNI** sabs had already had this done to them by a moronic follower of the *Bramham Moor* back in December, and police were equally unhelpful on both occasions. **LEEDS, BRADFORD** and **HUDDERSFIELD** sabs destroyed the *Rockwood Harriers'* day at Gunthwaite but not without a local landowner running across a field and opening fire on the astonished sabs with a .22 rifle. Cine film taken on the day clearly shows the impact clouds in front of the sabs as the bullets hit the ground.

After police prevented sabs from approaching the *Badsworth's* February 20th meet, Yorkshire groups returned a week later and kept the hunt bottled up in the grounds of Frickly Hall all day. Hounds were cast this way and that in a small valley but were unable to leave; so there were no kills. The *Badsworth* have had a difficult season as usual, thanks to the close attention of **SHEFFIELD HSA** throughout.

Saboteurs from **SUNDERLAND** and **TYNESIDE** have been out against the *Morpeth* and the *Tynedale FH*. A good day was had on January 1st near Capheaton when the *Tynedale* lost enough hounds to sab horns to persuade them to leave the first two draws and start again at the third. When a fox was eventually put up here, the scent was quickly lost and the hunt retired to the first draw again. A second fox was put up from another covert and chased south for a couple of miles before hounds over-ran the line amid calls from saboteurs. The day ended without a kill.

The *West Cumberland Farmers FH* have been receiving regular visits from **CARLISLE, WEST CUMBRIA, LANCASTER** and **LAKELAND** groups



photo: Edward.

Pulled by one saboteur's horn, the entire North Ledbury pack come over while a second sab rounds up the stragglers.

since Christmas. Sabs have had to contend with biased policing and large numbers of heavies but with determination have managed to make several hunting days unworkable. Police have done nothing to curb the increasingly violent behaviour of hunt hooligans and continue to threaten all the sabs with arrest if they so much as breathe near the hounds. The army of police was eventually avoided when the hunt held a joint-meet with the *North Tyne FH* in Northumberland in March, and sabs were lent a hand by **TYNESIDE** and **SUNDERLAND** groups. When seven sabs arrived at a dig-out, they were attacked with whip handles by the huntsman and several of his cronies before a fox was dug out and thrown ALIVE to the hounds. The sabs are sure of this because they were close enough to have heard a shot if there had been one. Two further foxes were saved later in the day when saboteurs called hounds off strong scents. Sabs have also been out against the *Coniston FH, Windermere Harriers, Ullswater FH,* and the *Lunedale FH*.

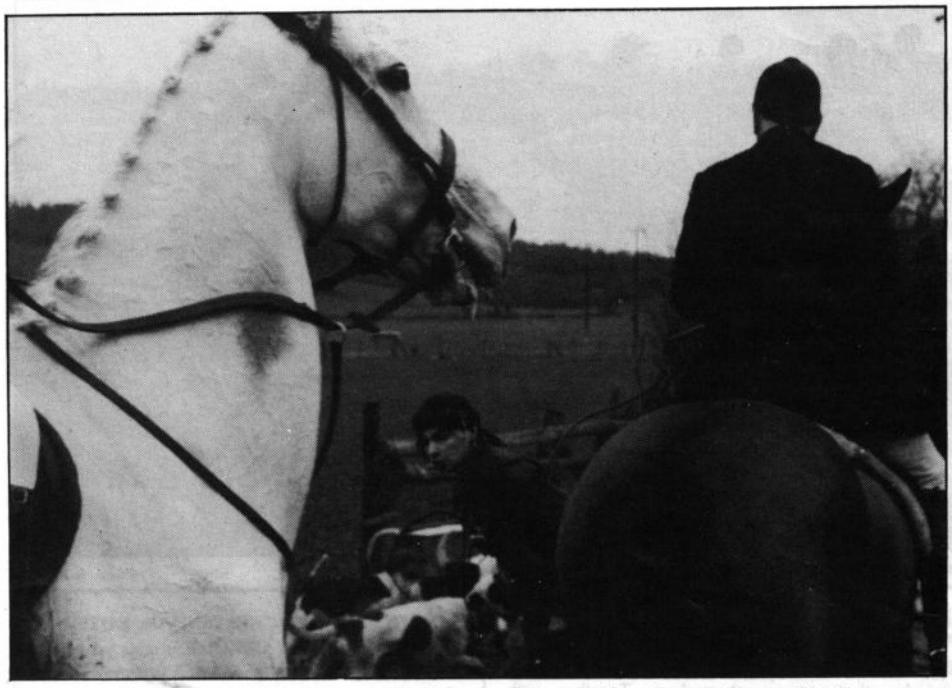
WALES

THE recently formed **VALE & VALLEYS HSA** (Glamorgan area) had a very good season. They are active every week, often working jointly with the **SWANSEA** group, and have a completely clean record – no kills made whilst saboteurs present. A fox was saved at Llantrisant on February 13th during a joint meet of the *Pentrych* and *Talybont FHs* when it broke cover close to saboteurs and its line was quickly sprayed. Hounds were then stopped and sent back into the covert where they became widely scattered and the huntsman spent a long time calling them back together so he could go home. The *Pentrych* were out of luck again on March 5th when saboteurs sprayed the line of a departing fox beside a railway track and once again sent the pack back where it had come from. Fog and rain seem to follow these groups wherever they go, and so does the traditional Welsh hunt followers' custom of 'letting down the tyres', but fortunately the sabs always carry a foot-pump. Other packs dealt with were the *Curre FH, Langeinor FH, Tredegar Farmers FH* and the *Glamorgan FH*.

ABERYSTWYTH HSA battled against some dreadful weather with the *North Herefordshire* and the *Glyn Celyn* Beagles in January, but returned in calmer climate to sab the *Clyn Celyn* on February 13th. A hare was quickly put up and sabs ran straight in, took control of the hounds and hunted them on for a quarter of a mile before the whipper-in recovered them. Saboteurs then split into two small groups to avoid the police and saw two hares running around the bottom of a hill. Their lines were sprayed with garlic water and sabs then waited for the pack to arrive. They came 15 minutes later, checking as soon as they reached the sprayed area. As they re-cast themselves, saboteurs hunted them on in a safe direction. Hounds were hunted on again later in the afternoon, this time being taken off the line of a tired hare who might otherwise have been killed.

MIDLANDS

By March 2nd, **NOTTINGHAM HSA** had been out 34 times since the season began and were expecting to make it 50 by the end. Fourteen different packs have had 'the best of their fun' curtailed by this group: The *Grove & Rufford, Burton, Southwold, Blankney, Meynall & South Staffs, South Notts, Barlow, Atherstone, Belvoir, Quorn, Cottesmore* and *Sir Watkin William Wynn's Foxhounds; the East Lincs Hare Hounds* and the *Westerby Bassetts*. Often, the group is joined by **CHESTERFIELD HSA**. The latter part of the season has been spent with the two biggest hunts in the area, the *Quorn* and the *Belvoir*. On February 27th, the group paid the *Meynall* a visit since it was the hunt's last meet, and discovered Prince Charles riding with them. Police told them to leave or be arrested so they moved on to the *Atherstone*. A tactically good day against the *Barlow* at Harper Hill on January 26th gave sabs several opportunities to take the hounds away. A fox ran in front of sab vehicles at one point and the group sprayed behind it then waited for the pack. Although only 30 seconds behind and in full cry, the hounds were stopped with whip cracks and taken at a run up the lane away from the fox. When, in the late afternoon, the huntsman's horse kicked a hound and broke its back leg, the hunt decided to call it a day.



WHIPPED! A North Ledbury FH rider lashes out at a hunt saboteur near Staplow after hounds are called off yet another scent.

THE *North Cotswold's* huntsman was put off more easily. Saboteurs from **COTSWOLD, ROSS ON WYE** and **CHELTENHAM** groups intervened at Broadway on January 23rd when hounds were found on a strong scent. Seeing the fox pass, the sabs covered its trail with spray then called off the pursuing pack. The huntsman was so upset that he stopped his hounds and went home half an hour later. The *North Ledbury's* hounds have proved easily distracted this season. **COTSWOLD, LEAMINGTON, WORCESTER, CHELTENHAM, WEST MIDLANDS,** and **BIRMINGHAM UNI** groups dropped in on them twice and prevented any kills, taking the pack away with horn and voice. One group took 16 hounds for a one an a half-mile run to Kingshill Farm on January 9th and held them there until 4pm when the police arrived and sent a message to the hound van to come and pick them up. By this time the huntsman was trotting backwards and forwards in a hopeless state with only two hounds still under his control. **COTSWOLD** and various **WEST MIDLAND** groups have also been out against the *Wyre Forest Beagles*, the *Cotswold FH* and the *Worcestershire FH*.

EAST

CAMBRIDGE and **SAFFRON WALDEN** hunt saboteurs linked up to good effect during January and February to demoralise the *Puckeridge & Thurlow FH*. At Farnham on January 2nd, a fox broke covert and dashed between saboteurs' parked vehicles. The sabs were able to form a barrier of citronella and human bodies to halt hounds after the fox passed, and the whole pack was turned back. The resulting confusion gave the quarry a full five minutes before the hunt could recast its hounds. *Puckeridge* redcoats have itchy whip fingers, but attempts to give saboteurs a damned good thrashing (or as the whipper-in politely put it, "I'll break 'im in two with me own 'ands") on several Saturdays met with little success. Voice calls have been particularly effective in controlling this pack and fox bedding has been used for laying false trails ahead of hounds during hunting as well as in pre-meeting.

These two groups, with saboteurs from **STEVENAGE** found the *Essex FH* covered in slurry on February 2nd after the pack had run into a pit full of it at Leadon Roding. They called the hounds on as the huntsman brought them towards the Ongar road and took the whole stinking pack away into a field. The huntsman managed to call half of them back but the rest ran on to sabs' calls with such enthusiasm that hunting was delayed for over an hour while they were recovered. Sabs eventually found they could no longer keep up with the pack and it was gradually lost. Martyn Blackmore, the whipper-in was miserable. When asked where his hounds were he muttered, "Don't want 'em. You can take 'em 'ome an' feed 'em if you like".

The *East Essex FH* have had a terrible time of it. Not only have **COLCHESTER, HALSTEAD** and **CLACTON** groups been on their backs but at least three weeks hunting after Christmas were lost due to flooding. In February the hunt were in trouble as they rioted onto deer and romped through village gardens (see News Pages) and they've made few kills of their 'legitimate' quarry. **NORTH LONDON HSA** have been joining with East Anglian groups for a number of these meets and have also had a good day against the *Newmarket Beagles* (did anyone ever have a bad day against them??). **NORWICH HSA** dropped in on this pack on February 27 with saboteurs from **WEST SUFFOLK**. Describing them as "the most useless hunt we had ever come accross", the sabs caused utter devastation to hunting. Splitting hounds into three groups, they kept the whips running about for one and a half hours in an effort to call them together. At the end of the yuppie's first season, they can claim no more than five followers and five huntspeople. **NORWICH** sabs have been one step ahead of the *West Norfolk FH* and the *Essex & Suffolk FH* all season and have not witnessed any kills. Eight saboteurs had a good day with the *West Norfolk* on March 12th when horn and voice calls caused the hunt to leave two coverts early and empty-handed.



photo: Simon Wild

A Saboteur blows his horn and is rewarded with a hound from the Chiddingfold.



Hunt Saboteurs with the Old Surrey & Burstow FH at Cowden Pound on February 13th. photo: Jellybean.

SOUTH WEST

ELSEWHERE in this HOWL, **WEST WILTS HSA** describe their season themselves. Together with saboteurs from **BATH** and **BRISTOL** they have given the *Beaufort FH* a year the hunt would probably try hard to forget were it not for the certain knowledge that next season will probably be worse. A typically sucessful day out was had on February 11th at Gorston Manor Farm, when **WEST WILTS** group pulled the entire pack away by horning at a distance of half-a mile. Hounds rioted freely, then followed the group's landrover down a quiet lane, further and further from Huntsman Brian Gupwell. Beaufort's hounds are now as happy, if not happier, obeying the instructions of sabs as they are of heeding the hapless huntsman and are completely washed up as an effective killing machine. West Wilts have also had good days with the *Marlborough College Beagles*, *Wiltshire Infantry Beagles*, *Old Berkshire FH*, and the *Tedworth FH*. Although threatened with shotguns by two *Old Berks* yobbos near Hinton Parva in February, the group still took the pack away and hunted them on. The *Tedworth*, sporting lot that they are, asked the group to leave private land on February 27th but conceded, "We're fair game on public roads". The game turned out to be perfectly fair but rather one-sided since the *Tedworth* are not the most skillful hunt in the world. After initially trying the very unsporting tactic of running away, the hunt were located in Oakhill Wood and their hounds pulled straight out by sab horning (fairly of course; from the road . . .). The pack remained under HSA supervision for nearly two hours despite all efforts of the huntsman and whips to win them back. Fair game.

BATH, BRISTOL, CHELTENHAM, COTSWOLD, LEAMINGTON, and **CARDIFF** groups joined forces on February 6th to sab the *VWH* at Eastleach. Amusement was caused by the antics of one hunt rider who mistook a bunch of young followers for saboteurs and gave them a sound whipping. Twice saboteurs were able to intervene successfully with horn and spray to save the lives of hunted foxes. On January 30th, **BATH, BRISTOL, CHELTENHAM,** and **COTSWOLD** groups visited the *Berkley FH* at Kingscote. An exhausted fox was spotted crossing a road ahead of sab vehicles with hounds closing. Saboteurs kept silent and still as the fox passed and then acted promptly, running between it and the pack, spraying its line and halting the oncoming hounds.

SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

THE **CHICHESTER** group has continued its campaign to get wildfowling banned from Pagham Harbour and has had a number of successful Saturdays against the *Chiddingfold FH*. **PORTSMOUTH HSA** have concentrated on the *Hursley Hambledon FH* whilst the **SOUTHAMPTON** and **FAREHAM** groups have stuck with the *Hampshire FH*, preventing any kills while sabs were present. Most of the *Hampshire's* midweek meets have been sabotaged too thanks to help from neighbouring groups. There was an all-women sab on the *Hampshire* at Vinneys on February 20th, with women from **FARNHAM, FAREHAM, PORTSMOUTH, GUILDFORD, SOUTHAMPTON** and **PETERSFIELD** taking part. Policing was favourable and there were no kills, making the day an all-round success. **FARNHAM** and **PETERSFIELD** groups have covered virtually every meet of *Mr Goschen's FH* and the *Aldershot Beagles* with very few kills recorded. There's been some trouble with this last pack, mainly as a result of the provocative and aggressive behaviour of a man called Parker who appears to be the agent for every landowner in Hampshire. **BERKSHIRE HSA** has recently been set up to attend to the *Garth and South Berks FH*. This is a pack that is unaccustomed to hunt saboteurs and hounds have been easy to call by horn and voice.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TONBRIDGE, BRIGHTON, HASTINGS and **NORTH DOWNS** groups have been out regularly against a number of hunts in the South East, and often working together. The *Old Surrey and Burstow* were visited four times but their habit of galloping off to lose sabs made sabotage difficult at times. In March, the hunt held a joint meet with the *West Kent FH* near Westerham, during which a couple of bungalow brains (nothing upstairs), one armed with a screwdriver, ripped a wing mirror off the **TONBRIDGE** van and challenged the sabs to a fight. They were sensibly ignored and the incident was reported to police who are investigating. Hounds found a scent near the road and were following it close to the van, so sabs were able to pull them off with ease and turn the pack back into a field.

TONBRIDGE sabs found the *West Kent's* huntsman attempting to draw a covert right beside the busy B2016 on February 27th. This annoyed even his own whippers-in who were made to sit in the middle of the road like lollipop men, holding up the traffic. **TUNBRIDGE WELLS, BRIGHTON** and **HASTINGS** sabs were puzzled a week later when the same huntsman disappeared into a covert and did not reappear for over an hour. Saboteurs waited patiently outside with most of his hounds and then learned that the delay had been caused by the poor chap falling off his horse, losing his horn and giving himself a black eye in the process. He retired to kennels at 2pm. The *Surrey and North Sussex Beagles* abandoned hunting and went home the moment sabs joined them at Mynthurst Farm on February 2nd, but not without a whipper-in bringing his crop handle down on the back of a **SOUTH LONDON** sab's hand. Police were uninterested. South Eastern groups had other good days against the *East Sussex* and *Romney Marsh FH*, *Crawley & Horsham FH*, and the *Southdown & Eridge FH*, as well as the *Aldershot Beagles*. The roving **WEST LONDON** group have been popping up unannounced at hunts all over the South of England taking in 18 different packs on more than 50 outings. Their best day was had at the expense of the unfortunate *Wiltshire Infantry Beagles* who lost their hounds to sabs after just ten minutes. By 4pm, the pack had been scattered right across Salisbury Plain and only 8 dogs could be induced back by hunt officials. The group have prevented all kills each time they've been out and have not been met with any violence. They've now grown in numbers and so, to keep the group small, they've launched off-shoot squads making it possible to sab 2 or 3 hunts in one day.

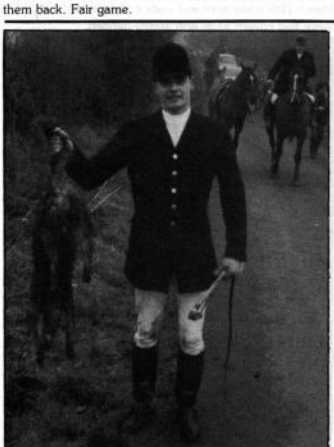
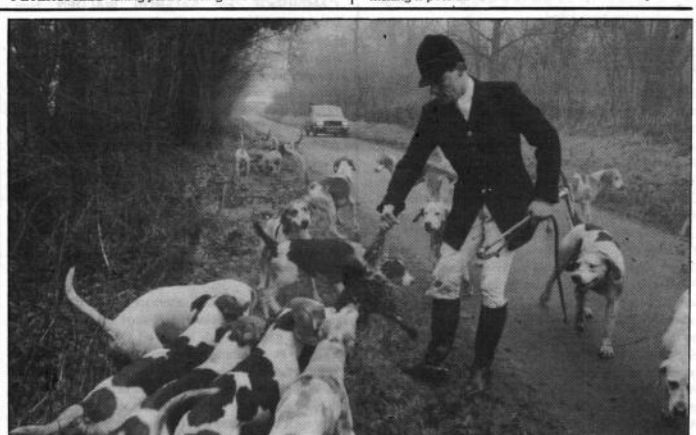


photo: Pat Kelly.



HAPPY IN HIS WORK. Hursley Hambledon whipper-in, Mark Wheeler, proudly holds up a fox stumbled across by his hounds on January 16th. He'd been walking them along the road when, suddenly, they had it in their jaws. Saboteurs are sure it was a road casualty and dead for some days, but Wheeler, who'd had nothing all day, was adamant his pack had killed it.

SLOWLY SINKING IN THE WEST

Once considered too professional, too big, and too rich for HSA groups to have much effect upon them, the Duke of Beaufort's FH have been outplayed, out-classed, and out-manoeuvred this season by west country hunt saboteurs who are neither big nor rich. A member of West Wilts HSA explains their success.

With the late Duke still buried and the new one spending more time in the Med (without his wife) than at Badminton, we see a hunt, the hunt, slowly but inevitably losing its social graces. The royal hunt can only entertain its most prestigious guests on Monday. If they followed the 'largest pack in the world' on any of its other hunting days (Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday) then they could not fail to miss this once great pack in total chaos brought about by their friendly neighbourhood hunt sabs. Not that we left them alone on Mondays all the time, either!



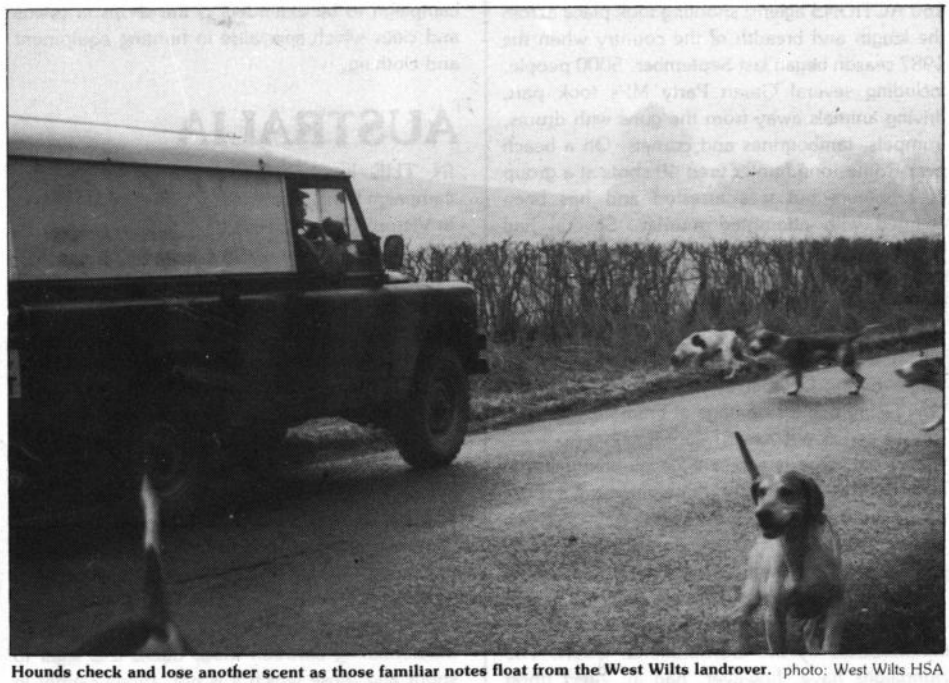
photo: West Wilts HSA

A group member unblocks a badger sett near the Blathwaite Arms, Lansdown, stopped up by the Duke of Beaufort's terrier man.

A hit report from 6 years ago says the hunt was 'too good' for sabs to have any real effect, but we could tell a different story now. Last season, 1987/88, the Beaufort came under more pressure than ever before. Intensive sabotage left their hounds unmanagable and their tempers frayed. They may have thought they'd never had it so bad, and certainly they'd vastly underestimated sabs' staying power. In the previous season, they were sabbed nearly every Thursday, some Wednesdays and a few Mondays and nearly every Saturday. In the 1987/88 season, sabs were present at more than two thirds of their meets.

The Beaufort started late this season. Their first meet was in October and they began the season as they ended it; badly. Very small groups of sabs reduced them to dog walking until November. The emergence of the Bristol Womens Group meant that the hunt suffered some very competent pre-beating on Wednesdays as well as the attention the West Wilts have paid them for the past two seasons every Thursday. Saturdays have rarely escaped sabs' attention of course. After March 5th, all Thursday meets were cancelled and the West Wilts landrover then appeared on Mondays and Wednesdays, joined by the Bristol crew, just so they didn't forget our smiling faces! They have been, to put it mildly, under serious pressure.

Sabs have witnessed five kills this season, two of them, both dig-outs, occuring at a single cubbing meet; and two which resulted when the



Hounds check and lose another scent as those familiar notes float from the West Wilts landrover. photo: West Wilts HSA

victims appeared from suprisingly near to the terrier-man's van, looking very bewildered.

Hardly surprising though for a hunt with false earths as much as 80 years old and a long tradition of fox-breeding. One Monday, when Prince Charles was present, the huntsman and joint-master's wife, Penny-Jane Farquhar, was heard to announce, "I believe it came from the back of a Mercedes". Obviously a fox with breeding.

The 'best pack in the country' now look about as competent as Swindon Town Football Club. The pack often completely ignore the huntsman's calls and he, frightened to let them out of his sight (and into our hands), has had to spend many hours walking them round and round, not hunting, with the Field duly following.

They avoid all rookied coverts, knowing all the earths and badger setts will have been unstopped by us, and often ride for miles just to find a covert to hunt in that hasn't been pre-met. Good pre-meeting and good hornblowing on an extensive basis have left them with the killing prowess of a teddy bear. The only good ride the Field get is from chasing hunt sabs.

The pathetic attempts of their dedicated, if entirely ridiculous anti-antis has done nothing but increase our ardour to grind them down to nothing. They now have photographs and files on regular local sabs and keep a careful record of all our activities, but to little avail so far. The tempers of this bunch and of the hunt staff have become very short and the frustration shows. On Wednesday April 16th, they attacked a small group of sabs, whipping them, kicking them to the ground and stealing a Cotswold horn. Due to swift and concerted press releases, all the local papers and even one national gave extensive and very position coverage of the incident, and local radio reported the sabs' story all day. After first exhibiting considerable lethargy, the police have now interviewed those hunters indentified by sabs as their assailants. This is an improvement on the police's initial reaction of "These are very influential people you're accusing and I'll have to check it out with my superiors" (!) One of those accused is the hunt's whipper-in, Charlie Wheeler and another, J Hall, made an out of court settlement to sabs last season after putting his whip handle through our windscreen. Our threat to prosecute privately if necessary is not an idle one. The calm, calculated response of sabs to continual provocation has surely worked in our favour, with the press, for once, solidly behind us.

This season, that prestigious pack I talked of started hunting a month later than usual and finished a month earlier, with only 20 riders turning up at one end of season Saturday meet (they usually top the hundred mark). The violence they have shown us has not daunted our spirits in the least, for good hunt sabotage, well thought-out tactics and cool composure has reduced them to a laughing stock. Who knows what they'll try next, but they can be assured that, whatever, we'll be out there, saving wildlife, slowly but surely grinding them down — wiping the smiles off their faces. Thanks to everyone that's made it possible.

Skunk and West Wilts HSA.



SABOTAGE KNOWS NO BORDERS!

THE following reports from Italy, Germany, Australia and the United States show that the HSA's message of direct action against bloodsports has become truly international.

ITALY

160 ACTIONS against shooting took place across the length and breadth of the country when the 1987 season began last September. 5000 people, including several Green Party MPs took part, driving animals away from the guns with drums, trumpets, tambourines and cornets. On a beach near Rome, one hunter fired 40 shots at a group of saboteurs but was arrested and has been charged with attempted murder. Several had been slightly injured. Closer to the city, another group of saboteurs had rocks hurled at them, were beaten with rifle butts and had their camera stolen.

As reported in a previous HOWL, activists cut nets and emptied bird decoy cages at Friuli and Udine during October and November. Nine are now facing trial for damage at Friuli.

Enza Ferreri writes:

HUNT sabotage is a recent development in the tactics of the Italian anti-hunting movement, born of the frustration provoked by the failure of two attempts to hold a national referendum. Nearly a million certified signatures were collected twice (in 1980 and 1986) to call for a referendum to ban hunting but on both occasions it was declared inadmissiable by the Constitutional Court. The campaigns have, however, had an effect upon public opinion. In 1976 there were about two million hunters in Italy; in 1986 it has fallen to one and half million. Hunting has become very unpopular amongst young people in particular and opinion polls show that the majority of Italians now favour a complete ban.

The anti hunting organisations have now resorted to local referenda to abolish shooting in particular areas. So far this has been requested in Piedmont, Lombardy and Tuscany. In October, the parliamentary Green Party introduced two bills; one to abolish competition shooting at live targets (usually pigeons), and the other called for a five-year national hunting moratorium. This has been supported by over 60 MPs.

WEST GERMANY

Dennis Stuart writes:

The German hunting magazine, 'Deutsche Jagd Zeitung', in its November 1987 issue, complained bitterly at the decision by the public prosecutor at the Frankfurt District Court not to take legal action against radical anti-hunters in response to an application submitted to him by the Hesse State Hunting Association. These activists, who operate under the name 'Four Paws', have recently destroyed a number of shooting stands in various parts of Germany and have called for a 'campaign of fire and flame' against the hunting fraternity.

One of the reasons given by the State Prosecutor for not pursuing the hunters' demand for legal prosecution of the activists was the fact that the latter are on principle not prepared to make statements when questioned on the activities by the authorities. The hunting magazine deplores this standpoint as suggesting that the legal authorities have gone soft on the 'terrorists' and 'rowdies' who are threatening the German hunting scene.

Four Paws has now called for the direct action campaign to be extended to the shops in towns and cities which specialise in hunting equipment and clothing.

AUSTRALIA

IN THE latest move during a longstanding campaign to halt the annual duck shooting season in Victoria State, activists have confronted hunters with a flotilla of canoes and light aircraft.

Co-ordinated by the Animal Liberation organisation, some 300 people took to the lakes and wetlands on March 19th as the season opened. They had two main objectives; to obstruct the guns, scare birds away and destroy hides, and secondly to recover and publicise the slaughter of birds of protected species that get shot 'in error' as the carnage unfolds.

In previous years, Animal Liberation has highlighted the plight of protected birds by displaying solemn lines of their carcasses on the pavement outside the Victoria Department of Fisheries and Wildlife's offices. Australian shooters do not seem capable of, or interested in differentiating between those ducks it is legal to shoot and those which it is not. Being caught in possession of a protected bird is an offence which can bring a $500 fine however, and 10 activists were apprehended last year as they retrieved birds from the water that had been illegally shot. Another was arrested at Bool Lagoon when he refused to leave the reserve. Approximatley 30% of birds shot do not die instantly but slowly from wounding.

The huge number of lead pellets discharged by hunters in Victoria's wetlands each season is having other effects too, according to Animal Liberation's Wildlife Officer, Laurie Levy. 80 out of a gaggle of 340 rare Magpie geese and three black swans were found dead from lead poisoning at Bool Lagoon in April 1986. A Ministry for Conservation survey of Lake Buloke on the opening day of the 1982 duck season showed that 1348 kg of lead from shotgun pellets had polluted the lake.

Animal Liberation contend that since 5000 protected birds have been illegally killed by shooters in the last six years; and that the state employs only 33 Wildlife Officers to supervise 100,000 licenced duck shooters, the situation is such that shooting cannot be adequately controlled and must therefore be banned. The organisation is campaigning for the State Department to invest in ecologically acceptable tourism in the Wetlands to offset the revenue it will lose in revoking all those gun licences.

USA

Since our first action on the Nelson Bighorn Sheep trophy hunt, in December 1987, the organisation has gathered momentum in preparation for the forthcoming multitude of Department of Fish and Game head hunts. Members of "Earth First!", who are a radical environmental group also opposed to trophy hunts, have been working closely with us and many of their numbers are willing to be active in the field, putting themselves between the gun and the hunted, during the scheduled Autumn and Winter seasons.

Various radio shows, newspaper articles and limited leafleting have encouraged members of



photo: USHSA

California HSA take a photo-call during a break in the Bighorn sheep hunt sabotage. Left to right, Rod Coronado, Todd Schulke, Verena Gill, Todd Meszaros.

the public to contact us for further information both on our activities and the activities in Britain. We have also made appearances at the so-called democratic Department of Fish and Game commission hearings, which are farcial efforts by the five commissioners to represent the majority feeling of California. However, it is clear that the commission is just a puppet for the hunt and gun lobby, as well as the ranchers, with no concern for what most Californians really want. For example, there has been overwhelming opposition to the proposed mountain lion hunt yet the department still persists in going ahead with the hunt. The HSA has been present at these hunting regulation meetings and has testified. Basically our recommendations were that the Department cancel all of their hunts and that if they proceed with this senseless slaughter then the HSA, along with members of Earth First! and Sea Shepherd, would sabotage every possible hunt.

This coming season we are narrowing in on only four hunts (this is because of limited resources, woman/man power and the fact that these hunts are so extensive and cover such a large area); the Black Bear, the Mountain Lion, the Tule Elk and the Nelson Bighorn Sheep.

The Black Bear and the Mountain Lion are hunts in which bloodhounds are used to chase the animal until exhausted when it then takes refuge in a tree and the hunter shoots it. These hounds are not hunted with whip and horn so we are developing new tactics to disrupt this murder. Any ideas on how we could improve our sabotage techniques would be welcomed. The Tule Elk and Bighorn are hunted purely by human force, searching and taking aim. This year will be the first time in 16 years that the Elk have been allowed to be "harvested" (DFG words). They plan to kill 105 out of a population of 2000. The Elk have only just recovered from being on the endangered species list. These hunts will take place starting in the Autumn, so at the moment we are campaigning for activists and resources, basically letting the Californian public know that we exist.

However, many of our efforts have been thwarted by a lack of money (as ever). The Bighorn sheep hunt set us back by about £1500 for the 2 week action. We were grateful to the Fund for Animals who donated £300 to our deficit, but the 3 organisers are still in serious debt because of it. If anyone(!) has some spare cash floating around we would be grateful if they could send it our way. Another plea: if anyone can send us information on any type of Californian hunt (or any American for that matter) we could start building up a good file. We'd be especially interested in information on houndsmen (who are professionals tracking anything that moves,) also articles on fox/coyote/boar hunts. Any kind of contacts would be useful. The state of California, let alone the whole country, is so vast, diverse and very blood-splattered that we need all the help we can get.

If you want to get in contact with us, either to give or take information, then write to the HSA PO Box in Exeter, marking it California HSA, and it will be forwarded on to us. Let's work together to stop all killing worldwide.

Verena Gill

DORSET POLICE IN NEW PUBLIC ORDER ACT FIASCO

This article appears after the conclusion of the case brought against 49 sabs who were arrested for Public Order offences in Dorset during the cub-hunting season.

IN September a group of 49 sabs attended a cub-hunt meet of the Cattistock foxhounds at Mosterton in Dorset. The master of the Cattistock is none other than Alaister Jackson, a self-appointed expert and writer on hunting matters for Horse and Hound. On merging from the farmyard meet and confronting the opposition, Jackson set a fine example to all other huntsmen by turning tail and riding his horse back to the farm as fast as it could carry him; (nice one Jacko!). Jackson also left behind his small field of riders who took it upon themselves to use their horses to prevent the sabs from following the hounds back to the meet. Prominent among this group was the joint-master and local magistrate George Pinney.

Whilst the sabs were being delayed, Jackson had attempted to sneak out on his own with the hounds still intent on finding some foxcubs to massacre. Luckily the sabs soon got onto him and this time Jackson was forced to abandon the days hunting and return once again to the farm. This of course was a source of great satisfaction for the sabs who know how much huntsmen value cub-hunting days. It was at this stage that the Dorset constabulary appeared on the scene. Whilst the sabs had been busy in the fields the police meanwhile had comandeered all of the sab vehicles. A large number of police cars and vans were then used to form a convoy in which the sab vans were sandwiched. This convoy moved off on the pretext of escorting the sabs out of the area. However it later became clear that this was not to be the case; roads around Bridport were sealed off and the sabs were forced to go to Bridport police station where all were then arrested for breach of the peace plus an offence under section 5 of the new Public Order Act (i.e. allegedly causing harassment and distress) this despite the fact that the sabs were no longer anywhere near the vicinity of the hunt. All 49 sabs were held in custody overnight until an appearance at Bournemouth magistrates court on the following afternoon when all those held pleaded not guilty and a trial date was set for November 26th. The Magistrates also imposed a condition of bail; namely that all those charged should refrain from attending hunt meets in England and Wales until the trial date. This was felt by many to be a ludicrous condition and an uncalled for and possibly unlawful imposition. Consequently many of those charged continued to sab hunts and as a result further arrests took place for breach of bail in Devon and the South-east. However it was interesting to note the unease felt by the magistrates when a Crown court judge in Exeter squashed the conditions on one sab who had been held in custody for four days. When the sab appeared before the Bournemouth magistrates to answer the breach of bail, the conditions were not re-imposed and the matter of breach was dropped. As a result a prima-facie case of unlawful imprisonment was established; the magistrates may have exceeded their powers in imposing the original conditions and a case is now proceeding through the Judicial courts in London.

WHEN the sabs appeared back in court in November it was quite clear that the prosecution had little to offer. 12 sabs were chosen (apparently at random) to be held responsible for the section 5 offence, whilst a bind-over was offered to those others who would accept it. Because of the distances involved in travelling to court, some accepted this whilst the majority chose to fight on. The case was then adjourned for over two months to February 1st. Incredibly the magistrates once again sought to impose conditions on the bail even though they were clearly at risk doing so and despite the clear indications from the Crown court judge. This time the conditions were harsher; namely not to disrupt any activity of any hunt until the case came to trial. H.S.A. Chairman Flod Hammond refused to accept the conditions and was subsequently held in custody at Dorchester prison until being released the following afternoon. (Once again the papers have been served on the magistrates for wrongful imprisonment and that case too will come before the Judicial courts in the near future).

Despite having a further two months to come up with something the prosecution were still having trouble in constructing a case. They refused the defence lawyers any advance disclosure of their evidence and became desperate in the week before the trial, offering everyone (including the dirty dozen) a bind-over in a letter which openly threatened enormous costs for those who refused. However, to their credit, the majority of sabs chose the rigours of a possible two week court case in order to voice their concern at the way in which the matter was proceeding. When the case finally reached court, the prosecuting solicitor, obviously on the verge of a breakdown, and in order to avoid embarrassment, farmed the case out to an agency solicitor. There were yet further surprises; on the morning of the trial the prosecution made an attempt to change the charge to a joint charge (this after 5 months!) instead of offering evidence against each individual. This has the effect similar to the 'common purpose' law in South Africa, of making everyone guilty by association even if only one person has committed an offence. This was going too far even for the Dorset magistrates and the clerk of the court threw out the application to have the charge amended. Nevertheless the prosecution proceeded to present the case as if it were a joint charge and no individual evidence was offered against any of the 22 sabs who remained in the dock. Naturally it was the defence submission that there was no case to answer and indeed on an individual basis there was not. However the magistrates, by this stage were no doubt unwilling to admit that there was no case to answer and no doubt aware of the costs that the case had generated, found the sabs guilty. They then, as if to demonstrate their own uncertainty, handed out the minimum sentence of a conditional discharge with £25 costs leaving the Dorset taxpayer to pay

the rest of the bill.

WE can only be led to the conclusion that the use of the new Public order act in this way against a large number of sabs who had already succeeded in their objective was a vindictive measure which was pursued as a belated act of revenge. It seems unlikely that the Crown Prosecution service would pursue such a patently weak case unless pressed to do so. It is noted that the joint-master of the Cattistock is a chief-magistrate and one must come to one's own conclusions. It is however, a sign of the times that the hunting fraternity are now so desperately worried that they scrutinise each new piece of legislation in near panic for any crumb of comfort. What they fail to realise is that the threat of arrest is something that hunt-saboteurs have lived with since the beginning of direct-action against blood-sports, and that it acts as no deterent. As long as hunting persists there will be those who will act in defence of the hunted animal regardless of the obstacles.

It is also strangely phrophetic that one of the first instances of the new Public order act being used against sabs should have occured in Dorset. Only 150 years ago a group of Dorset farm workers were transported for a crime that today no loner exists on the statute book. Surely 150 years from now, later generations will find it impossible to believe that hunt saboteurs were being arrested at the tail-end of the 20th century for attempting to save the lives of wild animals who were being killed for sport. Legalised hunting with hounds is doomed; it is only a question of time; but if those who take part in those practices imagine that there is to be any respite whilst they eke out their remaining days, then they had better think again.

POLICEMAN TO BE SUED

TWO Southern saboteurs are to take a Hampshire police officer, PC Cutts, to court on charges of wrongful arrest and assault.

On March 5th, Cutts arrested Pat Kelly for grabbing hold of Hampshire FH whipper-in, Mark Evans after Evans had whipped Pat from behind (see cover photo). Cutts took no notice when Pat told him he was only restraining Evans to stop him using the whip again; refused to interview Evans, and kept Pat in a cell for three hours. He then released him without charge.

Cutts had previously threatened to arrest Pat for taking a picture of him, something he interpreted as "breaching my civil liberties," and when Pat said he would complain if Cutts ordered him off a public footpath (which Cutts did), the PC announced that he would sue him for "character assasination"

The second charge relates to an arrest Cutts made on Simon Wild last November. Cutts had approached Simon and questioned him about an alleged assualt on an Aldershot beagler. Simon denied it and raised his camera to take a picture of the officer because his manner had been aggressive and he wanted a record of him. According to Simon, Cutts then knocked him to the ground, arrested him, twisted his arms, slapped him in the face and took him to Alton police station in handcuffs.

Simon was later prosecuted under section 4 of the Public Order Act (fear or provocation of violence), found guilty and given a conditional discharge for 6 months with £20 costs. He is appealing and suing Cutts for assualt.

PC Cutts has been the subject of several other complaints by hunt saboteurs, some of which have been investigated by the police complaints department.



photo: Edward.

UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS. A police helicopter swoops low in a reckless attempt to intimidate saboteurs on a forest ride near Bridgenorth. Following complaints, the Civil Aviation Authority has opened an enquiry into the incident. Albrighton Woodland FH, November 21st.

SABOTEUR CAUGHT UNDER TRAFFIC ACT

NORTH London hunt saboteur, Simon Brooke, collected a £55 fine from Horsham magistrates on January 19th for driving his landrover into a field during a hunt.

Police had searched Simon's vehicle when it became stuck in a ditch last August at a meet of the Wealden Mink Hounds, and arrested him for possession of offensive weapons (a top whip and a plastic knife) which they found in the back.

Simon's decision to remain silent when questioned about these items did not give the police much to go on and the charge was subsequently dropped. But, because he admitted driving into the field, he was eventually prosecuted under section 36 of the 1972 Road Traffic Act, for having done so without the owner's permission. His summons arrived by recorded delivery.

Since the law was obviously used vindictively in this case, it seems clear that saboteurs should reserve their right to silence At All Times.

SABOTEUR FINED UNDER POA

THE first stage of the Surrey Union Public Order trial was completed at Guildford magistrates court on April 13th.

Sean Maguire, a member of North Downs HSA, was convicted under Section 5 of the Act (harrassment, alarm, distress) and fined £150 with a further £150 for driving without due care and attention. The defence plea that Sean committed this 'crime' whilst reversing his car away from a group of hunt riders who had attacked it, smashing the rear window and causing other damage, was seemingly ignored. Five endorsements were entered onto his licence.

Sean is unemployed and will have difficulty paying off these fines. If you can help, please donate to his group c/o PO Box 54, Redhill, Surrey.

The major part of this case has yet to come to court. It will involve two hunt riders, both of whom are charged under section 4 of the Act (fear or provocation of violence) and with criminal damage to Sean's car.

A LEGAL IMBALANCE

Arrest Figures Prove Police Bias.

THE tables of arrested reproduced below show several things that will surprise few of us. They document, respectively, all arrests of hunt saboteurs and hunt supporters and officials reported to HSA between January 2nd and April 2nd 1988.

Hunt supporters, members & officials

date	hunt	numbers	charge	remarks
March	Southdown & Eridge	1	GBH	broke sab's arm
March 29	New Forest FH	1	GBH	broke sab's nose
March 2	Watkin William Wynns	1	ABH	beat sab's legs
March (mid)	Colne Valley Beagles	5	Crim Damage	attacked van

(plus three assault and two criminal damage charges against L&S terrier man)
Total 13

Hunt Saboteurs

date	hunt	numbers	charge	remarks
Jan 2	East Down FH	1	Disorderly Behaviour	
Jan 9		1	Overloading	
Jan 9	East Essex FH	1	BOP	spraying
Jan 16	Cotsworld FH	2	BOP	spraying (not charged)
Jan 30	Bolebroke Beagles	32	BOP	not charged
Feb 6	VWH	1	Affray	convicted, fined £25
Feb 6	West Cumberland Fmrs	1	BOP	spraying
Feb 10	Aldershot Beagles	1	BOP	standing on road in front of hunt (not charged)
Feb 13	W Cumberland Fmrs	3	BOP	(i) calling hounds (ii) Stroking hounds (iii) telling heavy to shut up
Feb 27	Middleton FH	2	BOP	possessing sprays (not charged)
Feb 27	Old Surrey & Burstow	1	?	
Mar 1	Waterloo Cup	12	POA	
Mar 1	Crawley & Horsham	3	BOP	trespassing
Mar 2	Watkin Wm Wynns	1	POA	kicked car
Mar 5	Croome & W Warks	1	BOP	possessing walking stick
Mar 5	Hampshire FH	2	BOP	defending selves from attack.
Mar 5	Essex Fh	5	BOP	hornblowing (not charged)
		1	BOP	feeding hounds (not charged)
Mar 5	Wilts Infantry B'gles	1	BOP	(not charged)
Mar 12	L&S FH	3	BOP	
Mar 19	W Cumberland Fmrs	1	BOP	wearing balaclava
Apr 2	Beaufort FH	19	BOP?	detained, not arrested

Total 95

THE most obvious discrepancy is between the numbers arrested on either side; ninety-five saboteurs to thirteen hunters. The police are keener to arrest hunt saboteurs because they seem to have digested the BFSS line which goes: hunting is legal; therefore attempts to disrupt it must be illegal. The figures also show however, that hunt saboteurs are generally non-violent. If they were not, they would certainly be arrested for violent actions much more frequently. Hunt supporters on the other hand, are rarely arrested for anything else. They do not get arrested for breaching the peace because the police do not generaly accept that they are in a position to do so.

The police are obviously aware however, that hunting people are potentially violent and unreasonable. The wide powers of arrest invoked against saboteurs, all coming roughly under the 'brech of the peace' umbrella, bear this out. The police want a quiet afternoon. They do not want to upset local farmers and landowners, and they do not want violence to be either provoked or occasioned. The solution therefore, is to disregard the civil rights of hunt saboteurs who are perceived to be mostly young, socially uninfluential and legally inexpert; arrest them on flimsy pretexts and remove then from the field of play.

Most of the charges under which hunt saboteurs are arrested would be funny were it not that the HSA can be inconvenienced by them. They do not often come to court for they are mostly far too ridiculous. For a charge of 'spraying a field with garlic water' to be taken seriously in a court of law, one must presuppose that hunters are unreasonable, violent and ignorant enough to create the breach of the peace that the saboteur was arrested to prevent. And if that was so, any right-minded individual would want to know why it was the hunt saboteur and not the hooligan that was arrested.

A POLICY OF REPRESSION

THE Independent newspaper recently reported the accusations made by west London solicitor, John Mackenzie, that certain police forces are pursuing a delibrate policy of repression against hunt saboteurs.

Basing his argument on those cases with which he has himself been involved, he was looking mainly at instances of actual arrest. Our own table of arrests since January ably bears him out, but there is more to this issue than arrests and prosecutions.

Some police forces are deliberately trying to prevent Hunt Saboteurs from attending hunt meets at all. Apart from the judicial conspiracy which led to the draconian bail conditions imposed on the Cattistock and Essex pheasant-pen defendants, the policy has been pursued on a more ad hoc basis. On January 23rd, a police van and two patrol cars intercepted and stopped a group of saboteurs from Lancaster who were travelling to a meet of the West Cumberland Farmers FH. Their details were taken and they were all threatened with arrest for "an intention to cause a breach of the peace" if they did not turn around and go home. Faced with arrest for doing nothing, they complied and were followed all the way back to Lancaster.

A similar experience befell saboteurs driving to a meet of the Bramham Moor FH on February 2nd. This time, police informed them that they had "intelligence" that a breach of the peace would occur if they continued and therefore they would all be arrested unless they turned around. The previous evening, HSA's Contacts Officer had received a threat by telephone from Bramham Moor supporters that if hunt saboteurs turned up, they would be attacked.

On February 27th, Nottingham HSA were ordered to leave a meet of the Meynall and S Staffs FH by police who told them Prince Charles was hunting that day. At the Crawley & Horsham FH on March 1st, police made three arrests for trespass related offences (BOP) and then closed



roads into the hunting area to prevent the remaining saboteurs from continuing their action. On March 6th, four saboteurs were informed that they would be arrested if they continued to "follow" the Southdown & Eridge FH. Chesterfield MP, Tony Benn has written to the Chief Constable of Derbyshire requesting an explanation for the action of his officers who turned Chesterfield saboteurs away from a hunt meet on Boxing Day. The list seems endless.

Handcuffs

A particularly outrageous abuse of police power occurred at the Duke of Beaufort's closing meet on April 2nd. Nineteen saboteurs were abducted from the hunt after their landrover was commandeered by a police officer. The saboteurs were prevented from escaping by a pair of handcuffs locked across the back door and driven to a police station where they were kept until 5pm. It appears that not one of them was actually arrested, the police maintaining that they had simply been "detained for their own protection".

Perhaps typical of the way some police forces are currently behaving is the 'protective' relationship they have established with the West Cumberland Farmers. We have already seen how, in January, one group of saboteurs were intercepted on a public road and sent away. On February 13th, all saboteurs in attendance were threatened with arrest if they did anything to interfere with hunting, making sabotage extremely difficult. A week later, police forbade saboteurs to leave their van. When the group insisted on their right to do so and stepped out onto the road, a small mob of hunt thugs made towards them waving sticks, and the police bundled the saboteurs back into the van "for their own safety". In fact, activity of this kind amongst hunt supporters had been brewing for several weeks. The police had made no effort to prevent the gradual escalation of thug attendance (which now stood at about 200) although they can have been in no doubt as to their violent mentality and vicious disposition. A week earlier for example, three saboteurs had been followed back to Carlisle by a group of thugs who courageously waited until one, a woman, parted company with the other two and turned a corner, then brutally assaulted her on the street.

The duty of the police in all these cases was surely to assess the disposition of all persons involved in hunting and sabotage, and to take firm action to forestall and prevent any anticipated breaches of the peace (in other words, acts of violence); remembering that both hunting and its non-violent sabotage are legal activities. In pursuing a policy of arresting the people who they expect to be the victims of violence, the police do themselves a great disservice and lend an unconscious and unofficial 'approval' to the threats and actions of the real hooligans. It is like impounding the possessions of householders to prevent them being burgled.

Steve Poole

If the HSA is to effectively combat unfair policing, it is vitally important for groups to furnish us with the details of all arrests and alleged derelictions of police duty as and when they happen. Please continue to do so.



photo: Simon Wild.

ARBITRARY ARREST. Police suddenly run in and jump on three saboteurs for no obvious reason. Crawley & Horsham FH March 1st.

FOOTPATH WRECKED

In the light of our campaign to have hunts reported and dealt with for damaging public footpaths, we are please to hear that the Ledbury FH have recently been taken to task for turning one into a quagmire.

When two paths and a private garden were wrecked by hunt riders at Hartpury, Glos, in late January, villagers complained both to the hunt and to the Parish Council. Tom Pugh, a Hartpury farmer, told councillors that one path was now "totally unwalkable" and that he feared people might injure themselves if they tried.

According to the hunt's Master, Harry Baimbridge, the fault lies not with the hunt but with the fox who led his hounds along the paths and into a garden. He even tried to blame the villagers themselves for "encouraging foxes into their gardens by giving them bowls of milk", but prudently stopped short of passing the buck further to the cows who actually produced the milk.

Following the complaints, hunt officials went to inspect the damage and, despite finding it "too wet and muddy to do anything", concluded "it did not seem to be too damaged". The Council does not share their view and the hunt have had to offer to underwrite any necessary refurbishmen.

CHEERS, DAVID!

IN an interesting new tactic in the war of attrition against bloodsporters, a group of animal welfarists tried to block the renewal of a prominant foxhunter's licence.

David Plumpton, joint master of the New Forest FH, was forced to defend his uncivilised behaviour at Eastleigh magistrates court on February 5th. He was re-applying for a liquor licence for his business, the Botleigh Grange Hotel and was visibly chagrined to be faced with objections from the public.

For the objectors, Mr George Arnold said his activities rendered him "unsuitable to hold a justice's licence". They lost the case; indeed they never expected to win – but they wore down Plumpton's morale and earned friendly press coverage. And as the chair of the Bench pointed out, "Just because we are granting the licence, it doesn't mean that we condone this (hunting)."

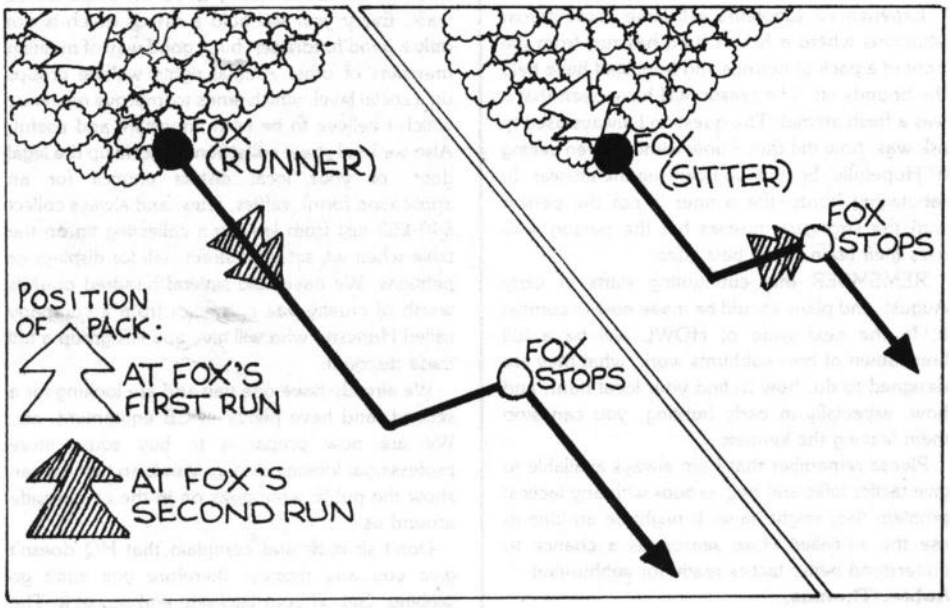
Saboteurs in command of the North Ledbury's pack keep them occupied out of harms way. photo: Edward.



HSA Tactics Officer, Aubrey Thomas, presents another page of advice for hunt saboteurs who want to develop their craft.

UNDERSTANDING TIME AND SCENT PATTERNS





In the previous HOWL, we discussed briefly how wind effects the way a hunted animal would run, and explained the animal's wish to run with the wind. It would be wise to read that article before progressing further.

It is quite important for us to understand where the hunted animal is likely to be. We must realise that both hares and foxes display two distinct running patterns; the first of which we will call distance running. Here, the animal decides that at the very instant something or someone enters its area, it is going to run, and it will often do so long before the hunt gets anywhere near it. It runs a considerable distance, then waits to see if whatever has scared it is following. If it is, the animal will run again long before hounds have caught up and the pattern will continue until the animal runs out of energy and the pack closes in.

The second running pattern we will call 'sitting'. Here, the animal sits very still until hounds are about to tread on it, then runs off for a shortish distance, makes an angle in its line, then sits down again, hoping that the pack will not find it second time around. Again, it will wait until hounds are right on top of it before repeating the pattern. And like the first type of chase, it is terminated by the fox or hare running out of energy.

The animals we try to save fall into these two categories more or less evenly; half are runners, half are sitters. Our first job is to identify which we are dealing with so that we may understand the pattern it will follow. This is simple. If you see the quarry break from the front of a pack, then it is almost certainly a sitter. If, however, you see hounds stream on after a line but you cannot see an animal in front, then it is a runner.

Determining where the hunted animal will be becomes simple. Firstly, we know it will run downwind if allowed, and secondly we know that if the pack were chasing a sitter on a good line, and suddenly the pack lose the line and make a natural cast, we would expect the quarry to be sitting close-by, probably slightly behind and definitely to one side of the pack's present position. If, on the other hand, the pack are chasing a runner, we would estimate its position by looking at hounds' first natural cast and calculating a distance in front of that, slightly shorter than the distance of the hounds previous run before the cast (see diagrams).

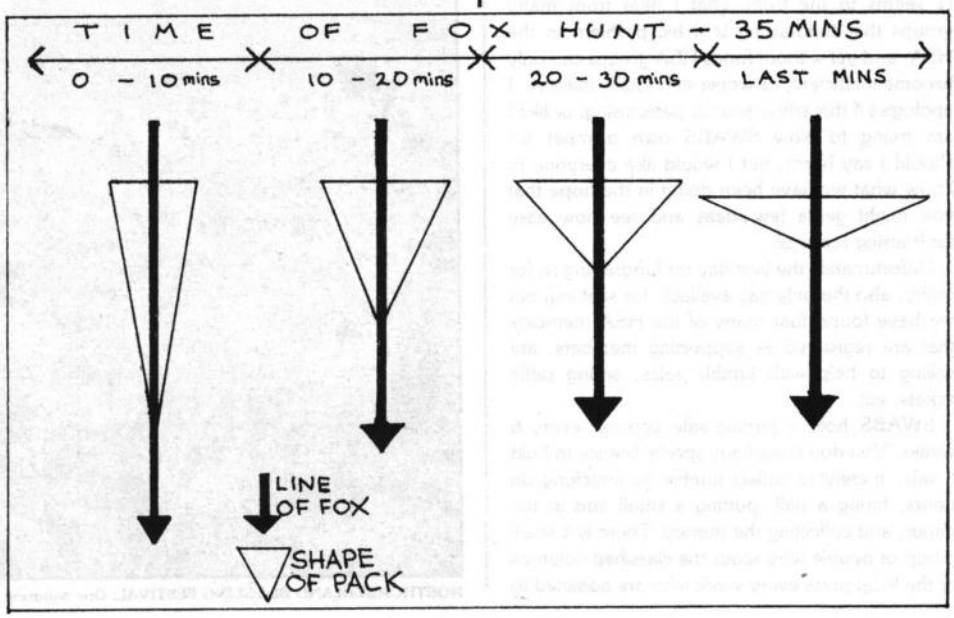
Time of Hunt

WE can only work on averages, but remember this: a pack of foxhounds take about 35 minutes to kill, 16 inch beagles take 30 minutes, 14 inch beagles take 45 minutes, and bassets take about an hour. This is the time from first sight or scent to actual kill. Scent is linked to adrenalin; the more adrenalin, the more scent.

Imagine a situation in which you are running away from the police. You have smashed a window, the police are after you and initially you are pumped full of adrenalin. At first you rely on speed to get you away and if you were an animal you would be pumping out large volumes of scent. After a while, you stop and listen. If the police are still after you, you run again; only this time, because you have lost some adrenalin, you run less far and less scent comes off you. Again you stop and listen. If you have to run now, you will be able to run even less far and you'll be slower still. Eventually, you give up running and try to hide by jogging from place to place, stopping every few seconds. Your adrenalin has now virtually gone and you are pumping out very little scent. This is exactly what happens to hunted animals.

By close observation, we can tell how long we are into a hunt, and how long we expect it to be before an animal is killed, by watching and listening to the pack.

On the first run, with the animal running fast and the scent strong, the line is easy for the pack to follow. This allows hounds to run at maximum speed and form a very thin 'V' shape. As time goes on, the line becomes slower, shorter, and the scent poorer, the pack has to slow down and the 'V' becomes wider. In the last ten minutes of a hunt, the hounds will form a very wide 'V' and only pick up the line occasionally, giving voice only sporadically. Because the animal is no longer



running short, but trying to hide rather than run, the line changes direction constantly.

In this article, and in the previous HOWL, we have discussed wind, quarry pattern, killing time and hounds running formation in relation to time. By putting them together, we should be able to tell roughly where the hunted animal is, how long it has been chased for (and how long it has left), where it is likely to go, and where it is best for us to send hounds to avoid the hunted animal.

Experienced saboteurs will have come across situations where a fox or hare has run from the front of a pack of hounds and hunt staff have held the hounds off. The reason will have been that it was a fresh animal. The question I always used to ask was, how did they know without even seeing it? Hopefully, by now you can see the answer. In sabotaging hunts, the winner is not the person with the strongest muscles but the person who uses their brain to the best effect.

REMEMBER that cubhunting starts in early August, and plans should be made now to combat it. In the next issue of HOWL will be a full breakdown of how cubhunts work, what they are designed to do, how to find your local hunt, and how, especially in early hunting, you can stop them leaving the kennels.

Please remember that I am always available to give tactics talks and help groups with any tactical problem they might have. It might be an idea to use the so-called close season as a chance to understand better tactics ready for cubhunting.

Aubrey Thomas.



FUNDS SAVES LIVES

IT seems to me from what I hear from many groups that fundraising is a big problem in the HSA, and yet without funds HSA groups can only become inefficient, or worse still, totally inactive. I apologise if this article sounds patronising, or like I am trying to blow SWABS own trumpet (or should I say horn), but I would like everyone to know what we have been doing in the hope that you might get a few ideas and see how easy fundraising really is!

Unfortunately the best day for fundraising is, for many, also the only day available for sabbing, but we have found that many of the HSA members that are registered as supporting members, are willing to help with jumble sales, selling raffle tickets, etc.

SWABS hold a jumble sale approx. every 6 weeks. You don't need any special licence to hold a sale, merely to collect jumble by knocking on doors, hiring a hall, putting a small add in the paper, and collecting the money. There is a small group of people who scour the classified columns of the local press every week who are addicted to jumble sales. By using our non-sabbing members we manage to hold a sab and a sale on the same day, raising between £80-£180 each time.

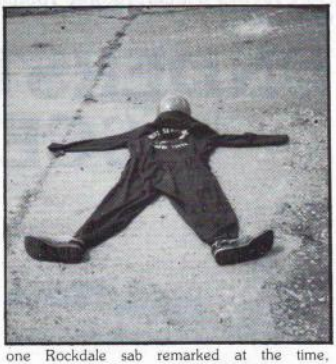
Last year two of our members hired a tandem (which gave a bit more interest for the press than two bikes) and organised a sponsored cycle ride to the HQ of LACS raising over £300. (Sorry Ralph, but Exeter was just too far!). Recently, working in conjunction with our local and sympathic RSPCA Branch, we raised nearly £900 on a sponsored walk. Every year we hold a disco, which is not only a good fundraiser, but a good way of meeting members of other Animal rights/welfare groups on a social level, which tends to improve relations, which I believe to be both important and useful. Also we hold street collections (phone up the legal dept. of your local district council for an application form), raffles, fetes, and always collect £40-£50 just from leaving a collecting tin on the table when we set up a street stall for displays or petitions. We have sold several hundred pounds worth of cruelty-free cosmetics from a company called Honesty, who will give any AR group a full trade discount.

We already have one van and are looking for a second, and have plenty of CB equipment, etc. We are now preparing to buy some more professional looking display stands so that we can show the public what goes on in the countryside around us.

Don't sit back and complain that HQ doesn't give you any money; therefore you can't go sabbing. Get off your backside and go get it. The more funds you have, the more lives you can save, and the sooner we will start to see an end to these attrocities.

Kevin Saunders, Saffron Walden Anti Blood-sports Society.

ROCHDALE Hunt Saboteur, Eric Green recently did a parachute jump to raise funds for the group's van. He did an intensive training course all day and then jumped from 2000 feet in the evening. The jump went well except for him landing on a parked plane near the runway and somersaulting off the wing. Luckily for him the film in the group's camera had just run out, so his embarrassing moment wasn't recorded. Over £200 was collected in sponsorship so it has to be a good way to raise funds provided you have the bottle. As



one Rockdale sab remarked at the time, "Personally I think life is risky enough being a sab without jumping from planes!"

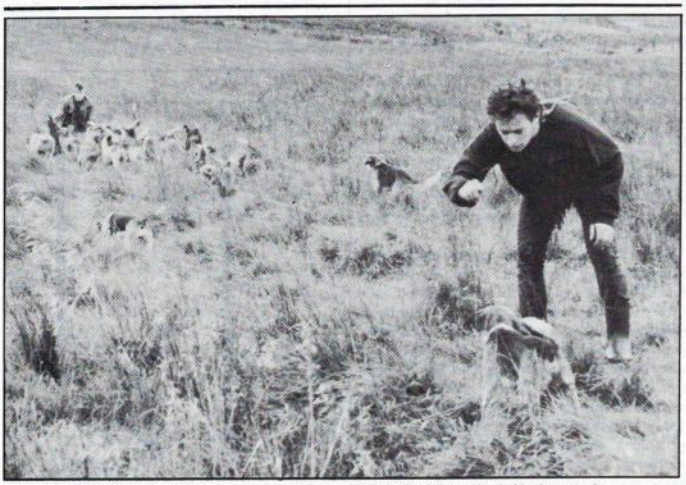
NATIONAL ANTI-ANGLING DAY



A NATIONWIDE day of action is being organised by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA) to take place on Saturday June 18th, two days after the start of the course fishing season.

All groups are asked to keep the day clear for anti-angling activities and the CAA will be providing supporting publicity by contacting all local and national media outlets.

An information pack containing suggestions for action is available from them now in exchange for an SAE marked NAAD. Red and blue stickers like the one shown here can be obtained at 100 for a £1.00 from the CAA at PO Box 14, Romsey, SO51 9NN.



NORTHUMBERLAND BEAGLING FESTIVAL: One saboteur rates hounds while another holds them steady.

photo: Simon Wild

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.

TIME FOR A CHANGE....

Most saboteur groups never progress beyond a very basic and short term level of sabotage, along the lines of some of the simpler 'intervene when necessary' tactics detailed in the faithful Tactics Booklet. Each week's sabotage is an end to itself, a one off affair rather than a single element of a planned campaign of interference. An animal is saved on the day, but no real damage is done to the hunt, bar a couple of hours' disruption most packs nowadays will happily tolerate in the knowledge someone else will be on the receiving end next week.

Sabotage has to escalate beyond letting them hunt animals in the hope of intervening before they manage to kill one. The immediate aim should be of preventing hunting altogether on the day, with sabotage the focal point of a campaign which will ultimately close down the hunt.

Consider the logistics of the situation: The key areas are those where hunting is already under pressure; packs forced to operate in the shrinking, changing pockets of countryside and 'green belt' bordering large urban areas. Looking at the problems hunting faces in such areas, it's clear that the potential already exists to force them off the map altogther. Tony Jackson (Horse and Hound, 26/12/86) spells them out:

Continued urban expansion: "Hunts are quite simply running out of country. Some hunts are virtually reduced to trying to operate in the suburbs and urban areas, and this can no longer continue....."

Changes in land ownership; the 'yuppie factor', whereby well off urbanites move into the countryside, buying up small plots of land: "Land has often been sold off in small parcels, frequently to people with an urban background who, whilst, they appreciate living in the countryside, neither understand, nor are prepared to adapt to the sports and ways of the countryside."

Deteriorating relationships with farming and shooting interests.

Hunt sabotage: "They merely compose an element of pressure which is, in some areas becoming overwhelming..."

The starting point for any campaign is research. Looking back through old O/S maps will show how much country the hunt has already lost, with old meet cards revealing which meets have already been abandoned. What you need initially is a clear picture of which are the strong areas — meets clustered around the few remaining 'open' tracts of land; and those which are vulnerable — meets bordering changes in land ownership, urban areas, proposed developments in the shape of new motorways, housing estates etc. etc.

Clearly, the pack which offers the most in terms of vulnerable areas is the one to go for. Many of the most vulnerable packs exist near to areas of established, regular saboteur activity. The crucial development has to be escalating this beyond simply saving a life at a different pack each week, to hitting the same pack, week in week out with enough people to stop it hunting altogether.

The first victory is a dramatic change in the style of hunting. Rather than riding around looking for its quarry, with the saboteurs sitting on the sidelines intervening if it finds it; the hunt's priority becomes the avoidance of saboteurs, a huntsman who daren't stop to cast his pack running away with his mounted field clinging to his heels.

Downward Spiral

Rather than a mobile joint hit which does a guided tour of its local packs, sabotage has become the opening move of a longer term strategy designed to close down a pack. The downward spiral begins — the hunt stops advertising, loses support and riders to neighbouring packs, declines from a sharp pack with an average tally to a social hunt with a deteriorating pack which seldom kills because the huntsmans' dragging them around behind him all day trying to give saboteurs the slip. Several packs are already at this stage; the question is why has nobody finished one of them off yet..?

The immediate problem is sustaining sabotage in the face of what the hunt throws back. The first thing to expect is an escalation in violence; people are recruited and organised with the purpose of driving the saboteurs away. Where this fails, the police are hauled in for the same end, attending in increased numbers with a correspondingly heavier presence.

Both can be defeated. Organised violence depends on driving people away quickly, by singling out stragglers or ringleaders and making an example of them to deter everybody else from staying around, or coming back for fear it could be them next week. Classic scenarios are a van getting blocked in and attacked, or a small group of stragglers getting set upon in a wood; the damage being done before the main body realises, or before they can intervene. Once it goes this far, text book sabotage has had its day. Saboteurs have to operate in large enough groups not to be vulnerable, and be prepared to show the hunt that organised violence will backfire on them. Organised violence which depends on drafting in gangs of yobs from other hunts or elsewhere should be seen for what it is. An admission of the damage you're doing, and something which won't last the distance against determined opposition.

Once violence fails, the police are drafted in to do what the heavies failed to. Already, the Southern (SABS) groups have shown that adverse policing can be overcome. The key is taking the issue beyond the hunting field, to the Police Authorities, Courts, Council chambers and ratepayers via the media.

But assuming these two obstacles are surmounted, it is idealistic to believe that sabotaging a hunt every week will be enough to finish it off. Tony Jackson hits the nail on the head when he writes that sabotage alone will never finish hunting, being only a single element of the pressure hunting faces. Successfully increasing the pressure from other directions spells the end — the question is how.

Idealistic

Our greatest failing is that after twenty-five years we remain small groups of young, idealistic city dwellers; most HSA groups drawing their active membership from a limited range of urban peer groups. In order to succeed, an HSA group has to become the rallying point for any opposition to a particular hunt, channelling this into a campaign to close the hunt down.

Rather than handling out leaflets with a picture of a fox killed by the Tetcott or Tynedale, groups should communicate with publicity materials designed to focus opposition to hunting in general against their local pack. A good many of the much vaunted 65% of the population live in your hunt's country, down the road from where it meets. Effective communication is not about handing out leaflets about Stag Hunting in a city centre 200 miles from the nearest Stag Hunt, but about giving people the facts about how hunting affects them and their area, channeling opposition against the local pack.

The line is simple. They're meeting in your town, killing your wildlife at eleven o'clock next Saturday morning — if you don't want them in your town, be there to stop them.

If you can get enough people to the meet, they'll box up and go home. If you can do this every time they try to meet there, the meet will be abandoned. Once a hunt loses enough meets, it closes down.

Well thought-out use of the media, street displays, door to door leafletting, public meetings; all are vital to communicating with the public at large, letting them know the hunt's coming next week and they can stop it if they want to.

Will a shoot owner continue to host the hunt if he finds eighty people tramping through his best coverts after them every time....?

Will a publican hold another meet if hald his potential customers are visible amongst the angry crowd waiting for the hunt in his car park....?

Escalating sabotage against one pack, getting the local population involved; building up a protest wherever the hunt meets, whipping up adverse publicity in it's wake. How long can the packs operating on the urban fringe survive this? There isn't even room here to discuss the middle ground, as yet practically untouched by HSA groups of campaigning locally against Councils and large corporate landowners.

The potential's there, just waiting for us to take it. When are we ever going to start exploiting it....?

Chris Bishop
Angela Majennik

THE two Forum articles which follow are intended to open the debate on the proposed amendments to the constitution printed inside the booklet which accompanies this HOWL.

A MOTION TO UNITE ACTIVE SABOTEURS AND THE HSA

Although this article has only my name at the bottom, it is written on behalf of the active sabs that I have talked to who agree with the major amendments of the HSA constitution that are enclosed with this HOWL. The amendments were put together by 7 saboteur groups and have since been discussed by many others as well as at a national animal rights meeting. So far, I've only spoken to two people who aren't totally happy with the changes. The active saboteurs have become increasingly frustrated at the way the HSA is run and many groups have nothing to do with the Association.

A New Decision-Making Structure

The ammendments would counter the possibility of active saboteurs losing faith in the policy decisions of any partly non-active Committee. The full council meets every two months to make policy decisions. These will be more acceptable to the activists as the majority of the council are well respected regional representatives who will also be guided by the HSA committee who will also be on the council. It also gives the committee the chance to see all the regional representatives who in turn can get in touch with their local groups so everyone knows what is happening at committee and council levels. The committee can then meet inbetween times to get on with the job of the more bureaucratic side of things while implementing new policies.

Greater Democracy

The new system is more democratic in two ways. Firstly, there are the 'Regional Representatives'. People have talked about this feature for years but never got round to implementing the idea. They would be chosen at regional meetings which would take place at least twice a year. It is their responsibility to take the views and ideas from their regions to the council meetings. It would be up to the groups in each region as to how they choose their reps. The regional reps would hold the balance of power at the council meetings and as they would be recallable it means that the council is a lot more answerable.

Secondly, the new committee would be democratic. At the moment people can be co-opted on with full voting rights. It was felt that this should be stopped to ensure against persons being co-opted by one committee camp to strengthen its hand against another, rather than for their ability to do a particular job.

Another problem was that if the committee election quota was not exceeded by the time of the closing of nominations then people were automatically elected to the committee. This amendment would mean that every candidate has to stand against Re-Open Nominations (RON). This would allow voters a choice to register a negative vote if they feel that no candidate for a post is suitable. Should RON get most votes then there would have to be a re-election. As candidates would be standing for a specific post they would have to sell themselves on their real attributes aimed at truly helping the Association rather than the same old blurb on how many years they have been vegan. So the actual membership would have more of a choice as to who they have as Treasurer, Chairperson and all the other committee posts.

Possible Problems

One of the first things most people have said about the changes after agreeing in principle is 'How much is this going to cost?' Well, it should theoretically cost the same as at present. Currently 12 committee members and 2 co-optees attend 12 committee meeting a year. This creates a total of 168 lots of travel expenses. With the changes there would be 6 full council meetings with expenses for 12 regional representatives, 7 committee members, and 2 co-optees (non voting) and 6 committee meetings with expenses for the 7 committee members which also total 168 lots of travel expenses. If anything it should be cheaper as there is a greater chance that people can share transport.

Another question is 'Where have the Tactics Officers etc, gone?' These would be chosen from the regional reps in much the same way as they are chosen from the committee now or otherwise be co-opted onto the council.

The only remaining bone of contention seems to be that as the regions can decided how they choose their representatives they could decide to allow non-H.S.A. members to vote. As a member who pay £3/5 a year you may feel this is not fair. However, you should bear in mind that only about 25% of active saboteurs join the H.S.A. Most don't join because they feel alienated from the Association and feel it doesn't offer them anything. With the new changes they would feel as though they had a greater say and be more likely to join.

Whether or not they have paid £3 a year is not the issue. Most saboteurs pay £2 or more every week just to take the risks involved in sabotaging a hunt.

We call ourselves the Hunt Saboteurs' Association. The least we can do is support the activists in the field and listen to what they have to say.

Duggs Carre

This article has been shortend because I felt the author exceeded the brief he was set — to write strictly on the subject of amendments (Ed).

A RECIPE FOR DISASTER.

There is little to commend the proposals being put forward at this years HSA Annual General Meeting to radically alter the way in which the HSA is organised. They are clearly unworkable, unnecessary and despite claims to the contrary, undemocratic. If accepted the changes will paralyse the HSA and present it with almost insurmountable constitutional problems within a very short space of time.

The present system of electing a Committee entails a postal ballot of all members who select 12 of the candidates. All candidates must be members of at least one year standing, proposed and seconded by other members also of a year or more. The membership cast twelve votes, their decisions are usually based on the contents of the candidates' C.V.s. Committee posts are then allocated democratically at the first meeting of the new Committee.

This Committee is fully accountable to the membership under the provisions of Clauses 14, 15 and 18 to 26 of the Constitution.

The proposals will change all this. The HSA would be governed by a "Council" consisting of joint meetings of a 7 person "democratically" elected "administrative" Committee and of 12 Regional Representatives.

The Committee would thus be reduced in size and all prospective candidates would have to compete against each other for specific posts rather than simply for a place on the Committee. This means that eminently suitable candidates, competing for the most popular posts will be lost, whereas less suitable candidates will obtain a place on the Committee by standing for a less popular and possibly uncontested post. Re-Open Nominations will not entirely remove this danger but it could ensure that the Committee will be forever burdened with rearranging elections and the workload of unfilled posts. Despite being elected by the entire HSA membership and doing most of the work, the Committee will not be able to make its own decisions and put them into action without recourse to the Council.

12 of the 19 person Council will be made up of Regional Representatives, elected "at least" twice a year, at meetings in 12 designated but geographically ill-defined regions by those in attendance. No procedure is laid down for the regulation of these meetings or the election of the Regional Representative. Inevitably then these meetings will be adhoc gatherings of those local groups in touch with each other in an area and attended by members and non-members of the HSA alike. Here there is obvious scope for endless bickering over the validity of the meetings, of election results and of any decisions made at these meetings. The Council will inevitably get dragged into any controversy to the detriment of the HSA as a whole.

Since there is no control over the election of Regional Representatives it is possible that many of them would be non-members of the HSA. These, because of their numerical weight, would control the Council which spends members' money, dictates HSA policy and make decisions affecting HSA members and THE LIVES OF HUNTED ANIMALS! Yet, because they are not members of the HSA they would not be accountable to fill the HSA membership, not even under the provisions of Clause 22, the ultimate sanction. Representatives, who, in the opinion of the membership are not conducive to the well being of the Association could continue to serve on its Council for as long as that person has

support from those in his/her region!

There are other problems. Proposal 1 makes the Committee responsible for ensuring that all the Regional Meeting elect a Representative within two months of the AGM, how can that be democratic? How can it be done? Surely it is up to the regions themselves to do this as they wish. In Clause 16 it is suggested that people co-opted onto the Council will have no voting rights as they were not elected by the full membership but this is a lame argument since none of the Regional Representatives will have been elected by the full membership either.

There are more holes in these proposed amendments than in the arguments defending bloodsports, they are Constitutional nonsense and should be treated as such. The HSA can only function under a democratice constitution with safeguards built in to protect its members and its integrity, these proposals aim to remove or invalidate these safeguards and to describe them as democratice is to distort the word completely.

Chris Bishop, Ralph Cook, Mark Dent, John Hale, Maria Lestor, Angela Majennik, Graham Taylor, Dave Weeks.

NOTICEBOARD

MINDLESS SLAUGHTER is the new Artists for Animals benefit LP for the HSA. Featuring rare and unreleased material from the Mekons, Chumbawamba, TV Smith, Conflict and others, it's yours for just £4.50 (inc p&p) from AFA, PO Box 18, South PDO, Manchester 14.

Anti-Fur Petition forms, headed by a host of famous names from David Owen to Donny Osmond and Brigitte Bardot, are now available from the Campaign Against Farm Animal Abuse. The four-year-old Birmingham based campaign has launched a national drive against the fur trade following a year of concerts and celebrity events. If you'd like to help them collect signatures, petition forms may be had from PO Box 45, Birmingham B5 5TW.

The Peoples Campaign against Southampton University's Biohazard laboratories is sponsoring a number of events over the next few months including a banner demo on Southampton Guildhall steps on May 14th followed by an all-night vigil on June 10th and 11th, a torchlit procession on July 9th, and a people's carnival/march on July 30th. For details of these and several other events, please contact Mike Nunn, 19a Amherst Rd, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN40 1QH. For a comprehensive brochure of the campaign, please enclose a 30p SAE.

Sarp is supporting a picket outside the Old Bailey on June 13th when Geoff Sheppard and Andrew Clarke begin their trial on charges of making 'incendiary devices' (smoke-makers for setting off store sprinkler systems). This relates to the direct action campaign against Debenhams fur depts at Romford, Harrow and Luton, where sprinkler systems were activated and a great deal of economic damage caused. The picket starts at 9am. Details from G & A Defence Campaign, Box 5911, London WC1N 3XX.

The Green Gathering Collective are offering 'Green Weekends' in the countryside with camping and workshops at £1 per night from April 9th. Further details from 50 Mackenders Close, Maidstone ME20 7JE.

Plymouth Animal Rights have a free list of cruelty-free products in the Plymouth area. They also invite membership: £4 a year (£2 unwaged; £1 youth group), and produce a regular newsletter for all members. Write to PO Box 67, Plymouth PL1 1TH.

Llandrindod Wells Animal Senctuary needs your kind donations to further its work with domestic and ex-farm animals. Contact Gelynen, Gwystre, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6RN.

Fox Cubs



PO BOX 87
EXETER
EX4 3TX

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

TOADS, FALCONS, EELS – AND CLYDESIDE SABS!

Keeping in touch over the summer months can be difficult for some HSA groups. As a rejoinder to the article about Clydeside HSA in HOWL 38, a member of the group describes their activities during the foxhunting close season a year ago.



Clydeside HSA's riverbank clean up squad with a van-load of salvaged junk. photo: David Morrison

THE end of the foxhunting season in March '87, and the resultant 6 months of comparative peace for Renfrewshires' wildlife was greeted with the usual relief and celebrations by the group. However, this did not signal a rest period, as apart from the usual rounds of fund-raising activities for season 87/88, members were involved in active conservation work during the spring and summer — protecting toads, peregrine falcons, kingfishers and river life in general.

In early spring sabs helped toads in the Paisley area to safely reach their breeding ponds. Unfortunately the toads chosen migration route crossed two busy main roads. Over the two week breeding period sabs were out every evening at dusk with torches patrolling the verges of the roads, collecting up the toads as they appeared, and carrying them across the road to continue their journey in safety, either to or from the ponds. Large "Toad Crossing" warning signs were placed at the roadside at each end of the crossing area, and a favourable response was received from most passing motorists with some even stopping to help.

In the late spring/early summer, sabs joined forces with local ornithologists to protect three peregrine nest sites in the West of Scotland. In previous years the birds had been under attack from keepers, egg collectors, and chick-stealers (for sale abroad to falconers). One nest had the chicks taken in the four consecutive previous years. Watches were set up, with sabs visiting the nest sites daily to check the birds, and watch for any disturbance. On the site most under threat this was increased from visits at dawn and dusk to a 24hr camp as the chicks reached the crucial pre-fledging age favoured by falconers. The vigil continued over an 8 week period, until the chicks fledged. At one site the watch failed and the parent birds disappeared, possibly shot by a keeper, but the other two were 100% successful with chicks and adults leaving the breeding sites safely.

ON May 10th the group took part in a sponsored kingfisher survey of the River Cart between Paisley and Glasgow, with people sponsored for the distance of river bank covered. All unusual wildlife sightings were noted and results gathered in the evening.

On October 11th sabs were sponsored by group supporters to clean up a particularly grotty section of the White Cart River in Paisley. Skips for rubbish and a grant of £10 per half mile cleaned were provided by the District Council/Clyde Purification Board. The day was spent splashing about in waders, dragging shopping trolleys, old T.V.'s and other assorted rubbish out of the river. Eels and fish showed themselves during the day with one very large eel slithering out of an old pair of trousers that had been dragged up on the bank!

By this time we were of course well into cubbing again so attention was returned to the hunt. Our summers activities had been beneficial in many ways, most importantly for the wildlife involved, but also for raising funds and good publicity in that the sabs in Clydeside have proven themselves to be genuinely concerned for all wildlife, and not just the "class-war" agitators or "loony lefties" that the hunt would have the public believe we are.

Sarah – Clydeside H.S.

HUNTSMANBALLS



"There is no doubt that the controversial sport of foxhunting is recieving five-star protection from the police of Fife. And its the civil rights of hunt saboteurs to protest at the blood sport that are being sabotaged."
Melanie Reid, Sunday Mail 28/2/88

"Mr Cowen says he rarely attracts the attention of hunt saboteurs. 'Oh, we're much too low down on the pecking order for that. Its the foxhunts they're after."
Famous last words of Duncan Cowen, Derwent Valley Beagles Committee, Scarborough Evening News 16/2/88

"Going out hunting in my dog-collar makes me a prime target for the antis. But I just chat away to them and tell them that field sports help to preserve the traditional balance of the British Countryside."
Rev. Roger Burt, Dunstan Harriers, Sunday Telegraph 27/12/87

"One of the criticisms of us it that we kill pregnant hinds. But they're only hunted in the very early months of their pregnancy."
Diana Scott, Joint Master D&S Staghounds, Womens Own December 87



Of Hunt supporters:
"THEY form the front line in disputes with the antis. Horseback is no position from which to argue with a man on the ground. Foot followers are on the opposition's own level and, being generally both knowledgeable and good humoured, become expert at deflating hecklers."
Wilson Stephens, 'YOU' Magazine 21/2/88

"Hunt Saboteurs are being recruited in Milton Keynes in a cloak and dagger campaign."
Milton Keynes Citizen 22/10/87

Of beagling:
"Few hares are killed. None are injured. The hare remains a common animal".
G D Thompson, letters, Westmoreland Gazette 30/10/87

"Probably more than 15 million acres of Britain owe their moorland, wetland, woodland, hedgerow and meadow to bloodsports."
Robin Page, Mail on Sunday, 27/12/87

"You spray our hounds or touch our hounds and I'll kick you off your bike".
Unidenfified redcoat, Mendip Farmers FH, to Ashwick villager as she cycled past. Western Daily Press letters 12/2/88

POLICEMANBALLS

"Im here to stop you preventing a breach of the peace."
"I've had trouble from you lot in the future".
Inspector Wilcox of Retford Police, to Nottingham sabs, 27/2/88

"To be quite honest lass, if anybody came onto my property and acted in the way you've been acting, I'd take a big sharp axe to them."
Northumbria Police Officer to Tyneside sab, March 1988

PSEUDS CORNER

"The subtle, natural pastel shades of autum contrasted to the multi-coloured tufts and crests of hair adorning the heads of a group of pallid-faced youths intent on disrupting the day . . ."
Anonymous hunt supporter, letters, Cumberland News, 6/11/87

COMMITTEE

BEQUESTS TO THE HSA

Are you considering leaving a legacy to the HSA in our struggle against bloodsports? We can assist you with the legal wording. Please contact The Treasurer, HSA, PO Box 87, Exeter, EX4 3TX.

££££s TO BE WON! CLUB DRAW

In February the following prizes were drawn:—
£55 to M Hill and A Cliff
£35 to John Quirke
£16 to Carol Winder
We have more members each month which means the prizes are continually increasing in amount. To join in the fun and give yourself or your group the chance to win simply fill in the Bankers' Standing order Form enclosed in this HOWL and return it to the Fundraiser or send a cheque for £24.00 for a year's membership.

SELL YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!

Enclosed with this HOWL you find some more raffle tickets. The Annual Draw is the HSA's biggest fundraising event of the year – please help by selling the raffle tickets as soon as possible. If you want more tickets write to the Fundraiser at PO Box 87. Please return all tickets stubs and the money to PO Box 87 by 24th June.

PUBLIC ORDER SEMINARS

HSA Legal Officers are currently organizing two one-day seminars to be held in the summer, dealing with the HSA's legal response to the use of the Public Order Act. All groups should send a representative to one of the seminars. Details will be passed to all contacts when they are confirmed. Alternatively, write to PO Box 87, enclosing a 24p stamp, to obtain a legal pack which will be sent out in July.

WANTED

To help in research work into "fringe" bloodsports the HSA would like you to send any relevant press clippings or information which you have. Our Research Officer still wants domestic telephone directories from all over the country to help his work in this area – please help by sending the current directory, or last year's, for your area.

IRISH TRIP

Towards the end of the season, two HSA Committee members went to Northern Ireland to visit the Belfast group and offer them help and advice on a few tactical and organisational problems they had been having. There is always a danger that groups over the water may feel neglected by a mainland-based HSA and the Committee considered it important to establish closer links. The visit was a great success and it is hoped that hunt sabotage will now expand further in Northern Ireland. A full report will be published in HOWL 40.