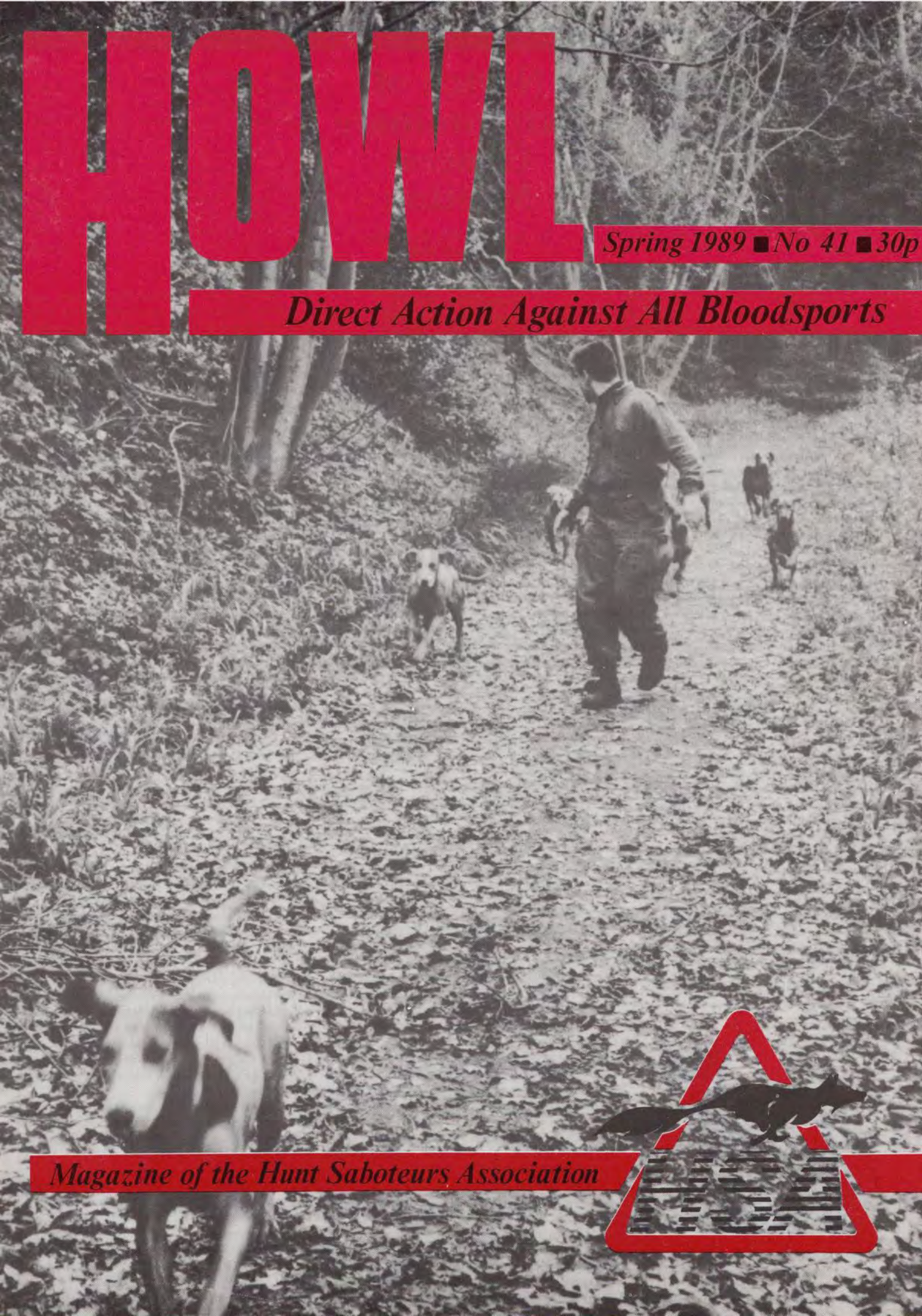
HOWL

Spring 1989 ■ No 41 ■ 30p

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

EDITORIAL

DUE to study commitments Steve Poole, has passed editorial control of this and the next issue of Howl to acting Editors, Dave Weeks, Chris Bishop, and Ralph Cook. Steve has kindly offered to continue to proof-read the magazine and Janette Kerr as usual continues in the design and layout. We would all like to apologise for the unavoidable lateness of the publication of this issue.

Meanwhile John Beggs, the HSA Legal Officer, has had to take up temporary hibernation for the same reasons. He would appreciate it if all emergency legal enquiries were passed either to the Secretary or Contacts Officers' telephone numbers. Non-emergency matters should as usual be sent to him via P.O. Box 87.

The HSA Committee wishes them all the best in their forthcoming examinations.

This issue of Howl brings news of two major internal developments in the structure of the HSA: the renting of offices in Exeter from which the HSA will henceforth be adminstered; and the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss adoption of the Memoranda and Articles of Association drawn up by John Beggs in consultation with a number of legal experts. These two moves, instigated by the Committee, reflect the increasing complexity of the HSA's administration and workload as a result of its rapidly growing membership and breadth of activity.

It is hoped that this will enable the HSA to consolidate its progress on a firm legal footing, become much more professional and make it a force to be reckoned with in the 1990's and beyond. All paid up members of the HSA can attend the EGM so come along and take your part in the first step of a making a more dynamic HSA.

As usual this issue of Howl brings, news, and views direct from the anti-bloodsports movement. The most controversial of which is the tactics article by the HSA's Tactics Officer. A roundup of the Boxing Day activities of many groups is given and reports of hunt violence at the beginning of the season which appear to indicate increasing frustration amongst our opponents.

We hope you enjoy this Howl and look forward to receiving your comments, letters, news etc. in time for Howl 42.

Copydate for which is April 12th.

Opinions expressed in Howl do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or of the HSA.



Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

To be Held On Saturday 8th April 1989 At Room A85 London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE 9.30am (For 10am)

The Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee calls for an Extraordinary General Meeting for the following reasons:

The HSA has in the past three years grown in size and complexity to the point at which it can no longer expand due to the insufficiencies inherent in its structure and its outdated and undemocratic Constitution. As the HSA is governed by this Constitution the HSA Committee feels that until such time as the Constitution is changed for the better we will not see a modern and efficient organisation.

The first step has been undertaken with the establishment of national offices (see elsewhere in HOWL). To capitalise on the upsurge of interest in the HSA we feel on behalf of the membership that we must take the opportunity **now** to move for incorporation as a Limited Company. It is with these points in mind that the HSA Committee has requested that the HSA's Legal Officer, John Beggs draw up the proposed comprehensive Constitution known as "Memorandum and Articles of Association."

The HSA Committee has therefore called for an EGM to be held. Please attend the EGM and give your support to the following resolution:

Resolution:

a) The the HSA adopts the proposed Memoranda and Articles of Association and that these replace the HSA Constitution as agreed at the 1985 AGM of the Assocaition.

b) That the HSA Committee is mandated to seek Limited Company status under the terms of the Companies Act 1985 as soon as practicable.

c) That the Memoranda and Articles of Association are adopted as the interim Constitution until such time as incorporation is achieved.

Proposed: John Beggs, HSA Legal Officer.
Seconded: David Weeks, HSA Chairperson.

The call for an EGM has been requested by the following members of the Association:

Committee Members and Appointed Officers:

John Beggs Legal Officer, David Weeks Chairperson, Ralph Cook Secretary, Chris Bishop Contacts Liaison Officer, Angela Majennik Press Officer, Mike Hall Sales-goods Officer, Ann Llewellyn "Foxcubs", Aubrey Thomas Tactics Officer, Steve Poole Howl Editor, Maria Lester, Alan Thomas and Dan Crampton.

Other Members:

Melanie Christie (West Wilts group), Simon Russell (Tonbridge group), Jo Coghlan (Bristol group), Joe Hashman (Oxford group), Tim Nickerson (Norwich group), Kevin Saunders (Herts & Essex group), Adam Parker (Gloucester group), Glen Williams (Leicester group), Teresa Uttley (Ashford group), Cameron Evans (Nottingham group), Graham Wise (Herne Bay group), David White, Kieran Barker, Noreen Armstrong, Andrew Bailey, H. K. Batchelor, Robert Barr, Constance Barr, Sandra Cartwright, J. Curry, Graham Ashton, Martin Benson, G. Burns, Nigel Challis, Brian Cook, S. J. Cook, Cathy Froggart, Mick Clifton, John Bainbridge, Tim Barnett, Reverend E. E. Bromwich, Gordon Batsford, A. E. Cripps, Ms. C. Bliss, A. W. Wilkinson, B. Wilkinson, Laura Froggatt, Mr and Mrs Clarke, Mr & Mrs W. G. Moody, Belinda Fickling, Ken Dance.

Pleaes Note

Copies of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association are available from P.O. Box 87 Exeter EX4 3TX they will also be available at the EGM.

HSA OFFICE

THE HSA Committee is pleased to announce that it has rented offices in Exeter fulfilling a three year old members' mandate.

The HSA's administration has been carried out in a bewildering succession of bedsits and living rooms of Committee Members for nearly 24 years. Inefficiency has, not surprisingly, therefore, been the hall mark of the HSA. In 1985 the system failed completely bringing the HSA disastrously close to bankruptcy. The 1985 AGM demanded that the HSA Committee rectify this state of affairs by renting offices as soon as practicable.

As longstanding members will confirm the HSA has placed improvements in its services to members and groups its top priority over the last three years. This has led to a dramatic increase in membership, the expansion of the merchandise department and generally more efficient administration. The HSA has now, however, outgrown the Secretary's spare room, and an office has become not only desirable but essential if the HSA is to maintain and improve on its present performance.

The new office comprises two second floor rooms with 450 square feet between them, a security door, entry phone and telephone. The whole lot is ours for a very reasonable weekly rent of £50 plus rates. Obviously some money has had to be spent on repairs, decoration, facilities, furnishings and fittings and some £3,000 has been allocated by the Committee for this purpose.

The office will be staffed at least eight hours a day and can be reached by phone on Exeter (0392) 430521. If anyone has any office equipment, desks, telephones, typewriters, computers, shelving, cupboards, bookcases, office chairs etc. that they would like to donate we would be pleased to hear from them. In addition if any members in the Exeter area with time on their hands would like to volunteer their services for photocopying, filing, typing and general clerical work, the HSA Secretary, Talph Cook, would like them to get in touch.

The office is open to all members by arrangement with the Secretary. Non-members wishing to visit, however, must seek approval from the Committee prior to making arrangements with the Secretary.

The HSA would welcome and donations towards the costs of establishing and maintaining the office to help offset the dent made in the HSA's finances.

We hope that the office will transform the HSA and enable it to meet its obligations to members and local groups well into the 1990s.

LETTERS



Maggie OK

Dear HOWL,

I write in reply to I.C. Neal's letter in Howl 40.

It may surprise him but I am a member of my local Conservative Association and an active member of Tyneside HSA. I sincerely believe that there are many sympathisers within the Conservative Party for our cause so please try not to alienate them. After all what ever your political leanings, surely the animals who are suffereing must come first.

So please let's not hear any more of Maggie's supporters not helping animals: it is hard work with some (you know who I mean), but many do care and will fight on behalf of our fellow creatures.

James Cleg
Morpeth

Strike Pay Donation

Dear HSA,

Please accept this cheque for £20 following a token strike by nurses over their grading dispute. I was away on a course at the time, so was unable to strike. So I am donating some of my pay to a favourite charity, which is yours.

Sylvia Jenkins,
Chester

Can't Wait To Go Sabbing

Dear HOWL,

On Saturday 14 January I watched how you dealt with the hunt at East Horsley. I am only 9 years of age but cannot wait to be older so I can go with you to save all the foxes in our countryside.

I shall tell all my friends about the day we watched you saving lives.

Rebecca Thompson
Mayford, Surrey

T.V. Time

Dear HOWL,

It surprises me that more sabs are not taking advantage of the great opportunities presented by programmes such as "The Time: The Place", "Kilroy", and "Split Screen" etc. to promote hunt sabotage.

May I suggest that if the producers of these programmes received deluges of correspondence asking them to examine whether hunt saboteurs are a bunch of anarchists out to cause chaos and commotion for the upper classes or whether they are a group of dedicated, caring people out to save lives, then our organisation (rather than other anti-hunt groups), might receive considerably more T.V. coverage.

Surely it has to be good for the movement to encourage media interest in the arguments against hunting and the ways in which ordinary people can try to stop or limit hunting other than by merely signing petitions.

Liz
Tyneside Games

LACS Brilliant

Dear HOWL,

With regards to the setting up of local broad-based, anti-hunt groups, I would like to mention a dirty word – the League Against Cruel Sports.

Having more money to offer than the HSA they will provide ANY landowner with FREE legal advice on taking out an injunction against hunts trespassing on their land.

How many times, whilst sabbing, do we meet irate farmers/landowners or householders who hate the hunt and want to do something about them trespassing on their land?

If we all carried the League's address, or one of their leaflets with us we could point them in the direction from which they could get the help they need.

There are already broad-based anti-hunt groups in existance. One of these is the League funded Charnwood Anti-Bloodsports Society, who have had several parts of the Quorn Foxhunt's country declared "Sites of Scientific Interest". They also get solicitors onto land owned by the County Council on which hunting is permitted but which was given to the Council in wills by anti-hunt people.

I hope that the next issue of Howl will not be full of "Let's-slag-off-the-League" letters. Much as it sticks in my throat, we have a lot to learn from them.

Nik Wilson
Leicester

Court Games

Dear HOWL,

Having just read John Begg's article in Howl 40, I feel a point should be looked into more thoroughly and that is legal representation.

Nearly a year ago, I, along with 17 others, appearded at Winchester Crown Court charged with "unlawful assembly". We believed that we were best represented by one body as we were told that otherwise a lot of infighting would go on to the detriment of each individual and animal rights. Therefore we were represented by one solicitor (apart from one person who had individual representation). We were grouped into two's and three's, each group had its own Barrister.

However, we were soon to find out that each Barrister was still fighting for his clients, apportioning more blame to other defendants.

Needless to say we were acquitted. However, with hindsight, I do not believe our case would have gone to Crown Court if we had been represented from the beginning by individual solicitors and Barristers. The cost of the Committal proceedings at the magistrates court would have been phenomenal. I am sure the magistrate would have seen that it is against the public's interest to proceed on such minor charges. Think how much the trial would cost what with 17 Barristers and 17 Solicitors, each with their own clerk!

It is important that we all stick together and even though we choose to have individual representations that does not mean we can't work together. My experience has taught me that court is just a big game which we must win, to do this we must make it as costly as possible for the Crown and not give them an easy ride, causing them as much aggravation as they cause us.

If it's less costly for them, it is easier for them to take us to court and put us through the system. I feel we gave them an easy ride at cut price.

Sandra Battram,
Pwllheli, Wales

Join the National Trust

Dear HOWL,

A week before the National Trust's AGM I was handed a leaflet concerning the resolution of 17 members to ban hunting on Trust land which read:

"For those of you who cannot or will not pay the high membership subscription to vote against bloodsports . . . voice your disgust at the National Trust's attitude by attending the demonstration being organised . . ."

As a member of both the HSA and the Trust I attended both the demonstration and the AGM, voting in favour of the resolution.

What troubles me are those who "will not pay the high membership". This suggests that people will not join due to the Trust's "attitude" on hunting. The fact that the resolution was put forward indicates that not all members are pro-hunting; therefore, there is no such thing as the Trust's "attitude".

The Council asked members to vote against the resolution but the Council is a tiny proportion of the membership. If we are members we have a voice in such matters, on the 29 October that voice was not quite loud enough. By joining the Trust our voice will be louder next time.

For anyone interested, the National Trust's address is:

THE NATIONAL TRUST
Membership Dept.
P.O. Box 39,
Bromley,
Kent BR1 1NH

Carol Hart,
Hertfordshire

Narrow-minded Prejudice

Dear HOWL,

After reading the letters from "Thug" and Mrs Welch in Howl 40, I felt I had to give my point of view.

I am no anarchist, no punk, or long-haired person. I am my own individual, who like you, chooses what I wear. I do admit that I am no Marks and Spencers fanatic because its not my style and I cannot afford it anyway.

As for what the public thinks, a few are ignorant, usually the ones who are too stuck up to be bothered what I'm there for! BUT I am delighted to tell you that the majority are co-operative, mainly because they couldn't care less what I look like, or what colour my skin is. All they are interested in is that I am there fighting for animals.

Times have changed, that I'm afraid we cannot stop but prejudice and narrow mindedness we can.

Miss D Dawson
Hoddesdon

Trivial

Dear HOWL,

I noted with surprise the similarity in the views expressed by Thug and Mrs Welch (letters Howl 40) and those of John Batten and Dorothy Thompson in Huntsmansballs (same edition), ie their criticism of the dress and appearance of some hunt saboteurs.

Surely we should focus on what people do and not on what they look like.

LETTERS

I'm sure hunt supporters will be smiling all over their faces when they read letters like those mentioned above. It is just what they have been doing for many years, concentrating on trivial things, rather than talking about the real issue – the cruelty of bloodsports.

Graeme Denman
Salford

Public Image

Dear HOWL,

Three cheers for John Hewson, the writer of one of the best reader's letters I have ever come across! Succinct, complete, to the point, convincing. The question is indeed: do you want to be efficient, yes or no?

The same question applies to the public image of hunt saboteurs; if they look dirty and slovenly, they will not help animals at all. So, be logical.

Congratulations on HOWL generally speaking (and on the decrease in spelling and typing errors that marred quite a few texts in preceding issues).

Nelly Moia
Luxembourg

Greens Are Better?

Dear HOWL,

I was interested to read I.C. Neal's letter in Howl 40 that "down the years Labour have always been on our side of the fence" over bloodsports. If this had been true no doubt Labour Governments of the past would have acted against bloodsports. They didn't.

In opposition they have been keen to pick up many causes from nuclear disarmament to animal rights in the hope that there are votes to be had. In doing so they have had the League Against Cruel Sports support as well as support from other animal organisations.

I think people interested in animal rights would be wise to be suspicious. Labour have sold out campaigns like CND before, after having given support in opposition. Even on today's Labour policy their attitude to vivisection is hardly distinguishable from the Tories and the British fur industry have had Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody as their Parliamentary spokesperson.

If any Howl readers are looking for a political party that has a real commitment to animal rights they could do worse than look to the Green Party. On a range of issues from bloodsports, conservation, vivisection to civil liberties the Green Party is really on our side of the fence.

Tim Brennan
Exeter

Badger The MAFF

Dear HOWL,

Your readers will remember our letter of a little while ago, asking them to write letters to their MPs calling for a halt to the massive badger slaughter programme by the Ministry of Agriculture. Because of past protests some killing was stopped, but the policy of official badger killing goes on.

We now have some figures available on the cost of this operation which may shock your readers, disturbed as they probably are by old-age pensioners who cannot afford to meet their heating bills, or by cutbacks in health care and the plight of the homeless.

As humans suffer in these ways, the profligate Ministry of Agriculture is spending TWO MILLION POUNDS of taxpayers money EACH YEAR killing badgers in pursuit of a policy that has been widely discredited.

May we through your columns, ask all your readers, as taxpayers, to write as soon as possible to the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW and to their own MP, at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, calling for the Ministry of Agriculture's badger slaughter policy to be halted forthwith, so that the money wasted each year can be spent on caring for human beings instead.

Brenda Charlesworth
Dartmoor Badgers Protection League.
Devon.



Badgers still the victims of MAFF obstinancy.

Howl in Hospital

Dear HOWL,

Your readers may be amused to learn that a mole had found his/her way into the hospital where I find myself after a cycling accident, as copies of Howl have been left around.

Delighted to see that the ALF rescued 10 foxes from a fur farm, a real boost to the many ALF prisoners at present suffering unjustly. Activists and hunt sabs have the practical means to save animals lives.

Finally may I congratulate your magazine on its witty news items.

Digby Gordon,
Bournemouth Hospital

NEWS

Hooked Nose And Lead Weights

FIREMEN has to use bolt cutters to separate an angler's nose from a hook after he bungled a cast. The fisherman has been rushed to Harwich Hospital in Essex where doctors were unable to cut the hook because it was too thick. Later a firebrigade spokesperson said: "He was in too much pain to feel embarrassed. One wonders whether, having experienced angling from the fishes' point of view, whether he will in future keep his nose out of their business.

Figures released by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show that angling is one of the most dangerous activities. Last year 11 people died whilst fishing, a figure more than double that for motor-cycle sports and only exceeded by swimming. Only three people were killed whilst hunting or shooting. Happily deaths have not yet been recorded for the sport of hunt sabotage!

An angler, Paul Maines from Whitchurch, Bristol has become one of the first people to be prosecuted for using lead weights whilst fishing. He was using the weights whilst on a fishing holiday on the Norfolk Broads. North Walsham magistrates fined him £50 with £20 costs.

Badgers Sacrificed In £2 Million TB Experiment

THE Ministry of Agriculture has come under renewed criticism for its programme of badger slaughter. Thousands of badgers have been gassed and trapped by MAFF operatives in the last 14 years because the Ministry believes this will prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis in cattle.

An editorial in the November issue of BBC Wildlife magazine calls for the killing to stop, saying that there is no proof of the policy's success. The article, headed "The Sacrificial Badger" claims that the programme cost an estimated £2 million last year but that only 92 of the 692 badgers killed were TB positive.

Since the gassing programme was stopped several years ago because of the cruelty and inefficiency involved, badgers have been trapped in cages and shot on land where cattle suffer from the disease.

Unfortunately the disease in badgers can only be detected in postmortem although development of a live test and a vaccine is being undergone near Stroud.

The article says: "The fact that some farms in the problem areas have been subjected to repeated badger control operations must make the farmers themselves question the efficacy of the policy . . . . This sorry saga should cease, and soon".

"OUTRAGEOUS DEPRAVITY"



"Outrageous Depravity": Bull terrier bearing the scars of battle (RSPCA)

A Judge recently allowed an appeal by a badger-digger against conviction in a magistrates court for cruelty to animals.

Trevor Noel Barry was convicted of badger digging and cruelty to his terriers by Coleford magistrates in June after being caught re-handed at a badger sett in Gloucestershire.

On appeal the Judge upheld his conviction of badger digging and allowing dogs to disturb badgers but ruled that he was not guilty of procuring dogs to fight to badger.

His Honour Judge Gabriel Hutton decided on a point of law that Barry could not be guilty of this offence because, although domestic animals, including terriers, are protected under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, wild animals are not unless they are captive. There were, he said, two reasons for his decision. Firstly the Act was meant to make dog fighting illegal on the grounds of the cruelty involved but not to outlaw the "legitimate" use of dogs in the digging and killing of foxes. Secondly it was his view that despite the fact that a badger or fox might be trapped underground it was not actually in a state of captivity.

It is well-known that terriers are frequently injured during scuffles with badgers and foxes and the RSPCA has frequently attempted to get this recognised by law.

This case represents something of a setback for the campaign against terrier work. However, there is one very interesting feature about the case discovered by HSA Research Officer, Ralph Cook. His Honour Judge Gabriel Hutton is Chairman of the Berkeley Foxhounds! Of course one must assume the Judge's impartiality in this matter and that his decision has nothing to do with his hunting connection or that if the appeal had not been allowed the use of terriers to dig and bolt foxes for the hunt would stand on a questionable legal footing.

Ralph has since passed his discovery to the League Against Cruel Sports which is understood to be seeking an explanation from the Crown Prosecution Service as to the propriety of having a Judge with a clear vested interest in a case being allowed to rule on it.

Trevor Barry seems to have spent almost as much time before the beak as he has in the hunting field. In August he stood accused of cruelty to a wild fox. Gloucester magistrates heard that a policeman was physically sickened as he watched five dogs savage the fox for ten minutes whilst Barry held it by its tail. Eventually the dogs grew tired of the attack and Barry clubbed it to death with a branch. Both he and his brother Martin were convicted and fined.

In early January maigstrates at Wallasey, Merseyside, found two men – Gary Pruden and Stephen Horton (the latter already has two badger digging convictions) – guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a wild fox whilst fox digging on common land at West Kirby last March.

They ruled that the fox was captive and thus protected by the 1911 Act as it was trapped underground by terriers which had mutilated its hindquarters and had then been beaten with a spade causing severe wounds on its back. The cause of death was suffocation, its lungs were full of soil.

Of course we have to wait and see whether a pro-hunting Judge overturns the decision when the two men appeal against their convictions.

Dog Fighting

Still on dogs three men were jailed in November last year for their part in an illegal dog fight which was filmed for a horrific video. They were each given six month jail sentences by Winsford magistrates, although, unfortunately their sentences were reduced by Judge Elyston Morgan on appeal.

Kenneth Ryder of Manchester, Michael Thomas Brown, of no fixed address and Paul Butler of Ellesmere Port recorded the fight which took place on or about 21 January 1988 but the video was obtained by a national newspaper which passed it on to the RSPCA.

In it the men are clearly seen shouting encouragement to the two American Pit Bull Terriers as the animals mauled each other in a blood-spattered arena. Both dogs had suffered considerable injuries and were covered with blood. Winsford magistrates ordered that both dogs be given into the care of the RSPCA.

Spate of Convictions

There have been a spate of convictions for offences arising out of dog fighting and badger baiting over the last few months with further cases pending.

In November a London teenager, Alan Venkiah (17) was fined and banned from keeping dogs for five years after his one-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier, called Victor, was found in a flat covered with between 150 and 200 scars. In addition the RSPCA discovered photographs depicting dogs training to fight.

A vet said that she believed the dog had been involved in at least three fights. Venkiah was convicted of causing the dog unnecessary suffering. A bitch named Storm and her 11 puppies were also confiscated.

In the same month three youths, (14 to 16) and four men were found fuilty of dog fighting by Lambeth magistrates. Magistrates heard that a kitchen in a South London flat was converted into a makeshift arena for the purpose and that during the raid on the flat police heard the men encouraging the dogs to fight.

The adults Patrick Simms, Malcolm Hunter, William Adams and Rodney Blake were fined a total of £1,600, the youths, who cannot be named for legal reasons, received lesser penalties.

Also in November two Portsmouth brothers, David (23) and Paul (19) Fry were convicted of dogfighting after a raid by police and RSPCA officers netted a large quantity of dogfighting literature and training equipment. They were both given the maximum sentence for the offence, six months imprisonment.

(contd)



"Foxing" with terriers – legitimate cruelty

TERRIER NEWS contd

In December fifteen men were jailed for periods between three weeks and six months and one sent to detention after being convicted on charges of dog fighting. The men were arrested during a raid by armed police on a barn on the outskirts of Doncaster last August. A dog fight was in progress and the dogs were so badly mauled that they had to be put down.

A 30-minute video of the fight, recorded by the organisers, was shown to the court and afterwards Stipendiary Magistrate Mr James Barry said:

"This was a wicked abuse of the courage and devotion of these animals and a sustained act of outrageous depravity"

Badgered Baiters

Two men convicted of badger digging in December have alleged that they are being hounded by "animal rights extremists". One of the men is reported to be living in fear of his life after a hearse was sent to his house as a "warning"

Charles Cawe (42) of Walderslade and Brian Wade (23) of Northfleet, Kent complained of the harassment after being found guilty. Mr Cawe claims that he has given his terriers away and packed in fox hunting following a string of threatening phone calls from "animal rights protestors"

HSA USA

FOR the second year running Exeter hunt saboteur Verina Gill, at present living in California, is spearheading the actions of California HSA and the radical American environmental group Earth First, in a campaign to prevent the state-organised trophy killing of the rare Nelson bighorn sheep on the Old Dad and Marble Mountains, near Baker, California.

In a press release distributed widely to press outlets in America, Verina said:

"We will use every non-violent, direct-action tactic necessary to intervene in the field between the hunter and the hunted . . ."

The hunt which allowed the taking of nine sheep between the 3 and 18 December is only the second to have taken place since the sheep were given full protection in 1873. According to California HSA the hunt is allowed purely to cater for the "head-hunting trophymania" of the sportsmens' lobby. The desert bighorn population stands at less than 5% of its original numbers.

The response to California HSA's actions last year included citizen's arrest, physical assault and illegal imprisonment of activists in a Wild West-style ambush of the sabs by cowboys mounted on horse back and totting stetsons and rifles.

Loren Lutz, the leader of the hunters who pay big dollars for the right to take a sheep stated that the sabs "ruined" last years hunt. In an attempt to prevent the same happening this time he initiated a bill in the State Assembly making it a misdemeanor to "wilfully interfere with participation of any individual in . . . shooting (or) hunting". The law took effect on January 5. A report of this years sabotage will hopefully appear in Howl 42.

"It's A Bird . . . No It's A Plane"!

AN American duck hunter was charged with assault after shooting a low-flying bird spotter plane which he mistook for a duck in Maryland, USA!

It's A Boy!

TWO Italian shooters were charged with manslaughter in September after a 10 year old boy was shot in the face whilst cycling in the countryside on the opening day of the hunting season. He later died in hospital.

RSPCA Chief "Hunts And Shoots"

POULTRY farmer, Mr Peter Hudson claims that he is refusing to bow to "unreasonable militancy" from members of the RSPCA's Vale of Mowbray branch in North Yorkshire who have voted to demand his resignation, just five months after his appointment. Mr Hudson admits to killing rabbits and hares and eating pheasants and partridges, believes that he is "defending the balance between rural traditions and animal welfare" and is refusing to resign.

Watchdog Bitten

MEANWHILE the RSPCA has expelled five non-hunting vegetarian members from Kent and Surrey for "bringing the society into disrepute" after a year long campaign by "Watchdog", which they co-ordinated, to change its administration and policy to the betterment of animals. The Watchdog group, several of whom are HSA members point out that the RSPCA has financial reserves of some £40 million and that it kills 1,000 dogs a day.

Electric Fox

THE owner of a hotel in Penzance, Cornwall captured and released back into the wild a fox which had broken into his hotel during the night and gobbled up all his Christmas tree lights. Local foxhunt the Western Harriers are said to be helping police to track down the animal after reports that it has been flashing at people on lonely country lanes.

National Anti-Angling Day

Last year's National Anti-Angling Day organised by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA) in concert with the HSA was a huge success. The day of action generated a great deal of media coverage and for the first time the issue of cruelty in angling was dealt with seriously by both the national and local media. Some twenty or so HSA groups carried out direct-action against angling using a variety of methods from pre-feeding fish through to using boats to prevent anglers from casting their baits. In addition many local animal rights/welfare groups distributed leaflets and picketed angling shops in town and cities countrywide.

As a result of its success CAA and the HSA have jointly decided to repeat the exercise and have selected Saturday June 17 (the day after the coarse fishing season starts), as this year's National Anti-Angling Day. The theme of this year's campaign is the threats posed to all wildlife by discarded anglers tackle.

Dicarded line, hooks and weights lie in wait along our waterways and deal out pain, suffering and death to all manner of animals and birds. Even humans occasionally fall victim. Discarded hooks have been accidentally swallowed by creatures ranging from birds to dogs and horses. Fishing line often entangles small mammals and birds causing death by slow strangling or (in the case of birds), by hanging. Discarded lead weights poison a variety of water birds (despite being banned by law they are still used).

Both CAA and the HSA hope that HSA groups and local animal rights groups will back the campaign and think up imaginative ideas for alerting the public about the dangers and cruelty inherent in angling.

For further details contact CAA at: P.O. Box 130, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NR.



Southern sabs bring Chiddingford, Leconfield & Cowdray Hunt to a halt and huntsman pleads with police to stop them.

HUNT HAVOC

A quick thinking Inter-City, Poole-Glasgow train driver had to make an emergency stop at 70 mph to avoid hitting hounds belonging to the Bickerer and Whaddon Chase Foxhunt as they crossed a railway line in full-cry after a fox near Banbury, Oxfordshire in December. A British Rail spokesperson said: "It was very dangerous for passengers and staff. Only the driver's cool action averted a nasty accident." The hunt denies they crossed the line.

In November hounds from the Enfield Chase Foxhunt one of who's Joint-Masters is T.V.'s "Mr Show Jumping", Raymond Brooks-Ward savaged a deer to death in Broxbourne Forest. At the scene were a group of young scouts, some of whom climbed trees to avoid getting in the hounds' way. Raymond, who was not hunting on the day in question is reported to have stated that: "It must have been an horrific sight." He can perhaps say this from experience because his hounds have killed deer in the past.

The infamous Cwrt-Y-Cadno Farmers Foxhunt, an unregistered Welsh hunt the centre of an RSPCA cruelty prosecution last year hit the news again in January when its hounds killed an exhausted fox on the steps of St. Cynwyl's Church, Caio, near Carmarthen, Dyfed. Huntsman, Elgan Evans said: "It was unfortunate the fox ran into the church — but once it decided to run that way there was nothing we could do. The hounds followed automatically," The Vicar, Rev Cyril Jones, refused to comment.

Hounds from the Southdown and Eridge Foxhunt invaded the Bewl Bridge Reservoir nature reserve in January which is closed to people, dogs and horses angering local residents.

Hounds belonging to the Vale of Belvoir Foxhunt killed a fox on the patio of a house in Allington, Notts in mid-January. Mr David Anderton said: "The fox was pulled apart on the patio in front of my living room." The hunt's Joint-Master, Mr John Parry, has apologised for the incident.

The Old Berks Hunt won a new enemy recently when pensioner Mrs Kathleen Curley, who had no feelings either way about hunting, witnessed the killing of a fox in her garden by the hunt's hounds. Despite being given an apology and a bunch of flowers by a hunt representative, Mrs Curley is now firmly opposed to foxhunting.

In Cctober, hounds belonging to the Stirlingshire and Linlithgow Foxhunt ran amok through a housing estate in Linlithgow. Local residents phoned the police to complain and are now organising an official protest to the hunt in order to ensure that it never returns to their area.



New Forest Foxhound digging up a badger sett.

A Linwood man had been forced to write a letter of complaint to the Forestry Commission following the invasion of his one acre garden by hounds from the New Forest Foxhounds which are banned from entering his garden. Keith Coello also reported that the hounds were digging at a nearby badger sett in the absence of hunt staff. Wildlife film-maker, Eric Ashby, a New Forest resident has since stated that the badgers have been driven away from the sett following the disturbance.'

NOTICEBOARD

£1,000 Prize In Photo Competition

The League Against Cruel Sports is offering prizes ranging from £250 to £1,000 for the best photograph of staghunting. The photographs are to be judged by Linda McCartney and David Bailey. The closing date for entries is May 21, 1989.

The judges will be looking particularly for photographs of deer being killed, hunted (with hounds in the picture), or of situations depicting the almost daily abuses of the countryside by staghunters.

Fundraising In The South

The Southern Anti-Bloodsports Society (SABS) is in the process of forming a fundraising team and are appealing to Supporting members of the HSA in the south who would like to help to come forward. For details please write to SABS at: Box SABS c/o 4, Onslow Road, Bevois Valley, Soton, Hampshire.

Volunteer Wanted

The HSA is looking for volunteers to work in its Exeter office between 9am and 6pm on weekdays and Saturdays. Some Sunday work is available. Volunteers will not be paid for their work but reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed. The kind of work which is available includes typing, stuffing envelopes, photocopying, research and other clerical duties. Anyone offering their services should make arrangements with the Secretary on (0392) 430521 during office hours.

Office Equipment Wanted

If anyone has any redundant office equipment lying around from in-trays and files through to typewriters, computers and swivel chairs the HSA would be pleased to hear from them. Please get in touch on the HSA telephone number (0392) 430521.

HSA MERCHANDISE

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LESSONS FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST

The vast majority of the general public are opposed to hunting with hounds. It is a disappointment, therefore, that the membership of the National Trust (in the region of 1.6 million), voted to allow hunting to continue on National Trust property. Research Officer, Ralph Cook, suggests a reason for the result and a way around the problem in the future.



SCENES SUCH AS THIS MAY STILL TAKE PLACE ON LAND OWNED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST

In the week before the National Trust AGM many HSA members telephoned to say that as Trust members they wanted to vote for the resolution opposing hunting. All of them, however, had unfortunately thrown their ballot papers away. These had arrived with the Trust's magazine which after a brief scanning were promptly deposited in the newspaper rack or waste paper bin complete with the uninspiring ballot forms. No doubt a similar fate overtook most of the other one and a half million unused ballot forms.

The weekly bloodsporting rags ("Horse & Hound", "Shooting Times" etc), were reporting on the holding of this vote even before most of the ballot papers had arrived at their destinations (indeed it was from the Horse & Hound that I first learnt of the resolution). Thus a sizable section of the hunting community were more aware of the threat to their "sport" than the vast majority of people who actually posed the threat!

Through these magazines the British Field Sports Society urged hunters to join the National Trust and vote against the resolution; the Masters of Foxhounds Association sent circulars to every hunt urging its members to do the same. Our side, lacking a mass propaganda outlet, was unable to put up an effective challenge.

It is not known how many hunters joined the National Trust in order to vote but it is likely to be only a small number.

Figures released by the National Trust demonstrate that the increase in its membership between October 1987 and October 1988 was 246,000 compared to 237,000 the preceding year. Clearly there was not a massive response to the BFSS's recruitment drive.

Hunters have demonstrated that they are not overly keen to pay subscriptions to defend their activities (BFSS membership stands at only 80,000, at a time when it claims over 300,000 people participate in hunting). Nevertheless, the extra 9,000 people joining the National Trust in 1988, if all recruited in response to the threat posed to hunting would have played a significant part in the ballot results.

The result itself is interesting. Despite the fact that many on our side had thrown their ballot forms away before learning of the vote and the Trust Council's opposition to the resolution a total of 29,345 votes were cast in favour of the resolution and thus against the Council.

Taking the discrepancies between the two sides into account the relatively tiny pro-bloodsports vote of only 46,248 must be a disappointment to the bloodsports lobby representing as it does less than 1% of the people eligible to vote. Given the publicity the resolution received in the bloodsports press we can assume that virtually every hunt sympathiser in the National Trust voted against the resolution. Clearly, therefore out of a membership of 1.6 million the National Trust has less than fifty thousand members who support hunting.

By the same token and remembering that most anti-hunt National Trust members would have been unaware of the vote, the 29,345 votes cast in favour of the resolution may be interpreted as representing a sizable anti-hunt feeling among the organisation's membership.

We should see this as good reason for optimism should a repeat attempt be made. The key to success is in finding a way of informing the majority of the Trust's membership before they dispose of their ballot forms.

I attended the National Trust's AGM to hear the arguments put forward by the two sides. Apart from two or three reasonable speeches, particularly from League Against Cruel Sports, Sanctuaries Manager, John Hicks, and Mr Paul Sheldon (the proposer of the resolution), our side was poorly represented. Classically the anti-hunt speakers were basically ill-informed and relied on emotion rather than answering the spurious arguments of the pro-hunt lobby.

Our opposition on the other hand appeared to pin their hopes on two mastheads: firstly that foxes have to be culled to protect chickens and lambs and hunting is the most humane method of doing this and secondly that if deer hunting were to cease the red deer herds of Exmoor would be wiped out.

In all I counted at least 150 hunters gathered in the hall. The hall ballot on the resolution went in favour of hunting by less than 30 votes. About 1,200 people were in attendance, 200 up on 1987!

If we want to defeat hunting next time around, however, we must take a more active role in the run up to the ballot. Neither the HSA nor the League Against Cruel Sports have the media advantage enjoyed by our opposition but we do have plenty of active people committed to seeing an end to hunting. We should use them.

The most obvious way to get our message

across is through the mass production and distribution of leaflets informing the reader of the resolution and appealing to them to vote our way. These could have been handed out at major National Trust properties prior to the vote to all visitors. To gain a wider audience the press could be informed of the picketing and the reasons for the action explained.

If a repeat attempt is to be made in the future it is time the HSA and the League got their acts together and looked at ways to inform and motivate the average, anti-hunt National Trust member. After all getting a ban on hunting on Trust land creates "sanctuaries" which the League does not have to buy or maintain and is by far the best form of hunt sabotage.

Ralph Cook.

JOHN BEGGS

DUE to the pressure of work commitments over a period of a few months, the HSA Legal Officer, John Beggs has temporarily taken a back seat in looking after the well being of saboteurs and the HSA.

All being well our much over-worked Officer should return to the fore sometime in the summer.

A great deal of assistance has been given to sabs up and down the country by John. Not only has he been willing and able to offer good legal advice to sabs when they need it most, he has also been instrumental in bringing about the majority of the new legal campaigns undertaken by the HSA.

With this in mind, the Legal Page is temporarily under the control of the Committee and is therefore considerably shorter than usual. We eagerly await the return of John.

VIOLENT DISORDER

DISTURBINGLY, for the first time charges have been brought against hunt sabs under the very serious Section 2 Public Order Act 1986, for the offence of violent disorder. Following an incident near Tunbridge Wells on Saturday 16th July 1988, 5 people have been charged under this section, with a further person charged under the less serious Section 4 and Section 5.

It remains to be seen whether the police can maintain these serious charges in the face of what will be a vigorously defended case.

'WEAPON' CASE IS NONSENSE – JUDGE

A case against hunt sab Peter Cross accused of possessing an offensive weapon at a Sir Watkin Williams Wynn's Foxhunt meeting was a 'piece of nonsense', a judge said.

The 'offensive weapon' was a hunting whip which Peter had carried in his wellies at the time of his arrest. The hearing lasted 5 minutes with a formal verdict of not guilty being passed. The Judge Robin David told Chester Crown Court, "in my view there is not the remotest possibility of an intent to injure." He critised the Crown Prosecution Service for allowing the case to ever come to court.

At the conclusion of the trial, Peter told the press that he had had this case hanging over him for the last 10 months and had to pay 6 visits to court. The Judge ordered that Peter was to be awarded costs from Central Funds.

This trial came on the heels of another success arising out of the Paul Connolly prosecution (see other article).

KENNELMAN IN COURT



Hunt saboteur Gary Colbourne after the attack which left him with a broken nose and a cut cheek.

ON the 29th March of last year, New Forest hunt saboteur Gary Colbourne was attacked by one Colin Haley whilst sitting in his car during the course of a New Forest hunting day.

Gary was approached by Haley and questioned in the typical hunt manner, i.e. punch first and ask questions later. As Gary sat in his car looking at the hunt through his binoculars, our intrepid hunt servant lent in through the open car window to grab Gary. What followed resulted in a broken nose and a cut cheek to the saboteur. Further damage was occasioned to Gary's car before Haley left the scene.

The following month Haley was up before the Ringwood Magistrates to answer to the charge of occasioning Actual Bodily Harm. We are led to believe that these are not unfamilar surroundings for him, as he had previously served a prison sentence in Durham for a similar offence. Needless to say, he told the bench he was driving to such extremes because the saboteurs had "belted the living-daylights' out of the hounds and "smothered them with disinfectants and deodorents."

Not impressed with his accounts of being on the "front line" against the sabs, the magistrates saw fit to fine him a total of £300 and ordered him to pay £150 in compensation to Gary.

Although we can look upon the outcome of this case as ultimately successful, it does raise a very important series of questions. When will the courts impose severe sentences on offenders who continue to seriously assault innocent hunt saboteurs? How far does a hunt servant or hunt follower have to digress until s/he is dealt with in a manner more suitable to the crime.

Haley has now left service with the New Forest Foxhounds and is presently employed by a hunt in Lincolnshire.

Paul Connolly Fined £500

PAUL Connolly, terrierman of the Sir William Watkin Wynn's Foxhunt in North Wales, was fined £500 with £230 costs for assaulting and severely injuring Nottingham sab Nigel Lohan last year (see Howl 39 & 40). Connolly used a pick-axe handle to knock Lohan to the ground and then beat him with it as he lay huddled on the ground. As a result of the violent and unprovoked attack Nigel received treatment in hospital on his legs.

In court Connolly was described as the "salt of the earth" and somehow escaped the prison sentence he so richly deserved. In his defence, Connolly from Malpas, claimed that he struck only two blows in an effort to "defend" the hunt hounds for which he claimed a great fondness. Mr Elgan Edwards, defending Connolly, claimed that his client made no excuses for what he had done, realised it was wrong and said that Connolly was the sort of man that believed that injuring an animal was as serious as injuring a man!

The Court heard how a group of hunt saboteurs from Liverpool and Nottingham arrived to sabotage the hunt in the vicinity of Bangor on Dee on March 2. Sabs entered a field when a fox broke cover and started calling hounds oiff the fox's line with a horn and sprayed "eucalyptus oil" over the fox's scent. It was alleged that sabs started kicking the hounds, Nigel denied this.

Connolly arrived, weilding the pick-axe handle and ran towards the sabs brandishing the weapon. Most ran off, Connolly caught Nigel, felled him with the handle and struck him several times. After threatening to do the same to other sabs he made off into the woods.

One wonders what penalty a sab would have faced if the boot had been on the other foot, but we are unlikely to find out because hunt saboteurs are non-violent and do not include obviously offensive weapons in their sabbing equipment.



Flashback: Nigel Lohan is lifted into an ambulance after Connolly's vicious attack.

LEGAL BRIEFING PACK

THIS long awaited addition to all hunt sabs inventory has been temporarily post-poned.

From the outset this booklet has been drafted with the principal aim to provide the saboteur with the legal know-how applicable to sabbing in 1989 and beyond. Work continues on updating this important item to ensure a quality publication, therefore, it is now estimated that the first copies willbe available for the beginning of the next hunting season. From that date it is hoped that the booklet will be continually updated when necessary as any minor revisions in the law can have major implications for saboteurs.

In the meantime it is vitally important that any legal incident is reported to the HSA as soon as possible, so that the information can be entered on the data base and secondly, to allow the HSA to assist if possible.

We shall keep you posted with respect to the availability of this most important document.

FOX PRESERVATION HUNTER STYLE

ARTIFICIAL earths similar to that illustrated here may be found in hunt countries throughout Britain. Their purpose is to assist sport by encouraging foxes to breed. They occur not only in the countries of fashionable hunts who rarely even pretend to be engaged in the business of fox control but may also be found in areas covered by so-called "farmer's packs" who claim the sole right and ability to carry out "humane" fox control for the protection of lambs, fowl and game. Research Officer, Ralph Cook, takes a look at the fox preservation methods used by hunts.

The practice of building artificial earths, however, is not as widespread today as it once was. They are a relic of the past when most of the countryside was divided into a patchwork of huge game shooting estates employing armies of gamekeepers to control the predators of game: "vermin" such as badgers, otters, polecats as well as foxes were exterminated on such estates. During the heyday of foxhunting in the middle of the last century a landowner's prestige often depended upon their being able to provide foxes for the hounds when the hunt met on their land. Keen foxhunting landowners, therefore, ensured a huntable supply of foxes by planting woods, known as fox coverts or sanctuarys. "Artificial earths" were built in these coverts for the foxes to breed in.

Most hunts would deny establishing artificial earths in their country today but many, especially the more fashionable, still do.

Not only do such earths provide a breeding site for foxes but they can also assist "sport" for on a "blank day" the hunt may visit an artificial earth in the hope of finding a fox in residence. Many artificial earths are specially designed to facilitate quick bolting: a large slab of concrete often covers the central nesting area and this can be lifted off, a terrier dropped in and if anyone is at home it would not dwell for long. Many of these earths have movable metal grills at their entrances which can be closed to prevent a fox gaining access to it on a hunting day, this practice and that of blocking the entrances to natural earths is known as "earth stopping".

Artificial earths are a bonus at cubhunting time (August to November), for a landowner can quickly establish whether the earth houses a litter of cubs and if it is a close eye can be maintained on them. The hunt Master can then be informed in order that the early season meets can be planned and on a hunting morning the entire litter can be easily "stopped out" or bolted out of the earth.

The Late Tenth Duke of Beaufort, in his book "Foxhunting," explained the benefits of artificial earths:

"In countries where earths are scarce it is sometimes found necessary to make artificial earths, to provide somewhere for local foxes to have their cubs: in other words, for breeding purposes. Another advantage of artificial earths is that in grass countries where the coverts tend to be small and scattered it is useful to have snug earths judiciously placed at regular intervals, thus persuading foxes to take a good line. An additional advantage is that if an artificial earth is left open, it will take only a few minutes to bolt a fox. Also if it is a blank day, one can know where to go with some certainty of finding a fox."

The Duke does offer one pertinent warning about building artificial earths which demonstrates that he is aware of the implications of doing so:

"However, before considering the possibility of making artificial earths, it must be pointed out that they must be put in places where they can be watched, as fox poaching is getting more and more prevalent ... and that the whole subject of artificial earths is extremely controversial."

This did not, however, stop him from going on to describe how to build one!

Despite denials artificial earths are still being used as the following demonstrates:

"and after local hunting on Marshall Moor, a brace of foxes was evicted from an artificial earth near Bankbrae".
(Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire Foxhunt, Horse & Hound 25/3/83)

Due to the controversial nature of stone-built artificial earths many hunts have turned to the equally old practice of providing "stick heaps" on their land. These have the advantage of an innocent outward appearance whilst concealing an entrance, a tunnel and a central nesting area. Many are very old and have weathered into fairly natural piles of rotting wood but others are quite new or show signs of regular maintenance. The purpose of a stick pile is precisely that of the artificial earth, they are in fact the same thing:

"It was not until Mr Gurney's stick pile held (a fox), **that our blood was up again".**
(Grafton Foxhunt, Shooting Times 24/3/83)

Artificial earths and stick piles whilst providing breeding and resting sites for local foxes are not enough on their own to increase the number of foxes in a hunt country. To do this the local habitat must be improved so that it will provide a better habitat for foxes, a greater food supply and, therefore, a larger fox population. The planting of fox coverts can do this.

Planting fox coverts is a practice most frequently indulged in by fashionable hunts which often own their coverts, in other hunts, keen hunt members will manage and improve their own coverts voluntarily for the benefit of the hunt.

The Duke of Beaufort offered the following comments:

"No hunting country will provide its full measure of sport unless the fox coverts are maintained in good order.."

The huntsman of Dorsets Cattistock Foxhunt, Mr Alistair Jackson, agrees for he wrote:

"There is no doubt that, in any country, time spent on the maintenance of the real coverts is time well spent."

Jackson then goes on to describe how to create a new covert, improve an old one and generally make a covert more comfortable for the local foxes. He urges his reader to plant cover such as gorse, privet, lonicera and rhododendrons all of which, he says, are popular with foxes. He talks of "cover laying" whenever the undergrowth appears thin and the need to prevent disturbance by the general public and pet dogs.

Those hunts which follow such advice report improved fox population and fewer blank days:

"Perhaps management of coverts is an art less understood in the north and more concentration on this would be rewarded



Foxbreeders then as now. Saboteurs caught the Mendip farmers flushing a fox from this artificial earth near Priddy in Somerset during the hunt's opening meet, November 1964. Picture by Joyce Cebo.

.... As if to emphasize this, hounds went to a thorn covert in the afternoon where the supporters had recently put in some work, and at least three foxes were at home."
(Martin Letts, huntsman to the College Valley and North Northumberland Foxhunt, Horse & Hounds 13/3/81)

"But plenty of foxes have been found in most parts of the (hunt's), **country, with cover-laying of two and three years ago in the north end showing to particular advantage."**
(Bicester and Warden Hill Foxhunt, Horse & Hound 10/12/82).

Thus far from controlling foxes many hunts are actually encouraging them to live at greater densities than the habitat could support if it were not for the hunts' need to have plenty of foxes in their countries in order to ensure enjoyable hunting.
Ralph Cook

ARTIFICAL EARTH EXPOSED

THE photographs accompanying this article show an artificial fox earth discovered by hunt saboteurs in the South Dorset Foxhunt's country. What is interesting about this particular earth is that it is so evidently a recent creation.

Using spades and pickaxes a team of hunt saboteurs spent several hours digging to expose a classic artificial earth. Two pipes both about 10 feet long led into a square, brick build, subterranean nesting area covered with a stolen road sign and several sheets of metal. The brickwork and cement base were clearly new, perhaps no more than two years old. The whole construction represented a good weekend of work for the hunt's Supporters' Club.

At the opening end of each pipe and slightly to one side were large wooden logs and breeze blocks. These were clearly the means by which the hunt's earthstoppers would block the earth's entrances the night before the hunt met.

The earth was clearly intended primarily for breeding purposes as the nest box roof could not be lifted without a lot of digging.

After photographing the earth in situ, the saboteurs ensured that it would require complete replacement before a fox or the hunt could use it again.
Truffle Hound.



One of the entrance holes, showing twelve inch concrete pipe and above a large breeze block and lump of wood used to block the entrance on hunting days.



Exposed: Artificial Earth; the nesting box after six inches of earch and two metal covers have been removed. The fold-up spade in the foreground provides an indication of size.

HUNTSMANSBALLS

Hunt Master R.W.F. Poole of French staghunt Master, Madame La Comtesse de Monspey:
"Like all true hunters she has great affection and respect for the quarry she hunts."
"The reason we are so interested in conservation is because we like to hunt and shoot."
Mr. Robert Dickinson (72)
"If hunting was abolished, the fox would become extinct, because the gamekeeper would shoot the lot."
William Dickinson (son of above)
They run Cross Farm recently selected as a showcase by the Herts Farming and Wildlife Trust.
"It is no irony. The truth is that hunters have a healthy respect of Mr Fox. It is not an exaggeration to say that they even admire him. He is seen as a worthy adversary.. most of those taking part are not present at the kill, which is usually mercifully quick...
"The English countryside without the Hunt would unquestionably be a different place... Whatever (the antis) may argue – and they are becoming more strident by the day – the gain to civilisation would be a loss to culture."
Walter Ellis, Sunday Telegraph Magazine 6/11/88
The celebrated lawyer and Crawley & Horsham Hunt member, the late Sir Helenus Milmo, who died last year once said of hunt saboteurs:
"For all the world they remind me of some kind of apes and baboons that one sees at the zoo."

HUNTING ON: A TACTICS SUPPLEMENT

HERE HSA Tactics Officer, Aubrey Thomas, summarises the tactics he described in previous issues of Howl. Aubrey's Tactics are somewhat controversial, fiercely advocated in some quarters; just as fiercely criticised in others, we leave you, the reader, to decide where you stand.



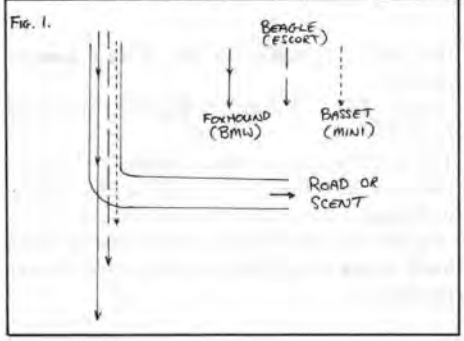
HSA Tactics Officer, Aubrey Thomas, "Sabbing is easy!"

This supplement is intended as a refresher course in sabotage tactics for use in the season ahead. Sabs who have been to HSA tactics talks recently will be familiar with much of it; others of you may not be. I hope that you will read it, keep it, and consider it carefully. I would be interested to hear from you if you have any questions or suggestions arising from it.

We must start by getting ourselves into the right frame of mind to tackle the job. Although an emotive issue, we must try to keep our emotions in the background whilst sabbing and to view ourselves as players in a chess-like game to which there are basic rules. Without an understanding of these rules, we cannot hope to win. What follows is an explanation of these rules.

	FOXHOUND	BEAGLE		BASSET
SIZE	22 inch	16 inch	14 inch	12 inch
AVERAGE KILL TIME	35 mins	30 mins	45 mins	60 mins
SPEED AS	BMW	Sierra	Escort	Mini
SCENTING ABILITY	Over-runs Badly	Over-runs	Holds	Holds Well

FIG. 1.



Hounds

Foxhounds are the largest of the hounds we deal with. Like BMW cars, they are very speedy but that is not always to their advantage. Just as a speeding car may not be able to take a sudden bend in the road, foxhounds are apt to over-run a fox's line if the fox makes an unexpected deviation in its run. The average time a foxhound takes to catch a fox is 35 minutes.

Basset hounds, being both slow and closer to the ground, follow scent very well. Like minis on winding roads, they are small and slow. The average time it will take to kill a hare is 60 minutes.

Beagles range in size from 14 to 16 inches. The largest ones tend to act like foxhounds, the smaller more like bassets. A 16" pack takes 30 minutes to kill on average; the 14" about 45 minutes. (See Fig. 1).

All hounds, regardless of type, have to work together and packs are therefore bred to a fairly uniform size, speed and stamina. Hunts do not want their pack to split as a result of some hounds running faster than others.

Wind

Animals rely heavily upon wind, both to catch prey and to evade enemies. When hares or foxes run into the wind, they create large scent patterns which makes it easier for them to be found. And if they settle somewhere upwind, they can be pin-pointed by their scent radiating down from their position.

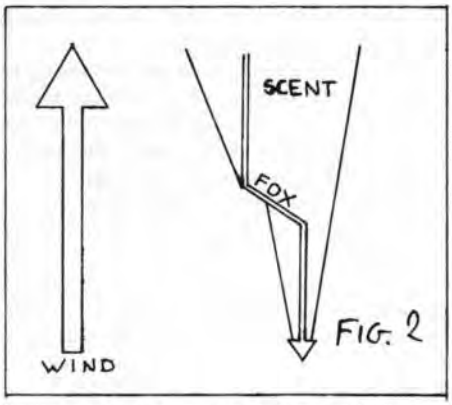
However, if a hare or fox runs downwind, its scent follows closely on behind, making it very difficult for hounds or any other predator to locate the scent. And if, when the fox or hare decides to settle, it runs a distance across the wind, its scent follows downward, creating a pattern which makes it hard to locate. For this reason, foxes and hares prefer to run downwind, and then, before settling, run across wind, creating an angle in the line (scent). (See figs. 2 & 3).

Running Patterns

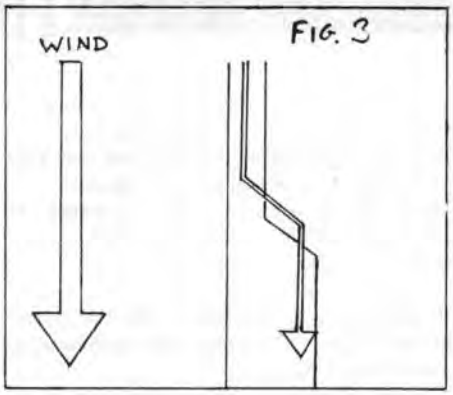
Foxes or hares tend towards two distinct running patterns. It is important for us to understand which is which so that we may make an educated guess as to the location of the animal.

Runner. This animal quite simply runs off at the first instance of uncertainty. It runs downwind for a distance, throws an angle in its line across the wind, than sits and waits. It concentrates on whatever disturbed it in the first place and at the slightest hint that it is still being followed, runs off again downwind. When you see a pack of hounds on a line, but you cannot see what they are chasing, then it is almost certainly a Runner and far ahead of the pack.

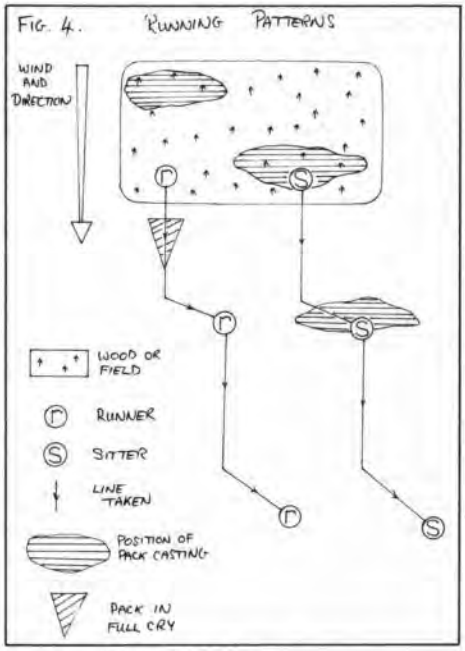
Sitter. The Sitter does the exact opposite of the Runner; it sits tight in the hope that it may conceal itself. Eventually it will lose its nerve and run off, again downwind, create an angle, and then sit down. This time, however, the Sitter will sit tight until the pack are again on top of it before losing its nerve and running off to repeat the pattern. Sitters are easily identified because you



Running into the wind disperses a scent wider and makes it easier for hounds to pinpoint the quarry's position (Fig. 2). Running with the wind



will see them suddenly appear from in front of the pack. It is important to remember that when you are dealing with a Sitter, and the hounds lose its line after first following it confidently, the Sitter is almost certainly in the close vicinity, probably slightly behind the pack and to one side. (See fig. 4).



Running Time And Pattern

Scent is linked to adrenalin. The more adrenalin an animal has, the more scent it pumps out.

At the begining of a hunt, the fox or hare is full of adrenalin so it runs faster, further and pumps out more scent. This allows the hounds to run after it at optimum speed, creating a very tight "V" formation. And, because they are running so fast, rather like the BMW car, hounds may over-run the line by a longer distance.

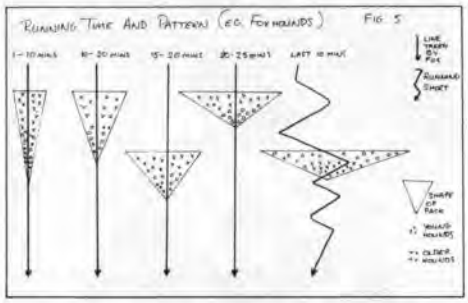
As the fox or hare begins to tire, its adrenalin subsides and after say, ten minutes, it begins to slow down and run less far ahead. As the scent becomes weaker, the hounds will have to slow their pace too or lose the line and their "V" shape will become wider.

After about twenty minutes, as adrenalin further decreases and the animal becomes exhausted, the chase becomes still slower and the "V" shape of the persuing hounds still wider.

During the final ten minutes of the hunted animal's life, adrenalin runs out and it can no longer rely on speed or distance to accomplish an escape. With little remaining energy, it will run from one hiding place to another ("running Short" in hunting parlance). Because it s adrenalin has gone, its scent will be non-existent. You will see the hounds forming a very wide "V", giving voice occasionally as small particles of scent are discovered. At this point, the pack are most in need of the huntsman's guidance to pilot them around the "stop-start-stop" angled course being taken by the fox or hare. It is virtually impossible for a pack to work successfully at this point without the aid of the huntsman.

So now, by looking at the shape of a pack, we can tell how long a fox or hare has been hunted.

At the outset, the older, experienced hounds tend to linger at the back as they know that when the scent is fresh and strong, their quarry is a long way from being caught. By a process of elimination, the young enthusiastic hounds will be the ones at the front. It is these younger and less



experienced hounds and their tendency to be in the lead that make it easier for saboteurs to move the whole pack forward. (See fig. 5).

Hunting On

The "Hunt-On" theory is based upon the four basic rules that we have already discussed. It works on the principle that, especially in the early stages of the chase, hounds will be running at maximum speed like the BMW. And when the fox or hare makes its natural cross-wind turn (creating an angle or bend in the line), the hounds will be likely to over-run the line.

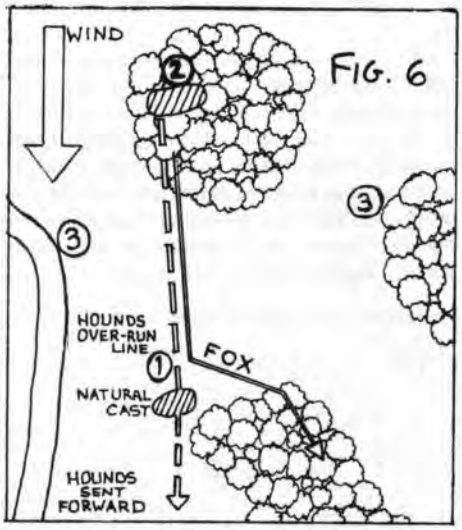
The young hounds at the front, wishing, like teenage humans to impress, will re-cast naturally for the scent, almost certainly giving voice. Working on the theory that hounds respond more readily to calls which they want to hear (like "hunt-on", "dinner" etc), then to calls they do not (like "Come-back"), it is fairly easy at this point to make a pack go forward by hunting them on. Even though they are chasing no line, the young hounds will continue to give voice and go forward, dragging the rest of the pack with them so long as you encourage them to do so (by hunting them on).

The important factor to remember is that you do so only at this natural cast and only when a single hound gives momentary voice at the front of the pack. Hunt the pack onto this hound but NEVER hunt them on to a hound giving voice at the back as this will probably be an old and experienced hound could well have picked up the real line.

Theory Into Practice

By understanding the four basic rules, we understand a great deal about each situation we come across in the hunting field. Fig. 6 below illustrates a typical situation. We have seen a fox come out of the wood but lost sight of it as it ran off. We can see the pack running after it in a nice tight "V" shape, and then we see it spreading out in a natural cast. Instantly, we know the following:

1) The fox is fresh (shape of the pack).
2) It is a Sitter (we have seen it).
3) The line has been lost (natural cast).
4) The fox has obviously changed direction.
5) The fox is sitting nearby probably, to one side and slightly behind the pack.
6) The young hounds are at the front.



Because we now understand the meaning of different pack formations and the running patterns of hares and foxes, we should now be readily able to estimate accurately in each situation where the fox is, how long it has been chased for, and most importantly, where we should send the hounds. In this diagram of course, which depicts the commonest situation during a hunt, the place to send them is straight ahead. That is, use your voice in an urgent, rapid pattern and use your horn in the same manner to signal the hunt on call as soon as that one hound gives voice. Remember, you must ALWAYS be sure of what lies ahead (motorways etc) so as to be sure you do nothing to endanger the hounds.

Sabotaging Scent-Finding

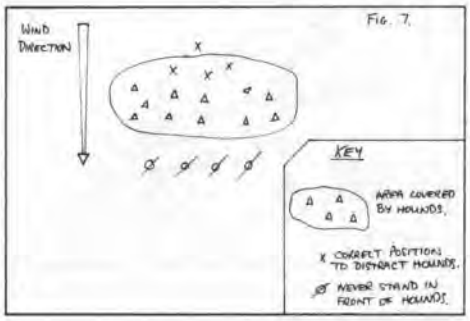
Obviously, before the hunt can chase an animal, they have to find it. They do this by

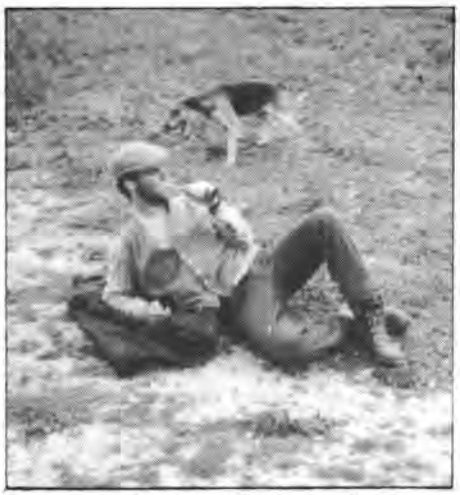


entering a field or wood and zig-zagging from the windward end across the area, searching every part, the hounds being cast out in a circular pattern.

Disrupting this part of the proceedings is easy. All you have to do is get either in with, or directly behind the pack, calling to them with your voice (never your horn). You are aiming to get the hounds to lift up their heads. Any tone you use which achieves this is effective. You need only talk to the hounds, the volume being slightly louder than normal speech but far less than shouting. There is no advantage in using air-horns etc.

Once you have got the hounds' heads up they will lose concentration which makes it difficult for them to find a scent and they will often go back to the huntsman for advice. Keeping closer to the huntsman means that the pack becomes smaller in area and takes longer to search the whole field or wood. NEVER stand in front of the pack for by doing so you act like another hound and widen the area being searched. (See fig. 7).





"Proof of the pudding": a sab lays down on the job.

These tactics will not stop the hunt from getting onto Runners. Unfortunately Sitters may still be found, despite your efforts. To compensate for this possibility, always leave some people out downwind away from the pack as previously mentioned.

The third type of sabotage you could employ is the old traditional style. Standing out to the side of the hunt (never in front), call the hounds out of the wood by using voice calls primarily. The best is a very loud "holloa" with an "A" at the end. When calling hounds out, always demand that they come; never call in such a way that it sounds more like a request.

Call five times in quickish succession, followed by one toot on the horn (just to let the hounds know you have got one), and then another few voice calls. Only one person should call.

Ideally, you should split into two groups on either side of the hunt, in order to pull some hounds one way and others another, thus splitting the pack. Once you have won a few hounds, do not just hold them or the hunt will soon come and take them back. Instead, start running in front of the hounds downwind, calling them back. Use voice calls and a soft toot on the horn if they seem reluctant to follow. Eventually, they will follow and, after a few yards, run in front of you. Keep with them and wait for one of the hounds in front to give voice; then simply hunt them on.

Finally

We have now described three different methods of sabotaging hunts. At first you should concentrate on doing whatever you feel to be best for you, but eventually you should be able to learn all the facets of sabotage. As a group, individuals should be able to take up one rule or another and understand what they are doing and why.

Try to learn and understand the four basic rules or principles. Always remember that you should never, ever panic and that a fox or hare that has not been chased for fifteen minutes is perfectly capable of escaping on its own devices; so time is always on your side.

Although this may seem complex on paper, when explained during a tactics talk it becomes obvious and common sense. Please do not hesitate to ask for a talk if you are unsure of any of the points raised here or would simply like further explanation. Write to the Tactics Officer c/o HSA, P.O. Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX.

SAVE THE WHALES?

Dave White comments on the human reactions to the plight of three whales trapped by ice in Alaska.

MAN'S confused relationship with animals was amply demonstrated last year with the saga of three whales trapped in the ice off Alaska. In a world where animals are routinely killed for food, fur and fun, we had the spectacle of the resources of two great super-powers, the cameras of the world's press and the hearts of children everywhere concentrated on the plight of three individual whales.

This touching story, worthy of a Walt Disney production, provided an ideal item for the television news. It allowed us to feel concern for the hapless creatures, sorrow at the death of the smallest one and happiness at their eventual escape. But most of all, it enabled us to feel good, to feel reassured; there in that harsh icy environment we saw how warm hearted mankind can be.

In an age of terrorism, hooliganism and war, we were given a shinning example of international co-operatikon. When the gallant efforts of the eskimos, in their seal-skin coats, proved insufficient, the soviets, one of the last nations to cease commercial whaling, sailed, in a storm of publicity, to the rescue.

We may ask, "Why these wales?" Why should three great tubs of lard awaken the good Samaritan in so many? It is hard to imagine millions of dollars being expended to rescue an octopus or hyaena.

The answer partly lies in our heirarchical view of nature. We tend to divide animals into the "great" species, the wales, dolphins and the big cats, which deserve our protectition. To quote Bernard Levin, they "remind man that he is on the earth on sufferance", and those "lower order animals", such as the laboratory rat or the factory farmed pig are mere beasts of burden under his dominion.

By having a bi-focal view of animals we devalue their suffering as the primary consideration and replace it with such subjective notions as beauty and majesty. That is why "Save The Whale" and "Save The Seal" campaigns are so popular. They appeal to those who want to be reminded of the grand design of nature yet not be troubled into altering their patterns of life and consumerism.

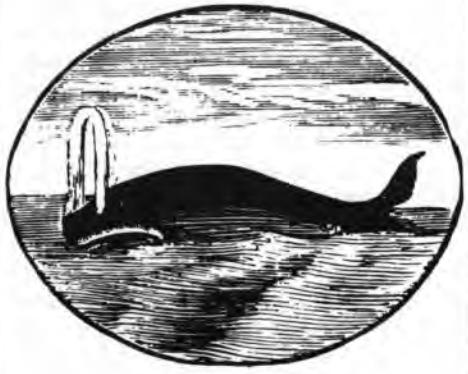
So, after saving these three creatures from the perils of nature man will continue to inflict pain and fear on millions of other individual animals in factory farms, vivisection laboratories and in the name of sport; suffering which, though on our very doorsteps and meeting our own demands, will go largely unnoticed and unreported. Nightly pictures of such exploitation on our T.V. sets would not be comfortable.

It is only when we accord all species the right of having their pain, fear and comfort given due regard in our relationship with them that we can move to a more just and humane world.

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1963: From Protest to Resistance.

IN A controversial article, Steve Poole delves into the archives to investigate HSA's foundation in the winter of 1963. The early HSA, he claims, was a child of its time; and however unlikely it may sound twenty five years on, that was time when even the League Against Cruel Sports was endorsing direct action. To set the scene, he looks first at changing League policy in the late 1950s.



March 1962: Gwen Barter, seen here obstructing the Norwich Staghunt's deer-cart, was one of a growing number of League militants who pioneered direct action and paved the way for HSA.

In August 1958, the Devon and Somerset Staghounds became the butt of a high-profile attempt by the League to lay false scents with a 'secret chemical'. The Daily Telegraph reported incredulously that "opponents of staghunting who have so far failed to stop the sport, are resorting to sabotage"[1]. Tactifully naive it may have been; but it brought LACS some very welcome publicity, and the campaign was kept going intermitently for at least the next two seasons.

This pioneering approach was carried forward by the League's new chairman, Raymond Rowley, in the early 60s. As the focus of League actions shifted to the south-east and midlands, membership increased dramatically and Rowley's dream of a revitalised LACS began to look possible. In the midlands for instance, LACS gain 400 new members during November 1962 after false trails were laid against the North Warwickshire FH and the Albrighton Woodland[2]. "Anything the League does will have a sting to it", Rowley told the press, announcing that he was soon to launch 'new' harrassing tactics[3]. League militants like Gwen Barter had been grabbing headlines during 1962 with actions of their own. In March, Gwen brought the Norwich Staghounds to a halt by climbing onto the front of the deer-cart; and in February she prevented the East Kent FH from digging out when she sat in a foxhole. "There was nothing we could do", confessed the huntsman, "we just stopped digging out the fox and went away"[4].

Vision

Since its foundation in 1927, the League had arguably been anything but dynamic. It had achieved no legislative success in over 30 years, and had only recently hit upon the idea of creating sanctuaries in the South West. The membership was largely inactive and elderly and media attention was scant before Rowley took over. As a pressure group, LACS was a dismal reflection of the public activism of CND offshots like the Committee of 100. Not only did the Committee win massive publicity for CND, but it appealed strongly to a more youthful audience.

Former Tory MP, Howard Johnson, voiced the hopes of many when he told the League's 1963 AGM: "I have a vision in the coming stag and foxhunting season of whole numbers of you sitting in the roadway at meets of the hunt doing exactly what the anti nuclear demonstrators do"[5]. That same month, Spies For Peace broke with the Committee of 100, published the influential 'Beyond Counting Arses' and launched a more militant campaign of anti-war plan sabotage.

It has been suggested that HSA was the inevitable result of the League's progress along these lines being held back by its more traditionalist members[6]. It is tempting to suppose that Rowley hoped to appease both camps by assisting in the setting up of a direct action unit to run separately but in tandem with LACS. He now denies this. He certainly did not attempt to withdraw League support for sabotage until well after the HSA had decided upon an independent existence. He engaged a solicitor and helped actively with HSA's first major court case following the Culmstock incident in 1964, and as late as 1966 he was expressing his 'regret' at the HSA's 'independent' development from the League[7]. Following the peace movement's example, he took 100 activists on a 'dawn attack' with 'secret chemicals' against the Old Berkeley's Boxing Day meet at Amersham in 1963.

The first chairman of HSA, and its founder, was John Prestige, a 21 year old freelance journalist from Brixham in Devon. According to the Guardian, he "picked the first of his supporters" on December 15th, 1963. "He is the founder of the Hunt Saboteurs Association", declared the paper, "which has the support of the LACS, whose chairman, Raymond Rowley, says the League is willing to make available all the latest know-how on how to sabotage a hunt"[8]. Prestige, it was announced, was to travel to London "for instructions... so that trained action groups could be set up all over the country". According to both Rowley and Prestige however, no formal meeting between the League and the HSA ever took place. Prestige adheres to the traditional view that HSA came about because "the League didn't seem to be doing anything".

He told the Daily Herald of his intentions: "We aim to make it impossible for people to hunt by confusing the hounds. The movement is being financed by a small legacy of mine and the 2/6d membership fee".[9] There were also two early donations of £500 each. One hundred members were enrolled in the first week and Prestige received 1000 letters in the first ten days he



John Prestige (right) with Leo Lewis outside court after being bound over, September 1964.

remembers. An office was set up at Fore St, Brixham and staffed by the HSA's first secretary, an ex-Palladium dancer called Joyce Greenaway.

Action

Prestige led his small group into action for the first time on Boxing Day, 1963, as the South Devon FH met at Torquay. "We did so well that day that they cancelled the hunt", Prestige told me. "The local butcher gave us 50 pounds of meat and we fed it to the hounds. We used hunting horns. Nothing like that had ever really happened before and it caused absolute chaos! We did a lot of research on hornblowing and did the job very, very well. The police were completely bemused.". During the following weeks, considerable effort was put into developing new chemical formulas for confusing hounds. "The main trouble", commented one early member, "is finding something effective against them, but at the same time harmless"[10]. It was not until April 1964 that Chemical X, the HSA's first scent-dulling compound, was used (against the Culmstock).

On January 10th 1964, the second HSA strike was carried out against the South Devon FH. Tactics at this time were described by a reporter after a strike against the Dart Vale and Holden Harriers: horns were blown, roads blockaded, anniseed sprayed and "highly flavoured meat" was tipped in front of the hounds from the back of a landrover. The hunt killed twice.

Within a month, the movement suffered a set-back when Norman Redman, leader of the Littlehampton group, became HSA's first casualty to arbitrary policing. Arrested for feeding the Chiddingfold's hounds on February 15th, Redman was fined £15 for 'insulting behaviour' and bound over for two years. Although saboteurs now regard such treatment as an occupational hazard, the fledgling movement took the judgement very seriously and Prestiage was moved to write to Redman in May, forbidding him to break the terms of his sentence. "We CANNOT allow you to take any active part in sabotage", he stressed, a letter which caused Redman some annoyance and contributed to his later alienation from the movement.[11]

Within the first four months, HSA groups had sprung up at Portsmouth, Street (Somerset), Weybridge, and Littlehampton. The Street group, run by Joyce Cebo, boasted forty members by December 1964 and was harrassing the Mendip Farmers and the Sparkford Vale on a regular basis. A group at Bournemouth was being formed, another in London, and Derek Lawrence was trying to turn Midlands LACS over to the HSA. Ian Pedler joined the moribund Bristol branch of LACS, revitalised it and then set up an HSA group from its ashes. Prestige felt able to claim, perhaps fancifully, that Boxing Day '64 would see 700 saboteurs in action from Sussex to Nottinghamshire[12]. There were certainly large joint strikes on the Whaddon Chase and the Surrey Union where smoke bombs and rookies were added to the usual armoury for dramatic affect. A capable self-publicist with good media contacts, Prestige began spreading rumours around Fleet Street that HSA would raid an unspecified fox farm early in 1965 and that a helicopter would shortly be brought into action against various foxhunts. Twelve months after founding HSA, he estimated there had been 120 strikes altogether, mostly in the West Country.[13]

Violence

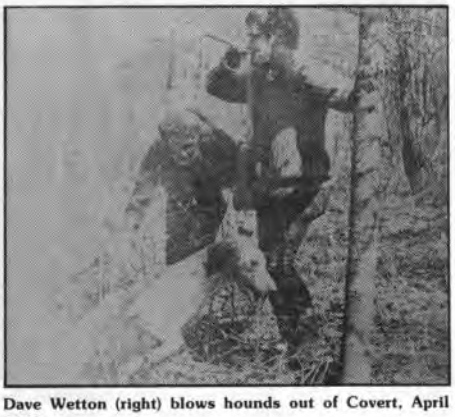
The first serious instances of anti-saboteur violence occurred during 1965. In February, three members of the Bournemouth group were



Class of '64. The street group pose for the press during the Culmstock court case. Left to right: Anna Smith, Terry Fricher, Joyce Cebo (leader), Sandra Munday, Carol Holden.



Bristol Group, January 1966. Ian Pedler (left) with fellow sabs Phil Pearce and Ray Tout.



Dave Wetton (right) blows hounds out of Covert, April 1965.



February 1964: Police move in to arrest Norman Redman as he feeds meat to the Chiddingfold's hounds at Ewhurst.

attacked with an axe and a starting handle by thugs from the Sparkford Vale. Although a hunt supporter was fined £15 for breaking a saboteur's guitar with the axe (!); eight sabs were fined £10 each for 'threatening behaviour' (throwing flour bombs)[14]. Worse was to come. On May 2nd, the Street and Brixham groups (nine sabs) visited the Culmstock Otterhunt at Colyford. Their vehicles were surrounded, windows smashed and the occupants assaulted with otter poles and whips. Leo Lewis, the driver, was pulled from his car and beaten by four men who broke his jaw. Although seventy saboteurs turned out against the same hunt a week later and sent them home in disarray, the damage inflicted by the subsequent court-hearing was far reaching. Leo's attackers were successfully convicted but seven saboteurs were bound over for a year after giving evidence. It was not the last time the courts would use this tactic and it took the agrieved seven (who included Lewis and Prestige) so much by surprise that none of them took any further part in hunt sabotage. Prestige had in any case become disillusioned by the politicisation of HSA as a result of 'left wringers' joining the movement.

The legal offensive against the Brixham group threw the national organisation into a state of chaos. Communication between groups in an age where telephones and cars were not necessarily available, had never been that easy, but now complaints that HQ were not replying to letters became common. Pedler, Cebo and Dave Wetton wrote regularly to one another — Have we got any money?... Is Prestige still chairman?.... If not, who is?... and so on. Eventually the job went to Pedler.

Then in April 1965 came the Norman Redman fiasco. Redman, irritated by the HSA's insistence that he should take no part in any sabotage until the terms of his binding over were met, feeling 'disowned' by the movement and in Jean Pyke's view, "keen to get back at his old friends", Redman suddenly accepted an invitation to ride with the Crawley and Horsham FH. The national press, for whom the HSA was still good copy, rushed to the meet with pens and cameras poised to hear Redman hold forth about "infantile" hunt saboteurs. The London and Littlehampton group's quickly organised a strike against the hunt and had the satisfaction of seeing Redman fall headlong from his horse into a thorn bush[15]. It was an episode the HSA could well have done without. Eager to capitalise on this rare example of beneficial publicity, the BFSS tried for a short while to use Redman as pro-hunting speaker in debates but he soon lost interest and quietly faded from the picture.

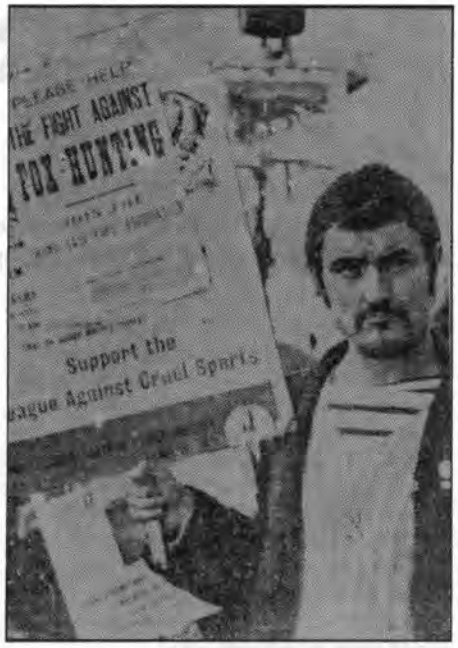
End of The Honeymoon

By the end of 1965, HSA's honeymoon period was definitely over. Some groups were buckling under the continuous assaults of courts and heavies. "As I seem to have done nothing recently but get kicked and knocked about", considered Joyce Cebo feelingly, "I think it is best to do things undercover now [16]. The Street group switched to sabotage by stealth before the meet rather than confrontation with smoke bombs during it. But the group did not survive beyond the summer of 1966.

The burden of organisation began to fall more and more upon Wetton's London group. They were certainly the most active by 1967 although fresh groups with new energy were developing steadily. New centres in Warwickshire and Hampshire were set up in 1965, and in the following year, Cambridge, Northampton, Brighton, Hertfordshire, Yeovil, and Essex University all went active. October 1966 saw the first strike notched up in the North when David Hansen and Stuart Sutcliffe took a group from Keighley out against the Airedale Beagles at Silsden. A publicity conscious pop singer called Lady Lee announced she was forming an 'army' of saboteurs (including Billy Fury, Wayne Fontana and Peter Noone from Hermans Hermits!) but, perhaps fortunately, the venture came to nothing[17].

In the 1964/5 season, Wetton's group dealt with 20 Foxhunts, 4 cubhunts, and 2 hare hunts; and 7 otterhunts during the summer of 1964. This total, impressive for a time when transport was even more of a problem for groups than it is now, involved the London sabs with 17 different packs across the south eastern region. In January 1966, this group became the first to experiment with high frequency sound as a sabotage method[18].

The HSA had come a long way since 1963. When Ian Pedler drafted an HSA 'Manifesto' in 1965, he made a prediction that has still to be fulfilled: "There have been many incidents", it runs, "Too many to name here. But some day, when we have won, someone will write a book telling of all that has happened."



Dave Wetton looking singularly unimpressed during the Anti-Redman demo.



The turncoat, Norman Redman, erstwhile Littlehampton group leader, says 'yah!' to the Crawley and Horsham FH.



December 1965: A London group smoke bomb interrupts the Cowdray's Iping meet.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me with material for this article, and especially Gwen Barter, Joyce Cebo, Ian Pedler, John Prestige, and Dave & Cee Wetton.

Steve Poole.

Notes

1. Daily Telegraph 4/8/1958
2. Sunday Mercury 25/11/1962
3. Solihull News 1/12/1962
4. Herald Journal 19/2/1962; East Anglian Daily Times 16/3/1962
5. Daily Telegraph 15/5/1963
6. See for example, R Thomas 'The Politics Of Hunting'
7. Interview with Joyce Cebo 18/12/1988; Rowley — Pedler 6/2/1966
8. Guardian 16/12/1963
9. Daily Herald 16/12/1963
10. Hilton — Pedler 18/1/1964
11. Western Morning News 2/3/1964; The People 16/2/1964; Prestige — Redman 18/5/1964
12. Sunday Citizen 13/12/1964
13. Guardian 30/12/1964
14. Western Daily Press 6/2/1965
15. Pike — Pedler 14/5/1965; Daily Mail 14/4/1965; Redman — Pedler (various dates 1964-66)
16. Cebo — Pedler 21/10/1965
17. Titbits 11/12/1965
18. Wetton — Pedler 12/5/1965; 13/1/1966.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF SABBING

HSA Secretary, Ralph Cook, a member of the Association for over a decade, looks at the development of the HSA since 1965 and gives reasons for optimism in the 1990's.

With the dissolution of the Brixham HQ in late 1964 other groups became increasingly isolated. The lack of central coordination led to the formation of splinter groups like "Direct Action Against Bloodsports" and "Campaign for the Relief of Wildlife" (CROW). The HSA might well have fizzled out if it were not for Dave Wetton who took up the leading role, at first unofficially, in early 1966. Dave began by producing newletters as placing adverts in "Private Eye". New people responded to these in areas where there were no local contacts so he encouraged them to get groups going in their own areas.

Dave and Caroline, his wife, provided the focal point which allowed the HSA to consolidate and grow in its fragile early years. The central organisation of the HSA developed slowly over the next decade in response to the need for autonomous groups to share information, discuss tactics and allocate the limited funds. Lack of money was the main reason for the slow evolution of an HSA structure; another was the desire of activists to concentrate on their own groups' activities rather than spend time and money building a strong central base.

Throughout the decade of youth militancy (1965–1975), hunt sabotage was maintained week in and week out despite increasing violence from hunt supporters and police harassment. By 1970 the number of "hits" per season averaged around 200. Meanwhile attitudes towards Ecology and the Environment were changing and with the publication of "Animal Liberation" by philosopher Peter Singer in 1970 the militant animal protection movement discovered a strong philisophical foundation for their concern for animals.

A bi-annual newsletter began in 1971 and in July of the same year the HSA had its first recorded General Meeting with an attendance of 25. At this meeting the core of our present Constitution (according to legend initially written on the back of a cigarette packet), was approved. Many blame this ill-thought Constitution for the lack of improvements in the HSA's structure, campaigning tactics and outlook.

In 1972 Jill Tweedie wrote a long sympathetic article on the HSA in "The Guardian", membership doubled to over 800 and the HSA was able to report that it had 17 active groups and 58 "potential" groups of two or more people.

Partial Victory

In late 1973 the HSA published the first issue of "HOWL" (Hounds off Our Wildlife), in newpaper format with Dave McCalden as Editor. Earlier that year the HSA undertook one of its most successful campaigns: the sabotage of the annual common seal "cul" in the Wash. Saboteur groups coordinated by Northampton sab, Rorke Garfield, stood between the seals and the hunters' rifles and attempted to sink their boats. After two weeks of excellent press coverage and overwhelming support from the general public the sabs found that they had scored a partial victory as the hunters were 47 seals short of their target of 380.



The following year, just a few days before the hunt was due to begin the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, announced that hunting licenses would not be issued that year. No reasons were given but the HSA believed that public support for its actions the year before played a large part in the decision.

In the same year a group of Westcountry saboteurs calling themselves S.O.S. ("Save Our Stags"), carried out a concerted campaign of sabotage against the three West Country Stag Hunts. S.O.S. continued operations into the early 1980's with great success in generating sympathetic media interest.

By the end of 1974 the HSA had a membership of 300, five hundred down on the 1972. Clearly, the HSA had difficulty in recruiting members probably due to its lack of campagining and narrow outlook. Well-known members included authoress Monica Hutchings and astronomist Patrick Moore.

Propaganda Coup

In 1975 the HSA scored a propaganda coup by hiring a helicopter for a day to buzz the Waterloo Cup hare-coursing meet at Altcar, Merseyside. Press interest was intense. Sabs on the ground invaded the coursing fields. Meanwhile sabs occupied the British Field Sports Society offices in London to mark the event. The owners of the building were afterwards reported to be considering the termination of the BFSS's lease since they were lowering the tone of the St. James office block!

In late 1975, the HSA was featured in a BBC "Open Door" programme. The show, screened in 22 November, was a huge success. Dave Wetton found 400 letters in the P.O. Box on the next Tuesday and 500 the next day. The repeat of the programme a week later brought an even larger mailbag. Membership exploded to over 2,000 and new groups were started up and down the country. By May 1976, the HSA had for the first time a healthy surplus bank balance of £3,632. In 1977 it had almost 3,000 members. In one jump the HSA had become a force to be reckoned with.

The HSA's 1978 AGM was an important one. The major issue was the proposed expulsion from the HSA of Dave McCalden for his membership of the National Front. Many members felt McCalden's fascist inclinations were bringing the HSA into disrepute. Others argued that no member should be expelled except on the grounds of their views on bloodsports. The dispute was splitting the HSA apart, but the motion, that no N.F. member should be allowed to serve on the HSA Committee was passed and McCalden walked out. The result demonstrated that animal liberationsists are also concerned about human rights.

The defeat of the Labour Government in May 1979 was regarded by many anti-bloodsports campaigners as a severe blow to the movement since it had declared the intention to implement Britain's first ani-hunting legislation but the apolitical HSA was not bowed.

As if to reinforce this the HSA AGM of that year took the battle in a new direction by adopting the RSPCA's "Declaration of Animal Rights" as its guiding principle. The HSA thus became the world's first animal rights organisation.

Later, in August, Chris Williamson, the HSA Press Officer announced on Radio Derby that the

HSA was planning to disrupt grouse-shooting on a Derbyshire moor. He was issued with a summons to appear at Buxton Magistrates' Court on a charge of "behaviour liable to lead to a breach of the peace." Bound over in the sum of £100 to be of good behaviour for six months he did not attend the opening day event but 90 other sabs did. The HSA has sabotaged at least one day's grouse-shooting every year since then with the most ambitious action being the sabotage of three separate shoots in northern England and Scotland on August 12 1988.

In October 1979 sabs turned out in force to sabotage the annual Orkney seal cull. For two weeks, despite atrocious weather conditions, lack of resources and repeated arrests the sabs placed themselves in the line of fire and saved many lives. The partial failure of the campaign was largely due to the withdrawal of the Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Warrior" after the Government, bowing to outraged public opinion, reduced the quota of seals to be killed from 5,000 to 2,000. The episode demonstrated the difference between an "animal rights" organisation and a "conservationist" pressure group.

New Youth Culture

In 1980 Dave Wetton, after 15 years involvement in the running of the HSA finally retired as HSA Chairperson. By this time the HSA mailing list was around 4,000 of which over 3,000 were paid up members at £3 per head. Income in the early 1980's stood at between £10,000 and £15,000 a year.

In the early 1980's, as the unemployment figures began to rise the HSA experienced a gradual increase in the level of local group activity. The combination of unemployment and a new youth culture which urged active protest encouraged a remarkable explosion of activity and allowed the luxury of mid-week sabbing. In 1986 hunt saboteur groups were out on as many as 1,000 occasions and as many as 800 people sabbed hunts each Saturday of the season.

In 1983 the HSA received its first legacy, £12,000 and a small house. The house was sold and all the money distributed to local groups. A great opportunity to use some of the windfall to improve the HSA was lost: soon after the HSA found itself in dire financial straits.

Bitter Dispute

The following year the HSA became embroiled in a bitter dispute with the League Against Cruel Sports.

At its 1983 AGM the decision to employ direct action against angling was made. Following its mandate the HSA Committee published an article outlining the case against angling and advice on how to sabotage it in "HOWL". LACS, fearing that their relationship with the Labour Party would be severely damaged by any assault on angling, asked the HSA Committee to withdraw the articles from "HOWL".

The HSA Committee politely declined. The League publicly disassociated itself from the HSA. Its Executive Director, Richard Course, described the HSA as a "bunch of lunatics". The HSA Committee, armed with an AGM mandate and angered by the interference in HSA internal affairs instigated by Mr Course unanimously endorsed an explanation and defence of its position in the subsequent "HOWL". The matter appeared to be at an end.

LACS, however, seemed determined to seek revenge: it adopted a policy of non-cooperation with the HSA; cut its annual goodwill donation of £1,000 to HSA funds; deleted all reference to "hunt saboteurs" from its magazines: and attacked the HSA at public meetings and in the press. On some occasions LACS would not even appear on televised debates unless certain HSA representatives were excluded from the programme.

This uneasy relationship continued until Richard Course resigned as the LACS Esecutive Director in 1988, The HSA greeted his resignation with a sigh of relief. Relations between the two organisations have warmed since then and hopefully will continue to do so. The HSA, however, has learned to stand on its own since 1984, peaceful co-existance and a little co-operation between the two organisations may be all that is now required.

In 1984 HSA launched a mini-campaign against Thorpe Park, a lesiure complex in Surrey, which sold visitors the opportunity to catch trout in a small, over-crowded pond for just £1. Sabs attending the Park to see for themselves stopped the fishing. The police were called, five arrests made but no charges brought because the Thorpe Park management did not want any publicity.

To ensure that they got it, two blockades of the Park's public entrance were organised. Arrests were made on both. Later, a night time visit by the Animal Liberation Front released trout worth thousands of pounds from an enclosure in the park's vast lake. Several months later Thorpe Park closed down its fishing facility. The HSA had won.

In the same year the HSA donated £1000 to Sea Shepherd (a direct-action marine mammal protection group), enabling them to purchase the island of Little Greenholm in the Orkneys: the island had seen many confrontations between Sea Shepherd and HSA activists on the one hand and seal hunters and police on the other.

Worst Year

1985 was the worst year of the HSA's history, whilst sabbing activity was steadily increasing (the number of active local groups stood at just under 100), press sympathy was suddenly lost. It had become fashionable to attack "animal lib fanatics" and to sensationalise every little incident in the media.

Worse by far violence against sabs suddenly increased. The HSA was forced to abandon the sabotage of hare-coursing events where violence was at its worst after Manchester Sab Eddy Coulston was nearly killed at the Waterloo Cup. For many this was an unacceptable retreat and hare-coursing sabotage is something which the Committee must seriously consider next year.

In 1985 the lack of commitment to the vital adminstrative needs of the organisation amongst many activists and Committee Members reached an almost disastrous peak. The HSA started the year with some 3,000 members and a profitable salesgoods department but by mid-1985, membership was less than 1,000 and the salesgoods department was losing thousands of pounds. Some Committee Members saw HSA adminstration as an unnecessary burden far removed from direct action.

Rebuilding

The first signs of improvement were seen with the distribution of posts on the new Committee in 1986. This Committee managed to turn the Association's fortunes around by taking a few calculated risks. Membership soon overtook its 1984 figure and continues to rise. The revenue brought in was ploughed into the salesgoods department and turned loss into substantial profit.

Better management and the encouragement of stability have prepared the HSA for the 1990's. By 1987 the HSA was once more in a position to assist financially needy groups. Subsidising campaigns against hunting festivals, grouse shooting and fishing has also been important and has attracted massive and mostly sympathetic media coverage and of course saved lives.

By 1988 the HSA had nearly 140 active local groups across the country. Some own their own vehicles and around 25% manage to go out mid-week as well as on Saturdays.

These improvements have been won despite some opposition. The HSA holds a strange attraction for ego-trippers with a surplus of "right-on" rhetoric. They rarely hesitate before leaping aboard the old bandwaggon; without actually contributing anything concrete they are able to secure for themselves undeserved admiration from some sections of the membership.

Stronger HSA

The HSA has come a long way in its short existence but it is time we all came to terms with the fact that we have not done enough, nor can we even attempt to do more until we accept the need for a stronger HSA. Since its inception the HSA's structure has hardly changed relying entirely on a voluntary Committee which carried out all the essential tasks of the Association. Thus the maintenance of membership listings, the running of the salesgoods department, the treasury, and a host of other duties are carried out by different people, all from widely scattered parts of the country each year. Maintaining continuity, learning from past mistakes and improving the system has been very difficult.

Attitudes have changed, although some elements still hanker after the past, the majority of us have come to understand that an organisation seeking to take on the combined strength of nearly five million hunters, shooters and anglers cannot be run efficiently from the bedrooms of half a dozen people distributed across the country. Nor can it accept the services of people carrying out the essential tasks of an organisation with over 4,000 members who are unwilling to accept the disciplines that these responsibilities must impose upon them.

Contd



Kaya Eldridge preparing for sabbing in the year 2000

A quarter century of sabing — *Contd*

Optimism

With these thoughts in mind the present Committee has started a reconstruction of the HSA which includes: the establishment of an office and an efficient administrative system; the creation of the post of Legal Officer; the proposed new Committee post of Campaigns Officer; the rationalisation of HSA spending; and the replacement of the HSA's archiac Constitution with a new Memoranda and Articles of Association and seeking Limited Company status. In short to bring the HSA into the real world.

One of the most important steps has been the establishement of an office. This was finally achieved in December last year (three years after the Committee was mandated to rent office space). By concentrating the HSA's administration in one place the inadequacies inherent in the HSA's inherited structure should be wiped out in a single stroke. The next step is up to the membership and will be decided at the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in April (see the enclosed calling notice).

There is probably no better time than now in the HSA's 25th year to make these and other important changes, we must learn from the difficulties and failures of the past, rally behind the solutions, eradicate the values that hold us back, look to the future and realise the HSA's potential in the struggle against bloodsports. If we succeed we will have good cause for optimism in the 1990's.

Ralph Cook

GROUP NEWS



Cambridge sab successfully calls four hounds from the Cambridge Foxhounds.

HSA local groups have been active throughout the season the length and breadth of the country, however, as usual only a small number of groups have bothered to inform the HSA of their actions. Contact Joint Liason Officer Anji Majennik has gleaned what he can from those groups which have sent in to us and gives a summary of local group activity over the last few months. If this Group News seems to be about the same groups, sabbing the same hunts than it is because it is these groups which are sending us reports of their activities on a regular basis.

If your group has been active but is not mentioned then you should do something about it. First you can kick your Contact into sending in reports, if that fails, then write them yourself.

The copy date for Howl 42 is April 12, all group news, photographs, press clippings etc must arrive before then or your group will not get a mention in the next magazine. So come on all of you, get your acts together!

Scotland

SOURCES North of the Border suggest the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt were not looking forward to the start of their season, after an extremely expensive Summer.

July saw hunt follower Paul Reid fined £200 in Linlithgow Sheriff Court for Breach of the Peace, after attacking saboteurs the previous season.

Also in July, the same court fined L & S terrierman Ian Marfleet £100 for criminal damage to a hire car, and Thomas William Irving £300 for Assault and Threatening Behaviour after he had attempted to attack saboteurs with a tree-felling axe.

During October rider Peter McNaughton and saboteur Neil McGilliuray both faced charges of dangerous driving, as a result of the same incident which led to the conviction of hunt supporter Paul Reid. Neil's charges were dropped after the morning session of the court, whilst McNaughton was later found guilty of Careless Driving.

NcNaughton returned for sentencing at a later date, this was deferred after the mysterious disappearance of his driving licence.

Prosecution witness Paul Reid was found to be in Contempt of Court, and fined £50. Saboteurs are also currently facing Breach of the Peace charges resulting from the same incident.

Perhaps understandably, the L & S Hunt didn't venture out from it's kennels on Saturdays until early October. Due to lack of hunt funds (not surprising after all those fines..), the hound van spent most of October off the road. Consequently, most of what remained of cub hunting took place near to the hunt's kennels.

It wasn't just the supporters who were prone to riot. On October 22nd, hounds rampaged through gardens, terrifying residents of the Deanburn Estate, near Linlithgow. One resident, Alison Buchanan claimed the pack was "running wild", after hounds had careered through a play area which is usually full of young children. She said "I shudder to think what would have happened if any youngsters had been playing there when the hounds were rampaging through..." before adding that the experience was "very frightening".

Ludicrous claims by the hunt after this incident prompted saboteurs to contact the local paper, advising residents to keep their pets indoors when the hunt visits the area in future. Sound advice.

VIDEO

Good sabotage continued through November, with no kills either above ground or below. **Stirling** saboteurs also succeeded in obtaining video evidence of the hunt trespassing on a council-owned Park, and a prosecution may be forthcoming after saboteurs sent a dossier to West Lothian District Council, which has banned hunting.

BLOOD

The only blood usually seen by the L & S hounds these days are the false trails used to great affect by the saboteurs. Violence from supporters has also begun to decline — no doubt a result of pending court appearances, plus the Summer run of successful prosecutions against the hunt's more violent elements.

AND GUTS

After an extremely successful day on November 26th, following a lawn meet at the home of Joint Master Evan Coward, the hunt was extremely intent on persuading saboteurs that they are still an effective killing unit.

Still empty handed after a fruitless day's hunting which included a four hour digout, and a masterful display of horn blowing as saboteurs called hounds off three seperate foxes, the terrierman attempted to convince saboteurs he'd killed; failing to pull the wool over their eyes after returning from the digout with a handful of decaying sheep entrails.

PET DOG ATTACKED

Hounds again ran out of contol on December 3rd, after the hunt met near the western edge of Edinburgh. Soon after the hunt set off, an Edinburgh saboteur was head butted by hunt hoodlums, after false trails had successfully disrupted the mornings's hunting.

Hounds were unable to find any scent at all as the day got colder, and during the afternoon saboteurs' earlier warning to local residents were borne out as hounds attacked a dalmation dog which was being walked nearby. The dog was saved by it's owner after the huntsman failed to call his hounds off. This latest incident recieved

front page publicity in Scotland on Sunday.

The L & S must currently be one of the most pressurised packs around, hunting under a cloud of court appearances, effective sabotage, growing local opposition and adverse publicity.

RIOT

After a successful start to the season, saboteurs quickly found themselves on the receiving end again, as hunt followers smashed a car windscreen after an attempted woodland ambush failed.

Ireland

ONE of the success stories of the season has to be the continued growth of activity across the Irish Sea.

Now into their second season, the **Belfast HSA** group have another active group based within the City, and new groups in Coleraine and the Mid-Antrim area to keep them company.

Saturday, 19th November saw two packs hit on the same day for the first time ever in Northern Ireland. The Iveagh Harriers' Opening Meet was hit by the **Warzone HSA;** newly established as a seperate group in Belfast. Despite several attempts to block in and attack the two vans, the group stood their ground and succeeded in splitting the pack of hounds. One saboteur escaped with minor injuries after being hit by a supporter's car, the nearest the hunt came to killing all day.

Meanwhile, saboteurs from Belfast and the new **Coleraine** group forced the Mid-Antrim Harriers to abandon their Tobermore meet after only ninety minute's hunting. Following what was almost certainly the first time the hunt has ever seen saboteurs out, the Belfast van was blocked in and attacked by supporters. After hitting a woman in the face with a large branch, riders and followers resorted to pelting the van with anything which came to hand — rocks, whip handles, a large tree stump and even various morsels from somebody's lunch-box.

Boxing day saw the combined Irish groups once again enjoying the hospitality of the North Down Harriers. Hunt Master Stephen Brann later claimed saboteurs had not affected the day at all, after hounds were boxed after fifty minutes' hunting.

The Irish groups certainly have got their work cut out. On top of their local packs, which resemble their English counterparts, there are still carted stag hunts, enclosed coursing meetings, and even packs of otter hounds still operating in the South.

A glance through the hunting appointments quite clearly shows the affect that the advent of a well organised and growing presence of saboteurs has had on hunting in the province, most packs within a striking distance of Belfast had ceased advertising within a matter of months.

Area Two – Northwest.

MERSEYSIDE HSA have been very busy, with visits to the Holcombe Harriers, Vale of Lune Harriers, Forest and District Beagles, North Shropshire FH, High Peak Harriers, Cheshire FH, and several others. **Wigan HSA** have accompanied them on a few outings, including one to the Holcome Harriers, where the Huntsman repeatedly asked the saboteurs to fight with him. The saboteurs declined the offer, as they were more interested in saving hares. At the Royal Rock Beagles, after a poor day, sabs were told that most of the hares in the hunts country were taken by lurchers, and illegal coursing, this shows that it is not only hunting that's a threat to wild animals. **Manchester, Rochdale,** and the newly formed **Preston, Blackburn and Bury HSA** have spent most of this season concentrating on the much persecuted Holcombe Harriers. This pack have been sabotaged so often, and so effectively, they are losing both support and riders. These groups have also travelled quite a lot, to hunts in other area. **Carlisle HSA** have been out against numerous hunts, including a hit on the opening meet of the Cumberland Farmers FH, with **Kendel, Lancaster, West Cumbria and Lakeland HSA.** Things got very nasty towards the end of the day, and the saboteurs hire van broke down. A few hunt supporters began to rock the van, and succeeded in turning it over, with several saboteurs inside it. The people inside were too shocked and frightened to get out, but they smelt petrol, so had to get out and run, as they were afraid the van was going to catch fire. They ran and hid, and one of them managed to flag down a police car. Two people were injured in the attack, and positive identifications were given to the police, who have issued charges against some members of the hunt. The minibus was taken away for forensic tests by the police. On the same day a saboteur was injured after being attacked when he was spraying anti mate to mask the scent of a passing fox. A supporter also treatened to bite off a sabs nose, and chew it so bad he'd need plastic surgery.



Two of the Holcombe Harriers most regular supporters – mounted police chivvy Manchester sabs along.

Area Three – Northeast

NEWCASTLE HSA have had the support of the newly formed **Durham HSA, Sunderland HSA and Morpeth HSA** this season. They organised the sabotage of the Northumberland Beagling Festival, which went very well, with groups from all over the country present to take part in sabotage. The fact that the beagling festival was cut from five weeks to just one week, shows how the sabotage in 1988 affected them. In December Sunderland HSA and Newcastle HSA visited the Tynedale FH when a dig out took place, one saboteur was injured and had to be taken to hospital, after he was hit with a riding crop when riders lost their tempers with saboteurs, who were sitting on the earth, and refusing to budge. Unfortunately, the fox was bolted and immediately killed. Two weeks later at the same hunt, the hunt were preparing to dig out, but this



Iron horse: Leeds sabs help a Grove and Rufford hunter retrieve hounds from railway track in front of a train (out of picture).

time the saboteurs were prepared, and prevented them from killing. Members of Newcastle Students Agricultural Society have been fined £2000 by the students union, after attacking saboteurs at a recent benefit concert.

Area Four – Yorks

IN THE absence of the same degree of adverse policing which has given groups in the Northwest headaches, the **Yorkshire** groups have had a far better start to the season than last year.

By this time last season, the Yorkshire groups had suffered upwards of eighty arrests, this season there have been less than a dozen.

The bulk of these occurred early in September, at a Sunday meet of the Pennine Foxhounds at Rishworth near Huddersfield.

The first time a group has ever set out to sabotage the Pennine, an extremely nasty little fell pack with an enormous County which stretches across moorland areas of Derbyshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire, a small group of saboteurs from **Bradford** and **Huddersfield** elected to observe proceedings at a distance, and wait for a chance to take control of the pack.

This chance came early on, as hounds were seen to check around a mile or so away across small valley. Bemused hunt followers watched in amazement as saboteurs used holloas and horn calls to bring the pack down off the moors, before proceeding to drive away down a deserted road with the thirty hounds in hot pursuit.

After scattering most of the pack across another moor four miles away, the group elected to leave the hunt. Whilst driving home, they were stopped by police who initially searched the van and questionned them as to the whereabouts of thirty missing foxhounds.

After a message came over the police radio, they were arrested and taken to Halifax police station on suspicion of malicious wounding. It transpired that a hunt supporter was injured after a group of hunt followers confronted a group of people they believed to be saboteurs in a hotel car park some miles away. The supporter was allegedly struck by a rock after smashing a car windscreen and throwing stones at the car load of suspected saboteurs.



Agony: fox in a snare found and photographed by a member in West Wales.



If you can't drive, walk . . . Cheshire Police block the public highway.

Area Five Wales

ABERYSTWYTH HSA are convinced they have found the most polite hunt in the country after their visit to the Golden Valley FH earlier this season. There was no angry exchange of words, or police. After a days hunting, with plenty of jokes from each side, they packed up. The sab group have decided not to visit them toooften, as they seem to be very capable of sabotaging themselves. Even hunt supporters admitted they were not "a finely tuned killing machine." We only wish all hunts were like that. **Bristol HSA** joined **Aberystwyth HSA** for a hit on the Monmouthshire FH in November. During the day, a dig out took place, and as the saboteurs got there, the terrierman was pulling his dog, locked with the fox, out of the earth. One sab pushed him out of the way, and the fox dissappeared back down it's hole. When the police arrived, the terriermen were persuaded to leave the earth, and departed with strained smiles on their faces, presumably leaving the fox to breathe a sigh of relief. **Bangor HSA** visited the Glyn Celn Beagles in November, and about 12.30pm, a farmer tried to convince sabs he was a plain clothes police officer, and took the van keys. After a complaint to bona fide police, the man concerned was questioned about theft and impersonating a police officer. Hopefully charges will follow.

Area Six – West Mids

WEST MIDLANDS HSA visited the Cotswold Vale Farmers FH with Cotswold HSA during cubbing, where they were effective in calling the hounds out of covert, which ruined the hunts training of the new entry. Despite the presence of some very angry looking supporters with iron bars and spades, they managed to ruin the hunts day and cause them to go home disgruntled at eleven a.m.

Area Seven – East Mids

NOTTINGHAM HSA have been very busy this season, paying visits to the Quorn FH, Blankney FH Rockwood Harriers, Cottesmore FH and the very elusive Barlow FH. A good day was had at the Cottesmore FH in September, when they were joined by **Belfast HSA.** They met a very anti hunt policeman, who said he disliked the hunt as "They talk down to you and treat you like shit". The Barlow FH were visited, and were found to be a very nice hunt. Despite the saboteurs seeing several foxes, the hunt failed to find all day, and went home after wishing the saboteurs a polite goodnight.

Area Eight/Nine – Cambs, Essex Etc

NORWICH HSA have been active this season, with the first sab of the season being against the West Norfolk FH along with **Great Yarmouth HSA.** Good use of the horn and voice caused problems for the huntsman, who decided enough was enough and called it a day. At the opening meet of the season for the West Norfolk, sabs from **Gt Yarmouth, Peterborough, Ipswich, Norwich and Cambridge** laid false trails in the woods, which the hounds followed. Three saboteurs were injured by the frustrated supporters, and one saboteur had to be taken to the hospital for stitches. A hunt supporter kicked two large dents into the side of a sabs car, and was seen and arrested by a local policeman. He is being charged with threatening behaviour, ABH and criminal damage. In early November, **Norwich and Sudbury HSA** stopped a dig out,



Offensive weapon; huntsman of the Cambridgeshire Foxhound with whip upside down.

after they sat on the earth, and the hunt stayed out until after dark in their desperation to kill, however, they hadn't counted on the ability of the sabs, and went home frustrated. **Cambridge, Stevenage, Luton and N. London HSA** turned out against the Puckeridge and Thurlow FH in November, and laid false trails and unblocked earths which had been stuffed with sacks. Later in the day they were charged at by riders, who knocked down one saboteur with a kick to the head, however, the hunt did not kill that day. **Colchester and Halstead HSA** were at the East Essex FH, when they witnessed hounds after a deer, however, sabs were able to intervene..



Beagles from the Trinity Foot Beagles welcome a Cambridge sab.

Cotswold and Worcester HSA have visited a number of hunts this season, one of them being the Leadon Vale Bassets early in the season. Everthing went to plan, with saboteur groups from several towns stopping them from catching anything, however, as they were packing up, things changed. A Mr Cyril Merrit jumped in his tractor and started to chase sabs in the fields and spray them with manure, that wasn't too bad, but then he rammed a van, and then drove at people, knocking one saboteur to the ground, and running over him. Sabs who witnessed this ran to the nearest house to call for an ambulance, but were refused use of the phone. They later found out the house was owned by Mr Merrits mother. However, in spite of her callousness, they managed to ring both an ambulance and police. The saboteur was taken to hospital, and police interviewed Mr Merrit. It is hoped charges will be brought in the near future.

Area Ten, Greater London.

SABOTEURS FROM **South London** have been very active against the infamous Surrey Union FH, along with the Surrey Hunt Action Group. They have had a turbulent time, as the hunt has been quite violent on occasion. In November, a hunt supporter chased sabs across a field, but then hit a tree when the saboteurs jumped aside. Photos were taken, and the driver ran off as the police arrived. As the Unions overground kills have decreased, they have resorted to digging out, and earlier this season, saboteurs recovered the carcase of a fox, which had been thrown into undergrowth. There was no evidence of it having being shot before being thrown to hounds, just the tail had been cut off. A brief look at the dig out with experts showed the earth to be an unnatural earth, and saboteurs are concerned at the circumstances of the animal's death.

Area Eleven Kent and East Sussex

TUNBRIDGE WELLS HSA have been out with **Hastings HSA** this season, mostly against the Southdown and Eridge FH, and the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH. They have reported a very successful season, with very few kills whilst saboteurs were there. One saboteur from Tunbridge Wells was seriously beaten by thugs from the Old Surrey and Burstow FH before Christmas, and had his leg put in plaster. Positive indentification was given to the police, but the situation is still ongoing. The same saboteur went out on crutches to the same hunt the following week, and was subsequently arrested for action likely to cause a breach of the peace. We can only assume his crutches were banging on the road too loudly, and disturbing senior citizens. **Herne Bay and Sidcup HSA** have also reported a good season, and they are rapidily increasing in size, even though they have not been set up that long.

Area Twelve, W. Sussex, Hants, Berks, Etc.

THE VINE and Craven FH is being sabotaged on a regular basis by **Basingstoke HSA,** who have had memorable visits there, due to the hunts seeming incapability of doing anything other than riding around aimlessly, whilst foxes escape unscathed. **E Berkshire HSA** have visited the Sandhurst Beagles, and managed to send the Shrivenham beagles home after an hour. **Farnham HSA** have concentrated on Mr Goschens FH and the H.H. to great effect. The revived **Southampton HSA** have been out with **Portsmouth HSA** for their regular trips to the Hursley Hambledon Hunt. This hunt have taken to digging out all the time, it seems that the only kills they have are from below ground. Charges appear likely against a thug from the New Forest FH after he attempted to run down two saboteurs, in full view of a policeman, luckily without serious injury. The latest target for sab groups in the south, is the Isle of Wight FH and the beagle pack on the island. Both have been hit by saboteurs every Saturday. This is to be a regular occurance from now on.



Terriermen from the East Essex Foxhounds digging out a fox whilst sabs look on,



Thanks to the presence of sabs the fox was allowed to bolt rather than shot.

Area Thirteen, Avon Glos. Wilts, Oxon.

OXFORD VALE HSA started the season with a visit to the Old Berkshire FH in September, where hounds were called off a fox using voice only, this was the cause of an unprovoked attack in which a saboteur had the keys to his motorbike stolen by heavies, they were later recovered by police. This hunt have recieved quite a lot of attention from Oxford Vale HSA, and have now stopped advertising, and on one occasion the kennel huntman, John Smith, pleaded with saboteurs, saying "leave me alone, go on, promise you'll leave me alone". Other hunts visited include Bicester and Whaddon Chase FH, Vale of Aylesbury FH, VWH FH, Shrivenham Beagles, and Warwickshire FH. A very busy season for this group. **Bristol HSA** have had a very good season, witnessing very few kills. They have been out against the Beaufort FH with **Bath HSA** on numerous occasions, and have been visiting many of the beagle packs in the area, to great effect. At the Wiltshire Infantry Beagles in October, they, along with Bath HSA were persuaded to leave the area, after police, paratroopers, military police and a few machine guns turned up looking none too pleasant. Does this mean hunts have a new security force????

YOUR COMMITTEE

SINCE the previous HOWL the composition of the Committee has changed slightly and is therefore comprised of the following people; Chris Bishop (Joint Contacts Liaison), Ralph Cook (Secretary), Barbara Dickinson (Secretary to the Committee), John Hale (Treasurer), Mike Hall (Sales Goods), Anne Llewellyn (Fox Cubs), Maria Lester, Anji Majennik (Joint Contacts Liaison/PRO), Simon Taylor (Fringe Bloodsports), Alan Thomas, Aubrey Thomas (Tactics), Dave Weeks (Chairperson).

Attending Committee Meetings

If you wish to see a Committee Meeting in action or think that you need to discuss an important matter then please apply in the following manner. Write to the Chairperson giving as much notice as possibel and noting any relevant points you wish to discuss. Please note, if you do wish to discuss any matter however insignificant, then a detailed note will be required so that the matter can be properly agendered. You will then be notified of the date and venue of the meeting. There may be restrictions upon numbers who can attend; so please be flexible with numbers. It should also be noted that delicate matters will be discussed "in camera" and as a result you may be excluded from the meeting at certain times.

GROUP SERVICES

WE are pleased to report that as the present Committee year draws to a close, an assessment of the services offered to groups shows greater communication between the HSA and active groups than ever before.

A number of Legal Seminars have been organised in various parts of the country. Those saboteurs attending were all united in praise of the thoroughness and professionalism of the event. Additionally, our Tactics Officer has travelled the length and breadth of the country giving groups advice on any tactics matters they request. In total, almost 90 talks have taken place so far. It is hoped that many more seminars and talks will be run in the forthcoming months allowing adequate opportunity for all saboteurs to voice their feelings to the Committee members present.

Contact the Office for details concerning forthcoming talks.

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

ONCE again, applications are invited from HSA members who would like to stand for election to the Committee. The 1989/90 year begins in the late summer, following the election of Officers for the year. Those interested must

1. be paid up members of the HSA of at least one years standing.
2. be proposed and seconded by two other HSA members. Both must have been members for at least one year prior to the closing date for nominations. They must not be candidates for Committee themselves and may not nominate more than one candidate.
3. supply a written CV of not more than 200 words to include the following: name, age, occupation, why you think yourself suited for Committee work and how you see the HSA developing in the future.
4. Send the CV to Committee Elections, P.O. Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX to arrive not later than April 10th 1989.

Committee work is unpaid, although basic expenses will be met. Committee work is invariably boring, thankless and tiring, so expect to sacrifice quite a few hours a week as well as attend the monthly meetings.

CV's will be printed in HOWL Number 42 due out in June. The result of the election will be announced at the AGM as well as in the following HOWL.

Any proposals for the AGM should be submitted by April 10th together with the seconder's name. These will also be printed in HOWL Number 42.

CLUB DRAW RESULTS

RECENT Club Draw winners are as shown below. Remember, the draw is not only an excellent way of raising funds for the HSA but it is also a good way of earning yourself some money. Details concerning joining the Club Draw are available from the Office.

September

1. Name supplied: £78
2. L. Tuttlebes: £53
3. J. Davis: £27

October

1. Ms. M. O. Wishart: £81
2. Mrs F. Marshall: £55
3. Hazell Stores: £28

ARTISTS FOR ANIMALS

WE have the unfortunate task of informing our members of a decision brought upon the HSA within recent months with regards to Artists for Animals.

During 1988 AFA produced a compilation LP with the intentions of donating a proportion of the profits from the sale of the LP to the HSA. After prolonged discussions with the AFA it became clear that none of the profits were to be donated to us.

Therefore, the HSA will no longer support the work of AFA and will no longer carry adverts for any future AFA projects. Further to this, the HSA has withdrawn permission for its name to be used in any future AFA projects.

Although we regret we had to take this step, we did need to take a stance as many people would have bought the LP as a way of supporting the HSA.

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.

SALES GOODS

SINCE the previous edition of HOWL, the Sales Goods Department continues to grow. New lines such as mugs, toys, sweat shirts and key fobs have been introduced and have proved exceptionally popular. Stock levels are at an all time high allowing for a quick response to all incoming orders.

Our tireless Sales Goods Officer has worked hard to achieve the present situation and will continue to work equally as hard over the next few months to make yet further improvements. A design sub-committee meets regularly to assess new lines and to undertake projects concerning graphic design. If you have any skills that you may feel are relevant, then please offer you help via the Sales Goods Officer.

A Note from the Merchandise Dept.

Unfortunately we are having problems with the new pen which has been returned to the manufacturers as it was incorrectly pressed. This problem is unlikely to be corrected before the end of February, so a big apology to all those of you still waiting for your orders. You will get them eventually!

Four new lines are included with this Howl, please buy lots of them! New ideas are always welcomed as well as offers of assistance from artists/designers and producers of items suitable for sale. Poster designs are especially welcome at the present moment as we are finding it difficult to obtain good ideas for these. If you can help in any way do please write in.

Finally, with the exception of the pens all items are fully stocked meaning that you can order with confidence!

GREENSCENE

Recycled stationery gift catalogue.
Send two 14p stamps to Greenscene, 123, Fore Street, Exeter.
Wholesale service also available.
(0392) 215969.