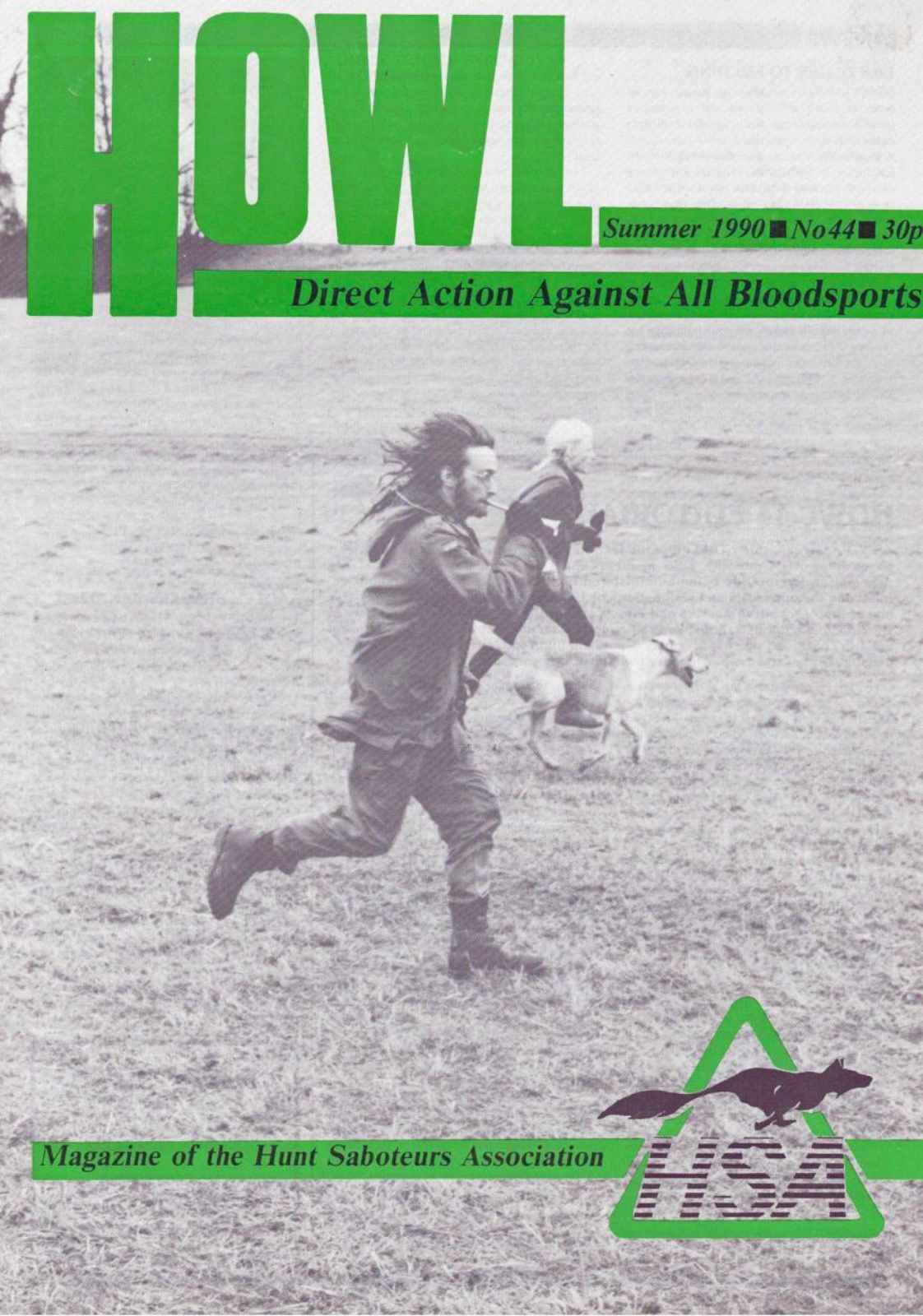
# HOWL

Summer 1990 ■ No 44 ■ 30p

## Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



*Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association*

HSA

## L&S CLOSE TO FOLDING

TEN YEARS of sabotage, a steady loss of territory, falling subscriptions and a record of general incompetence have brought Scotland's oldest foxhunt to the brink of ruin.

In late January, it was discovered that the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH were considering closing themselves down after being banned from most of the land over which they have traditionally been allowed to rampage. Sheep farmers, Country parks, and the trustees of several large estates have made it clear they will no longer tolerate hunting over their property.

But the hunt's problems run deeper than this. They have been unable to organise a Point-to-Point for several years (an important cash earner), or a hunt ball. On top of that, hunt in-fighting has resulted in the sacking of two full-time employees, Ian Marfleet (terrierman) and David Sims (huntsman). Marfleet, who has a track record of violent behaviour towards saboteurs, was bitter enough to recommend to sabs that they pull joint-master Virginia Smith from her horse; 'I won't stop you', he said. The knives are believed to be out now in a tussle over the replacement of Sims.

In complete turmoil, the hunt did not leave kennels for the rest of the season. In March, an attempt was made to gloss over the problems and raise some much needed revenue by reviving the hunt ball.

The chosen venue, Edinburgh's Roxburgh Hotel, was picketed for two weeks by sabs and a demo planned and publicised for the night of the ball. The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, which has used the hotel for its AGM for the last 30 years, withdrew its custom. Then, hours before the ball and the demo were to begin, the hunt backed out and cancelled the event. In the face of public opposition to the ball, they had sold only 70 tickets; and a policeman confirmed that the prospect of guests having to walk past a demo on arrival had influenced the decision.

Sabs did not cancel the demo however, but redirected it at the hotel management for accepting the booking in the first place. The 60-strong demo received good press coverage.

The L&S, deprived of an important fund-raising event and faced with growing opposition to their activities, are close to the brink. As Virginia Smith admitted in a local newspaper in January, 'It's very doubtful if we can continue'.

## HUNT GETS THE MESSAGE

INCREASING pressure from the general public to have the Surrey Union FH banned from Guildford town centre each Boxing Day has at least produced a result.

The ailing hunt, currently fighting against closure and desperate to improve its fortunes, accepted a 'rescue package' of proposals in April which included a complete retreat from Guildford. Whilst most hunts might be expected to cling to prominent public meets like this one as an ideal opportunity to build public support, the Union have never been welcome in Guildford and they know it. Anti-hunting demonstrations in the town on Boxing Day have grown each season, and last year the mayor, Bernard Parke, refused to greet hunt members at the meet. The hunt's withdrawal may therefore be seen as a damage limitation exercise.

Meanwhile, the crisis continues. The resignation in February of the hunts' three joint masters, the huntsman and the whipper-in has led to an extraordinary turn-around at the top. Two business men will now join ex-secretary Prudence Goodchild as joint-masters whilst John Funnell becomes amateur huntsman. Will it last the summer? All eyes on cubhunting!

## RADLEY BEAGLES BANNED

THE RADLEY College Beagles have been forced to stop meeting in the village of Appleford near Abingdon, after residents signed a petition organised by the Oxfordshire Anti Death Sports Society (OXADSS).

OXADSS took up the villagers cause following complaints about a riot of hounds at Appleford last November. An anti-Beagling leaflet was delivered to every house and contact established with Mrs Ashford, the resident who had made the original complaint. Next, villagers sent letters to the college warning that if the hunt trespassed again, it would be prosecuted. A petition was drawn up calling on the hunt to stop hunting around the village.

In January, the petition, signed by 130 villagers, was delivered to college warden, Dennis Silk and an undertaking to comply with it entered into by the hunt.

OXADSS is delighted. 'We encompass all forms of peaceful protest from sabotage to letter writing', said a representative. 'What we are doing, as the Appleford campaign illustrates beautifully, is enabling ordinary individuals to stop bloodsports by providing the know-how and resources to do so'.

# HOWL 44 EDITORIAL



**AS YOU can see, this HOWL, like the last, has been restricted by cost to sixteen pages (plus AGM pullout). HSA members must all by now be aware that the Association is currently being administered by a caretaker 'holding committee' following the upheavals and resignations of 1989, and that we have yet to recover any of the Association's assets and effects still in the hands of some members of the previous administration. We are financially secure, but by no means wealthy and our continued success is largely dependant upon you, as members of the HSA, staying with us and supporting us in whatever way you can.**

The present rejuvenation has been made possible by the generosity of some members and the dedication of those people who stepped in at short notice to form a holding committee pending this year's elections. They have conducted committee business in difficult circumstances with more spirit, comradeship and enthusiasm than I can remember in some seven years of attendance at Committee meetings.

Hopefully, all HSA members have pushed the ideological squabbles of the past year firmly behind them and are now ready to step positively together into the 1990s. If you have still not renewed your subscription, please attend to it now. You'll find a new standing order form enclosed with this HOWL. Standing orders cut our costs and simplify our workload so we hope you'll consider paying by this method.

It should go without saying that HSA is more than usually dependent on the successful sale of raffle tickets and sales of goods this year to keep income flowing. The HSA raffle is an annual fundraiser of immense importance to us and we need you to sell as many tickets as possible. As those of you who ordered merchandise after the last HOWL went out will know, the prompt despatch of goods is assured once again, and we urge you to place fresh orders on the form provided.

Please note that HSA now has an office telephone and fax number offering a 24-hour answering service. Please use this for any general inquiries in the future.

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THIS HOWL follows the example of the last one (and I hope of those previous to the two produced by the 'progressive' committee) in giving pre-eminence to positive news of what our active groups have been up to in the past few months. It comes roughly in four sections; general news, legal news, group news and feature articles. I'd like to thank all of you who sent me reports, photos and news cuttings. If your group is not featured in the group news pages, it is either because your contact didn't send anything in or because I couldn't make head or tail of what your contact wrote! If you feel aggrieved that the version of what you sent that is reproduced here has been shortened, please remember that we are pushed for space at the moment and some of your news may have been reconstituted for use on the legal or general news pages. Whatever you do, keep sending in the material as and when you collect it.

Despite a letter to the person concerned requesting the return of the HSA photo-library, this is not in our hands at present but remains with a member of the previous administration. HOWL is difficult to produce without library photos and we must assume there is a possibility we'll never get them back. More than ever, therefore, we need your photographs old and new.

Letters and articles are always welcome in HOWL but please try to get them typed. They should be double spaced and with a wide margin around all sides so that typesetters instructions can be inserted. Articles should not exceed about 1200 words except by prior arrangement.

*HOWL is edited by Steve Poole. Views and opinions expressed in HOWL do not necessarily reflect those of HSA or of the editor.*

**Copy date for HOWL 45 is August 31st.**

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(Hastings & Bexhill HSA)

**A saboteur cradles one of the vixen's aborted cubs. This one was found alive.**

## HUNT SAVAGES PREGNANT VIXEN

A SUSSEX foxhunt completed its season in March by slaughtering a heavily pregnant vixen.

The East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH found the animal near Folkington Manor, Wilmington, on March 13th and gave chase for 300 yards before exhausting and pulling her down. In her panic, the vixen aborted four well-developed cubs before dying.

With her path to the cover of a neaby wood blocked by hunt followers, the vixen had been forced to make a run in the open and in full sight of hounds. Saboteurs rated the pack but, in such unsporting circumstances, were not able to check them.

After the killing, hunters removed the vixen's carcass but left the four cubs to the mercy of the elements. Saboteurs arrived to find two still alive. Since their arrival was unlikely, the decision was taken to end the cubs' lives quickly and humanely. The four bodies were taken to local newspaper offices and a short article appeared in which a spokesman for the East Sussex claimed the hunt was 'not involved'.

## IRISH HUNT IN HIDING!

PRESSURE from Hunt Saboteurs has forced the Northern Irish Iveagh Harriers to abandon weekend fixtures and sandbag the door against angry locals and newspaper reporters alike.

Ever since their hounds ripped up a young Yorkshire Terrier in a pensioners' garden on Boxing Day, the hunt has been under virtual siege. Killing pets is always unforgivable in the eyes of the tabloid and provincial press, and the Iveagh were made to suffer severely for it. North Down and Belfast HSA chose to concentrate their efforts on the pack in the following weeks and rarely left their side for the rest of the season.

The campaign culminated on Saturday February 24th when saboteurs organised a large demonstration outside the kennels and the hunt decided not to come out to face their public.

BBC local radio invited the hunt to take part in a 'talk-back' programme with local sabs but they refused and sent an incompetent BFSS rep to plead their case instead. The hunt did not resume Saturday hunting all season and sabs are looking forward to keeping them at home again in the Autumn!

## DIRTY TRICKS EXPOSED IN CHESHIRE

TORY COUNCILLORS in Cheshire are believed to have been behind a move to persuade the council to secretly permit mink hunting over its land, writes Bernadette Hardern. The council presently operates a ban on all forms of hunting with dogs.

A furtive meeting proposed for County Hall in February was to feature invited members of all the usual landowning and pro-hunting pressure groups, but was designed to exclude any potential objectors.

Following a telephone call to her by a woman who wishes to remain anonymous, Bernadette alerted LACS. The League demanded representation and were eventually allowed to attend after pressure was applied by Labour Councillors. It now emerged that the meeting's working title was to be 'Are mink a problem, and if so what are the best means of control?' Bearing in mind that the BFSS were among the team of wildlife 'experts' invited to discuss the question, it looked like developing into a bad day for Cheshire's mink population. But the meeting's pro-hunting organisers had made the mistake of inviting along someone who actually knows something about mink, Doctor John Birks of Durham University and the Nature Conservancy Council. Dr Birks, who wrote his Ph.D thesis on Mink and is now engaged in post-doctoral reasearch on the animal, was able to convince even the National Farmers Union and Country Landowners Association representatives that the mink 'problem' is small, localised and impossible to alleviate through hunting.

After two hours of discussion, the pro-hunting arguments were overcome and the original object of the meeting defeated. An underhand attempt to defy the Council's bloodsport ban was thus defeated through public vigilence. But the bloodsporting fraternity are ever on the lookout for opportunities to extend their influence and activities and may attempt similar tricks against other anti-bloodsporting Councils. As John Birks explained to a reporter from the Times recently, 'It is in the interests of hunters to keep public sympathy. To do so, some propogate misinformation and blatantly ignore research'. HSA members are urged to keep their ears to the ground.

## HUNT HORSE INJURED

A HUNT horse suffered a suspected broken leg after colliding with a barbed wire fence and falling awkwardly at Finglesham near Deal on March 17th.

The incident occurred as the animal's owner, a rider with the West Street FH, tried to steer it at a gallop into hunt saboteurs attending the hunt's closing meet.

Attempts by several hunt riders to blame the horse's injury somehow upon saboteurs were dismissed as 'bullshit' by Kent police.

## WOMEN CHALLENGE HUNT VIOLENCE

WOMEN HUNT saboteurs from the south of England launched a bid to counter the mounting violence of the Chiddingfold FH by organising a woman-only hit against them in March.

The aggressive behaviour of Jeremy Whaley's pack towards saboteurs has risen sharply this season as several HSA groups have worked together to disrupt virtually every outing. Whaley himself is unrepentant: 'If they come out and try to sabotage our hounds, that is obviously going to annoy people and if they get hit it is not surprising', he told a local newspaper on March 8th.

It is certainly not surprising during the last two weeks of the season as the hunt's own vigilante patrols waged an increasingly violent war against saboteurs. Police found it necessary to instruct Whaley to 'tone it down' more than once and warn several heavies that if they came out again they'd find themselves in trouble.

The idea of confronting the Chiddingfold with a symbolic all-women sab group was explained by one of them, Debbie Marsh: 'By taking only women there, we are stating again that we are peaceful'.

The women has a good day despite Whaley's attempt to make a citizen's arrest on two of them.



(Simon Wild)

**Violence from foot followers has marked much of the season at the Chiddingfold. Here two hunt supporters, one wielding a heavy stick, assault a Brighton saboteur.**

# EAST SUSSEX FEEL THE STRAIN

MEMBERS OF the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH must have heaved sighs of relief when their season ended on March 13th. They had just spent 57 days in the company of Hastings and Bexhill HSA and had their annual tally of foxes cut by 75%.

It was not a good beginning for new huntsman Godfrey Berry (a former master); who also had to cope with a new whipper-in and was falling out with terrierman Andrew Prater before cubbing had even started. Prater, a shepherd, is thought to have been at loggerheads with Berry over an incident in which hounds had killed sheep. Prater departed in a huff (did he jump or was he pushed?) and Berry had to make do without a spade-man until November 14th, when a new one, Gregg, was enticed over from the Southdown & Eridge.

Saboteurs decided to devote their season to the hunt during the summer, and to build up a working relationship with hunt servants which would prevent violent confrontations. With an air of resignation, hunters soon learned to accept the sabs presence three times a week as an inevitable fact of life. No terrierman meant no dig-outs during cubhunting and the hunt started the main season with an already below-average tally. The hunt claimed 37 but saboteurs counted only five.

With help from a reasonably courteous hunt staff, saboteurs were able to log every kill they were unable to prevent and believe hounds accounted for no more than 25 foxes in the main season. Last year, the number was 98.

Many of the main-season dead this year were achieved by digging out. Saboteurs were often without the necessary numbers to prevent digs but were able to save dozens of foxes above ground. This was a point eventually conceded by Berry who confirmed that sprays and voice calls had been effective when used well.

Saboteurs believe their approach has helped to keep hunt violence to a minimum and the worst they have suffered is slashed tyres from a bunch of non-regular supporters. During the Christmas period, an attempt was made to draft in heavies to frighten saboteurs, but the group left them in no doubt that they were quite able and willing to defend themselves if necessary. After this, and some advice from terrierman Gregg that they should 'cool it' and stop issuing silly threats, the heavy mob lost interest and drifted away.

There were plenty of eventful days for the sabs. On December 7th, they turned a fox so that it went through a hedge and doubled back on the other side, out of sight from hounds. When the pack reached the point where the fox had jigged, two saboteurs encouraged them forward while a third covered the scent of the vanished fox with garlic spray, hounds ran over the line and never regained it.

On January 9th, the hunt bolted a fox from woodland and, although only two sabs were out that day, they were well enough positioned to cover the quarry's line. When hounds checked, the sabs called half of them over in the wrong direction while the rest stopped dead and waited for Berry to arrive and take them to the next draw. A few days later, saboteurs kept hounds running pointlessly between the hornblower and the huntsman for three quarters of an hour!

The resigned attitude of hunt servants is probably best summed up in the words of the whipper-in, who shrugged his shoulders when a saboteur told him there would always be sabs out with the hunt. 'Oh well', he sighed, 'that's how it goes . . .'

## PENSIONER ASSAULTED

A SIXTY-TWO year old pensioner became the victim of a vicious and unprovoked attack by followers of the West Norfolk FH on March 10th.

The man, from Norwich HSA, was one of nine members of the group out with the hunt at Swanton Morley. Presumably upset because they hadn't seen any blood so far that day, hunt supporters beat the man unconscious. He was taken to hospital for X-rays and a full check-up.

Joint-master Roger Lyles dismissed the attack as unimportant. When questioned by a journalist from a local paper, he retorted, 'Hunt saboteurs are past masters at feigning death. They make a big deal out of going to hospital when they don't need to'.

Three women members of the group were later assaulted.

## WHERE DID YOU GET THAT VAN?

HULL HSA, current owners of the green ex-Forestry Commission Sherpa van that has become such a familiar sight in Yorkshire have been delving into its history.

It's been in HSA use since at least 1985, as graffitti left by Portsmouth group still testifies, and was ferrying Huddersfield sabs about by 1987. Hull group found it unloved and abandoned in Sheffield during 1988 and have used it ever since. But what of its earlier life? Hull sabs would like to hear from anyone who has stories to tell or photos to lend of their glorious jalopy and would like to know how it came into service with the HSA in the first place.

Anyone know?

# SCOTLAND MINKHUNTERS STAY INDOORS

SUPPORTERS of the Northamptonshire Mink-hounds spend a dull couple of hours peering gloomily from behind the windows of a public house as saboteurs gathered outside on May 12th.

About eighty saboteurs from all over the country had made the journey to Brigstock near Corby for a kennels meet, but the hunt seemed reluctant to make a start. It was one of the HSA's first outings of the season against minkhunters.

When the hunt finally emerged into the daylight, they were unable to do anything except take the hounds for a brisk walk along the riverbank. Saboteurs kept a watchful eye on the huntsman who prudently kept his pack tightly beside him and made no attempt to cast them.

Ten policemen arrived but did not seem interested in helping the hunt, and saboteurs were impeded only by a deranged whipper-in who started swinging the blunt end of his axe at them. Once he has been dissuaded from continuing with that and the hunt realised the futility of carrying on, the huntsman returned his hounds to the kennels and went home to watch the cup final.

## COUNCIL BANS DEFEATED

DESPITE BEING presented with a 19,000 signature petition in support of a ban on council-owned land, Oxfordshire County Council voted to allow hunting to continue by 34 votes to 31 in February.

Tory councillors enlisted the help of Liberal Democrats to overturn the motion by the tiny majority of three, with one Labour member abstaining. Only 71 people had petitioned the council in defence of bloodsports.

On the positive side, this is the third time a ban has been debated in the county in the past decade and the vote has grown steadily closer. The petition was organised by members of the Oxfordshire Anti Death Sports Society.

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TWO SIXTH form girls delivered a 1600 name petition to Thame Town Council in the same county during March, calling for the banning of the Vale of Alyesbury FH from the town. The hunt traditionally meets there on Boxing Day.

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SURREY COUNTY Council has refused to table a motion calling for a hunting ban despite a 10,000 signature petition requesting that they do so. Tory councillors argued that the council has already held debates on the subject on several occasions and there was no reason to suppose the result would be any different now. But the Oxfordshire debate (above) shows that anti-hunting opinion is gaining ground all the time. From the abolitionist point of view, the issue is always worth debating.

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NORWICH HSA organised the monster 26,000 signature petition that was presented to Norfolk County Councillors in January.

After the ensuing debate for a Council-ban, the motion was defeated by ten votes — ten votes from councillors who chose to ignore the overwhelming call for a ban represented in the size of the petition. Ten, incidentally is also the size of the Tory majority on the Council. The party was clearly protecting its own interests, imposing a three-line whip upon the debate; a decision in open conflict with the BFSS's often stated belief that politics should be kept out of country sports! There were certainly personal interests at stake. At least one Tory councillor, Birbeck, is notorious for holding lawn meets of the West Norfolk FH and Norfolk Beagles at his West Acre home. His brother, an army major and self confessed hare courser, was once fined for kicking down a hunt saboteur's front door.

**Fox Cubs**



PO BOX 1
CARLTON
NOTTINGHAM
NG4 2JY

**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.**



(YABS)

**Mounted police escorting the Holderness Hunt arrest a saboteur from Hull for the crime of arguing with a constable: November 1989.**

# SECTION FIVE – Winning Your Case

**A FEW YEARS ago, a night down the pub with your local sab group wasn't complete without the phrase "Breach of the Peace" – a reference to our legal problems, rather than our drinking habits. Nowadays it tends to be "Section 5". Some forces still use Breach of the Peace, but increasingly Section 5 is becoming the catch-all charge for hunt saboteurs.**

The police have undeniably had some success with S.5, but this success seems to have gone to their collective head. (I have fond memories of one officer simply repeating "Public Order Act, boy, Public Order Act" as if it was a Buddhist mantra, or else a magic spell to make us disappear). The better imformed among the police will tell you that the case of R v Troup proved that hunt sabotage is contrary to S.5. They may go on to say that since Troup appealed against his conviction and lost, this case carries more weight than a magistrates' ruling. This is usually followed by: "Do that again and you're nicked".

Fortunately for us, it's not quite so simple. If your local copper starts this routine with you, tell him that the Troup case (in conversation "Crown and Troup" despite the way it's written) was concerned with spraying anit-mate near hounds, very close to members of the hunt. Not quite the same as blowing a hunting horn/hollering/etc when they're 2 miles away over the fields. Secondly, don't be taken in by the "appeal" line. Troup's appeal was heard in Crown Court — undeniably weightier than magistrates, but not "case law" (i.e. binding legal precedent), which is what a judgement in the Court of Appeal would be. Always remember that police officers' knowledge of the law is rarely perfect, and sometimes highly selective. As Hants PC 1221 "Spud" Murphy once said to us: "If I see someone who looks a bit thick, I just invent an Alton bye-law and take them in." It's a fair cop, guv.

To reinforce this, the most recent S.5 case has gone our way. A West London sab was arrested whilst sabotaging the New Forest Beagles last November, and charged under S.5. When he was questioned, the police put it to him that he had been blowing a hunting horn. Although the saboteur refused to answer the question, he asked the police if this was why he had been arrested. They confirmed this.

By the time it came to court, however, the story had become more colourful. The prosecution alleged that the sab had been involved in all manner of activities (assaulting a hunt supporter, swearing at police officers, etc.) which sounded a lot more like S.5. Under cross-examination, these allegations fell apart. Finally, the police admitted that they'd arrested the sab for horn blowing, not the other fairy stories. The main evidence was a photograph showing the sab raising a horn to his lips.

When the case for the prosecution had been completed, the defence made a submission that there was no case to answer. Since it had been shown that horn blowing was the only ground for arrest, the defence quoted several relevant cases to the magistrates. The prosecution did the same, but their case, like the Troup case, involved the use of sprays, so the magistrates discounted it. They then agreed that there was indeed no case to answer, and threw it out. We're looking forward to sabbing the New Forest Beagles again!

## VICTORY FOR COTSWOLD SEVEN!

**SEVEN HUNT saboteurs who found themselves summoned and convicted under section five of the POA after making voluntary statements to assist with the prosecution of hunt followers, have won their appeal.**

A total of 26 sabs were charged with breach of the peace after reporting an incident in which they had been ambushed and violently assaulted by supporters of the Costwold Vale Farmers FH. At the hunts' final fixture of the 1988/89 season, sabs told police, several car loads of supporters surrounded a sab van, kicked in its lights, rear doors and windows and attacked the occupants with iron bars and shovels. Saboteurs were taken to hospital where they had pieces of glass removed from their eyes and one had to have stitches to a head wound. The attacked saboteurs, together with others who had witnessed the violence, reported it to the police. Already that day, the Cotswold Vale's huntsman had been arrested following an assault on saboteurs. Police seemed interested in making further inquiries.

Six months later, no hunt supporters had appeared in court but every saboteur who had given police their name and address suddenly received a summons for breach of the peace and section five. They were told, however, that section five would be dropped for anyone who submitted to be bound over. Nineteen accepted these conditions either to avoid potential trouble from employers or because they felt they could not afford to fight the case.

The seven who refused were each fined £100 under section five by Coleford magistrates. The defence produced five independent witnesses to testify that the sabs had been blocked in and attacked, but the bench preferred to believe the stories of hunt followers.

We now await the trials of five hunt followers who are due to appear in the same Crown Court charged with offences ranging from ABH, Serious Wounding, criminal damage and affray to carrying offensive weapons.

## RIDERS IN CUSTODY

THREE HORSEMEN were taken into police custody during a meet of the Holderness Hunt on March 3rd.

Two were arrested after saboteur Paul Lucas was crushed between two horses and trampled on. Paul was detained overnight in hospital with severe bruising. The third was arrested after attacking saboteurs on a public footpath.

The action of the police in apprehending the three was applauded by saboteurs who are not accustomed to seeing the law being applied against hunters. The three men in question seemed equally unaccustomed to it, and their comments to the police suggest they had never before considered the law applied to them.

'Do you know who we are?' demanded other riders incredulously as an inspector ordered the first man to dismount. The third flatly told police, 'You can't arrest me, I'm on private land.

'Yes I can, get off', replied the inspector. 'Take him, sergeant'. The rider seemed astonished when the sergeant moved towards him.

'Get your hands off me', he crowed. 'I'm not a common criminal'.

'Yes you are', said the sergeant, and led him away.

# HAMPSHIRE POLICE IN THE DOCK

A HUNT SABOTEUR won damages against the Chief Constable of Hamsphire in March after bringing an action for the use of excessive force whilst making an arrest.

A County Court session before Judge Inskip heard that PC 1609 Clive Cutts had begun questioning saboteur, Simon Wild following complaints made to him by a huntswoman back in November 1987. Simon considered the policeman's tone unnecessarily aggressive and tried to photograph him. Cutts then grabbed Simon's lapels, pushed him backwards onto the ground, wrenched his left arm up into a half-nelson, and cuffed him several times about the head, causing bleeding.

Cutts then made Simon wear handcuffs, pushed his face into the ground and hauled him about so that the handcuffs became tighter. Simon was hit again when he called for assistance to a passing motorist. He offered Cutts no resistance.

At the police station, Simon informed the duty sergeant of the assault and refused to be interviewed by Cutts on his own.

The actual charge against Simon, that he used threatening behaviour towards Lynne Fisher of the Clinkard Hounds, later came to court and he was given a six-month conditional discharge with £20 costs. Fisher, the sole witness, alleged that Simon had thrown a brick at her. Simon appealed, but the conviction was upheld.

In the County Court however, Judge Inskip awarded damages of £75 to Simon for Cutts' behaviour, and a number of irregularities in the police's handling of the original case were brought to light. Firstly, an allegation by Simon that Cutts had thrown a punch which stopped just short of his stomach whilst in the cells had not been entered into the custody record by the duty sergeant. This officer admitted in court that 'the most important thing that should appear on a custody record is an allegation of assault in a cell'.

Secondly, there were irregularities in Cutts' note book. Although his notes had been admitted as contemporaneous evidence in the case, it became clear that certain details could not have been entered unless Cutts had seen the statement taken by a Constable Martin from Lynne Fisher. The notes were therefore not contemporary and should not have been produced in evidence by Cutts.

The outcome is a considerable victory for saboteurs and shows that, contrary to popular belief, it can be worth persuing complaints against the police. Although the £75 of damages awarded are not over-generous, the costs of the three days hearing, for which the police are liable, are believed to be several thousand pounds.

Simon's solicitors, McKenzie Knight, have now issued a further writ against the Chief Constable, alleging unlawful detention. He was kept in custody for three hours without being charged and not given bail for a further two hours. The writ states that this was because Simon had made a complaint about PC Cutts and officers were trying to punish him for it. The writ further states that the custody officer had incorrectly recorded that Simon had been arrested for assault when the actual charge had been 'threatening behaviour', and had made an untruthful entry into the custody record to the effect that Simon's facial injury could not be photographed because the film in the Charge Room camera was full.

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Hampshire police are also in trouble for their treatment of a couple in their fifties at a meet of the Isle of Wight FH on March 10th this year.

Joseph and Daphne Birkby are suing the Chief Constable for unlawful arrest (accompanied by violence) and false imprisonment. The writ states that Daphne, a careers adviser with no previous convictions, was dragged from her car and forced onto the floor of a police van. Her husband was allegedly hit in the face by a policeman and then arrested for 'using a CB radio to direct people to harrass the hunt'. He had never been arrested before.

They were both released from Ryde police station after being detained for four hours. Neither were charged with any offence.

# JUSTICE DRAGS ITS HEELS

**FOUR CARLISLE hunt saboteurs have applied to have their appeal against a breach of the peace conviction heard in the High Court. It is proving to be a laborious and frustrating process.**

Caroline Jackson, Andrew Watson, Michael Kenyon and Kevin McDonagh were convicted and fined at Wigton magistrates court in July 1988. They were arrested in January whilst trying to prevent a dig-out by the Cumberland Farmers FH.

Their first appeal against sentence and conviction was held two months later before Judge Donald Forster at Carlisle Crown Court. Forster upheld the convictions but reduced the fines and, more importantly, rejected the evidence of a police inspector, Morris Smallwood.

Smallwood is a 'hunt liaison officer' which in this case, the sabs claim, is little more than a cover for his pro-hunt views and opinions. In court, Smallwood denied having privately asked another officer which of the defendants was Andrew Watson; but this was later admitted to have happened by the officer in question, PC Neil Blair. Judge Forster ruled that 'the bench unanimously rejects the evidence of Inspector Smallwood. He took a non-neutral stance as between the appellants and the hunt supporters.'

A complaint against the conduct of Inspector Smallwood was filed with the PCA and is currently under investigation by Cumbria police.

The saboteurs next began moves to have the appeal re-heard in the High Court. Judge Forster was asked to state a case (in other words, give reasons for the ruling he had made, so that these might be considered in the High Court), but twice refused to do so on the grounds that the saboteurs' application was frivolous.

It took until November 1989 for the High Court to grant the sabs leave to apply for a judicial review of the appeal decision. No hearing date for the review has yet been set, but a progress report will appear in the next HOWL.

# Court Round-Up

BLANDFORD magistrates recently dismissed all charges against five saboteurs detained during a meet of the Ytene mink hounds last July.

Four had been charged with threatening behaviour and one with assault after hunting had been brought to a standstill. All five had been detained for over 40 hours in police cells at the time. The two day hearing ended on January 30th.

★ ★ ★

The Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to proceed with the case against a Hursley Hambledon FH terrierman who admitted hitting a saboteur in a police statement. The sab suffered a broken nose and cracked rib.

★ ★ ★

Yeovil sabs are still waiting to hear whether charges will be brought against supporters of the Crowcombe Beagles who were interviewed by police in March. Three sabs had been badly beaten at the hunt.

★ ★ ★

David Plumpton, then joint master of the New Forest FH, was recently acquitted of wounding a saboteur. The case was heard at Bournemouth Crown Court on January 25th.

★ ★ ★

A pregnant woman who claims she and her nine month old son were attacked in the street by the York & Ainsty North's hounds is to sue the hunt for damages. Mrs Susan Grainger's labrador was killed by the pack and she later suffered a miscarriage.

★ ★ ★

Six hunt saboteurs who were taken in for questioning following the attempted petrol bombing of a Dorset saddlery were released without charge in April.

Police appear to have detained them on the strength of links between the saddlery and the South Dorset Hunt. The HSA does not carry out petrol bomb attacks, as our readers will know.

★ ★ ★

Police arrested a supporter of the North Shropshire FH on January 1st after a saboteur's vehicle was rammed and a group member injured.

The saboteur was caught between the two vehicles and suffered injuries to her legs. Photographs showing the impact, position of the sab vehicle after ramming (90° to the road and in a ditch), the damage caused and skid marks made by the hunt vehicles were handed over to police. The arrested man faces a variety of charges from criminal damage, reckless driving, and assault to failing to report an accident.

★ ★ ★

Ian Randall, son of the Badsworth FH's huntsman, was convicted for causing actual bodily harm to a Sheffield saboteur in July 1989. Doncaster magistrates fined Randall £400 with a conditional discharge for two years.

# Funny Handshakes at the Cottesmore

**THE COTTESMORE Fox Hounds hunt the area around Rutland Water in the NE corner of Leicestershire, adjacent to the Quorn and Belvior countries. With country like this it is no wonder that they are one of the most prestigious hunts in the world. Their amateur (unpaid) huntsman and joint-master is Captain Brian Edward "Get off my land!" Fanshawe. He is one of the most respected authorities on hunting, with a good knowledge of breeding, and is in much demand for hound shows. The Captain has written articles for several magazines, including Horse and Hound. He has good connections in the hunting world being ex-huntsman to Eire's top pack, the Galway Blazers, a friend of Michael Clayton (alias Foxford, editor of H&H) and cousin to Ian Farhquar, the Duke of Beaufort's huntsman.**

Being a top pack doesn't mean that they can't be sabbed though. For the past two seasons groups from Nottingham, Peterborough and Leicester have been visiting them on a regular basis to good effect, often preventing them killing. Last season was fairly peaceful the only major incident coming when four sabs were arrested for public order offences. One was foolish enough to run across a field, fall over and get kicked about by friendly supporters. At the trial they had to import special magistrates as five out of six of the Oakham bench are connected with hunting in some way! Thanks to our solicitor he was aquitted but his assailants, one of whom at least we could positively identify, had no charges brought against them.

The season turned out to be a bit different. Cubbing went smoothly (for us!) but then the police presence mounted from a couple of cars to a couple of vans to a special video team that recorded our every move. It got to the stage where on a typical Saturday there would be three sab vans, about eight police vehicles and almost one to one policing. As if numbers were not enough we were then informed that horn blowing, holloaing, walking near the hunt, going down public footpaths etc. were all likely to lead to instant arrest. The matter of breathing was brought up and we all held our breaths until we were told it was okay "only if we don't see you".

We put up with this, doing the best we could, until the New Year when the National Council for Civil Liberties (now known as Liberty) were asked to attend a few meets as independent observers. This they agreed to do and promptly witnessed five sabs arrested for public order offences. The NCCL expressed amazement at the police presence (at one point there were 21 police and 14 sabs!!). Also, despite formal statements from several sabs about the violent behaviour of William Cross, one of the regular field, the CPS are not prosecuting.

Liberty observers attended the meets of several other hunts around the area which all passed off virtually without incident. Then it was back to the Cottesmore and again they witnessed a massive police operation. The Melton and Rutland sub-division put out all available officers leaving a huge area un-policed.

The NCCL compiled a report and, commenting on the Melton Mowbray division, concluded "that they do not see themselves as enforcers of settled law in this area but rather of arbitrary rules which vary between area and even officers, and that these rules are designed not to keep the peace or prevent injury but to stifle protest and ensure the smooth running of the hunt."

On another occasion some Leicester sabs were pre-beating when some were arrested for suspected burglary. The police told them that if they admitted to it then they would be released. Obviously no one did and one of the cops said that he knew they hadn't done anything but he was "doing as he was told". They were all released without charge but too late to do any sabbing.

Something else had to be done about this so Leicester sabs called a big hit on 10th February, the supporters club meet. Sabs from near and far attended (THANX EVERYONE!) and the police responded in force. However, something strange happened that day. Our beloved Captain (friend to the top people including royalty) was actually arrested and, after seven hours in a police cell, was charged with "using threatening and abusive words or behaviour." This has since been replaced with common assault. (The Daily Mirror quoted Brian as saying "My red jacket was wet through. The whole experience was very boring. I wasn't best pleased.")

Cottesmore hunt servants are no strangers to the courts. Neil Coleman, first whip and kennel hand, knocked an old lady off her bicycle last year, whilst driving the hunts fleshwagon without permission back from an evening down the pub. Being a kind hearted soul he failed to stop, knowing that he had hit something. He got a £300 fine and £10 costs. The victim got broken bones and no compensation. (Incidentally, the other people in court that day for less serious driving offences were banned but then they didn't have Fanshawe to put in a good word for them.) The second whip, John "can't stay on my horse for more than five minutes" Hezeltine, was fined for digging for rabbits on a Sunday, claiming he didn't know that rabbits were game.

Some of the Cottesmore supporters may not be too upset if Fanshawe gets convicted. He's never been popular from day one. After being appointed joint-master he promptly sacked Mr Wright, the professional huntsman, saying that he was going to do the job himself so Peter and family were suddenly unemployed and homeless. The supporters even held a banner demo against him. This year they've been complaining about him killing too many foxes (we agree with them on that point at least!) and not leaving enough to hunt.

So what are the chances of justice for the Captain and for us? Well, remember the number of magistrates with hunting connections on the Oakham bench? Guess where he's appearing. (Any groups wanting to raise funds are strongly advised to bet on an innocent verdict).

What about justice for the sabs; for a chance to carry out our lawful attempts to prevent the slaughter? We are not over-hopeful.

Freemasonry is common in most police forces but in the Leicester and Rutland area there exists a Supt. J.H.C. Peacock. He is the Senior Deacon at the Temperantia Lodge in Leics. and in charge of police operations. In the Vale of Catmos Chapter, Melton Mowbray and the old Oathamian Lodge, Oakham there resides a Mr Frank Gilman who just happens to be point-to-point secretary and ex-chairman of the Cottesmore. Could be totally innocent.

A Leicestershire county councillor was alarmed at the amount of money being spent on this policing from the poll tax payers pockets and so raised the matter at a meeting.

Councillor Roberts: "Can the chairman of the police committee inform the council of the number of police officers on duty at hunt meets this year together with the police estimates of the number of members of the public present."

Chairman of Police Committee: "Operation of police is a matter for the Chief Constable. Where there is a threat of breach of the peace and demonstration in public areas, then an appropriate level of policing will be made to maintain the Queen's Peace. The number of police is always commensurate with risk."

Coun. Roberts: "He has made no attempt to answer the question."

The question is then repeated.

Chairman of P.C.: "It is a matter for the Chief Constable."

Coun. Roberts: "What contribution do the hunts make to the cost of this policing."

Chairman of P.C.: "No charge can be levied on any organisation for something in a public place."

Coun. Roberts: "What about the contribution made by Leicester City F.C. at Filbert Street to policing?"

This is ruled out of order by the chair who says it has no relevance to the question!

Not very good answers are they? Could this be because said chairman of the police committee just happens to be a Freemason in three lodges at Syston, Leics? There is also an M. Clayton in lodge 6276, could this be Foxford? We are also pretty sure that Fanshawe and Tony Ruddle are Freemasons in Nottinghamshire lodges but are not sure which ones (all information greatly received).

Perhaps these surreptitious links are the reason for the massive police presence every Saturday. (The last Saturday we did them it was 8 police vehicles to 1 sab Landrover). If the policing at football matches was on the same level then Notts. Forest would have at least 20,000 officers there. We're sure that there would be a public outcry then.

**Perry Mason**

## TERRIERS AND COUNCIL DRAINS

**ESSEX COUNTY Council has confirmed that if hunts interfere with drainage pipes beside or beneath a public road, they could be in infringement of highway regulations.**

An HSA member who wrote to the Council with details about hunt terriermen and the practice of bolting or killing foxes that have taken refuge in public drains received an encouraging reply.

The council's Chief Executive told him, 'any interference with the highway drainage system, especially if it involved breaking into pipes, would not be condoned. The use of terriers to dislodge foxes from highway drains would also not be something to which approval would be given'. Matters might be more complicated where a drain crosses into private land.

HSA members might find it useful to contact their local council and if you do, please inform us of the response. Essex have asked for the names of anyone seen interfering with highway drains to be passed on to them.

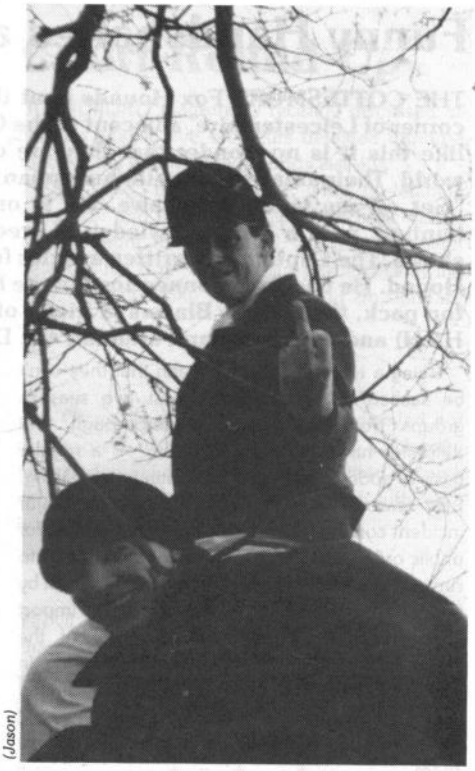
# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE BEAGLES

**'FROM A LITTLE ACORN a big oak will grow' runs the old saying. Thanks to an anonymous seed of information, the Marlborough College bid a despondent farewell to their carefully prepared beagling festival in the last week of March with barely a couple of hours sabotage-free hunting achieved. An average of about 15 sabs attended each of the meets, representing the Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Oxford, Taunton, West Midlands and Yeovil groups.**

It all began in the flat arena of the Somerset Levels just to the south of Glastonbury Tor one Saturday afternoon in the company of the only long-distance, and therefore quite exotic pack of hounds, the Weardale & Tees Valley Beagles, in a joint meet with the day's hosts, the Chilmark Beagles. About 40 saboteurs from all over the region turned up, and a good job too as this lot were reasonably well supported and not in the slightest pleased to see us. One early fracas resulted in a bloody ear for one Bristol sab but happily that was the full extent of the weeks' violence. The hunt were very determined in the face of considerable opposition and quite together under the circumstancs, even managing to find a few hares, but quickly lost them again due to a combination of the general chaos that resulted as well as the irrigation-channel-like rhynes that bisected the entire area and which everyone, human and hound alike, had some difficulty in crossing. The only hare which chose to avoid a mammoth leaping session instead indulged in a spot of river-bank scampering, but sabs quickly whipped the hounds back along the heel-line and out of sight. Five o'clock quickly came and went before the huntsman decided to admit defeat. One - nil.

Sunday, of course, was spent in church, god-fearing people that beaglers are. Monday was the turn of the Sandhurst & Military Beagles to try and level the scores, which they just about managed, albiet with the considerably enthusiastic assistance of the Wiltshire Constabulary who were clearly peeved that they hadn't been allowed to 'restore public order' at the then-just-gone Stonehenge Spring Equinox. To give them credit though, they didn't over-react — after all, with only 7 police cars, one riot van and a helicopter in the face of one van containing 16 saboteurs, they just about managed to contain the 'problem'. With barely an hours' hunting, or rather sabbing, having taken place, the hunt retreated to the relative safety to the meet just outside Devizes under the guard of more men in blue than the entire number of hunters and saboteurs put together whilst yet more officers of the law offered us the devil's alternative; "Section Five. Get out of the area or face immediate arrest!" Confronted with such well-argued reason (when questioned for an explanation, one particularly articulate Sergeant declared "I don't give a donkeys about your civil liberties!"), we had but little option other than to slope off to the nearest phone box. Three press releases and two ongoing complaints against police behaviour later, we retired for the afternoon. Presumably, the Sandhurst returned to the fields with their new escort in tow; if so, then the two hours hunting-time they had left were the last sab-free hours any hunt had all week. One-all.

Tuesday found the speedy Wawickshire Beagles trying to hunt two flat tracts of land at different heights separated by a sheer down just to the north of Calne in Wiltshire. The mud we'd slung around in the Devizes phone box the previous afternoon had clearly had its' desired effect; not even a village bobby was sighted, let alone the half-expected battalion of meshed-up blue vans. The day's hunting basically consisted of one group of sabs on top of the down and the rest some distance from the bottom playing a sort of game of tennis with the hounds; send 'em up, wait until the hunt get somewhere near, then call 'em back down again. Every so often one of the hunt staff would get the hang of the game and keep the hounds on one of the two flat bits for a while, but this invariably ended-up with beagles spread over all fields of play simultaneously, much to everyone's consternation. Talk about spoil-sports. Not wanting to prolong a losing battle, the Warwickshire conceded at just gone four. That was two-one.



(Jason)

**The Weardale's huntsman welcomes sabs to the meet with characteristic good humour.**

After a shaky start, Wednesday was undoubtedly the most enjoyable day of all. Saboteur numbers had dwindled to a mid-week blues level of a dozen who spent a fruitless morning searching known meets of the Royal Artillery Foxhounds on Salisbury Plain before adjourning for lunch amidst a French schoolkid-infested Stonehenge. Imagine our frustration at finding the R.A. horseboxes on our way to greet the Palmer Milburn Beagles, barely a mile from the latter's advertised meet! As for the beagles . . . surely they wouldn't be there? Having been hit on three consecutive days, surely they would realise that we weren't turning up by chance? And surely they would have the foresight to take some form of inventive evasive action, like changing the meet? Not the Marlborough College, they'd a better idea . . .

There, outside the allotted pub in Figheldean, was the Palmer Milburn hound van, full of hungry beagles. Inside and outside the pub were lots of jovial beaglers who didn't seem in the least perturbed to see the West Mids van and Oxford car full of sabs eagerly sat waiting for round four. Within two minutes of our arrival, out walked the hunter, jumped into the Range Rover towing the hound van, and off we all set at a nice leisurely



(Mike)

**The Wick & District's huntsman looks around for a field without sabs in it.**

# HSA AGM 1990
# Sunday 29th July

This section is a special cut-out-and-keep souvenir for the 1990 AGM of the HSA. In it you will find details of the AGM, the annual reports of the Chair and the Treasurer, CV's for the candidates for the 1990-91 Committee, the agenda for the AGM, the motions being put to the AGM (constitutional and policy), the clauses of the constitution which may be amended, and finally the "Committee Page", which for this issue only has moved from the back page of HOWL. So, without further ado:

The AGM will be held in Summerfield Community Centre, Dudley Road, Winson Green, BIRMINGHAM. Buses from the city centre are 82, 87, and 88. Doors open at 9.30 am, the AGM starts at 10.00 am. Accommodation is available for the night before and/or the night after: contact the P.O. Box well in advance. We are sorry to say that the venue does not allow dogs, so please do not bring them. Furthermore, the H.S.A. has paid a deposit on the hall, so bear in mind that any damage caused will be paid for by us! After the AGM there will be a social in a local pub.

## HSA CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

When the Holding Committee was elected in November 1989, it was faced with a mammoth task. Several members of the previous Committee refused to hand over HSA property, chequebooks, etc. The HSA's only assets were a membership list from July 1989, and a small stock of salesgoods.

Since then, the HSA has been rebuilt. The salesgoods department is again fully operational, providing a valuable source of income. HOWL is likewise back in production, and has now been returned to Steve Poole, its original, independent, editor. And after a year of silence, the HSA has again been sending out contacts mailouts. In many ways it has been an extraordinary recovery, and thanks are due to the HSA members and sabs who made it possible.

There are two aspects, however, which are not so cheering. The first is money: the HSA is financially stable, but nevertheless extremely poor. In order to help our local groups, the HSA needs much more money. Any donations, small, large, or enormous, would be very welcome.

The second is membership. Some members of previous committees often mentioned figures of 5000 in relation to membership. These figures now appear to have been inaccurate. The computer listing included many people who had not renewed for over a year, and some who had not renewed for two or three years. Yet the Committee continued to send them HOWL, and claim them as "members". The HSA could not, and cannot, afford to subsidise this. If you support the HSA, rejoin now. Anyone who doesn't rejoin after this final reminder cannot expect the HSA to continue sending them HOWL, thus wasting money which could be spent saving animals' lives. From now on, there will be no "pretending" about how many members we have, and we are afraid that the real figure will be less than half of the much vaunted 5000.

Jamie Hepburn, HSA Chair

## HSA TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

| | |
|---|---|
| **Payments** | |
| Travelling expenses | 596.29 |
| Stationery | 164.27 |
| Stalls | 339.25 |
| Raffle | 1014.00 |
| Post | 1204.80 |
| Officers' expenses | |
| Salesgoods | 469.27 |
| Secretary | 350.00 |
| Contact | 108.65 |
| Other | 84.10 |
| HOWL expenses | |
| printing | 812.51 |
| typesetting | 422.70 |
| hall hires | 198.00 |
| Cumbria week | 90.07 |
| phone | 68.38 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 5922.29 |
| **Receipts** | |
| Membership | 1203.00 |
| Sales | 3596.30 |
| Donations | 1544.54 |
| Raffle | 1256.49 |
| Postage | 138.44 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 7738.07 |
| CASH IN BANK | 1815.78 |
| **Liabilities** | |
| Salesgoods | 2150.37 |
| HOWL printing | 347.49 |
| TOTAL | 2497.86 |
| **Assets** | |
| Salesgoods (commercial) | 5820.81 |
| TOTAL HSA ASSETS | 5138.73 |

### SUMMARY

At the November EGM a Holding Committee was installed to take over the running of the HSA until a democratic AGM could be called. Unfortunately, as those of us who were at the EGM knew, the ousted Committee (which by now numbered only five) refused to hand over monies, salesgoods, records, equipment, and

membership listings to the Association's duly elected Holding Committee. Although they eventually (apparently) accepted that all these items were necessary to the continuance of the organisation, to the date of this report they are still holding on to these items.

Because of this, the HSA's finances can only be given from 30th November 1989 to 12th May 1990. Also, this meant that the only tools that the HSA had on the 30th November were a membership list (updated only to July 1989) and barely 2000 pounds' worth (commercial) of salesgoods and no cash, no P.O. Box, no bank account, which had apparently been moved by the previous Treasurer.

At our first Committee meeting the reality was brought home to us that to re-start the HSA we needed to get out a HOWL to the members we knew of, and re-stock our salesgoods. Thus to re-start the HSA would cost a minimum of 5200 pounds.

This apparently hopeless situation was overcome by negotiating an interest-free loan of 5000 pounds. With this and some fast selling of our salesgoods, enough cash was raised to send out HOWL 43 in February and re-stock the majority of our salesgoods. With HOWL going out we established our new address, and since then approximately 500 pounds a week has come to the HSA.

The situation at present (12.5.90) is this: the HOWL you are reading will generate more cash (remember it still has to be paid for -- roughly 4000 pounds) and we have 1815 pounds cash. We also still have the loan facility of 5000 pounds, if required, salesgoods valued at 5820 pounds, membership who are able to find us and beginning to roll in, leaflets and promotional material right at this moment being printed, and within the next four weeks the HSA will be advertising again to the general public. Apart from this and probably more important, commitments have been made to help finance direct activity campaigns. The 90 pounds given to help run the week of action against the fell packs was just the smallest of beginnings -- more, much more, to come. Having said all this it is still clear for all to see from the figures that we've got a long way to go before we can relax, as far as money is concerned. In this department we need your support more now than at any other time in the HSA's history.

A last thought which we should not forget: one of the main reasons why the previous Committee received their marching orders was the mishandling of the 9500 pounds given by Jon Grainger in trust to that Committee, to be spent on direct action. That money was not accounted for at the July 1989 AGM and to date has still not been accounted for. Jon came to our third meeting and assured us that he did want the burden of paying it back to fall on the shoulders of the new HSA, and he realised that the money had been just frittered away. Our answer to Jon is thanks but no thanks, we will shortly be in a position to start pumping money out to active groups; our first commitment was, is, and will be, to get 9500 pounds to where Jon Grainger meant it to go.

Hope to see you all at the AGM, where hopefully our balances will be healthier.

## CURRICULUM VITAE OF CANDIDATES FOR HSA COMMITTEE 1990-1991

As only twelve people are standing for election this year, they are all automatically elected. We are still printing their CV's in full so that everyone knows a bit about the various Committee members.

### LEO ANDERSEN:

Age: a 1/4 (of a century), vegan, no fixed occupation. I have sabotaged hunts regularly over the past six years, now being a member of the 'Reading and District Hunt Saboteurs' and the 'Southern Anti Bloodsports Society' (S.A.B.S.). I am currently the HSA Contacts Officer.

An especially important task for the HSA now is to sustain a strong and stable movement. Clearly this requires a degree of participation and assistance by members via the HSA and local groups.

However, our organisational ability is limited by age old but largely related causes: general apathy; dogmatically individualistic efforts; lack of mutual co-operation; and a weak choice of objectives. The recent drama within our movement could in the long run be for the better, if it makes us realise that we must tackle these 'limiting causes', so paving the way for new recruits before more arguments cause the HSA to collapse.

Now that the HSA is almost fully recovered, the Committee, both individually and collectively, should take full executive responsibility for the efficient running and clear direction of the HSA, while consulting with and initiating discussion among members.

I would see my role on the Committee as serving the needs of the movement as a whole and also liasing with activists in my own locality.

I see the main role of the HSA as supporting and projecting direct action against bloodsports as an effective and popular mass activity.

Proposer: Robert Jinman
Seconder: Coral Bliss

### WILL CLARK:

I am a 20 year old student training in the Further Education of people that have learning difficulties. At present I am living in the Northwest of England.

Having been a member of the Holding Committee since the all-important EGM and as an active hunt saboteur I feel I have an understanding of both the positive and negative aspects of the HSA.

One of the main problems that the HSA needs to address is why so many hunt saboteurs are not members. The answer in my view is that the Association has a centralised system and therefore I am a firm supporter of Regionalisation: i.e. that the Committee should be made up of regional representatives with, if needed, certain jobs being done by non-voting co-optees.

Now that the Association has been saved from the disastrous consequences of the elitist so-called "progressive" control, we exist for hunt saboteurs, and once this is fully realised at grass roots level membership will increase dramatically, as will the HSA's profile.

The HSA needs to appeal to a wider section of society and in this time of greater ethical awareness this is a real possibility. I am encouraged to read of whole families going out sabbing as this leads to more effectiveness in the field coupled with less violence from the bloodsporters.

I hope that you will give me the chance to continue to help the HSA down the road to

success, to the ultimate destination of confining bloodsports to the history books and this sadism having no part in civilised society.
Proposer: Marie Cottell
Seconder: Yvonne McQuillan

ANDY EARDLEY:

Age 27, unemployed physicist, musician, secretary West Newcastle Green Party, vegan, active saboteur with Tyneside Hunt Sabs. Currently Salesgoods Officer on Holding Committee, a post which, if elected, I intend to continue with and develop further.

I believe that while the HSA requires a national organisation to raise public awareness and generate income, the emphasis of the Association should always be placed on direct action and everything that the Associaton does should ultimately aim to increase the number of hunts that are sabotaged.

I therefore see the Committee as a body whose role is to generate funds on a national level and distribute this income so as to maximise direct action in all areas of the country. The Committee should also act as an information exchange to help co-ordinate activities and encourage mutual support between groups and on a national level. The Committee should also exist to fulfil the requirements of the Tactics, Salesgoods, Foxcubs, Press, Research, and Contacts Officers.

In order to ensure that the problems of the recent past are not repeated, and to encourage equal participation in the HSA by all areas I am in favour of regionalisation of the HSA along the lines indicated by the motion I am seconding at the AGM (which can be found elsewhere in this guide). In summary, this motion calls for every region to have a voting member on the Committee who is elected to serve the membership of her/his area, so that all the regions have an equal say in how the HSA conducts its business nationally and in which areas money should be spent.

I believe that some form of regional accountability to the membership has to be introduced for the HSA to develop as an effective direct action organisation, and I shall endeavour to see it implemented.

I therefore urge you to offer me your support in achieving this aim and in these Committee elections.
Proposer: Helen Richardson
Seconder: Liz Crocker

CAMERON EVANS:

I am 26 years old and at the present unemployed. Previously I have been working as a Residential Social Worker with children who have disabilities. I've been involved in Animal Rights since around 1980 and started sabbing hunts in 1983. For the last four years I've been contact for the Nottingham group and help run the group which is very active in all areas of the HSA. We mainly sab the Shire packs and seem to be having an effect at long last.

I was elected onto the Committee last summer and saw what was happening to the HSA first hand. When the EGM was called in November I was elected onto the Holding Committee where I have been doing the jobs of Secretary and Research Officer. I can see the amount of work needed for both these jobs and am prepared to do them again.

I see the future of the HSA being very positive and active with a lot of work put in all round. I feel we need to have big campaigns against other bloodsports besides fox and hare hunting. Also the "fringe" bloodsports side needs much more expansion and leaflets produced in this area, along with Foxcubs.

I hope there will be more groups started as well with the support of the next Committee, with all this in mind I hope the future of hunts will be bleak.
Proposer: Jenny Peers
Seconder: Michael Timmins

JAMIE HEPBURN:

I have been sabotaging hunts for five seasons, am 23 years old, vegan, and currently unemployed.

I have served on the Holding Committee as Chair since December 1989. As a result of the non-cooperation of some of the "progressive" element of the old HSA Executive Committee, we have been faced with a difficult task. Nevertheless, through the support of the membership and various peoples' generosity (and a certain amount of hard work!) the HSA is back on its feet. I am standing for re-election because I believe that there is a lot the HSA can and should do for its local groups, and I would like to help in that. The HSA is about local groups saving lives, and the Committee should exist primarily to help them in that task. As an active sab, I would prefer to do a job on the Committee which involves directly helping local groups, rather than continuing as Chair; but I'm prepared to do anything that needs doing.

Although the last year has seen many troubles for the HSA, I'm very pleased with the way things have turned out. The HSA has been saved by active sabs being prepared to stand up for our organisation, and halt the drift away from direct action. I hope that this is an indication of the future: that the Hunt Saboteurs Association will be run by hunt saboteurs, and not by armchair activists. Never again must we get to the situation where virtually the entire active membership disagrees with and disapproves of, the Executive Committee, and yet the Committee is taking decisions "on behalf of" the membership.
Proposer: Debbie Marsh
Seconder: Stuart Farrer

SARAH LEWIS:

I consider the HSA to be the most important anti-bloodsports organisation in existence, and I also see it at the forefront of the Animal Rights movement in general. It is unique in that it offers members the chance to actually physically intervene and stop animal abuse <u>now</u> and equips them with the knowledge and skills required to be effective. That must always be its top priority.

I am 27 and have been an active sab for 9 years, and I was shocked by what has happened to the HSA's national organisation in the last year. I have always felt that the independence of local groups was a strength of the HSA, but the time had obviously come for all active sabs to work together to take back the running of their organisation. At the November EGM I therefore stood for, and was elected to the Holding Committee, and went on to produce the spring edition of HOWL, informing the members of what was happening.

I would like to continue for another year as a Committee member as I now feel very involved in the "re-launch" of the HSA. I

support the ideas about regionalisation, and I would therefore like to see Scotland represented on the Committee in 1990. If elected I would be prepared to take the post of Contacts Officer. Before attending Committee meetings I had little idea of what this involved, but I now see the importance of the post as crucial to the overall success of the HSA. I think the job requires initiative, enthusiasm, and good communication skills which I feel I can offer.
Proposer: Julia Walton
Seconder: Martin Benson

ANNE LLEWELLYN:

Out of all the Animal Welfare groups I am proudest at being a member of the HSA, even through the recent turn of events. I will admit that the election of the Holding Committee was not ideal but because of the circumstances there was no other way. It has proved to be a good Committee with everyone working so well together. I would like to stay with the HSA Committee to continue the education of children, which is vitally important to me. I feel we should not just inform them about the issues of hunting but incorporate all other aspects of cruelty i.e. the fur trade, vivisection, and the meat trade, etc. I myself am vegan and have seen great changes in introducing a meat free lifestyle especially to the young. To me it is not important who wins but that we do win. I have been sabotaging hunts for 10 years and I am encouraged by the progress in the last few years of bringing about a ban. These children we aim for are our key towards success but only if we teach them the right way. This I hope is what Foxcubs is achieving. Because of the recent events within the HSA Foxcubs has suffered but with the help from people who are intent on working towards the HSA becoming stronger I have no doubts about its recovery.
Proposer: Will Tait
Seconder: Roz Kavanagh

KEITH MANN:

I am 23, vegan, and actively unemployed (contrary to the train of thought of the DSS!)

I have been "annoying" hunts and their supporters and other bloodsports freaks for the last five years. I have over those years seen some fine days' "sport" totally wrecked and many lives saved through our activities. Unfortunately though, this success has been largely confined to organised hunting with hounds, and the more murderous activities of the "terrier types" have long been neglected.

We all know of the massive suffering dished out by the fox and badger baiters, but how often are their "sports" disrupted?

What I think we need first of all is a comprehensive file of all the people responsible for the so-called "fringe" bloodsports and from there on it's not impossible to work out who's digging which setts/earths in which areas. Along this line, greater contact is needed with the badger protection groups and the RSPCA etcetera, who have greater access to the information we need but unfortunately don't use it to the full.

I, along with others, and in various parts of the country, have been working on the aforementioned files and with people from different groups for some time now and the benefits can be seen. Although we haven't yet sabbed the badger baiters there is potential to stem their activities with a little more work and imagination.

If elected I will try to activate a more concerted effort into dealing with the minority fieldsports.
Proposer: Emma James
Seconder: Debbie Boardman

JASON PARKER:

I am 20 years old, unemployed, and vegan. I have been an active HSA member for four years, and have never been on the Committee before. I've been contact for groups in Avon and Wiltshire, and helped with the general running of the Southwest region. Seeing the HSA grow and fall in strength has made me believe that we must take a closer look at the way local sab groups are treated. I believe the HSA should work as a central umbrella organisation, but must put more work into listening to what members want. As a member of the Committee I would like to see more emphasis on underground bloodsports and the building up of a better network of communication between the HSA and its local groups. I like chocolate soya dessert.
Proposed: Pat Jordan
Seconder: Robert Pridham

BEN PONTON:

I've been a member of the Holding Committee since its formation at the Nottingham EGM last November, and as such have been acting as Press Officer. This is a position I would hope to continue if elected. I strongly believe that the media is one of the places where we hit field sports hardest. It's in the media that its supporters have to answer publicly for much of the nonsense they get up to, whether it's attacking sabs or chasing deer down main roads. We've had some reasonable successes in the press recently, not least of which is the now (fairly) regular "Hunt News" column in Private Eye.

I would continue to urge upon local groups the importance of maintaining contact with their local media, and I know that some groups who've started doing this for the first time in the last few months have received very positive responses.

Apart from this my principal concern would be to help implement, if carried, the motions you will see I'm proposing, which will change the Committee into a regionally elected body. This is a move I've advocated for a long time, and one which I believe has become more important after the events of the last year, when the active membership was completely alienated by the Committee of that time.

Age 29. Vegan. Musician and Director of a workers' co-op.
Proposer: Hazel Jordan
Seconder: David Shepherdson

SIMON RUSSELL:

I am a vegan, 26 years old and in full employment at present. I have been an active hunt sab since I was 17 and for half of that time was the contact for my local group. Although I have not been as active as I would wish during the past four months I intend to resume sabbing at least once a week with the start of the next season.

I am at present sitting on the Holding Committee but with no allocated job. Since the "Revolution" of the past few months I have seen

the organisation put back in the hands of those who should be running the HSA, the activists! How we came to get into a situation where a direct action organisation was run by non-activists I cannot quite comprehend, but it is something that I intend to see never happens again. The HSA exists solely to promote direct action against all bloodsports and as such I want the next Committee to put as much money as possible towards these ends. I hope to see as much as 75% if not more of the income going into the field. Although money should be donated towards individual groups it would be fairer and possibly more constructive to financially aid the wrecking of the big hunting festivals, grouse shooting, etcetera.

I also hope to see a more open Committee, with as little as possible kept from the membership and more accountable financial records. The more we all know the less chance of behind the scenes decisions. Financially we are the weakest we have ever been but we now have the chance to start afresh and to build the HSA the hunted animals really need, one committed to direct action above all else. This is the only way forward and the only way to succeed.

Proposer: Cee Wetton
Seconder: Dave Wetton

AUBREY THOMAS:

An active saboteur for over 15 years I have been to virtually all parts of the country sabotaging all kinds of hunts and shoots during this period. I have been arrested on many occasions and have over 50 Magistrates' Court and 6 Crown Court appearances with offences relating to hunt sabotage. All of these cases I have defended myself and won which in my view is clear evidence that sabotaging hunts is a legal activity. I spent six months in prison in my early twenties for ALF activities and I wholeheartedly support what has been termed direct action. However I also see the need for political campaigns, letter writers, and fund raisers, who also have an important role to play in our struggle, we should help these people instead of criticising them.

As a Committee member I have had two years as Treasurer, one year as Press Officer, two as Chairperson, two as Tactics Officer and last year I was voted on by the membership but an attempt was made to expel me by the by now removed so-called progressive Committee.

After the EGM when a new Holding Committee was elected I decided not to stand as at the time I believed that all those involved in the fiasco of last year should step aside. However after much thought I volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer. My role was basically to try to organise finances for the Committee in order that we could re-start the organisation, bearing in mind that we have been unable to obtain the finances of the Ralph Cook, John Hale era, and they left us with nothing, a situation that we are still trying to resolve. Our immediate problem was to raise 7000 pounds, which was needed to refloat the organisation. This I did by negotiating loans and at the date of this letter I can reveal that we now have assets of nearly 6000 pounds, which in the space of four months is a good turnaround.

I would like to stand this year as Treasurer as I believe that if we can continue as we have in the last four months for the next year we should be in a position to firstly financially aid local groups, secondly help local groups in getting new members through a strong advertising campaign and thirdly re-establish this organisation as the front runner in pulling down the hunting fraternity.

Proposer: Po y Murry Chang
Seconder: Thomas Frampton

HSA AGM - PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(May be subject to change: all times approximate)

Doors open 9.30 am (AGM begins 10.00 am)

MORNING SESSION
(10.00 am - 12.00 pm)

1 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
2 Committee Reports:
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Press Officer
- Contacts Officer
- Salesgoods Officer
- Education Officer

3 Introduction of the incoming Committee
4 Break for lunch (12.00 pm to 1.00 pm)

AFTERNOON SESSION

5 Constitutional Resolutions:

1) That the Articles of Association be amended, such that, at any general meeting every question shall be decided by a simple majority.

Proposed: Leo Andersen
Seconded: Aubrey Thomas

2) That Clause 33 of the Articles of Association be deleted and replaced by:

"33 (a) For the purpose of electing the Executive Committee, the country shall be divided into twelve geographical regions.

"These regions shall be defined as: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Northwest England, Northeast England, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, Southwest England, Southeast England, Southern England, and East Anglia.

"The boundaries of these regions shall be determined, and altered from time to time as circumstances require, by the Executive Committee in consultation with the hunt saboteur groups recognised by the Association, regional representatives, and any other interested parties, in the relevant regions.

"The election of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in such a way that each region elects a member to be its delegate to the Executive Committee. These twelve delegates, one from each region, shall form the Elected Members of the Executive Committee.

"(b) No member shall be eligible for election to the office of an Elected Member of the Executive Committee unless:

(i) that member is resident in the region within which they seek to be elected;

(ii) that member shall be a member of at least one year's standing at the time of nomination, and

(iii) during March of the relevant year there shall have been deposited at the Office a notice in writing signed by at least two members, being a Proposer and a Seconder, exclusive of other candidates for election to the Executive Committee or members proposing any other candidate for election to the Executive Committee, proposing that such a member should be considered for election, together with a notice signed by the member to be proposed stating his/her willingness to be elected. It will be the duty of the Secretary of the Association or other relevant member of the Executive Committee to assist a candidate on his/her request in writing sent to the

Office by providing details on the membership status of the candidate and his/her Proposer and Seconder. Such elections shall be conducted by postal ballot of all members of the Association entitled to vote for the time being, and shall be by the single transferable voting system in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Electoral Reform Society for the time being in force."

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

3) That to Clause 34 the following be added at the end:

"The ballot forms shall be drawn up in such a way that each member is only eligible to vote for candidates who are standing for election in their region."

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

4) That Clause 35 be deleted and replaced with the following:

"35 (a) If during the course of the year a Member of the Executive Committee stands down, the vacancy shall automatically be offered to the candidate who polled the next highest number of votes in the region within which the vacancy arises.

"If for any reason a region fails to elect a candidate, or no member is nominated for election, then that vacancy shall be deemed unfilled. The Executive Committee shall then be empowered to carry out a subsequent election in that region, should a candidate, or candidates, become known to the Executive Committee, provided that they fulfil the provisions of Clause 33 (b) (i) and (ii), and are proposed and seconded in accordance with the relevant provisions of Clause 33 (b) (iii).

"(b) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt anyone who in its belief may be of direct service to the Association due to particular skills or knowledge. Such co-optees shall have no voting rights.

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

(NOTE: In accordance with common sense, and the wishes of the proposer and seconder, constitutional motions 2, 3, and 4 will be debated and voted on as one.)

6 Policy Motions

1) "That in order to keep pace with rising costs, the membership fee be raised to 5.ØØ pounds unwaged and 8.ØØ pounds waged."

Proposed: Cameron Evans
Seconded: Jamie Hepburn

(NOTE: Although this motion is technically being proposed and seconded by Cameron Evans and Jamie Hepburn, a majority of the Holding Committee voted in favour of the increase.)

2) "That the incorporation of the HSA under the terms of the Companies Act 1985 is to be suspended until determined otherwise by another General Meeting."

Proposed: Leo Andersen
Seconded: Mike Ridley

3) "That the HSA Executive Committee is mandated to consider immediately the objectives, policy, and structure of the Association, and to do so in conjunction with the membership as fully as is practical."

Proposed: Leo Andersen
Seconded: Dave Littleton

4) "This AGM notes that hunt saboteurs face up to or risk physical violence, oppressive policing, and imprisonment because of their beliefs. Therefore this AGM mandates the Executive Committee to show solidarity with other persons and organisations throughout the world by affiliating to the British Section of Amnesty International and to the National Council for Civil Liberties, or "Liberty" as it is now known."

Proposed: Jon Grainger
Seconded: Karen Shiels

5) "This AGM notes with alarm the unrepented actions of expelled former Committee members John Hale and Ralph Cook in retaining posession of property and assets belonging to the Association, including hunt files, salesgoods and computers to the value of many thousands of pounds, and instructs the incoming HSA Committee to recover such assets and property with all haste by whatever means possible by the end of this Committee year at the very latest."

Proposed: Mike Hall
Seconded: Cameron Evans

6) "In order to further local democracy within the HSA, and in order to give local hunt saboteur groups and existing regional bodies greater participation in the decision making, policy making, and determination of future strategies, the Executive Committee shall seek to devise proposals whereby the Executive Committee will in future be made up of regionally elected delegates. This resolution should be regarded by the Executive Committee as a matter of urgency, and is to be completed as quickly as possible within its term of office."

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

7) "This AGM recognises that of all the major political parties, the Green Party has the most comprehensive policy with regard to the abolition of bloodsports, the abolition of vivisection and broader animal rights. Therefore the Executive Committee is urged, within the period of its term of office, to make contact with the Green Party and seek representation on its Animal Rights Committee."

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

8) "This AGM notes the growth of overt opposition in rural parts of Southern England, particularly to hunting with hounds, amongst the rural population. Therefore the Executive Committee is urged to encourage and support members of the Association in those areas to stand as candidates for any local government elections as candidates of the Hunt Saboteurs Association."

Proposed: Ben Ponton
Seconded: Andy Eardley

## CLAUSES OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

33 No member shall be eligible for election to the office of an Elected Member of the Executive Committee unless (a) that Member shall be a Member of at least one year's standing at the time of nomination, and (b) during March of the relevant year there shall have been deposited at the Office a notice in writing signed by at least two Members, being a Proposer and a Seconder, exclusive of other candidates for election to the Executive Committee or Members proposing any other candidate for election to the Executive Committee, proposing that such a Member should be considered for election together with a notice signed by the Member to be proposed stating his/her willingness to be elected. It will be the duty of the Secretary of the Association or other relevant Member of the Executive Committee to assist a candidate on his/her request in writing sent to the Office by providing details on the Membership status of the candidate and his/her Proposer and

Seconder. Such elections shall be conducted by postal ballot of all Members of the Association entitled to vote for the time being, and shall be by the single transferable voting system in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Electoral Reform Society for the time being in force.

34 The ballot forms shall be sent to all Members of the Association entitled to vote for the time being within 30 days of the close of nominations as provided for in Article 34, and the closing date for the return of completed ballot forms shall be 21 clear days from the date of despatch of ballot forms as herein provided.

35 (a) If during the course of a year a Member of the Executive Committee stands down the vacancy should automatically be offered to the candidate who came thirteenth in the elections of the Executive Committee. This process should be continued until all the candidates who stood for election to the Executive Committee are exhausted only then may the Executive Committee co-opt onto the Executive Committee other Members with full voting rights.

(b) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt on to the Executive Committee anyone who in its belief may be of direct service to the Association due to particular skills or knowledge. Such co-optees shall have no voting rights.

COMMITTEE PAGE

As noted elsewhere in this Guide and in HOWL proper, there has been a very disappointing response to our requests for membership renewals. For too long the HSA was slack about its membership listings: if we were a rich organisation this wouldn't matter, but we are not. We simply cannot afford to send out 5500 copies of HOWL four times a year, when only half that number of people are paying their subscriptions! The HSA is the cheapest national Animal Rights organisation to belong to (and the best): so will those people who haven't rejoined, and who want to continue to receive HOWL (and help fight bloodsports...) please rejoin NOW.

There are two new developments in the Salesgoods department. The first is a new t-shirt, featuring the winning slogan from a Foxcubs competition: "FOXHUNTING IS A DYING SPORT". It's printed in black, white, and red, and also has the quotation from our patron saint, St Francis. The t-shirt is the highest quality cotton, and costs 7.50 pounds. A large proportion of the profits will go to Foxcubs. There's only limited stock, so buy now!

Secondly, the HSA has acquired a limited number of Paxman hunting horns. At 30.00 pounds each, they represent state-of-the-art sabotage at bargain basement prices. Contact the P.O. Box for details.

We've been receiving some very interesting photos from an anonymous source -- thank you, whoever you are. Keep up the good work.

An appeal for filing cabinets: has anybody got any spare? We need 'em.

Finally another appeal for money. At the end of the season five sabs from Bournemouth HSA were sabotaging the South Dorset FH when their car was turned over (with them in it...) Luckily no one was hurt, but damage to the car has been put at 750 pounds. Legal advice is being sought, but the Bournemouth sabs aren't over-optimistic. Donations (made payable to Bournemouth HSA) can be sent via the P.O. Box.

pace, expecting a carnival-like jaunt down to the local cop-shop, or worse. Ten miles later, and with the little procession heading ever-eastwards towards the Wiltshire county line, it all looked rather too easy. So, exchanging the day's contact number by holding it up to the windscreen (!), the Oxford sabs persued the Palmer Milburn hound van all the way back to their kennels at Hungerford (where they were put to an early bed) whilst the rest of us about-turned pretty sharpish and dashed back to the original meet. As we rounded the corner by the pub in Figheldean, the look of complete and utter horror on the faces of the two Marlborough College whips who happened to be standing outside the pub next to their own Range Rover and hound van containing the Marlborough College beagles is one which I'm sure none of us will ever forget!! We'd not only stolen their lollipops but also their entire marble collection! Sabs piled out to block the hound van in whilst our van was carefully placed right behind this second hound van. Then it was off on a somewhat faster caper in persuit of some very unhappy beaglers whose faces had noticeably dropped a good deal since we had first encountered them earlier that afternoon. Perhaps they hadn't had enough to drink.

By now it was 3pm, and when they finally started hunting half an hour later, the ten foot sabs had to split into two groups to avoid the attentions of a mad riot van which had turned up and was seemingly hell-bent on running sabs over and nothing else. The police stayed for about half-an-hour, managed to drive into one Bath sab (nothing more serious than a bruised arm thankfully) before they clearly decided they'd acheived their objective and disappeared again. With lots of hares in evidence, it took the hunt until five to give up, although good use of of the hunting-on tactic ensured that in the hour and a half they were out, they never came close to catching anything. Thoroughly outwitted and with less than half the hounds left that they'd only just started hunting with, the hunt called it an afternoon. Unfortunately so did our van, so our evening was forcibly spent in a pub miles from anywhere until the AA turned up at 10pm and took us all home to bed. Two packs stopped in one afternoon. Four-one.

After the triumphs of Wednesday, a change of meet seemed even more inevitable on the Thursday, so the Wick & District Beagles were kennel-watched by some unfortunate Bristol sabs who'd had to get up very early indeed! Unfortunately they were spotted and after five escape attempts, the hound van finally succeeded in losing the sabs less than a mile from the kennels. As it turned out, this was probably good news. After all, from the hunt's point of view, presumably we were kennel-watching because we didn't know the meet, so now that saboteurs had been evaded, surely it was safe to go there? No such luck! It took some while to find the beagles hiding out in the flatlands below Marlborough Downs just south of Swindon, but once we had, that was effectively the end of their day out. The young corn crop was discernibly higher than on previous days and concealed a fair number of hares but some inspired off-road Land Rover sabbing combined with much foot-slogging and general mayhem ensured that few were hunted and none were caught. A long, hot and tiring afternoon ensued following a haplessly laid-back huntsman firmly in control of his pack, but as a result of our being there, never letting them out of his sight. No kills at the end of another pleasant afternoon's work, and so it was five-one.

On Friday, the penultimate day of the festival, it was the turn of the Marlborough College Beagles to hunt their own pack. Despite having had the rest of their week ruined, they had obviously decided to persevere with the pre-determined meets at all costs, though heaven knows why as the number of supporters was in single figures throughout the week, so they couldn't exactly have lost many! As organisers of the event they were understandably furious to see us. After unsuccessfully attempting some of the more orthodox tactics in saboteur removal; get orf moi land, run em over wiv a tractor and ride em down wiv hosses; in came Big Brother again. This time the 21 of us present received the kind attentions of no less than 1 motorbike, 3 patrol cars, 1 Range Rover, 1 riot van and the obligatory helicopter. This time the police were slightly more objective in that they stopped one particularly boisterous supporter from trying to thump sabs and also, having finally turfed us all off the land, they then returned to hassling whoever it was they'd been hassling before and left us in peace. Police gone, sabs simply piled back onto the fields again. The hunt were at once fuming, vulnerable and helpless. Few hares and lots of sabs set up another bloodless afternoon, sabs disappearing altogether with the pack twice, bringing our tally to six-one.

Saturday should have been the turn of the hitherto anonymous Huckworthy Bassetts to try their luck, but they appear to have followed the example of most of the sabs and gone to the Poll Tax demo in London instead. In any case, the small group of sabs who did turn up, along with all the supporters, were apparently the only beings there. No hounds and no hunt.

Final score:
HSA 7, Marlborough College Beagles 1.

So could it be a case of 1990 Marlborough College Beagling Festival first and last and always? Let's hope so. After the fiasco this week was turned into, I know that if I was in their hockey boots then I certainly wouldn't bother to organise another one!

**Mike Hall, Bath Sabs.**

# NOTICEBOARD



**YOUNG INDIAN VEGETARIANS** are holding a mass vegetarian rally at Hyde Park, London on Sunday, July 22nd at noon. They'd like HSA groups to help publicise it by giving out leaflets; contact: 081 681 8884.

**SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS** — SARP provides up to date lists of prisoners details and addresses for people who want to write and support them. List from 'Prisoners List', BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

**WOLVERHAMPTON HSA** — anyone willing to help this new group get off the ground please contact them, c/o St. Mick's Coffee Bar, Lumley Hall, High St., Madeley, Telford, Shropshire.

**ACTION LIKELY** is the occasional magazine of Stevenage Anti-Bloodsports group. Write to PO Box 95, Stevenage, Herts (It's good).

**DERBY AREA VEGANS** and vegetarians interested in running or helping to organise a half marathon in October to publicise and promote their healthy diet should contact Tony Martin, 27 Hermitage Avenue, Borrowash, Derby DE7 3JL. Sabs wishing to do a stall at a co-inciding green fair should also contact Tony.

**GUILDFORD ANIMAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS** are holding a public meeting on Monday, July 16th, 8pm onwards at Christchurch Hall, Waterden Road, Guildford, Surrey. Speakers, videos, stalls and discussion on campaign against local drug company. Contact: Julie, 04867 2995.

**ARTISTS FOR ANIMALS** — *AN APOLOGY*

As readers of HOWL may recall, a short piece appeared in HOWL 42 about Artists For Animals. The piece suggests that AFA had not honoured an agreement with the HSA about profits from the AFA album. At the very best, this statement represented a gross misunderstanding on the part of the committee members concerned. AFA donated thousands of copies of the LP to several local groups, who raised substantial sums selling them. Further, AFA have since organised, or helped to organise, various benefit gigs for sab groups. We hope that this statement clears up the matter once and for all, and that you'll all buy the next AFA album "The Sporting Life?"

# HUNTSMANBALLS

'There's a tale of the mourner at a funeral who left the procesion to the graveside when hounds happened to run by, and followed them . . . THAT is what beagling is all about, NOT catching a very wonderful and relatively defenceless and harmless animal.

**Philip Burrows, Hounds, December 1989.**

*On hunting:*

'It gives you such a lot of time off, and it doesn't start till 11 o'clock in the morning, and I rather like the bath; and if you cub-hunt you've got every excuse to go to bed in the afternoon'.

**Robert Corbett, Eglington FH, The Field, December 1987.**

*Following London Poll Tax demo:*

'Only one hunt reported a visit from the antis and that was just a handful shouting abuse at the Cotswold Hunt. We don't know why this should be. It could be because everybody was rioting in Trafalgar Square.'

**MFHA spokesman, Daily Express 4/4/1990.**

*(Very few foxhunts were out on March 31st. We don't know why this should be. It could be because everybody was baton-charging peaceful demonstrators in Trafalgar Square. Or perhaps they were in bed with Robert Corbett — Ed.)*

# A Bloodless Week on the Fells

THIS YEAR'S week of action against the Cumbrian fell packs started on Sunday March 25th when groups travelling from all over England and Wales met up in Lancashire. Unfortunately, a spate of last minute breakdowns meant Bradford and Scottish groups cancelling and Nottingham arriving in a borrowed van from Manchester. Despite this, about sixty sabs arrived on Sunday.

Due to problems experienced two years ago at Cockly Beck (and partly due to availability), it was decided to base sabs outside but within easy reach of the lakes. Apart from the extra mileage, this proved a wise move.

Accommodation was in a large farmhouse in the North Yorkshire Dales. Groups came and went throughout the week and a core of about fifty sabs saw the week through. It must be remembered that we are all still learning about sabbing the Fell Packs in Cumbria. Bearing this in mind, the six days of sabotage were an outstanding success. We enjoyed good weather all week, there was no trouble from any of the hunts or their supporters, and more importantly, no kills. When the police turned up, they kept quite a low profile. There was only one arrest during the week and this has resulted in no charge.

On Monday, the Ullswater FH met at Brough. Looking at past hunting reports from this meet, it was known where the hunt would be going. Sabs positioned themselves on crags above the meet, ready for the pack to move off. Unfortunately, hunt staff and supporters at the meet worked out what we were doing, called the police and, instead of unboxing hounds, moved away from the meet. Luckily there was a sab van left on the road and this was able to follow the hound van for a short way before being stopped by the police for overloading. The sabs coming off the crags were able to catch up with the hounds further down the valley.

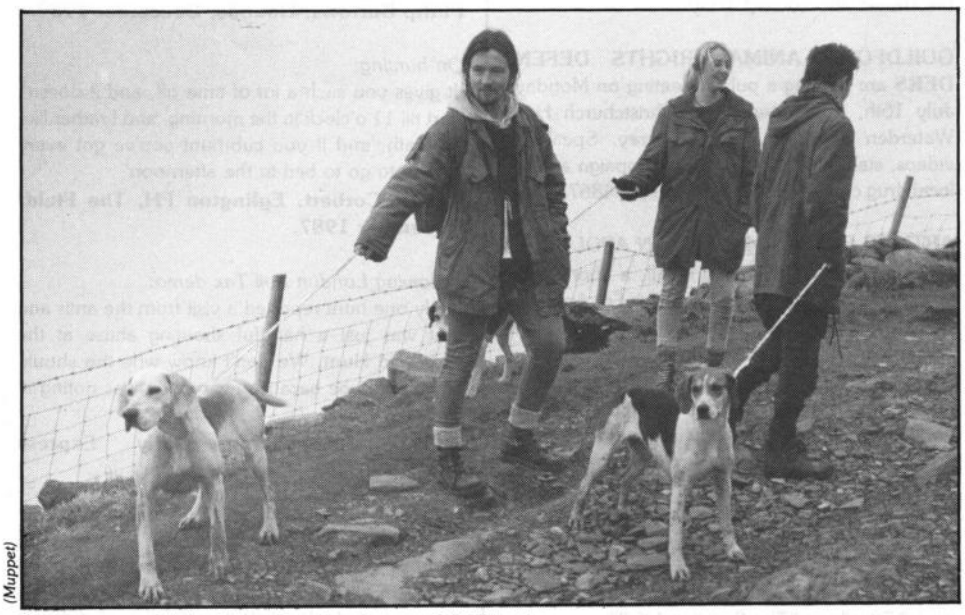
It was an uneventful day for hounds. The hot sunshine dried up any scent very quickly. Sabs shadowed the hunt for about two hours before walking them off the fells at about 1pm and it was encouraging to note that only about ten supporters were out with the hunt.

On Tuesday, the Coniston FH met at Troutbeck near Windermere. Sabs enjoyed slightly different tactics, putting about half our numbers on the fellside above the meet and the other half on the roadside. The huntsman foolishly ignored the sabs' presence on the fells and set off regardless.

As hounds left the meet, they were met by sabs on the fells who took them under their wing. The pack was split between the two groups on the road and on the fells. The huntsman headed into the mist with the remainder of his pack. The sabs on the fells put the ten hounds under their control onto leads and later learned that the sabs in the valley below had had twelve hounds leashed up for most of the day. At midday, the huntsman was spotted on the high fells by sabs. He had only three hounds with him and four supporters. Unsurprisingly, he was not too pleased to see half his pack in front of him on leashes! He headed back down to the meet but sabs stayed on the fells until about 2pm at which time they began unleashing hounds at the rate of one every twenty minutes. The hunt went home early, and some good press publicity was gained by the sabs.

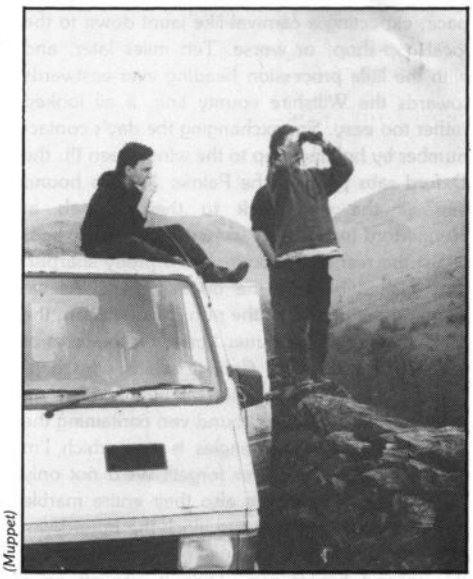
On Wednesday, the Ullswater FH were due to meet at Mardale. Sabs positioned themselves on the fells long before the meet. By 9.30, a small number of hunt supporters had turned up at the meet but there was no sign of hounds. At 11am, we decided to call it a day and a phone call to the kennels later that evening confirmed that the hunt had cancelled rather than face sabs. One up to us!

On Thursday, a cold wet and foggy day found us at the Melbreak FH meet at Rannerdale Farm near Buttermere. The huntsman was located with his hounds heading up the fell behind the meet. Within minutes, his whole pack had deserted him in response to sabs' horn and voice calls. We took them up a small hill and held them there for a while till the pack got bored and returned to the huntsman who immediately ran off into the mist. The rest of the day was spent in calling loose hounds over to us. By now, visibility was down to a couple of feet.



(Muppet)

**Saboteurs on a misty track keep three hounds on makeshift leashes.**



(Muppet)

**Saboteurs keep a close eye on the hunt.**

The huntsman was located on the roadside with two or three hounds under his control. The rest of the pack were nowhere to be seen. It was here that we suffered our one and only arrest, but he was later released without charge.

Friday saw us in action against the Blencathra FH (John Peel's hunt) at Borrowdale near Keswick. We were expecting trouble as they were the only pack out that day, but thankfully our fears were unfounded. This was probably the hardest day of the week, due to the terrain and the speed at which the huntsman moved. He left most sabs standing. A group of eight caught up with him later on in the day as he collected up his hounds. We walked him back to the meet and had a friendly, if somewhat predictable chat with some of the supporters.

On Saturday it was the Lunesdale FH's turn to be sabbed. In the past, this hunt has spent more time trying to kill sabs than foxes. As the meet was only a couple of miles from where we were staying, half the group walked over the moors to the meet while the other half drove round. There was no sign of the hunt until about 10.30 when a hound was spotted in the distance. It took us just minutes to get a number of hounds onto leashes and under our control. The acting huntsman and a few of his cronies were spotted on top of Ingleborough Fell with about six hounds and these too were soon under our control. The followers responded by throwing rocks down at us.

At the end of the day, we had eleven hounds on leashes. By 2pm, there was no sign of either huntsman or hounds so we decided to call it a day and headed back. On reaching the village, we asked a local farmer if we could kennel the hounds at his farm for the hunt to pick up later. The huntsman (who retires this season) was overheard asking his supporters, who included well-known terrier breeder and huntsman for the Wensleydale FH, Maurice Bell, if they knew where his missing hounds were.

★ ★ ★

This had been a good week for all of us with no kills and, despite the reputation of the fell packs, no violence. The week proved that with a bit of thought, the fell packs can be sabotaged and sabotaged well. Our thanks to all the groups who attended, including Carlisle, Nottingham, Peterborough, Leeds, Sunderland, Huddersfield, Guildford & Petersfield, Lancaster, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Northants.'

# MIDLANDS

**WEST MIDLANDS** and **WORCESTER** groups began the season with a series of joint ventures against the *Ledbury and North Ledbury FHs*. Their success in calling and keeping control of large numbers of hounds grew week by week until one Saturday they made off with the entire pack. The North Ledbury's followers strained their rather limited brains to see the usefulness of this manoevre, then gave up and assaulted four saboteurs.

The Ledbury's cubhunting was fairly ruined thanks to the concerted efforts of **WORCESTER** and **COTSWOLD** sabs. An 'undercover' chat with supporters confirmed the matter: 'The antis are mucking things up good and proper'. Badger setts in the Ledbury's country have been found with diesel-soaked paper stuffed into them which had then been set on fire before the entrance itself was earthed up. Unsurprisingly, the hunt denies any responsibility. The Ledbury have also been in trouble with sheepfarmers. On October 18th one reported them to the Malvern Hills Conservators when he saw a live fox tossed to hounds on land under their care; and at the end of the season another shot a hound for worrying his sheep.

In December, **WORCESTER HSA** visited the *Ludlow FH* for the first time, notched up an excellent Boxing Day against the Ledbury, and saw the Master of the *Ross Harriers* ride over one of his own hounds. A vet out with the Ross seemed unconcerned but perhaps because he was struggling to stay on his horse and couldn't give the hound his full attention. He fell off three times. On their last hunt of the season, the Ledbury actually held up some gorse thickets as if cubhunting after a fox took refuge there in late afternoon. The tormented animal dashed from one clump to another, evading hounds and foot followers for about an hour before getting caught in the open and ripped up in front of assorted chortling hunt ghouls. Saboteurs believe it was a pregnant or lactating vixen from the shortness of each run; hounds working entirely by sight and not scent. It was a bad end to a good season for **WORCESTER** group, with sabs having gone out on thirty-five occasions.

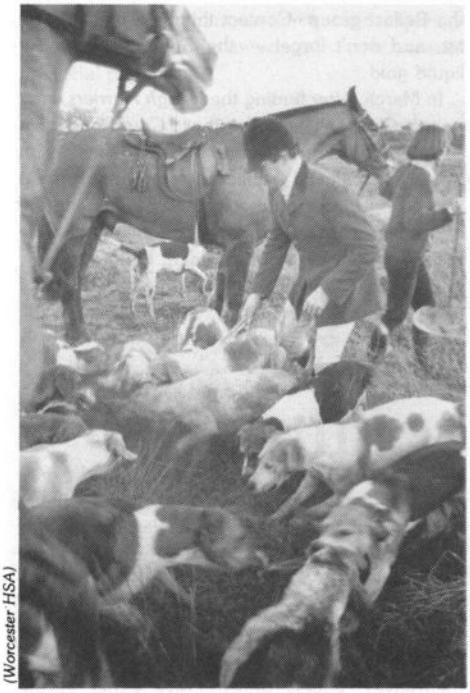
After a brief respite for van repairs in the early part of the season, **WEST MIDLANDS HSA** were back in action against the *North Herefordshire FH, Cotswold FH* and the *Dummer Beagles*. At various times they accompanied sabs from **COTSWOLDS, WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY, BRISTOL, CARDIFF** and **ROSS.**

**SHROPSHIRE** groups report a good season, In December, a lone saboteur went out on foot against the *North Shropshire FH* and was able to call hounds away from two foxes before being warned off by a van-load of heavies. The sab remained with the hunt and there were no kills all day. After a couple of forays against the *United FH* and the *Albrighton FH* over the Christmas break, saboteurs turned their full attention to the *North Shropshire*. On New Year's Day, hunt followers used ramming tactics against sab vehicles on two occasions but were unable to prevent saboteurs sending hounds away from the line of one fox and checking them when they picked up the scent of another. With saboteurs arriving either on foot or by car at every subsequent meet and gaining prominent press and radio coverage, it took the hunt just 16 days to cancel their advertising in Horse & Hound and start going home early.

**LEICESTER HSA** began the season against the *Cottesmore* amidst apparent police indifference until October 14th when more than 50 green-wellied officers turned up with video cameras, CB jamming devices and Land Rovers, threatening to arrest sabs for the slightest movement. Obstructive policing was to continue all season, sometimes frustrating the best efforts of **LEICESTER, NOTTINGHAM,** and **PETERBOROUGH** sabs to get at the hunt. Saboteurs have overcome these obstacles often enough though and saved a good number of Cottesmore foxes through careful positioning throughout the season. On February 10th, 130 saboteurs from **OXFORD, LEAMINGTON, WREXHAM, STEVENAGE, PRESTON, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, ROCHDALE, NOTTINGHAM, PETERBOROUGH,** and **LEICESTER** responded to the call for a national hit on this pack and kept the hunt on the run all day. For once, saturation policing was unable to contain the saboteurs and the day was a huge success. **LEICESTER HSA** would like to thank everyone in the General Office and Julie Franks in Admin for all their help during the season.

When not accompanying **LEICESTER** sabs on the Cottesmore, **PETERBOROUGH HSA** have been keeping busy with the *Fitzwilliam FH* and the *Blankney FH*, often with saboteurs from **NOTTINGHAM** and **KETTERING.** The **NOTTINGHAM** group had the doubtful honour of catching the Fitzwilliam as they released a bagged-fox — something the hunt has been under suspicion of doing all season. Hounds have been very responsive to voice and horn calls and it has often been left to saboteurs to control the pack in dangerous areas close to main roads. Most of the Fitzwilliam's tally this year has been from midweek fixtures when the sab presence has been thinner. Kills at Saturday meets have become quite a rarity, and the frustration of hunt riders has shown in their increasing tetchy response. The last meet of what has been a pretty poor season for the hunt brought out the psychopath in most of them and eighteen saboteurs were assaulted. But with the prospects of a new group forming at **OAKHAM** and a new Land Rover about to hit the road, **EAST MIDLAND** sabs are anything but deterred.

The second half of the Blankney's season degenerated into total failure to impress, thanks to the twice-weekly attenditons of **LINCOLN HSA** who have been with the hunt since January Horns and voice calls, especially 'hoick' holloas have had hounds running everywhere but to the huntsman. Policing has been generally low-key, despite the regular presence of an off-duty Sgt Holvey who likes to relax during his time off from apprehending criminals by fraternising with social misfits. He can usually be found lurking in the presence of the hunt's terrierman. Hunt thugs are never bashful in the good sergeant's presence however and assaults on sabs are commonplace (funny word, bashful). One attack brought a fresh convert when a passing vicar witnessed it and told sabs they should prosecute. He still visits the group from time to time to see how they're getting on. **LINCOLN HSA's** final fling of the season took them to the *Brocklesby FH* for a joint hit with **GRIMSBY, DONCASTER** and **SCUNTHORPE** groups.



(Worcester HSA)

**Philip Abrahms, whipper-in with the Ledbury FH, steps in to retrieve pieces of the fox his hounds have just ripped up after flushing it from gorse.**

# NORTH

**HUDDERSFIELD, LEEDS, BRADFORD, HULL, YORK** and **POCKLINGTON** groups have endured consistently heavy policing on their regular trips to the *Holderness FH* and the *Middleton FH*. Despite arrests and harrassment, sabs have sabotaged those two packs every week since cubhunting. The Holderness hunt's



(N.W. HSA)

**The Royal Rock Beagles hoof it back to the meet, escorted at a brisk trot by sabs from North West HSA.**



(YABS)

**Whitby sabs taking hounds from the Holderness Hunt over a road and away from huntsman, William Deakin.**

customary manner of dealing with saboteurs — allowing a detachment of riders to repeatedly attack them — eventually came unstuck in March when police lost their patience and arrested three riders for assault.

Together with **GRIMSBY HSA, HULL** group have been active against the *Brocklesby FH* and had good days with the *Burton FH, East Lincs Hare Hounds, Sinington FH, York & Ainsty South FH* and the *Derwent Valley Beagles*. Hunt sadists in Yorkshire have been honoured by the appearance of a new nail in their coffin, **WHITBY HSA.** Formed with the help of a local football star (eh?) and some East Yorkshire sabs, **WHITBY** group (the 'Chippy Eleven') have been heard going into action to shouts of 'Whitby sabs, we are here; save your foxes, drink your beer', but their poetic talents remain largely unrecognised. They hit the Middleton during cubhunting, then moved on to the Holderness where they remained for most of the season. A Yorkshire regional visit to the *Hunsley Beacon Beagles* resulted in the total swamping of the pack and a farcical attempt to continue hunting by master, Jean Dunn. Eventually, she conceded defeat however, and took her dogs home in a sulk.

**HUDDERSFIELD HSA** took a break from the ceaseless harrassment of the Middleton and the Holderness to find the *Holcombe Harriers'* hounds tangled up for hours in thick woodland at the midweek fixture; and the *Derwent Valley Beagles* busy indoctrinating ten innocent schoolchildren. They rather doubt the macho claims of the huntsman that they were all his!

**YORK HSA,** like **HUDDERSFIELD,** have had transport problems but a good season nonetheless, with regular members increasing in number from three to a van-load. The hard work put in by most Yorkshire groups against the Middleton's cubbing fixtures paid rich dividends; for the pack was noticeably poorly trained during the main season. The only time sabs saw them kill anything was when an unfortunate rabbit was taken unawares. On one occasion, sabs pulled the whole pack from a covert and hunted them on for 50 yards.

**NORTH WEST HSA** spent most of the season as custom dictates, keeping the *Holcombe Harriers* in order. The old days of swamp-policing seem to be over for this pack, and no kills were seen by saboteurs from October till the end of the season. The continued growth in active sabs has enabled the group to visit Cheshire packs more often, including the up-market *Cheshire FH* (a firm favourite with the heir to the throne). Huntsman O'Shea failed to control his hounds properly as they crossed a busy main road and one went under a car. The inhumane attempts of a supporter to finish the animal off by wrenching its front legs apart were reported to the RSPCA (who did not act) and the local press (who gave the hunt a very hard time over it). The nearby *Cheshire Forest FH* saw **NORTH WEST** sabs at a number of fixtures and managed only one kill in their presence. Police attendance has been noticably lower and their behaviour better since the success of the appeal against convictions brought by the Cheshire force last season, and the 'spy in the sky' has been sighted only once.

Cumbria area sabs were of course active on their home patch throughout *Fell Pack Week* (see main story), and have not been idle at other times. **CARLISLE, WIGAN, KENDAL** and **MARYPORT** groups were often joined by other **NORTH WEST** sabs in the early part of the season for outings with the *Coniston FH, Vale of Lune Harriers* and *Lunesdale FH*. Saboteurs acted quickly to call the Coniston hounds away from a drain by which they were marking to ground in October but were thwarted by two supporters who arrived in time to pull them back. Sabs surrounded the drain entrance to prevent terriers being introduced but were soon outnumbered by hunt followers. While sabs argued with police about their right to remain, a terrier was slipped in and worried the wet and terrified fox out, still clinging by the teeth to its rump. Shaking the dog off, the hunt staggered into the open persued by hounds, huntsmen and followers, and despite the efforts of sabs to whip the pack away, was there butchered and ripped up. Fine sport.

A better day was had at a joint meet of the *Vale of Lune* and *Windermere Harriers* on January 20th. Saboteurs repeatedly pulled sections of the pack away from the Lune's huntsman, Claude Harris, and were sporadically in command of all of it. When sabs followed hounds as they were entered into a wood near Simpson Ground, Harris gave up completely and galloped off leaving a lone whipper-in to try and recover them. Saboteurs kept them for 30 minutes and only surrendered them when it became clear the hunt was going home.

# WALES

**WREXHAM** saboteurs have now completed their first full season as an HSA group. They spent the autumn learning tactics from well-established groups in north west England at meets of the Cheshire Forest, Holcombe and Cheshire Beagles, and have now emerged as a solid force in their own right. Besides helping with regional hits against the *Vale of Lune, North Shropshire FH, Shropshire Beagles* and *Royal Rock Beagles*, as well as the national against the *Cottesmore*, **WREXHAM HSA** have been out against their local killers, *Sir Watkin Williams Wynne's FH*. They'll be fundraising hard this summer to start next season with their own transport. The group would like to hear from anyone who knows of a hard top long wheel-based Land Rover or a minibus for sale at a reasonable price.

# NORTHERN IRELAND

Hunt sabotage in Northern Ireland is now very well established. **NORTH DOWN AND BELFAST HSA** visited over thirty meets of hunts including the *North Down Harriers, East Down FH* and the *Iveagh Harriers*. The group has grown considerably over the last two years and has bought its own transport. The sabs are hoping to travel south of the border during the summer to track down some otter hunts. These are the only legal otter hunts left on these islands so if any English saboteurs fancy a trip across the water this summer, they'll be made more than welcome by the Belfast group. Contact them via the contacts list, and don't forget — the Guinness flows like liquid gold. . .

In March, after finding the *Iveagh Harriers* were point-to-pointing, and the *County Down Staghounds* did a vanishing act, the group salvaged an almost wasted day by dropping in on an angling match on the way home. Driving the transit backwards and forwards on the road beside the assembled rows of fishermen, the group blew horns and scattered light gravel onto the surface of the water for an hour. It was enough to persuade most competitors they'd be better off at home.

# SCOTLAND

The *Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH* have been sabotaged intensively now for the last ten seasons and this year has been no exception. **EDINBURGH & BORDERS HSA** were out with them every week until January after which they declined to leave the kennels (see news pages). Hounds have become a law unto themselves, largely unresponsive either to the sabs or hunt staff and are completely useless for controlled hunting. The hunt has tried to deal with

the problem by keeping on the move and desperately hoping thereby to keep the pack ahead and away from saboteurs. In so doing, the hunt have effectively sabotaged themselves. The tactic has left them few opportunities to draw a covert and each time they move on, a section of hounds is inevitably left behind. The L&S has not killed in the open on a Saturday all season, and the four foxes killed by digging out were only accounted for through police connivance or insufficient numbers of saboteurs.

The hunt's lamentably poor level of control over its own pack was fully demonstrated at a meet near Kincardine in January. At the first draw, hounds split and ran all over the place, one section rioting after deer and heading for the busy A907 road. With hunt staff seemingly unaware of the danger, it was left to saboteurs to check hounds, hold up traffic and prevent a serious accident from occuring. One hound was nevertheless hit by a car and injured. Other hounds were later found rampaging happily through the small village of Comrie with hunt staff and supporters scouring the countryside for them. The huntsman swapped his horse for a Range Rover as he and a dwindling circle of friends rounded up hounds for two hours, eventually retrieving enough to go home with. A day in which no proper hunting had taken place, village property invaded, and half the pack nearly killed on a main road. The sooner this hunt throws in the towel and stops making such a public nuisance of itself, the better it'll be for all concerned.

On January 20th, saboteurs from **AYR, BORDERS, CLYDESIDE, EDINBURGH, SKYE, STRATHCLYDE, STIRLING, TYNESIDE, SUNDERLAND, CUMBRIA** and the Holding Committee took part in a well-publicised joint-hit on the *Duke of Buccleuch's FH* at Ashkirk. This was the first sab against the Duke for six years and the hunt were most upset when they learned about it. Anxious that their high public profile should not be sullied by a demonstation at the meet, the hunt switched away from the main road and asked their loyal car supporters to stay away. It did them no good at all. The day was a resounding triumph for the HSA and for Scottish wildlife, with the sabs achieving television coverage on both channels and the story getting picked up by local radio as well as the national and provincial papers.

# EAST

For the whole of January, the *Puckeridge and Thurlow FH* were deprived of a kill by the **STEVENAGE ANTI BLOODSPORTS GROUP.** They kept the pressure up during February but also branched out to conduct forays against the *Enfield Chase FH, Suffolk FH, South Herts Beagles,* and the *Essex FH.* Joining **CAMBRIDGE** and **IPSWICH** sabs on March 3rd, they disrupted the Suffolk's day so badly that hunt servants held a quick council in the afternoon just as they were about to enter hounds into a covert. While sabs waited patiently to disrupt the draw, the huntsman surprised everyone by suddenly turning round and going back to the meet, packing hounds away and going home. Most surprised of all were the mounted field, still waiting hopefully and in blissful ignorance behind a wood a quater of a mile away.

The whipper-in with the *South Herts Beagles,* gentleman that he is, complimented **STEVENAGE** group on their hornblowing after his pack retreated in disorder to a pub on March 10th. While saboteurs passed the time of day with him, local police amused themselves by rifling through the back of the group's unoccupied van on the pretext of a search for controlled drugs (!?) and have now received a curt ticking off from the group's solicitors. **STEVENAGE** sabs sent the *Essex FH* home at 1.30pm later in the season after rating hounds off the only fox the hunt had been able to put up.

**CAMBRIDGE ANTI BLOODSPORTS** concentrated their energies on the *Cambridgeshire FH,* sabbing them 20 times during the season despite difficulties obtaining meets. The pack improved its scenting abilities as the season progressed but killing remained a problem with saboteurs constantly stopping hounds or pulling them off the line. Repeated threats of 'legal action' against the group and the employment of solicitors to write daft warning letters to saboteurs have caused much merriment but very little concern. We understand a 'private investigator' is now being retained by the hunt to help take out a private prosecution against three saboteurs. Money to burn, obviously. On March 13th, a hunt supporting farmer unloosed his muck-spreader on saboteurs. Before he considers doing so again he should bear in mind that the chairman of the Mendip Farmers' FH supporters club was fined £200 a few years ago for exactly the same offence.

Occasional days have been spent with the *West Lodge Bassetts, Cambridgeshire Harriers, Trinity Foot Beagles* and the *Suffolk FH.* This last hunt, confronted with 60 from **LEICESTER, PETERBOROUGH, NORWICH, STEVENAGE, SUDBURY, IPSWICH** and **CAMBRIDGE** were a mere shadow of their former violent selves. After losing their pack three times to sab horns, the huntsman and whipper-in attempted to conceal themselves and the hounds inside a disused aircraft hanger! Being inconspicuous doesn't come easily to two men in fancy dress with two horses and a pack of dogs to keep quiet, and the hunt were quickly spotted by patrolling saboteurs. Once discovered, they trotted out sheepishly and went home in disgrace.

**NORWICH HSA,** together with sabs from **LOWESTOFT, GREAT YARMOUTH, CAMBRIDGE,** and **LUTON** have been out and about with the *Waveney Harriers, West Norfolk FH* and the *Puckridge & Thurlow FH.* The *West Norfolk's* Swanton Morley meet on March 10th turned ugly after a successful sabotage. Drawing a blank for the first two hours, the hunt finally put up a fox only to see the pack check at a road crossing. A saboteur took the opportunity to call them over but was steamrollered into a ditch by two hunt riders. A 62 year old member of **NORWICH** group was then turned upon and hospitalised by hunt followers.

A week later, saboteurs returned and tried to stop a dig-out on Litcham Common. As the fox went to ground, saboteurs were close behind and were occupying both earth entrances by the time terriermen arrived ten minutes later. No one moved when told to so the hunt called the land owner and the police to assist them. Still no one moved. The police announced that unless saboteurs left the scene, hunt followers would be permitted to remove them with reasonable force. When sabs continued to sit firm, supporters and police pulled them out, police turning an apparently blind eye to the kicks and punches being administered by the supporters. It is thought that during the commotion, the fox made off successfully from an unguarded entrance.

When the Puckeridge and Thurlow ran a fox to ground in a field drain on March 24th, the huntsman found himself surrounded by 15 sabs with a video camera. Finding all the attention a bit off-putting, he decided not to try and dislodge the animal but to take his hounds somewhere else instead. **IPSWICH, SUBBURY and ESSEX** saboteurs have also been out during the season with the *Essex & Suffolk, Essex,* and *East Essex FHs;* and the *Sproughton Foot Beagles.*



(Mary Innes)

**A saboteur from Kelso relieves the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH's huntsman of his hounds and takes them across the river.**

# SOUTH EAST

As reported in the news pages, **HASTINGS & BEXHILL HSA** spent most of their season knocking the *East Sussex* into a cocked hat. But they still found time to help **TONBRIDGE** and **TUNBRIDGE WELLS** groups stake out the kennels of the *West Kent FH* last September. They joined up with **FOLKESTONE, DOVER** and **THANET** area groups on New Years Day to sab the *East Kent FH* (another pack who have been under pressure all season) and have also visited the *Pevensey Marsh Foot Beagles* and

*West Street FH*. It was the West Street's final fixture and forty saboteurs from the **EAST KENT** region kept the hunt bottled up at the meet until midday. After sabs called half the pack over to them at the first draw in kale, and as scenting became steadily worse in strong sunshine, hunting became difficult. The huntsman moved his pack quickly from covert to covert, unwilling to let them settle and fall prey to saboteurs' horns. Hounds were not heard in cry all day.

The alliance of groups from **LEWISHAM, KINGSTON, TOLWORTH** and **GUILDFORD,** collectively known as **NORTH DOWNS HSA,** continued their customary practice of disrupting virtually every meet of the *Surrey Union FH*. The hunt had a miserable season as usual, cancelling its final two meets amidst internal arguments and a continuing downturn in sponsorship. Press reports confirm the hunt is on its last legs and close to disbandment, but the hunting world seems split in its advice to the Union over what it should do next. Because southeastern hunters adhere to a fanciful belief that saboteurs all live in London and only come to the Union because it is the nearest, it is argued that disbandment would have the beneficial effect of putting hunting beyond the reach of the yobbish and indolent cockneys. Others believe the antis are more than ready to travel however far is necessary to disrupt hunting (very perceptive) and want the Union to act as a buffer, saving other hunts from being over-run. As Horse & Hound put it, 'Should the Union disband, other hunts in the south would receive more attention'. We won't argue with that. **NORTH DOWNS** saboteurs were also present in the Southern regional hit against the *Isle of Wight FH* and beagles in March, and visited neighbouring packs the *Chiddingfold* and the *Burstow*.

Several southeastern groups are in the habit of concentrating their total energies on a single local pack, and **BOGNOR & CHICHESTER HSA** have spent the season in the company of the *Chiddingfold*. This hunt are not pleasant company unfortunately and have become increasingly aggressive. Although a relatively new group, **BOGNOR & CHICHESTER** have stuck at the job and hounded the hunt twice a week throughout. Jeremy 'Have-a-go' Whaley was not quite so keen to contenance attacks on saboteurs when forty turned out at the *Bignor* meet in February, and the reluctant Master beat a disorderly retreat with his hounds back to kennels at 1.30pm. It was the first time saboteurs have forced this pack to go home so early. A month later, when the *Chiddingfold* held their final meet at Toby Stone, a large turn-out of saboteurs was viciously attacked by hunters. With three sabs needing hospital treatment for wounds received, Whaley was imaginative enough to accuse them, not his own people, of the worst violence he had seen for nine years. Hunt thuggery failed to frighten saboteurs away however and Whaley was once again obliged to go home early.

The group has established good media links and has been covered regularly by local papers as well as featuring on a Facing South TV documentary. Numbers have been swelled this season by student teachers from the West Sussex Institute and the college will hopefully start its own group in the Autumn.





(Simon Wild)

**A saboteur opens the gate to let the Chiddingfold's hounds through as other sabs call them out of covert.**

# SOUTH

For most of January, **HIGH WYCOMBE, AMERSHAM & MAIDENHEAD HSA** gave the *Vale of Aylesbury FH* a miserable time. The group had a particularly good day with this pack on January 4th at Chesham. The hunt had not found all day when, at 3pm, they put up a fox and it ran past sabs. The saboteurs took their opportunity well, checked the hounds to give the fox a few valuable extra minutes, and then, while the huntsman struggled to get them back on the line, sped ahead to another crossing and obliterated the scent once and for all. The pack did not regain it. In the company of **OXFORD HSA** five days later, sabs were horrified when the same pack chased full-tilt across the busy A418 near Aylesbury. Saboteurs managed to hold the hounds safely on the verge until the hunt arrived, earning the praises of joint-master Chris Henry for averting a catastrophy. The hunt had an uncomfortable time later, trying to explain their obvious lack of control over the dogs to the local press.

In late January and for the rest of the season, the group switched to the sabotage of Beagle packs and paid visits to the *Dummer, Stowe, Old Berkeley, North Bucks, South Herts* and the *Warwickshire, and then the Westerby Bassetts*, each outing resulting in a successful sabotage. With a week-long trip to the *Wiltshire Beagling Festival* rounding everything off, this has been an excellent season for a relatively new group.

Apart from their January days with the *Vale of Aylesbury*, **OXFORD HSA** toured extensively during the season, making the acquaintance of the *Dummer Beagles, Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles, Grafton FH, Four Shires Bassetts, North Bucks Beagles, South Herts Beagles, Stowe Beagles, Westerby Bassetts, Garth and South Berks FH, Heythrop FH, Cambridgeshire FH,* and the *Old Berkeley Beagles* (phew!). Six saboteurs absconded with the Grafton hounds in a large wood near Abthorpe in January, but incurred the wrath of the hunt who abandoned foxes and began searching vengefully for saboteurs instead. This left the group in the unusual position of having the hounds but wanting desperately to get rid of them. There being very little in the Tactics Book about how to lose a pack of hounds, the sabs gave the matter some deep thought and eventually came up with the command 'fuck off dogs' (not often used in the hunting field), then disguised themselves as bushes and escaped unscathed.

Psychological warfare won the day on February 10th when two saboteurs managed to persuade the *Four Shires Bassett Hunt* that three van-loads of sabs were waiting just around the corner — a barefaced lie if ever there was one but enough to convince credulous hunt servants they'd be far happier at home, and off they went!

Most beagle packs have proved rather more obstinate than the Four Shires however, and **OXFORD** group have had to relieve them of their dogs before they'll accept the reality of the situation and clear off home. *The Christchurch & Farley Hill* wasted most of their afternoon on February 17th by first walking to a farmyard and hiding there, and then, when saboteurs did not disperse as hoped, hiking back to the meet where they sat down and did nothing for an hour and 20 minutes while they waited for the boys in blue to arrive. The officers who finally drove up were no help to them at all and when hunting at last got under way, saboteurs called the pack over and disappeared with them into the distance. The *Dummer Beagles* were seen chasing foxes, and



(Oxford HSA)

**A North Bucks Beagler demonstrates the ancient art of hound-hurling.**



(Simon Wild)

**Petersfield sab sits in a fox earth as the Chiddingfold hounds mark to ground and huntsman Jeremy Whaley tries to get her to come out. After terriermen scuffled unsuccessfully with sabs, the dig-out had to be abandoned – Feb 10th 1990.**

the *Four Shires Bassetts* had a go at a pheasant, but none of these packs proved very adept at catching hares while sabs were with them.

**OXFORD HSA** were out 22 times between January and March. The **OXFORDSHIRE VALE** group made no fewer than 120 outings between September and the close of the season, mostly within their home county. They've helped **OXFORD** group at several of the beagle meets and have been out alone against the *Radley College Beagles, Ledbury FH* and the *Old Berkshire FH*. This latter pack gave **VALE** sabs their best day of the year on January 22nd at Cokethrope School. Although the hunt dug out and killed within 30 minutes of leaving the meet, the incident lent fresh resolve to saboteurs who intervened between various foxes and the pack half a dozen times during the day and ended in grand style: When hounds put up a fox in Yelford Wood they ran it hard and soon left hunt servants way behind. Saboteurs were well ahead though and were able to check the pack at it crossed a road, then horn them back off the line and up the lane through the village of Cote. Two sabs, one on foot and one in a car, kept hounds steady, took a left turn towards Aston and then ran them half way to Chimney. By now, two hunt followers in vehicles had managed to catch up and since it was 3.30pm and virtually time to pack up, the sabs left them with the hounds and drove off in hysterics.

**PETERSFIELD HSA** have paid visits to the *Chiddingfold, Surrey Union, Hursley Hambledon* and *Hampshire FHs* during the season but can more often be found making life miserable for their old mate, Roy Clinkard. Clinkard's good opinion of himself is now so exaggerated that he has changed the name of his pack from *Aldershot Beagles* to *'Clinkard's Hounds'* (presumably following complaints from the good people of Aldershot who no longer wish their name to be associated with the medieval enthusiasms of a handful of degenerate beaglers). Clinkard's handful are usually outnumbered, outclassed and out-played by **PETERSFIELD** saboteurs — a point fully accepted by the huntsman's live-in lover, Lynne Fisher, who remarked at the end of the season that the sabs seemed a good deal more dedicated to the pack then the supporters did. Rumours that saboteurs are poised to take over the hunt committee and put the pack into voluntary liquidation are groundless.

On Valentine's Day the group went over to the Isle of Wight for a day trip in the company of **PORTSMOUTH** and **BOURNEMOUTH** sabs. The weather wasn't quite day trip material though; the hills were completely fogged in. This turned out to be bad news for the *Isle of Wight FH*. One group of sabs took half the pack one way (into the mist) while another group took the other half the other way (into the mist). Meanwhile huntsman Steven Clifton blew his horn aimlessly in the middle. And when he eventually did get his hounds back, he spent the rest of the day running away from sabs.

A Southern regional hit was laid on in honour of the *Hampshire FH's* final fixture on March 21st. As the convoy of five or six vehicles approached the meet, sabs noticed a horsebox and pickup carrying the entire hunt staff. A slight traffic jam ensued (it was a very narrow lane) to the considerable annoyance of the hunt. However, the whipper-in then made the mistake of reversing into one of the sab vans. Sabs quickly explained to him that he could not legally leave the scene of an accident until the police had satisfied themselves of the circumstances and taken the drivers' details. The police didn't arrive for over an hour, causing a two hour delay in the start of the hunt!

# SOUTH WEST

Transport problems plagued **BATH HSA** for much of the season and much time was therefore spent on fundraising for Land Rover repairs, and in research work on local packs. But **BATH** sabs often found space in the **BRISTOL** van and hits were notched up against the *Beaufort* and *Portman FHs* and *Wiltshire Infantry, Clifton Foot* and *Chilmark Beagles* before Christmas. These two beagle packs suffered greatly, with the Chilmark's huntsman even swimming a river to evade sabs and then facing a mutiny from hounds who were too sensible to follow him. The Clifton's huntsman tried to lose sabs by wading with commendable stoicism through deep and wide water-filled ditches (Rhynes), only to find sabs prepared to follow him. His supporters were less dedicated and he ended the day alone and friendless. **BRISTOL** sabs revisited the Chilmark in the new year and then had a good day despite heavy rain and an unco-operative police force, with the Park beagles. **The BRISTOL** group joined 50 other sabs for a joint-hit on the *Pentrych FH* in Wales where it took just five minutes for the huntsman to lose his entire pack to the opposition.

**COTSWOLD, BRISTOL** and **BATH** groups took on the *Cotswold FH* at Charlton Abbotts in January and were able to call hounds out of one covert twice in succession following a repeated attempt by the huntsman to cast his pack. A simply topping day was had with the spiffing chaps from Marlborough College when the young beaglers simply refused to leave the meet. Sabs thought this jolly decent of them but things were nearly spoilt when a sneaky attempt to creep off for a quick hunt with Sir was detected. Such a rude and unsporting move by our future rulers was considered the height of bad manners by the sabs and a stop was put to it at once. The last fixture in the Chilmark's beagling festival passed without bloodshed when hounds from the host pack and the *Weardale and Tees Valley* showed a clear preference for the company of saboteurs to that of their posturing masters.

**BATH** and **BRISTOL** groups were both active at the *Marlborough College Beagling Festival* (cheeky bounders . . .) and **BRISTOL** went on to finish the season with the *Vale of the White Horse FH*. The group have had a very positive season, witnessed not a single kill, and can testify to the usefulness of 'hunting-on' tactics. With **BATH's** Land Rover now in full working order, the 1990/91 season promises even better things for the region.

**YEOVIL HSA,** recently revived after their temporary and much regretted retirement, are now very active again and out every weekend. Although odd days have been spent at the expense of the *Portland* and *South & West Wilts FH*, and the very violent *Crowcombe Beagles*, the usual targets have been the *Cattistock* and the *Blackmore & Sparkford Vale FHs*. Sabs met an angry farmer at the Cattistock's Evershott fixture who, just for once, was after the hunt's blood and not theirs. Hounds had just killed one of his lambs. Sabs from **DEVON** have also been frequent visitors to Cattistock country, although the police have come to take a dim view of it and once escorted them back out of Dorset. When hunt followers let the **DEVON** group's tyres down, a local resident and a passing AA man both offered footpumps and the sabs were mobile again within five minutes — to the annoyance of the hunt.

Three not-quite-so-very-fit **DEVON** sabs trying to keep up with the rest of the group at a meet of the *East Devon FH*, saw a fox speed past them with hounds in full cry behind and were well placed to halt them with rating and spraying. Huntsman 'Slasher' McNulty later tried to tell the sabs it was a badger his hounds had put up (Come to beautiful Devon, home of the famous red badger) . . . When the *Dart Vale & Holden Harriers* took their pack along a valley floor, sabs stood above them on either side and called hounds first from the left and then from the right

using a combination of horn and voice calls. Before long the entire pack was irretrievably split and the hapless huntsman had to spend the next 90 minutes galloping backwards and forwards trying to gather them all up. When his operation was eventually completed, he boxed up and went home. Towards the end of the season, **DEVON** groups has some bad days, with one hunt chopping its quarry in front of them; another disappearing on the mist-covered moors; and sab attendance falling off. But spirits were rekindled at the close with a good hit on the *South Devon FH* during which sabs stood their ground to prevent a dig-out despite the violent and provacative behaviour of kennelman, John Norrish.



(A. Beech, West Mids HSA)

## BLOODED!

**This child's cheeks have been smeared with the blood of a fox killed by the North Hereforshire FH on March 3rd. The bloodsporting fraternity often claim that this barbaric practice is dying out. Not so!**

## Gotcha!



(Peterborough HSA)

**James Barclay, master of the Fitzwilliam FH, raises his whip before bringing it down on hunt saboteurs from Peterborough and Kettering at the hunt's final meet. Redcoats co-ordinated a number of serious assaults on saboteurs who included a Kettering mother and her 14 year old son. A young half-Bengali sab was trampled and then subjected to racial abuse. In all, 18 sabs were injured from whips, kicks and tramplings.**

# YOUR NEXT STEP?



Whether you're into animal rights, saving the planet, healthy living, ethics, or land use, veganism encompasses your beliefs and determination by providing a sane, compassionate and *practical* philosophy.

Veganism may be defined as a way of living which seeks to exclude all forms of exploitation of animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. In dietary terms it entails dispensing with *all* animal produce — including meat, fish, poultry, eggs, (non-human) animal milks, honey and their derivatives.

Good news for animals but also good news for people and the environment: A vegan diet is increasingly prescribed as therapy to benefit conditions such as heart disease, cancer, asthma, allergies and diabetes. Non-animal organic agriculture works *with* nature and *less* land is required — land to sustain people, *not* farm animals.



The Vegan Society — an educational charity — actively promotes the vegan ethic. For further information and details of membership (sympathizers welcome) send an SAE to:

**DEPT. HO**
**The Vegan Society,**
**33-35 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AY.**

# Animal Cruelty Investigation Group

**"We not only protest at cruelty, we take effective steps to end it."**

Formed in June 1989 by experienced animal rights campaigner Mike Huskisson, this is a growing group of dedicated expert investigators who use every lawful means to expose cruelty to animals.

ACIG aims to see offenders prosecuted wherever possible. Where our laws are too outdated to allow such action, then ACIG gathers the evidence that will encourage Parliament to create effective legislation—and then have the offenders prosecuted. Failing all else, ACIG aims to see those who abuse our fellow creatures vilified in the media.

ACIG seeks supporters, there is no membership. Finances are raised to pay the **expenses** of investigative work. No wages are paid, they come from selling the results of successful investigations to the media or the major national groups.

If you would like to assist ACIG financially, or in the field, or would like more information—please write to:

**Mike Huskisson, ACIG, PO Box 8,**
**HALESWORTH Suffolk IP19 0JL.**