HOWL

Autumn 1990 ■ No 45 ■ £1

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

HSA

WHEN HUNTING ISN'T

Dear Howl,

Angling. Fishing. Hunting. Whatever you call it, sticking a hook into the mouth of a harmless creature that is going about its own business is just as cruel as chasing another half to exhaustion before ripping it apart. But we, as sabs, in the main ignore it. Week in week out we sab the fox and other mammal hunts but ignore the occurance of the very much more widespread but equally cruel practice of angling. On June 16th, National Anti-Angling Day happened, but for a rather large cock-up on my behalf (sorry Leo) all contacts would have received info for that day, but many groups, I am sure, if historical evidence is to be heeded, would not have sabbed fishing matches believing the mink or other hunts to be more important. It is surely playing god to judge the worth of one creature's life over another's and something animal rights campaigners can't be seen to do lest they apply the same logic that leads to anthropocentrism (only our myopia will be the further removed mammal-centrism).

Please do sab fishing matches and send reports to the CAA (who are pleased for any sab group to join the existing few on the CAA's list of contacts) or the HSA.

Remember it is 'our' biggest death sport and it needs to be opposed.

Membership of the CAA is £4 per annum and members receive the quarterly anti-angling journal Pisces.

THE SECRETARY,
Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
PO Box 130
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NR

SMALL GROUPS

Dear Howl,

Although I basically agree with what the '12th Duke of Beaufort' (why would he/she not put their name to this article?) stated in his/her article in HOWL 43 'Once More Unto the Breach Dear Friends', I was extremely perturbed by the patronising (perhaps naive?) attitude adopted towards sab groups around the country.

I am a well-known advocate of small-group sabbing, although I have inevitably taken part in quite a number of large hits over the years, and I resent the inference that most sab groups follow the 'herd mentality' and flock together to chat about the gig the previous night etc, etc at a meet.

The majority of hunts which I have attended over the last four seasons (notably with the West Wilts HSA) have been in groups of four or five people and it has only been recently in the south east that I have experienced this 'en masse' hunt sabotage that the '12th Duke' speaks of. What does this tell me? Perhaps that the hunts in the South East are more violent than those in the rest of the country and therefore require a greater number of sabs at each meet? I am not entirely convinced!

Please could the 12th Duke realise that there are a large number of sabs around the country that do (and have been for a number of years) 'speak their mind, do background reading, learn to read the map and practice the horn'. Isn't this the only way to carry out hunt sabotage?

5th RULING QUEEN OF ENGLAND
(alias Melanie Christie)

POLITICS

Dear Howl,

I thought I would let you know about my involvement with animal welfare through politics. I have been an animal campaigner for over twenty years; I have fund-raised, marched, handed out leaflets in high streets, written endless letters to various ministers, involved myself in various groups etc., and obviously there is a real need for this to win public support.

However, I also feel that there is a need for members to be involved in politics in order to bring into effect by legislation the hard work that animal welfare has done in changing public opinion.

In January this year, I nervously went along to my local branch of the Labour Party, having just become a member. I took up the issue I thought would be easiest to push further, the testing of animals for cosmetic purposes. I was surprised when all the members supported my resolution as none of them were welfare people. There were no arguments and they merely wanted me to explain what the tests involved. A copy of my resolution went to the Constituency Labour Party Secretary so it could be heard by the General Committee or GC (meeting of all the branches).

What I want to say about all this is for your members to do what I have done in their local branches, whatever the party. I am sure a lot could be achieved through politics at branch level.

JUNE ELLIS
Woodford Green, Essex

HOWL 45 EDITORIAL

HELLO AND WELCOME to another bumper Autumn edition of HOWL. The increased size of this edition is a pretty fair indication of the success achieved in rebuilding the Association over the summer months, and it should be obvious to all of you (and to the BFSS) that our troubles are now firmly behind us.

Of course, we are not entirely without our problems. Membership subscriptions — the lifeblood of the Association — tailed off badly during those muddled months last year when the old Committee lapsed into silence and stopped providing members with any services at all. Subscriptions have only now started to recover and we still have a long way to go if we are to continue expanding our present services to the movement. In the last few months, not only has HOWL grown larger, but several attractive new lines of merchandise have been stocked, our legal service has expanded, and we've revamped the contacts bulletin to the obvious satisfaction of all those groups who have commented on it.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We don't want to keep increasing subscription rates to stay viable — instead we want to increase the number of subscribers. And here's where YOU can help us triple our members! Included with this HOWL are two HSA membership leaflets. Please give these to any of your friends, workmates (or even non-subscribing fellow sabs) who you think you can persuade to join. The cost is not high, and by supporting HSA they'll be playing a vital role in keeping hunt saboteurs out there where they belong — in the hunting fields!

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With this HOWL we raise our cover price to £1.00. The new price will make no difference to HSA members, who will of course continue to receive the magazine free with their subscription. We've put it up (a) because it's worth every penny and costs far more than the old cover price to produce, and (b) to encourage you to order it in bulk as a merchandise item to raise funds for your local group. You'll find details on the enclosed merchandise order form.

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Finally, may I thank all of you who have sent me material to help put this HOWL together. Without your news clippings, reports, articles, letters and above all photographs, the magazine would be impossible to produce. Please keep sending them in and note that **the copy date for HOWL 46 is January 1st 1991.**



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

LAGER LOUTS?

Dear Howl,

It might be hoped that a new member joining a hunt sab group would find a hard core of caring people strongly motivated by a desire to help animals. Such groups would make fertile recruiting grounds for bringing people into the wider animal rights movement, and because they were genuine and selfless types whose satisfaction came from saving lives and exposing the hunt in the media, they would be highly effective also.

However what we get in a few cases are people who dominate a group and are motivated principally by pleasure seeking, and for whom socialising with friends and having a good laugh are uppermost in their minds. It is not difficult to identify such people as it is soon apparent to even the casual observer that they are not seriously motivated by a desire to help animals, and consequently they alienate a broad cross section of society who might otherwise support them.

Now fighting bloodsports is a thankless task and I am not objecting to people having a bit of light relief, particularly when seeking amusement at the expense of the hunting set. No, my objection is against those for whom serious concern for animals is conspicuous by its absence.

I saw an example of this when a group visiting a hunt some way out of its normal area gave a lift to a hunt saboteur from another group. Afterwards he came up to me and said: "I now know what it is like to be in with a van load of lager louts." It might be tempting to recruit people of the football hooligan mentality into a group for protection, but when they start to dominate it, the cause of animal rights is set back and hunt sabotage will fail to take off as the really effective force it can be in the fight against bloodsports.

Yours sincerely,
NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED
Southern England.

TONY FARAMUS

Dear Howl,

I am sorry to learn of the death of Tony Faramus. Tony was a life-long campaigner against cruelty. He had been held as a young man in the Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald and had witnessed at first hand the suffering that can be inflicted by those who wantonly inflict cruelty whilst blind to its consequences. In this country Tony was found regularly sabbing the meets of the Aldershot Beagles and lived long enough to celebrate their demise (the Rump Pack staggers on under its new name of Clinkard and is now known mainly for the number of deer that it puts up). Having spent so many years sabbing Tony became dedicated to the cause and was always at the forefront of any challenge to the hypocritical laws that are often used to defend hunting practices. This cost Tony a month in prison in 1987 when he was jailed for refusing to be bound-over merely for attending a sab of the Hampshire Hunt. The sab has resulted in B.O.P. charges against the sabs who were trying to reach a dig out (Howl 37). Nothing in the English penal system could compare of course to that which he had endured at Buchenwald and Tony bore his term in prison with fortitude. Nevertheless, surely there was no justification for imprisoning a man in his late sixties who had been found guilty of no crime but who was merely trying to assist an animal in distress. When hunting with hounds is finally crushed, as it must be in the not too distant future, then Tony's name must find a place in the history of the battle. I am glad I saw him in action and proud to have been a part of his group for a short period in 1983. My condolences go to his wife Mary who I know will carry on the fight against animal abuse.

Yours sincerely,
FLOD PAMMENT,
Edgbaston, Birmingham

SUSSEX POLICE DECLARE HUNT SABOTAGE ILLEGAL

IN A MAJOR operation involving the apparent co-operation of police, magistrates and hunt servants, thirty-two hunt saboteurs were arrested as they attempted to reach the **Chiddingfold, Leckonfield and Cowdray FH** on two separate days in September.

Despite the fact that most of them were arrested as they approached the meet and before any sabotage had begun, nearly all have been charged under Section Five of the Public Order Act. Hurriedly convened court sessions have approved punitive bail conditions. These seek to prevent the arrested sabs from going anywhere near any hunt or hunt premises before the date of their trial — which is not expected to come up before January. Clearly, the police objective has been to trample on the rights of saboteurs to take action against foxhunting; in effect to declare hunt sabotage illegal.

The first arrests came on September 15th. A lone police car approached saboteurs as they waited near the Chiddingfold kennels at 5.30am, and an officer told them there were police already at the meet who would arrest any saboteurs who showed up there. This, he said, was a warning. Asked if any further warnings would be given, the officer confirmed that the arresting officers at the meet would have to issue a warning of their own before apprehending anybody.

The saboteurs continued towards the meet, but their van was stopped within 1000 years of it by a packed police transit and a landrover. The senior officer told them they were all under arrest to prevent a breach of the police, and ordered them out of the van.

Except for three who managed to slip away, every saboteur was taken to the police station and charged. As the outrageous bail conditions were being fixed by magistrates two days later, the police prosecutor claimed that the force had had 'prior knowledge' based on 'background information' that a large number of sabs would be at the hunt on the 15th. Since arrangements had only been made a few days earlier by telephone, the source of that 'background informations' is unlikely to be disclosed.

The following Wednesday, saboteurs returned to the Chiddingfold, met with further harrassment from the police (but no further arrests), and witnessed hunt terriermen riding about in police landrovers.

On Saturday, 22nd September, the arrests continued. Police set up road blocks before dawn, stopping saboteurs on their way to the meet. The driver of the **Brighton Group's** landrover was



(Simon Wild)

Chiddingfold huntsman, Jeremy Whaley pours his troubled heart out to a friend.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY
Tel: 0602 590357
(24 hour answering service).
Fax Number: as above

charged with 'parking in a no parking zone' when forced to a stop by a road block near Petworth.

Saboteurs were able to sabotage the hunt, but were depleted by nine arrests for 'obstruction' and Section Five during the day. When some saboteurs went to Chichester police station to wait for the others to be released; a hunt member identified three of them on the spot for unspecified earlier offences, and the three were arrested at once. Plain clothes detectives in unmarked cars were seen following sab vehicles from other areas during the day in an operation that appeared to involve the police forces of two counties, Surrey and Sussex. Hunt servants and police were linked by CB radio throughout.

Once again, the arrested saboteurs were put through the courts on the Monday following and given the same draconian bail conditions as those imposed a week earlier.

The Chiddingfold will find that the HSA will not lie down quietly at the first signs of a rolled up trouser leg however. Lawful, non-violent sabotage will continue, and we'll bring you news of any further developments in HOWL 46.

SABOTEURS DEFY GUNS

BLOODSPORTERS taking part in a **Berkshire** partridge shoot in September opened fire despite the line of saboteurs who stood in their sights.

Nine members of **Oxford and Buckingham HSA** groups had come across the shoot in a valley near Wantage while looking for the **Old Berks FH** on September 15th.

Guided by the gamekeeper (!) onto a public footpath that crossed the valley directly in front of the guns, the sabs moved in swiftly and took up position in a line, one to the front of each gun. The landowner appeared and scurried between the bewildered shooters, telling them to ignore the saboteurs and fire anyway. Most of them were too confused by what was happening to know quite what to do, and hovered uncertainly with guns poised.

Two were more determined however, and alarmed their sab guardians by suddenly blasting away above their heads. One saboteur said a shooter fired right over her left shoulder. Four shots rang out and three birds fell dead, but then the guns were quiet. The keeper was summoned and the shooters asked his advice but he had none to give.

Then the saboteurs climbed the valley side, using screams and whistles to drive away the remaining birds, and came up against the shooters' beat-line which had just finished its work. For half an hour, the guns and beaters sat together and did nothing. The shoot was ruined.

Coursers Undeterred by Tiny Fines

ILLEGAL HARE COURSERS are coming under increased pressure from police and landowners in some parts of Britain, but the existing penalties are too small to meet the problem.

The large open fields of **North Hertfordshire** (particularly close to A505 around Royston) **South Cambridgeshire, Salisbury Plain** and **Suffolk** have become coursing black-spots in recent years with gangs of coursers converging from other districts and gambling huge sums of money.

With bets of more than £1,000 changing hands, the paltry maximum fine of £50 enforceable by the courts under the antiquated 1831 Game Act is of no use as a deterrent. Although coursers often turn up with four-wheel drive vehicles and cause a great deal of crop damage, farmers have been uneasy about reporting incidents to the police for fear of reprisals, and unwilling to challenge the gangs themselves for fear of assault.

Some progress has been made in Wiltshire however, where gangs from as far afield as Bristol and London have been meeting regularly on Salisbury Plain for many years. The police and the National Farmers Union have co-operated in the county to set up a scheme known as 'Farmwatch'. We suspect this measure may have implications for people other than coursers (saboteurs and Travellers for example), but it has certainly curtailed coursing.

As Sgt. John White of Wiltshire police told Farmers Weekly in July, 'With NFU help we started a pilot scheme in Amesbury involving 150 farms. It was so successful it has been extended to cover 1100 farms, or 85% of Wiltshire. We have arrested 60 individuals and every one of them has been successfully prosecuted. Hare coursing is still a problem, but last year there was a 75% reduction in the number of individuals involved', he said. A similar scheme has now been set up in Suffolk.

The apparent deterrent effect of police action on the Plain is explained not by the prospect of £50 fines, but by the use of local by-laws which permit police to impound dogs as well as valuable vehicles and equipment from the gangs.

HSA's Fringe Bloodsports officer, Keith Mann, writes: HSA mambers can help with surveillance of known coursers and by patrolling the black-spot areas. Tackling a large gang of coursers could of course be hazardous, but the police should be informed as soon as you have a positive sighting and the numbers of parked vehicles carefully noted. Coursers will be detered by the increasing likelihood of detection and interference despite the uselessness of the Game Act. You can also help by monitoring your local papers for reports of coursing cases and sending all clippings to me, c/o HSA at once. The following individuals have all been convicted for coursing offences in recent months. Keep an eye on them: David Wright, 31 Brookfield Avenue, Waterloo, Liverpool; Robert Gilmore, 6 Elms Road, Maghull, Liverpool; Francis Guitella, 46 Keir Hardie Avenue, Bootle, Liverpool. All three were fined £30 plus £5 costs by Crosby magistrates in July.



(Brian Pearson)

Hare coursing has never been more unpopular. . . but it carries on regardless. Demonstrators on their way to the Waterloo Cup, 1989.

HUNTER BITES HARE

A SUPPORTER of the **Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH** has been charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace after a macabre incident at the Hunt's game fair in August.

In a presumed attempt to upset the seventy members of **Clydeside HSA** who were picketing the event (which appeared to consist of a kebab van and a beer tent in a field), hunt supporters had been exposing their unsightly buttocks and urinating in front of children. Saboteurs presumed this to be normal behaviour for hunt followers during the close season and so were not particularly surprised when a man with a greyhound produced a dead hare and sank his teeth into its neck in an effort to persuade the picket line that he was biting its head off. Police were not amused and when charges were pressed, huntsmaster Alistair Campbell assumed an attitude of surprise, muttering something about 'gatecrashers'.

SYNOT CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

THE SUDDEN death of the Church of England Synod's debate on animal rights in July will have disappointed all HSA members.

The church Commissioners own a total of 160,000 acres of English farmland and so, as a major landowner, effectively control the hunting rights to a fair sized area of rural Britain.

Bishops were certainly lobbied feverishly by the BFSS and may also have been deterred by the complicated legal negotiations a bloodsport ban would involve them in with tenant farmers.

But by declining even to vote on the Archdeacon of Colchester's anti-hunting/anti-factory farming motion, the Synod took the easiest and most ineffective way out available to them. They accepted an ammendment calling for the whole issue to be referred to their Board For Social Responsibility and charged it with the wishy-washy task of concocting a 'statement of Christian Stewardship in relation to the whole of creation'.

Precisely what the relevance or practical usefulness of this will be is impossible to say. Various Christian pressure groups are doing their best to ensure the matter is not swept under the carpet. Christian Ecology Link, one such body, has asked HSA members who wish to become involved in the campaign to contact them at 5, Finchmead Lane, Stroud, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3PF. CEL involves itself in a wide range of Christian/ecological issues and is non-denominational.

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Our Ecclesiastical Correspondent writes:

Now that the Rev. Green in the television version of Cluedo has been spotted wearing an HSA badge, militant animal evengelism seems certain to be taken up by the mass-market.

EUROPEANS BACK HUNTING BANS

FRESH MOVES are being made to ban 'sport' shooting in several European countries as HOWL goes to press.

The 2000 licenced shooters who live under the aegis of the Brussels regional parliament in Belgium are currently trying to prevent a total ban on their activities from taking effect this year. If the local authority's bid to end shooting and stalking in the region is successful, there is good reason to hope that Belgium's other two local parliaments, Wallonia and Flanders, may follow suit.

More regionally-based pressure is expected to hit hunters in West Germany following the success of the country's Green Party in local elections in May.

In Niedersachsen, the Greens polled well enough to form a coalition government and will try to honour a manifesto commitment to abolish hunting in the area. This may not be an easy task however, for the policy directions of coalitions are notoriously difficult to predict.

Bloodsporters in Spain are not without their problems either. Recent legislation there has banned Falconry; the shooting of migratory birds and the taking of rabbits with ferrets or traps. Most birds are now protected from shooters throughout the breeding season.

BEARS FACE FINAL RECKONING

THE LAST thirteen bears still living in the French Pyrenees could soon be dead if the pro-hunt lobby gets its way.

Animal rights and conservation groups have successfully lobbied the French government to extend and strengthen legislation protecting the bears' habitat. But mountain farmers claim the thirteen animals are a danger to sheep farming (!) and seem determined to encourage hunters into the hills to destroy them.

Although about 200 bears were recorded in the region as recently as 1937, hunting and habitat destruction (chiefly through the over-zealous development of ski-resorts) have brought the Pyrenean bear to the brink of extinction. If given room to live, it might yet survive however. Last Spring, naturalists spotted the first cub to be born for five years. Green activists say they will patrol the bears' territory this Autumn in a bid to keep the fanatical bloodsporting lobby away from the protected area.

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A Spanish hunter, Lorenzo Fernandez is currently facing a stiff penalty for killing a brown bear two years ago in Palencia.

If the recommendation of a Spanish Justice and Public Attorney made at his trial are successful, Fernandez will be fined the equivalent of £8,825, go to prison for six months and lose his gun licence.

HUNT GUNMAN SHOT

A MAN EMPLOYED by the **Tiverton FH** had to be taken to hospital in August after his assistant accidentally shot him in the leg.

Hunt servants Mathew Norrish and Anthony Holdsworth were supposed to be shooting a sheep to feed the hunt's hounds. But Holdsworth slipped, fell backwards, and blasted Norrish by mistake from just six feet away.

The hunt do not bother with the 'captive bolt' type of gun usually used for slaughtering animals in abatoirs, and which at least ensures that its victim dies instantly provided it is used properly. Environmental Health officials are to investigate the case and inquire into the hunt's use of 'free-bullet' guns for killing livestock. Kennels staff are keeping their heads down (probably a good idea with crackshots like Holdsworth strutting around the compound) and saying nothing about the incident.



Mystery Man at the Ball

By our Court & Country correspondent

THE Southern Anti-Hunt Ball, which was held on July 7th in Steep, Hampshire, was a big success. Among the attractions were good vegan food, good beer and Anne Llewellyn's legs! The hunting horn competition was won by none other than Dave Fowler of Farnham, and the raffle won by the man in the photo (own up please; we don't know your name). Best news of all is that we even managed to make a profit (HSA benefit of course).

Big thanks to everyone who lent a hand, including Sue and Mick for running a merchandise stall, Roz for the balloons and Petersfield yobs for running the bar. The next one will be advertised in HOWL so watch this space!

Deb, Petersfield Sabs.

American sab jailed



IN THE FIRST case of its kind, a hunt saboteur has been jailed under America's Hunter Harassment laws.

Heidi Prescott was found in contempt of court at Montgomery County in July for refusing to pay a $500 fine imposed upon her last November. She was jailed for 15 days.

Heidi had been arrested along with twelve other saboteurs whilst disrupting a deer shoot in Maryland. The court heard that she had been talking to hunters and rustling leaves with her feet — clear proof of harassment! Under the controversial new laws, it becomes illegal to interfere with the activities of hunters in any direct way.

This has led to much legal debate in the States because hunters may only hunt on permits granted by local authorities. There is therefore no absolute 'right' to hunt, but the right of free speech is protected by the First Amendment. Saboteurs contend that the law represents an infringement of the basic rights of all Americans. As one activist, Wayne Pacelle, puts it, 'It is a privilege to hunt and a right to speak. The court in Montgomery has favoured a privilege over a fundamental right'.

After Heidi was led in handcuffs from court to begin her sentence, a spokesman for the Maryland Rifle & Pistol Association commented: 'We don't have a problem with them using traditional methods of expressing themselves, but when they violate the law, this is what should happen'.

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Meanwhile, in the San Francisco Bay area of California, fresh sab action is just getting underway. Hunt saboteurs will disrupt the planned killing of thirty Tule Elk by hunters on Grizzly Island during the next few weeks.

Licences have been granted for hunters to cross over to the island in groups of six for several weeklong slaughter holidays, and stringent efforts are being made to prevent saboteurs following them.

Local activists say they will cross the water in private boats and canoes if necessary, and defy the State's hunter harassment laws. As usual in American hunt sabotage, the principle aim will be to track the progress of hunters and then cause a disturbance to frighten the elk away as soon as they are in any danger.

The Tule elk is a native animal of California, once numbering 500,000 in the Central Valley area. But is was made almost extinct by human interference during the Gold Rush in the middle of the last century. Of the 2,700 presently roaming California, 170 live on Grizzly Island.

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106 American hunters shot 2,956 Prairie Dogs in two days at Nucla, Colorado in July.

Winners of the World Championship Prairie Dog Shoot, Earl Reams and Randy Calhoun, both local ranchers, killed 112 of the rodents between them.

Prairie Dogs are considered a pest by ranchers because their burrowing harms crops and 'poses hazards to livestock'. But animal rights groups who held a banner demo before the event dismissed it as a 'contest of cruelty and an excuse for mindless bloodletting.'

Welsh Hunt Rocked by Sex Drama

THE **Curre FH** are facing a difficult season following the resignation of joint-master Wayne Kathrens this summer; and some embarassing revelations about his frolics in the hay with another joint-master's wife.

Kathrens had been having a clandestine affair with Liz Broome, wife of his good friend, fellow hunter and top international showjumper, David Broome. He resigned his job after realising that he and Liz had been so indiscreet about it that, as a local source told gossip-hungry reporters, 'everyone was talking about it'.

This is hardly an auspicious start to the season for the Chepstow-based Curre. They will have to deal with the unwelcome publicity now being attracted by Broome (in his role as the Wronged-Husband-Who-Neglected-His-Family) as well as the divided loyalties of other hunt members who may be sorry to see Kathrens go after ten years service with the pack.

HSA EUROPEAN TOUR 1990

IF YOU'VE got a month to spare next spring and would like to turn your hand to sabotaging bloodsports on the other side of the channel, **Cotswold HSA** would like to hear from you.

About ten volunteers are needed for the trip, leaving in March 1991, and working alongside anti-hunting activists in France, Germany and Italy.

Ability to speak any of these languages would be useful and you should expect to need about £200 to meet personal and travelling expenses.

Further info from:
COTSWOLD HSA
PO BOX 94
CHELTENHAM, GLOS.

Violent Incidents Escalate in South

FOOT FOLLOWERS from two southern hunts were responsible for two of the worst outbreaks of violence against saboteurs at dig-outs for many months on September 29th.

The most serious occurred at a meet of the New Forest FH when **Lyndhurst saboteur** Peter White was set upon by hunt supporters after climbing down into a hole dug by the hunt's terrier men.

Suddenly he found himself grabbed by the collar and jerked into the air by two hunt followers. Nurse Mellie Lane, a member of the **New Forest Animal Protection Group,** said she saw him gasping for breath as his collar caught against his throat and tightened.

When his assailants let him down again, Peter was left unconscious on his back with sand in his mouth and ears. Mellie ran to help him, and later told the Southern Echo:

"I was trying to find a pulse but it was very weak. His body was limp and there were red marks all around his neck. His Adams apple had taken his entire body weight. This lad came very close to seeing his last day."

Peter was detained in hospital overnight but discharged himself the following day. Four saboteurs were arrested that day for obstruction and Section Five and were kept in police custody for two days prior to being taken before magistrates and conditionally bailed. Two more saboteurs were arrested and detained in the same way the following Saturday, but as HOWL goes to press, the police have yet to arrest anyone for the attempted throttling of Peter White.

The second incident took place at a meet of the Beaufort FH. Disorderly hunt followers and riders had been growing increasingly violent in the weeks preceding, smashing the windows of a sab Land Rover and making free with the horsewhips. But on this occasion, saboteurs were subjected to a calculated attack by a mob of hunt followers as they tried to prevent a dig-out. In the midst of it, a sab from Gloucester was hit so hard across the head with a shovel that he lost consciousness. A total of eight saboteurs were treated in hospital for their injuries.

Police did take this incident seriously and have interviewed a number of hunt followers. However, they were obstructive to the three sabs who returned to the Beaufort the following Wednesday. As though trying to add insult to injury, a policewoman accused one saboteur of trying to 'aggravate' hunt supporters after hearing him say 'good morning' to them from the window of his car. The sabs were told to leave or face arrest for Section Five offences.



(Save Our Stags)

Butchery on the Quantock Hills. An archive picture of the Quantock's huntsman disembowelling a stag with his pocket knife.

Hunt Scuppers Deer Survey

AN ATTEMPT by the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation to organise a survey of the red deer population on the **Quantock Hills** got off to a poor start at the end of March when the Quantock Staghounds invaded the survey area.

Despite an often stated 'concern' for the future well-being and conservation of the red deer, the hunt chose to ignore a written request from the Trust to stay clear of the Cockercombe area while a deer drive was being undertaken by Trust members. The drive was to have recorded deer numbers and involved a large number of Forestry Commission workers who had been drafted in from outside the area to help.

But the day before the drive took place, the Staghounds marauded through the forest at Cockercombe, scattering the herd and killing nearby.

The disturbance undoubtedly distorted the information obtained by the drive, but the hunt offered no explanation or apology for their action. Wildlife groups in the county are becoming increasingly concerned about the Quantock deer herd. The **Devon & Somerset Residents Association for Deer Protection** believes there may be as few as 6-10 mature and healthy breeding stags in the hills. This situation would lead to immature youngsters and less healthy animals breeding and lowering the herd's threshold of resistance to disease.

Interestingly, Somerset County Council's recently published Quantock Management Plan comes down heavily against the proliferation of horse-riding and names it as an important source of habitat disturbance. Much of the area is a designated SSSI.

'A galloping horse usually having much greater impact than a walking one', says the report, 'the cutting and crushing action of hooves directly damages heather and gorse plants and soils are cut and churned.' The Management Plan fails to condemn hunting in the light of such knowledge, but the County Council had not been completely negligent.

In April this year, it brought a private prosecution against two Keenthorne farmers for damaging habitat during a meet of the Quantock hounds. They were fined £75 each for driving a Toyota pick-up truck and a Range Rover across the SSSI at Wills Neck. Both men are regular hunt followers and have been warned several times before by Quantock wardens.

One of them, Raymond Barrow, displayed the hunt's real contempt for conservation issues by declaring in court, 'If a warden came up to me, I would ignore him'. The warden service, established in 1976, was 'a waste of time and a sheer waste of ratepayers' money', said Barrow.



(Oxford HSA)

Criminal Damage! Oxford saboteurs inspect the damage to their rear window after their car was attacked by members of the Bicester with Whaddon Chase.

Saving Deer is a Big Job

REGULAR readers may remember that in HOWL 34 (Autumn 1986), we drew attention to the fact that lion droppings had the capacity to 'send hounds wild', and could probably be obtained by any saboteurs willing to compromise themselves enough to enquire at a zoo.

It now seems likely to be sold commercially in the near future — as a deer repellant.

A farm supplies company, Dalgety, has taken out the patent on a spray version of a product containing essence of lion dung and will be promoting it to farmers as the ideal protection for crops suffering from deer predation. It has already proved effective in keeping deer away from young tree saplings and if it is as good as they claim, it will knock most pro-hunting arguments for deer control into a cocked hat.

According to the leader of the lion dung research team, Dr Chris Faulkes, 'the repellant does not cause panic among the deer. It simply makes them instinctively avoid the areas where it has been sprayed. This way there is no need to shoot them.'

BEAGLE FESTIVAL REPRIEVED

A LOWER THAN expected turn-out of saboteurs at this year's Northumberland Beagling Festival has given its organisers a year's grace and considerable relief.

Tyneside sabs were disappointed at the low numbers after the massive success of the campaign against the Festival in recent years. But those groups who did manage the journey still had a good week.

Protecting the Newcastle & District, Sproughton Foot, Derwent Valley and Wick & District Beagles was, as usual, a full and demanding job for the ten to fifteen SPG officers and assorted regular policemen who were drafted in for the week.

Three arrests under Section Five and seven reports for summons were issued, but saboteurs are currently filing six separate complaints against the police for incidents arising during the week.

Although low numbers meant that saboteurs were fully stretched tactically, only three hares were killed by hounds that week. Unfortunately even that is a 300% increase in fatalities on last year's clean sheet.

Hunters did not only account for hares this year. The Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles (who, because they are a vulnerable college pack, never appear on the official Festival meet card), allowed their dogs to run across the A1 trunk road near Alnwick and lost three of them in the inevitable traffic accident that followed.

Tyneside HSA would like to say a big thank you to those individuals who did take part in this year's sabotage, and to the following groups: **Huddersfield, York, Carlisle, and Edinburgh & Borders.**



My Kingdom for a horse . . . Octogenarian Blean Beagle Master, Mrs McKeevers, rounds up saboteurs with the new Land Rover Shuttle craft.



Suffer the little children. A small boy is given a whip of his own and introduced to the barbarity of hunting by members of the Hunsley Beacon Beagles.

Happy Birthday Westerby!

OVER FIFTY hunt saboteurs joined well-wishers at the Westerby Bassetts' 100th Birthday meet in September.

Sending their best wishes and many happy returns on behalf of this country's persecuted wildlife, the HSA delegation were on hand to ensure no bloodletting was allowed to spoil the celebrations.

DEER BILL WRECKED

AS USUAL a small shower of Tory MPs who act as parliamentary stooges for the bloodsports lobby stepped in to prevent anti-deer hunting legislation reaching the statute books in June.

Jeremy Corbyn MP (Labour, Islington), introduced his Abolition of Deer Hunting Bill on June 19th under the Ten Minute Rule. The first reading went unopposed although one Tory member, Nicholas Soames, was seen glaring menacingly at Corbyn before theatrically marching from the chamber.

But on June 22nd, the Bill was blocked during its second reading by Nicholas Bonsor MP (Chair of the BFSS) and Michael Colvin MP (Chair of the CCS and Vice-Chair of the BFSS).

Colvin, who also helped to sabotage Tony Banks' Badger Bill this summer, is a life member of the RSPCA which had just issued its first specific policy statement against staghunting. RSPCA members are now demanding Colvin's expulsion from the Society.

PHOTO 'FAKED' SAYS SHOOTING MAG

AN ARTICLE published in the Shooting Gazette (April/May 1990) has claimed that the now infamous incident in which a stag took refuge from the Devon & Somerset Staghounds by mounting the roof of a house in Porlock, was faked.

The stag had been a 'dummy' and the press were 'stitched up' according to the writer of the article. This absurd allegation was acted upon at once by the Devon & Somerset Residents' Association for Deer Protection, and formal complaints sent to the magazine.

Bill Cavanagh, who took the original photographs, went on to become the Association's treasurer and it is assumed that the article is a deliberate, if unintelligent, attempt to smear the powerful local anti-hunt lobby.

The magazine is not defending its action however. The Gazette's editor has agreed to print an apology and retraction in the next issue.

The DSRADP can be contacted at High Feather, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, Taunton TA4 4EA.

TONY FARAMUS

Farewell to a Good Friend

With Tony Faramus' death on Saturday, 4th August, at the age of 70, the HSA lost a good friend.

Tony was an ardent and active animal rightist who was particularly operational in the hunting fields of Southern England where he was affectionately known by the local sabs as "The Living Legend". He will be best remembered as the tall elegant man standing beside his green VW in the lanes of Surrey and Hampshire, very often in the company of his wife Mary and devoted dog Dan, constantly on the lookout for foxes, hares or sabs in danger and ever ready to do his bit to save them. Many a sab has had a lucky escape in Tony's green beetle.

Tony's activeness belied his years. His very strong comradely link with sabs half a century younger than himself was evidence of both his determination to cross the orthodox age divide and .his ability to respect and value the commitment of the young to take great risks in fighting for noble causes.

In this regard he had a wealth of his own personal experiences to fall back on. As a young man in his early 20's, living in the Channel Islands during the War years he was unable to acquiescently accept the imposed tyrannical tactics of the occupying German forces. There were far too few real heroes on those Islands during the war years but Tony was very definitely one of those few. His daring and uncompromising exploits eventually led to his capture though. He was transported to the notorious concentration camps of Mauthausen and Buchenwald where he was incarcerated for over 5 years, suffering greatly and losing a lung in the process. It was particularly his experience on witnessing the plight of the farm animals brought to Mauthausen which would, in his own words, "thereafter remain deeply embedded in my mind and would greatly affect my outlook and my attitude to life."

Tony paid for fighting the system in the UK too. At the age of 67, and in poor health, the State, in all its unenlightened might, committed him to a month in prison for failing to accept a binding over order resulting from an incident at a fox hunt.

Tony's concern didn't stop at bloodsports though. He was involved in fighting all forms of animal abuse and became a well known figure at demos such as the weekly protests over 3 years at London's notorious Club Row market. He was also a staunch supporter and active member of the South East Animal Liberation League during its co-ordinated campaigns against the South's vivisection industries.

His resolve was constantly strengthened by the presence and shared compassionate view of Mary. They met 37 years ago at Elstree Studios. Both were actors. They made a perfect couple and were both equally determined to fight mankind's tyrannical abuse of the animal kingdom.

The funeral, held at Farnham's impressive parish church on the 13th August, was a very moving experience for all those who attended. The pure diversity of the mourners was incredibly inspirational. Well known faces from the ranks of Animal Aid, LACS and the ALF mingled freely together. Dark suits and black HSA vests were side by side in the pews.

The HSA was represented in force, particularly by a large group of sabs fresh back from sabbing the New Forest's cub hunt. There was official HSA representation too in the form of two wreaths, one bearing the motif "Ban Bloodsports", the other with the words "West London Hunt Sabotuers" (inevitably spelt incorrectly). Tony would have liked that. He would have appreciated too the fact that his funeral coincided with the HSA's offensive against the opening day of this year's Grouse Shooting season. It's nice to think that his spirit was not only out with the local foxes that day but also flying free with the grouse up on the northern moors, steering as many as he could out of harm's way.

It was evident back at Mary and Tony's house afterwards that Tony's family, many of them over from his home Channel Islands, were overwhelmed by the love and affection which filled the house. The abundance of cards of condolence included one from a local beagle pack master and Mary has subsequently received sympathetic notes from her local MP and even representatives of the Surrey and Hampshire Constabularies! This was the measure of the man — the fact that he could command not just the life of those who do share his own sense of conviction but also the respect of those who don't.

Tony died at home in the company of Mary, Dan and two long time friends. Our thoughts are much with Mary and Dan at this time.

Tony recently committed his wartime experience to print. His philosophy is best summed up in the book's last sentence . . . "Although I value my freedom, constantly under threat, I will never be persuaded that bad and immoral laws must be left unchallenged, even to this day". It's a philosophy which I know we all share.

Dave Wetton

"Journey into Darkness" — an autobiography by Anthony Faramus — is published by Grafton.



(Simon Wild)

Tony Faramus (left) with fellow sabs and wife Mary (right) out with the Aldershot Beagles in January 1989

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH BADGER-BAITING

AS PART OF a renewed campaign to combat and expose the less 'public' forms of bloodsports (from coursing, shooting and terrier-work to illegal practices like cockfighting and badgerbaiting), the HSA has appointed a 'Fringe Bloodsports officer, Keith Mann. Keith will be keeping a close eye on court cases involving badger diggers throughout the coming year, and here summarises the current situation.

To date this year, there have been roughly 23 convictions for badger related offences. 11 for dogfighting and 4 for cock/quail fighting. The majority of animal cruelty cases usually result in the offenders walking from court with nothing more than a fine and the token animal ownership ban, which isn't worth the paper its written on because all the offender has to say is that the dog in his/her possession belongs to his/her partner or friend!

The small number of convictions or arrests for badger digging and baiting are very worrying when we consider that an estimated 10,000 badgers are being dug out every year. Something more has obviously got to be done. Since some MPs still refuse to help badgers because of their interest in foxhunting, and subsequently block any change in the law, its going to be down to us.

Groups in some areas are now forging links with badger protection groups and others concerned about the plight of the badger. If you are in a position to do so, then make contact with your local group and discover the ways in which you can help each other. For example, just one extra vehicle checking badger setts will make a hell of a difference to most badger groups (and badgers).

Many diggers 'go to work' two or three times a week after badgers alone. Most police forces put insufficient energy into watching and apprehending badger diggers and are in any case likely to be less knowledgeable and experienced that we are at earmarking likely suspects and high risk setts. Active saboteurs who have carried out even the most basic research on their local 'working dog' fraternity will already have some ideas about which people to watch. Monitor them as closely as you can, particularly if they already have a digging conviction against them. You may not actually catch them at a sett but there are other ways to make their lives difficult.

For example, if they are using vehicles which are unroadworthy or untaxed, you can report them to the police. Drivers of sab vans will know what hassle this can be! You may have further thoughts and suggestions of your own and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

When court cases do come up, don't leave it to the whims of local newspaper editors to decide whether or not to give the hearing priority coverage. Issue a press release. If you're uncertain about doing this, simply contact the HSA press officer who'll be glad to help. Next, get as many sabs, badger group members etc., as possible to attend court, and let everybody, especially the diggers, know what the public thinks about their activities. At the most recent, and well publicised case in mid-Wales, a handful of antis made the diggers' court appearance most uncomfortable and chased them for miles when they left court!

The following list provides details of all persons convicted of badger-digging offences during the last 12 months, together with their poxy sentences. They represent a tiny minority of the total number of people believed to be regular diggers of badger, and the level of sentences cannot be said to have a deterrent effect. Please remember to send all newscuttings and any other information you may collect on your region to me, c/o HSA or at PO Box 87, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 1AA.

Dates of birth appear in brackets after each name:

LLANGOLLEN, 27/11/1989: Malcolm Hopwood (1960), 29 Idwal, Plas Madoc, Ruabon, Wrexham; Christopher Till, 162 Stockbridge Lane, Huyton, Merseyside; Andrew Fielding, Huyton, Merseyside; Kevin Roberts, Huyton, Merseyside.

All received fines of £250 + £75 costs.

ROCHDALE, 15/2/1989 & 3/4/1990: James Williams (1948), 187 Bamford Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Lancs; Steven Holt (1961), 94 Tong Road, Little Lever, Bolton, Lancs.

Williams got a £1,200 fine + £500 costs; Holt got a £750 fine + £230 costs.

MARKET DRAYTON, 5/1/1990: Steven Fishwick (1957), 32 Derwent Road, Chorley, Lancs; David Travis (1963), Winwood St, Leigh, Lancs; Sean Nightingale (1967), 4 Ballcarres Road, Ashton, Preston, Lancs; Gordon Grimshaw (1958), 3 Kenneth Avenue, Leigh, Lancs; Paul Blackledge (1961), 103 Blackburn Road, Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancs.

Fishwick, Travis and Nightingale received fines totalling £2,000. Grimshaw received a month in prison and a 10 year dog ban. Blackledge received four months in prison and a dog ban for life.

MARKET BOSWORTH, late 1989: John Ford (age 40), 16 Chapel Lane, Ratby, Leicester; Alistair Pick (31), 26 Curzon Road, Aylestone, Leicester; Neil Chappell (33), 2 Uppingham Drive, Broughton Astley, Leicester; Mark Sloan (20), 38 Markfield Lane, Ratby, Leicester.

All received a £1,000 fine + £141 costs.

KENDAL, 12/4/1990: Kenneth Place (1933), Underwood Farm, Clough Fold, Rossendale, Lancs; Keith Simpson (1961), 7 North Road, Clough Fold, Rossendale, Lancs; Paul Knightingale (1953), 18 Thornfield Ave., Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancs.

Simpson and Knightingale both received £850 fines with £250 costs. Place received a £350 fine with £180 costs.

GUISBOROUGH, 13/4/1990: Graham Knight (1965), Macmillan Road, South Bank, Middlesborough.

£500 fine, £150 expenses, £69 costs.

CHEADLE, 31/1/1990: Darren Cashmore (1968), Harvey Road, Meir, Stoke on Trent; Sean Walley (1966), Poole St., Fenton, Stoke on Trent.

Both received 3 months in prison, a £500 fine, a 5 year dog ban, had their dogs and equipment confiscated and were banned from driving for a year for motoring offences.



(NWHSA)

Badger diggers Kleth Simpson (centre) and Paul Knightingale (right) at Kendal magistrates court in April.

USK, 16/4/1990: Colin Day (1961), 38 Brynwern, Pontypool, South Wales; David Perry (1966), Picton Street, Griffiths Town, South Wales; Mark Walker (1966), Wentsland Crescent, Tranch, Pontypool, South Wales.

All three received a £50 fine.

WREXHAM, 15/8/90: Andrew Dixon (1965), Hathill Road, Blacon, Chester; Darren Hickey (1966), Blacon Ave., Blacon, Chester.

Both received a £200 fine + £35 costs and a 5 year dog ban.

BUILTH WELLS, 24/9/1990: Trevor Limb (1971), 10 Two Acre Ave., Benchill, Manchester; Mark White (1965), Parc-y-Castell, Builth Wells, Powys; Shaun Williams (1964), Flat 3, 38 Broad St., Builth Wells, Powys; David Shaw (1967), 12 Royal Thorn Drive, Benchill, Manchester; Darren Leach (1967), The White Horse Video Shop, Railway Terrace, Builth Wells.

All found guilty on 7 charges (including one of cruelty to a dog). Each got 3 months in prison, fines of £800 + costs of £300 and five year dog ban.

CASE NOTES

The four month prison sentence given to Paul Blackledge at Market Drayton in April was made possible under legislation to protect dogs from ill-treatment and not under the Badger Act. The stipendary magistrate, Bruce Morgan, told Blackledge that the 1973 Act was woefully inadequate for dealing with the 'horrific injuries' his terrier had suffered. Steven Fishwick, fined £500 at Market Drayton, was not given a prison sentence and he took his case to appeal. Judge David Roberts overturned Fishwick's conviction at Shrewsbury Crown Court on a legal technicality over some incorrect grammar on the indictment.

The five men sentenced in September at Builth Wells are similarly expected to get short prison sentences for the injuries received by their dogs. This case was helped by video film evidence shot by an undercover reporter, which shows Leach holding a badger down with his boot while slowly stabbing it eleven times. He blasted at another with a 12-bore shotgun after the mens' dogs had already been tearing at its hind legs.

Three months after the close of the Kendal case, the ALF paid a nocturnal visit to Simpson's kennel and removed seven dogs. These have now been re-housed. Despite finding Simpson guilty of ill-treating his dogs, the court had made no order banning him from continuing to keep them. Lancashire members of the Fell and Working Terrier Club, of which Simpson remains a member, have now stumped up a £200 reward for information leading to the dogs' recovery. The club is evidently not fussy about the company it keeps, despite frequent public statements that it does not condone illegal bloodsports.

James Royston Williams, fined at Rochdale in April, has a previous conviction for badger-baiting from the same court. RSPCA officers said they had tried to serve summonses on him 25 times. Williams and his wife Susan run a breeding kennels — Hollybridge Border Terriers — and are members of the Kennel Club. Mrs Williams is secretary of the Rochdale Canine Society.

Detailed notes and copies of press reports on all of the above cases may be had from Keith Mann, c/o HSA or at PO Box 87, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 1AA. Edited one-hour copies of the video used in the evidence against the Builth Wells baiters are available from HSA at £5.00 each.

BADGER BILL SABOTAGED

HSA MEMBERS will by now be aware that the Protection of Badger Setts Bill, framed by Labour MP Tony Banks and supported by the RSPCA & RSNC as well as a 200,000 signature LACS petition, was sabotaged and defeated in the Commons by two Tory bloodsports fanatics.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor (BFSS Chairman) and other Tory members had already plucked the teeth from the Bill in Committee stage by insisting that Foxhunters continue to be allowed to stop up setts with earth. In July however, Michael Colvin MP (Chairman of the Council for Country Sports and an RSPCA member) and Sir Charles Morrison MP blocked the Bill at Report Stage because the foxhunting lobby was still not satisfied.

'Tony Banks has framed the Bill in such a way that anyone going near a badger sett with a spade is committing an offence', Colvin told the press, evidently inferring that this was unacceptable. 'If this Bill were to get on the statute books as it is, there is no question that it would be the beginning of the end of foxhunting.'



(Frodsham Badger Protection Society)

The people may change but the barbarity's just the same. This photo, taken in Cheshire in 1972 shows a badger being baited by 7 dogs, including a greyhound. Its back legs are held by a chain to prevent escape. The animals mutilated head, minus its nose and lower jaw, finished up mounted on a plaque.

HUNT THUGS' APPEAL FAILS

FOUR supporters of the Devon & Somerset Staghounds who were convicted of assaulting LACS Sanctuaries manager John Hicks back in 1988, lost their appeal in July and were left with a hefty bill for costs. Robin and Kenneth Floyd, and Kenneth and Irene Luxton had been convicted of affray following an attempt to prevent Hicks from filming a kill. Their original £100 fines have now been added to by a £1,600 joint bill for court costs ordered by the appeal court at Taunton.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SABBING AND TRAINSPOTTING?

Ho ho ho, what a ridiculous question! After all, what possible connection could there be between gallivanting around the countryside on a Saturday afternoon trying to prevent silly red things sat atop brown things trying to catch other smaller red things with brown and white things as opposed to jotting down the number of the 7.42 Waterloo to Bournemouth InterCity Service as it whizzes past you huddled at the end of platform 11, Clapham Junction? Any fool can see there's no resemblance whatsoever! Then perhaps any fool should delve a little deeper . . .

Okay, so on the surface there's no apparent similarity between the two, barring vaguely superficial connections such as the thermos flask (standard sab issue for tepid, revolting barleycup — yuck!) and the small portable VHF radio (imperative when out sabbing for football results) that Timothy Potter (trainspotter) can be seen brandishing wildly on platform 11 as necessary tools of his trade. But beneath the surface, it's a different story. Ask yourself this; what is the ultimate goal of trainspotters world-wide? Given that congregating in anoraks to collect combinations of six-digit numbers is not especially fashionable, credible or even socially acceptable behaviour (except to other trainspotters) one must assume that the aim in trainspotting is to compile a complete list of train numbers, thus admirably demonstrating endurance, aptitude, numeracy and a whole string of other fine human virtues. Spread over the entire planet earth, there must also be a finite number of trains to spot, so surely this goal, however unlikely, is eventually achievable, is it not?

No, it's not. By the time an enterprising Timothy has spent three years touring all the locomotive sheds in, say, Paraguay, and then a further two years doing the same in neighbouring Chile, the Paraguayan equivalent of British Rail will have seen fit to spend lots of money on a whole new set of trains for Timothy to collect! The cycle is never ending. Even the most ruthless and determined trainspotter can never hope to collect every existing number. Thus, by definition, trainspotting is ultimately completely pointless.

Next, ask yourself the same question about sabbing; what is our ultimate goal? Temporarily forgetting shooters, trappers, fishermen and all the other murdering bastards in this world, ultimately we aim to stop hunting. But how effective are the means? There are at least 500 hunts (including the unregistered variety) in the UK, on average operating about four times a week. Presently there are at most 50 regularly active sab groups going out on every hunting Saturday, and that's being optimistic. For the sake of further optimism, let's say that each group always sabs a different hunt to any other group. So, during the hunting season, one tenth of the hunts get sabbed one quarter of the time, and the sabbing that takes place is probably successful about half of the time. Statistically speaking then, hunt saboteurs have an effect at approximately one in every eighty hunts that takes place in the UK. Include the aforementioned largely-neglected bloodsport categories and the figure becomes astronomically small. Whilst arguably credible, sabbing is certainly not an even vaguely fashionable way of spending an average Saturday afternoon for the average person, so it is unlikely there will be a massive upsurge in active saboteur numbers in the forseeable future, and thus the statistical success rate will never become more favourable. In other words, sabbing alone will not stop hunting. By definition therefore, sabbing in itself is ultimately completely pointless. Rather like trainspotting really . . .

Please don't take this personally. The above is not meant to challenge or enrage, but deluding ourselves that we are getting somewhere will never fuel more realistic thought about how the HSA, as a movement, is to develop. Thinking into the future becomes much easier once we accept that we go sabbing primarily for our own benefit; it appeases our *own* conscience. True, it also saves some animals in the short term, as well as providing some visible opposition to hunting, sometimes helpful from a media/political viewpoint. As the most effective form of protest currently available against hunting, sabbing is therefore a very worthwhile activity, but only as long as it remains the most effective form of protest for, as previously explained, as a means to an end it is not really very efficient at all. So, what are the potential options?

One is to look at how the HSA rates in comparison to other organisations under the 'Green Movement' banner in terms of size, expansion rate, parliamentary effectiveness, public support and so on. Inevitably you arrive at the answer 'pitiful'. In spite of this, the flagship of the movement, Greenpeace, are actually great exponents of direct action, just like the HSA. The difference here is that direct action only forms a small part of their means; the 'sabbing' they do is always a controlled spearhead for a well-researched campaign that, ultimately, brings results. Take whaling — they haven't stopped it yet, but the various quota moratoriums they've achieved have done far more damage to the whaling industry than had the entire HSA membership taken to paddling up to Iceland in rubber dinghies in a bid to surround it . . .

Next, witness the recent troubles within the HSA. Despite the irony of how much regression it has caused, many people accept that it was not the 'progressive' vision that was necessarily at fault, but the manner in which it was force-fed. Their solution was simply faster than the organisation, and democracy in general, could cope with. In many ways it was a more realistic solution than the "let's all go sabbing 'til eternity" scenario, but one involving the sacrifice of nearly all those famous HSA concrete cows. Like it or not, expansion and professionalisation are essentials; that means an office and paid employees. One of the main problems within the HSA is the lightning turnover of staff. Many committee posts, if done properly, are full-time; with ever more stringent DHSS regulations, it is simply no longer possible to survive for long on a voluntary basis. But enough of this; you've already heard common sense dictate it, if not the reading between the lines of various 'progressive' literature. No-one is suggesting such change is achieved overnight, the progressive doctrine should have been openly and carefully discussed over a period of time as one potential long-term strategy, not the be all or end all of the HSA. But the lesson is nonetheless there to be learnt; a more creative and objective approach must eventually be adopted if we are to ultimately succeed in condemning hunting to the history books, because sabbing in itself is about as useful as trainspotting.

For the meantime, I know which of the two I'd rather be doing on a Saturday afternoon, and it certainly isn't counting Class 42 Freightliners bound for Manchester Picadilly . . .

Mike Hall



(Oxford HSA)

Everyone loves trainspotting! The Avonvale trespassing on a line near Melksham, Wilts.

DEALING WITH THE POLICE

The HSA now has 2 legal officers. One is a Legal Liaison Officer, Will Clark. His job is to keep track of all the cases (sabs v. hunt/sabs v. police/police v. hunt) which are going on. He can only do this with your help! Please inform him c/o the P.O. Box about all your legal business.

The other is the Legal Officer, Jamie Hepburn. His job is to provide sabs with advice on dealing with the police and the law, and to help your solicitors with court cases (legal precedents, etc). He is also building up a list of good firms of solicitors up and down the country — do you know of any? He too can be contacted via the P.O. Box.

It's very rare these days for sabs to attend a hunt without seeing the police: you often spend as much time dealing with the police (or trying not to!) as you do sabotaging the hunt.

The most important point is probably when you first meet them, because that will set the tone for the rest of the day. If they sense that you are easily bossed about, you can expect to be bossed about from that point on. At the other extreme, if they think that you are "bolshy" or are "giving them cheek" (favourite phrases with some of our local constabularly) then you can likewise expect heavy-duty policing. What works best in my experience it to be firm, but polite — and also to spend as little time as possible talking to them. If you feel that the "friendly chat" is being unnecessarily extended, to keep you from sabbing, then say goodbye and walk away. You cannot be detained against your will unless they arrest you. The officer in question may not be best pleased, but he knows your rights perfectly well, regardless of what he may say!

SECTION FIVE

Section 5 is in vogue with the police at the moment. It's a complicated subject, and readers are referred to two articles in HOWL 42 and 44. There are a few things I would like to add to these articles, however.

First of all, you must have been warned about your conduct, and have continued despite the warning, in order to be arrested under Section 5. Thus if the police say to you before the hunt starts (i.e. at the meet) "we're warning you not to do such-and-such" that does not constitute such a warning, because you hadn't yet done anything when they warned you. So the longer you avoid being warned after you start sabbing, the better. (Which is not to say that while sabbing you will necessarily be acting contrary to section 5, but it'll save you trouble). However, they can send you a summons without having warned you — if they know your name and address).

As the article in HOWL 44 said, we are winning more section five cases than we're losing (Nottingham sabs are 9-1 up at the moment) but this doesn't meant that the police are about to give up arresting us for it! If you are arrested under section 5 (or for anything else) please get in touch with the HSA, because there is a lot we can do to help with your case.

Finally, it must be stressed that in the opinion of the vast majority of magistrates and judges who have heard such cases, horn-blowing and use of voice calls are not in themselves contrary to section five.

SEARCHES

This is a common tactic with one of our local forces, and crops up sooner or later almost everywhere else. In order to search a person or a vehicle, the police must have "reasonable suspicion" that you have drugs, offensive weapons, or stolen property. If they ever ask to search you (or a vehicle), ask them what they want to search for. Then ask them what grounds they have for their "reasonable suspicion". With the above items, this question usually elicits a gruff "I've got my reasons" — because they don't have reasonable suspicion at all, they're just wasting your time. At this point you should tell them so, firmly and politely, by saying something like "you quite clearly do not have reasonable grounds, so you cannot lawfully search me". They may threaten to arrest you for refusing to be searched, but if they do arrest you, it is unlawful, and you can sue them for it. Generally, though, that is a bluff. (Incidentally, you are not "refusing to be searched," as they may suggest, you are refusing to be searched until they provide justification).

The other alternative is that they will tell you that they want to search you for hunting horns, sprays, etc. Tell them that such items are not "prohibited articles" under the terms of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, and that therefore they cannot lawfully search you for them. They may say something like "you used them to commit an offence". Ask them why they aren't arresting you for that offence: it's another bluff, because if they really believed that you had committed the alleged offence (probably section 5) they wouldn't be messing around arguing with you, they'd have nicked you for it.

DETAILS (Name and Address)

The police can only take your details against your will in three circumstances. One, if you are the driver of a motor vehicle (but not if you're just a passenger); Two, if they've arrested you; Three, if they have "reasonable suspicion" that you have committed a criminal offence — which does not include trespass. As with searches, ask them on what this "reasonable suspicion" is based. If it's nonsense, you do not have to give your details. However, you run the risk here of being arrested for Obstructing a Police Officer, so tread carefully!

RIGHTS ON ARREST

In practise, you have to tell the police your name, address, and date of birth. They may ask you all sorts of other things, including place of birth, age, height, weight, marital status, previous convictions, etc: you do not have to tell them.

You have the right to refuse to give "intimate samples" (blood samples, etc) and to refuse to have your photograph taken. You also have the right to refuse to be fingerprinted, but they have the right to use force, if an Inspector insists. From personal experience: I have refused twice, and once they let it pass, and once they used force.



(Simon Wild)

What you got in here then? Hampshire police officer investigates a saboteur's spray dispenser.

The latter is unlikely to be a pleasant experience.

You have the right to speak to a solicitor of your choice, and to have him or her present at any interview, unless the solicitor is based a ridiculously long way away. You should always exercise this right.

You have the right to have someone informed on your arrest. If there's no one else you want to inform, inform the HSA Press Officer or Legal Liaison Officer.

Finally, and very importantly, you have the right to remain silent. You absolutely should exercise this right, and it is a lot easier to resist the pressure not to if you've got a solicitor sitting next to you. There are a number of tricks which the police use to get you to answer questions. A few of the more common ones are:

(a) "If you've got nothing to hide, why don't you answer?"
(b) "The sooner you co-operate, the sooner we can let you go."
(c) "We're just trying to sort out what happened."
(d) The nice cop/nasty cop routine. One is angry and menacing, while the other is all sympathetic. ("My daughter's a vegetarian"/"I quite agree with your aims"/etc.)

The simple answer to all these suggestions is "No comment": it will save you a lot of trouble in the long run. The police do not interview you to establish what happened. If they've arrested you, they're pretty sure what happened. They do it to gather evidence, and that is all. It's no good thinking "I didn't do anything wrong, so it doesn't matter". Police interviews are designed to show you in the worst possible light. Remaining silent is the best defence.

J.H.

The Legal Officer is available to give talks anywhere in the country. Alternatively, you can write to him c/o the P.O. Box with any queries you may have.

He was told that the Crown Prosecution Service had decided to take no action on the allegation. He wrote to the Crown Prosecution Service who said that the police had not referred the case to them but taken the decision themselves. Strange. What would the decision have been if Gert had lashed Parker with a whip one wonders.

Gert and Andrew started the County Court action claiming damages of £100. The claim would have been heard by the registrar at the county court but someone wrote an anonymous threatening letter to the registrar. The letter was written to look as if it had come from a hunt sab. So the registrar referred the case to the judge and an "out of the area" judge was brought in to try the case.

In his evidence to the judge Parker denied that he had at any time struck Gert with his whip. His barrister suggested to Gert that it was all a publicity stunt by her to get into Private Eye. At the end of the hearing the judge found firmly in Gert's favour. He said that Parker had hit Gert with his whip. The judge said he considered £100 to be modest compensation for a very unpleasant incident. He accompanied his judgement with a vigourous swipe at hunt sabs generally and at Private Eye.

Oh yes the West Mercian Police. PC Major was subpoenaed by Andrew Brown to give evidence as to his investigation. He arrived with a chief inspector from Bromyard about 5 minutes before the hearing. They refused to let Gert's side see their papers unless the defence looked at them at the same time. The Defence did not want to see them so no one saw the police papers.

On the way out Andrew Brown offered Major his travelling expenses. He said it was not necessary as he had got a lift in. Surprise, surprise in due course a bill for travelling expenses arrived from the chief constable's office. As the police had done everything in their power to impede Gert's case the bill was politely declined.

The Allbrighton Hunt now has the benefit of the services of David Parker, the whipping Welsh MFH.

J.M.

Gert Cowling writes:

It is important that Sabs should appreciate that medical evidence is extremely important. Indeed, generally now it is mandatory that plaintiffs produced medical evidence. Photographs of injuries and scenes of incidents, taken from a variety of angles, can assist. Ideally, photographs of the incident, or the assailant if at all possible. In succeeding in an action for damages evidence is the key factor.

If at all possible Sabs should carry a camera when sabbing and when an incident occurs, take photographs of the incident or failing that, the assailant. Certainly photograph the location. I was ordered by the court to provide a map reference of the location and this proved very difficult. In retracing my steps with a map I had to rely on memory and the memory of another sab to isolate the actual spot where I was assaulted.

SABS SUE POLICE CHIEF

THE CHIEF Constable of the Thames Valley Police is to be taken to court by eleven Oxfordshire saboteurs.

The sabs laid a claim at Oxford County Court in August for exemplary damages following an incident in which the were themselves arrested by police to whom they had gone for assistance.

Saboteurs say they approached officers policing a County Fair at Shotover Park, Oxford, on 17th June, after being attacked by hunt supporters during a hound parade. The sabs had been holding a banner demonstration.

Rather than investigate these complaints however, the police arrested the eleven and held them overnight in the cells.

In court the following day, the police sought binding-over orders against the sabs for breach of the peace. The application was refused and was later withdrawn by the Crown Prosecution Service. The exemplary damages now being claimed by the saboteurs are for unlawful arrest and false imprisonment.

FUNNY HANDSHAKES IN AYLESBURY COURT?



Police - hunt relations. But what's in a handshake?

TWO MEMBERS of the Bicester with Whaddon Chase FH, in court to answer charges of criminal damage and a Section Four infringement of the Public Order Act, came away with a binding over order after a mysterious thirty-minute adjournment.

The case, heard at Aylesbury Magistrate Court on 8th June, concerned allegations that Thomas Smith and Jeffery Cook had committed Public Order offences against members of Oxford HSA and that Cook had smashed the back window of a saboteur's car with his riding crop.

But five minutes into the cross-examination of the car owner (the first prosecution witness), the court was adjourned so that photographic evidence could be studied. When the hearing was reconvened half an hour later, it transpired that the prosecutor and the defence barrister had suddenly agreed to drop the charges if the two hunters would admit to behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace (using a whip in the vicinity of a person and a car).

Unsurprisingly, Smith and Cook were quite prepared to do this and were duly bound over for a year in the sum of £100. The prosecutor made no claim for damages to the car window and when pressed about it, four hunt members had a hurried whip-round and presented sabs with £130 to cover repairs.

Clearly, the hunt were anxious to avoid the bad publicity the original charges would have brought them, and were not displeased with the result. Stunned police witnesses told sabs they had never heard of anything like it and seemed genuinely perplexed.

The question that remains is why, how and on what grounds this out-of-court deal was struck.

LEGAL BRIEFS

AS WE GO to press, we're still awaiting a date to be set for Jim Newberry-Street's prosecution at Taunton Crown Court on charges relating to the 'bomb' found under his Land Rover at Seavington St Mary, Somerset, in July.

Newberry-Street, who tours the country promoting bloodsports with a travelling exhibition caravan, appeared at Ilminster magistrates court on charges connected with this case in August. The case was referred by the CPS to the Crown Court, and HOWL will bring further details of what promises to be an extremely interesting hearing as soon as we can.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On 14th June, seven saboteurs from the south of England were found guilty under section five of the Public Order Act for halloaing at a meet of the Isle of Wight FH. Since halloaing is not in itself an offence likely to meet the provisions of Section five, the seven were colourfully depicted as 'screaming like banshees'.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The West Norfolk FH have attempted to serve writs upon six East Anglian saboteurs for harrassment, nuisance and trespass in an attempt to injunct them against attending hunts. There'll be more on this in a future issue.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A joint master and a whipper-in with the Waveney Harriers will be making court appearances soon to answer a Section five charge. This arises from an incident in which they are alleged to have attacked sabs for trying to rescue an exhausted hare from hounds.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Guy Lister, Master of the East Essex FH, was in court at the beginning of August, accused of allowing hounds to worry a donkey.

The case is brought on five counts under the 1953 Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act, and has been adjourned until October.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mark Bycroft, second whipper-in with the Old Surrey and Burstow FH was in police custody on August 22nd following an incident in which a North Downs hunt saboteur was injured.

The sab, Martin Bright, needed hospital treatment after he and other group members were attacked during a cubhunt at Blindley Heath, Surrey.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Two members of the Eglington FH (Ayrshire) are expected to face charges in the near future, following an incident in which saboteurs were injured last season.

TRAINING YOUR OWN NEW ENTRY

Over the next few months your sab group will probably take out between 20 and 50 newcomers. By the end of the season, how many will still be sabbing? If you've still got five you'll be doing better than most sab groups.

For experienced sabs it may be hard to understand why this is. About a year ago I remember taking out a new sab to a particularly violent local foxhunt. The day passed surprisingly peacefully, but towards the end one of our sabs was ridden into a ditch by a member of the hunt. None of us was especially excited by this - the sab (luckily) wasn't badly hurt, and we'd been expecting much worse. The new sab, however, was amazed by such an unprovoked attack. When we got back to the road, she made a complaint to the police, and pointed out the rider. The officer listened politely enough, but said that as he hadn't witnessed the incident himself, he couldn't do anything.

This whole story probably sounds depressingly familiar to most sabs: and thats the point. We're used to some pretty appalling things, from hunt violence, to police indifference, to the very fact that people are still, in 1990, prepared to take pleasure from chasing another creature to exhaustion. In fact, it's easy to forget just how appalling some of these things are. But for a new recruit, the whole day can be an incredibly intimidating experience. If you want them to stick with you, you have to compensate for that. How?

For a start, prepare them for that First Sab as best you can. This means more than just telling them to dress warmly and giving them a copy of the tactics booklet. My own experience suggests that you should take new recuits down to the pub one by one. This gives you the chance to get to know them a bit (and vice versa). After you've chatted for a while, explain briefly and simply how hunts operate and how to sabotage them. This shouldn't be full of obscure details like the difference between Welsh and English foxhounds, or a lengthy discourse on the pros and cons of false trails. Also, try to avoid too much jargon: you'll have to say 'cast' and 'draw', but make sure you explain them! Ask if they've understood it all, and if they've got any questions about anything else. At this stage you just want to give them a general understanding of what's going to happen. That's a foundation on which more knowledge can be built, as they become more experienced. The usual alternative to this is a mass tactics talk. Half the people often don't turn up, and those that do are usually too shy to ask questions. It's too much like being back, at school: a one-to-one conversation in a pub is much better.

When they go on their first sab, look after them. Introduce them to other people - not just 'this is so and so, he/she's new, and from left to right it's. . .' after which the new recuit promptly forgets everyone's names, and nobody speaks to them again anyway. Try and introduce them individually, and maybe (beforehand) assign someone sensible and experienced to stick with them all day. If you've already been to the pub with them, you should be able to choose someone reasonably well suited to that particular new recuit. It's very important that whoever is asked to stick with them is prepared to explain what's happening, answer questions, chat, and generally make them feel wanted. The end result should be that they go home feeling that your group is effective, and that they want to be part of it. If they think you are disorganised and unfriendly, and don't care if you never see them again, then you won't.

The same goes for day 2. And days 3, 4, 5, and so on -until that person is fully integrated into the group, and is helping to look after the new recuits.

It's an ongoing process. You don't want to (and probably can't) burden someone with every aspect of your accumlated hunting and sabbing knowledge before their first outing. But sooner or later you want them to learn how to blow a horn (or read a map, or use a CB, or. . .) Left to their own devices, most people won't come forward and ask. You must actively teach them. You won't always have time (would you explain how to read a six figure grid reference when you'd just been told there was a dig-out there?) but it's rarely quite so urgent. Always be prepared to explain what you're doing and why.

This may sound like a lot of work. In the long run, however, it's worth it. It means you'll have a better informed, more efficient sab group. Hopefully, it will reduce the turnover of sabs within the group too. And come the day when you retire, or move away, you won't be leaving a vaccuum.

These are only my ideas, from my own experiences. I think this subject is one of the most important problems the HSA faces, and perhaps *the* most neglected. If anyone else (particularly new or recent recuits) has any ideas, suggestions, or experiences worth sharing, please send them to HOWL or the Contacts Mailout. Just imagine if every group in the country kept all of those 20 to 50 recuits this season. . .

Jamie Hepburn

With thanks to the Ghost of Paint Pots Deep, and to Clare and friends for reminding me what it's like.



HUNTSMANSBALLS

'Badger baiting is a very very serious matter which must be stopped.'

Michael Colvin MP shortly before helping to destroy Tony Banks' Badger Bill, Southern Echo, 9th May 1990.

On town-dwelling hunt followers:

'The language used by these people is so bad that locals are loathe to take young people hunting. And the lack of consideration for motorists who are going about their lawful affairs is incredible. I have been abused several times when keeping others waiting because of obstruction ahead of me.

At the hunt ball, much the same state of affairs took place recently and ladies were knocked over as a result of drunken brawls. You may ask how one knows whether the offenders are from town or country: a countryman knows his own.'

Marcus Chambers, Weekend Telegraph, 24th February 1990

'They are a pain, the hunts. If one could say tomorrow we are no longer going to police them, we would be delighted, but at the moment it is a lawful sport regardless of any feelings about it. Most policemen, if asked, would say they would rather be anywhere than policing a hunt. It is difficult, time-consuming, and takes the police away from what the public thinks they should be doing - policing their own areas'

Inspector Michael Williams, Godalming Police, Surrey Advertiser 23rd March 1990

'The foxhound is a truly remarkable animal. There is no animal that I have loved as long or as deeply, and they have rewarded me by returning that love and by knocking their guts out for me in the hunting field'.

Farmer Willy Poole, ex MFH, Newcastle Journal 7th May 1990.

' "We have a right to say that the future of the countryside is not something which ought to be determined by those who are not country people", said Mr Gummer. The Minister said the countryside was a better place because of field sports'.

John Selwyn Gummer MP, Agricultural Minister, at BFSS anniverary dinner, Horse and Hound May 1990

'My client does not know how he is going to get by without a dog. It has been a very important companion and it will make him a lonely young man'.

Francis Chamberlain, solicitor for badger-baiter Darren Hickey, on hearing that Hickey was to be banned from owning a dog for five years. Hickey's terrier had its jaw torn away to expose the bone and lost several teeth when made to fight a badger.
Cheshire Tonight 16th August 1990.

NEW MERCHANDISE



Pictured here are just some of the HSA's stylish new shirt designs for the Autumn season. You'll find details of sizes, colours and how to order on the enclosed Sales Goods form. HSA shirts make perfect Christmas presents — **Order Yours NOW!**



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(M. Timmins)

Mounted police move in to clear saboteurs away.

GROUSE SHOOTS PARALYSED!

BY THE TIME Brian Aldridge returned to Ambridge from his ill-fated expedition to shoot grouse in Yorkshire this year, he was one of many wealthy landowners with a saboteur-sized headache to contend with. With saboteurs from all over Britain joining up on the inglorious 13th August, major operations were mounted against shoots in Lancashire, Durham and Northumberland. Keith Mann and Ben Ponton report on this year's HSA offensive against the opening of the grouse shooting season.

As far as can be remembered, the groups that attended the North-West regional hit on **Hawthornwaite Fell** in the Forest of Bowland were from **Manchester, Norwich, Bolton, Clwyd, Preston, Lancaster, Liverpool, Nottingham, West London, Peterborough, Stevenage** and **Brixton.**

Despite the fact that our grouse shooting fraternity has gone down the inevitable road to total paranoid secrecy, telling lies about not going out shooting, and so on, saboteurs still prevented any shooting taking place in the entire Forest of Bowland.

Having located their first shooting party at about 11am, just as they were preparing to beat the first line, about eighty saboteurs moved onto the moor and immediately brought everything to a halt. The shooting party of around twenty guns and thirty beaters, led by the Duke of Westminster (who allegedly owns everything in the area), were not only prevented from killing anything, but were also prevented for some time from attempting to find alternative killing grounds.

First of all, make-shift barricades were erected half way up the moor by saboteurs to keep shooters vehicles back. When these were overcome, bodies and vehicles were used to block the exits to the moor. Saboteurs allowed the shooting party to leave the moor once they had positioned road-watch vehicles at strategic points, making it possible to follow the shooters if they tried to make a break for another location.

This proved to be a sufficient deterrent because the shooting party went instead for an early lunch, extended it for two hours, and then called it a day.

Granada TV arrived in time to film renewed normality in the countryside as saboteurs rejoiced and the Range Rover set sulked.

The icing on the cake came later in the afternoon when a rough shoot was tracked down by one patrolling sab group and dealt with in much the same way as the first, without a single shot being fired. It was a fitting end to an excellent day.

The only blot on the whole proceedings consisted of a handful of typically biased and childish police officers who couldn't bear the thought of those 'orrible grouse being given a reprieve.

Allenhead & Stanhope

Meanwhile, Tyneside sabs had researched and organised the annual foray against grouse shooting on moors in North East England. With up to 120 saboteurs expected to take part, they decided to divide into two groups and cover two sets of moors. The principle target was Viscount Allendale's estates around Allenheads in West Northumberland. Research had shown these moors to be in top condition with plenty of grouse and extremely well made, luxurious butts.

Early in the morning of the thirteenth, sabs from **Tyneside, Cumbria** and **Scotland** converged on the village of Allenheads and dispersed onto the three main moors. We had managed to beat the shooters to it so a stand off position was held with sabs occupying the moors and 4WD gamekeepers racing around, nervously looking for a place to take the Viscount's shooting party. Not one shot was fired. At the same time, sabs from Yorkshire were keeping an eye on Stanhope and Bollihope Commons in County Durham. A party of shooters managed to sneak onto Stanhope Common, but after half an hour's shooting, sabs caught up with them and forced the shoot to be abandoned. No shooting appeared to take place on Bollihope, possibly because its owner, Sheik Ahned bin Rashid, the Defence Minister of Dubai, had other shooting activities on his mind.

Later in the afternoon, a sab scout car located a shoot near Nenthead, just over the border in Cumbria, to the south west of Allenheads. Three vans full of sabs raced over from Allenheads and almost by their mere presence, convinced the shooters that to continue would be folly.

Press coverage was excellent: two TV crews, national and regional newspapers, and reports on all local radio stations. Local people at Allenheads tried to convince us that shooting wasn't due to start until tomorrow (or the following week according to the police). However, we know for sure a party of twelve shooters were holed up in the sab-blockaded Allenheads Hall. The overall picture for the North East matched the national situation. Drastically reduced activity on the first day of the season can be claimed as a victory by the HSA, as it now appears the grouse-killing fraternity are unprepared to fork out £1800 with a risk of several hundred saboteurs as part of the deal.



(B. Booth)

Grouse shooters blockaded!



(M. Timmins)

Saboteurs make their way onto the moors.

THE FOLLOW-UP

THE following Saturday around 40 sabs from **Liverpool, Manchester** and **West Yorkshire** decended on the secretive murderers of the peak district (this year they have refused to advertise closed moors because of attention from the antis). Having located our shoot at 8.30am on Wessenden Head Moor, Holmfirth, we moved into place and cancelled proceedings by approximately 9.15am before the first shots could be fired.

This was a large shoot equalled only by the large police presence. The West Yorkshire police helicopter coursed sabs for about 4 hours and no less than 8 patrol cars and 2 vans "controlled" the roads. The helicopter carried a video camera which collected invaluable information about the subversives below and no doubt entertained ARNI no end. They also used it to ferry officers from the ground onto the moor and back again when 'needed'.

The shooting party were kept at bay in their lodge for around 3 hours while they contemplated attempting to out manouvre us. This they tried to do later in the afternoon and did manage to fire about ½ a dozen shots but at what we were unsure — remember the helicopter?, there weren't any grouse for miles after that thing cleared the moors! The game of cat & mouse went on until 5.00pm when they finally called it a day and left the grouse in peace.

Even with the biggest police over-reaction on the grouse moors to date, and violence from some beaters, we still won the day hands down and gained yet more good press coverage.

Once again, then, shooters have proved no match for well organised hunt saboteurs. Perhaps they need more dietry fibre. In the Newcastle Journal last May, ex-MFH, Willy Poole, suggested the problem might lie in their "tropically heated and hermetically sealed Range Rovers". At the first sign of rain or mud, "they will flee, shrieking hysterically, to a centrally heated bothy. There, they will guzzle and glug for the rest of the day, firmly resisting all efforts to get them out into the nasty fresh air again."

Saboteurs, as we have seen in previous years, work well in all weathers. No contest.

FUNDRAISING

MANY HSA GROUPS put a great deal of hard work into raising money and recruiting new people over the summer months.

Oxford HSA collected enough money to purchase a nice new van in a rather fetching shade of green, with yellow 'go faster' (it doesn't) stripes and a luxury fitted carpet. Watch out for it . . . **Hasings & Bexhill** sabs did street collections during April to pay for some magno-mount CB aerials and a new set of maps. They did more fundraising in June, and ran a stall at the 2nd Hastings 'Living Without Cruelty' Exhibition, selling merchandise, screening videos and pulling in lots of interested punters.

Bristol Anti Bloodsports Group have been raising money for a complete overhaul on their Land Rover, and made £500 at the Ashton Court Community Festival. They've also done a lot of recruiting and reckon they've now got more people than they can organise transport for! Fundraising continues with a view to buying further vehicles.

Ayreshire Animal Concern have doubled the number of active sabs in the group over the summer by organising streetstalls, an anti-bloodsports petition, and appearing on local radio. They're just itching to get out after the Eglington FH.

Nottingham group have been kept busy doing jobs for HSA national office, but have still had time to raise the money for a new Land Rover to harass the shires packs with. **Lincoln HSA** have run successful stalls at the Lincoln Peace Festival ('biggest and best one there', they say) and at a local gig, raising money and producing their own cubhunting leaflet. **Mid-Somerset HSA** raised about £75.00 with a sponsored walk and intend spending it on some new CB radios.

If YOUR group has run a successful fundraising/recruitment event, why not let us know so we can tell other groups about it and maybe inspire them to try something similar?



(Martin Palmer)

Saboteurs cool off after a hot afternoon's work sending the Ytene packing.

MINK HUNTING

DESPITE THE USUAL difficulties for most groups in obtaining meets for secretive minkhunts, and the obvious problems presented by the sheer size of their ill-defined countries, saboteurs have been piling on the pressure yet again this summer.

Two of the first packs to see sabs were the Pembrokeshire and Tivyside MH (South Wales) and the Four Shires MH (Southern England), both on the 21st April.

Stoney-faced P & T huntsmaster, Richard Griffiths, out for the day with a pack that included his girlfriend's pet collie, was not particularly pleased to see the VALE AND VALLEYS group. The eight saboteurs met Griffiths as he took his hounds upstream on the Cartlett Brook, Crundale,in the early afternoon. They encouraged his hounds back in the direction of the meet and were as puzzled as the hunt seemed to be when the whole pack suddenly shot off across country and disappeared into some woods. This was undeniably the nearest thing to excitement the huntsman had experienced all day, so he ran off after them but was unable to return for half an hour on account of one hound being deaf and completely unresponsive to all his pleadings to come back and be boxed up.

Saboteurs waiting patiently at the Boot and Shoe with hunt supporters were then subjected to some very unsporting behaviour. Just as a second round of drinks was being poured, the huntsman made a dash for the door,leapt into the hound van and started the engine. As saboteurs abandoned their pints and gave chase, supporters in the car-park tried to block them in but were thwarted by the rallying skills of the sabs' stock-car trained driver, Rob.

As sabs arrived at the new meet, a stretch of private land a little further up the brook, Griffiths' face became visibly longer and he stomped off in search of the landowner and a telephone. After twenty minutes several new supporters brandishing shotguns had arrived, and Griffiths ordered all his people back into their vehicles for a short drive at high speed up to the farm gate. They waited there for a further fifteen minutes (which was probably no more boring for them than minkhunting itself) before venturing at last onto the riverbank with hounds. The saboteurs drove on to Haythog Mill and gathered the pack as it came towards them.

Griffiths and the landowner were wasting their time trying to order sabs off the land, but were eventually saved by the arrival of the police who escorted saboteurs back to the road. Splitting their group into two, the sabs finished the day by calling alternately to hounds from the roadside and from a footpath that crosses the brook a little further up. The hunt went home without a single kill at 6 o'clock.

Four members of OXFORD HSA trailed the Four Shires MH from their kennels at Shrivenham to the River Evenlode that day, near Shipton under Wychwood. As the hunt and about thirty hangers-on set off upstream, the saboteurs went ahead to check their progress at a couple of bridges before spraying and beating the riverbank ahead of the hounds

This tactic was kept up throughout the day and virtually no direct contact was made with the hunt staff, who very much outnumbered sabs anyway. Shortly after they turned round to cast back downstream at about 3pm, the hunt disappeared and may have switched their attention to a nearby alternative brook. The group think it unlikely that any kills were made and hounds were not heard in voice all day.

There was a very different kind of hit against the Northamptonshire MH at Brigstock on 12th May. More than 100 sabs from LIVERPOOL, BIRMINGHAM, NORWICH, WOLVERHAMPTON, OXFORD, OXFORDSHIRE VALE, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, CAMBRIDGE, NORTHANTS, LOWESTOFT, WEST LONDON and PETERBOROUGH found between thirty and sixty hunt supporters and a small army of police drawn up against them.

The huntsman told sabs he'd been tipped off two days earlier that they were coming, but rather oddly he made no attempt to change the meet which might have been a good idea in the circumstances. At first sight of sabs the hunt took their mixed pack of hounds back to kennels and then tried it on with the saboteurs by sending supporters off by car in all sorts of unlikely directions. Sabs sensibly waited at kennels and were rewarded at 1.30pm - two and a half hours after the hunt should have started - when hounds re-emerged and made once again for the riverbank.

Fifty sabs accompanied them whilst an absurd attempt at hunting upstream was begun. In the 1¼ hours bloodsporting that followed before the hunt gave up, hounds found a single scent (probably fox) and were immediately reprimanded by saboteurs, so they left it.

The hunt went home in poor spirits and, despite a large police turn-out of three vans, two range rovers, one land rover, several squad cars, a dog van and a clattering helecopter, not to mention an Essex copper from the Animal Rights Squad on an intelligence gathering mission, there were no arrests and little interference. Local residents would probably like to know how much this impressive, but seemingly pointless and certainly unnecessary police operation has cost them.

Another joint hit against the same pack, at Cattingham, was joined by LINCOLN HSA. Again police were very much in evidence, this time advising the hunt not to leave the kennels (some exemplary advice which the hunt wisely accepted).

Throughout May, BRIGHTON and HASTINGS sabs kept a close eye on the kennels of the Kent and Sussex MH at Heathfield. On the first occasion, they were blocked in by the police and threatened with arrest under various sections of the Public Order Act. If this wasn't bad enough, it then became evident that huntsman Michael Errey was sneaking his hounds out on Friday night. When sabs followed, they were ambushed by a bunch of neanderthal hunt thugs and forced to reconsider tactics. Subsequent weeks found the sabs checking known or likely meets on Saturdays, but they were unable to locate the hunt.

The Dorset-based Ytene MH received several visits from saboteurs over the summer. A well-attended early morning hit at Weymouth attracted HSA groups from as far afield as WOLVERHAMPTON and BIRMINGHAM. Other groups in action against the Ytene this year included OXFORD, BRIXTON, PORTSMOUTH, WEST LONDON, SOUTHAMPTON, GUILDFORD, PETERSFIELD, BASINGSTOKE, NORTH DOWNS, BRIGHTON, NEW FOREST and BOURNEMOUTH. At Puddletown on 25th August, less than a dozen hunters found themselves completely outnumbered by sabs and went home quickly after a brief discussion with police at the meet.

Sixteen BATH and BRISTOL sabs undertook possibly the last hit against a minkhunt this season, on 15th September when they made the short trip to Twinhoe for a Four Shires MH invitation meet in Ytene country. Saboteurs arrived just in time to disrupt an abortive attempt by hunters to dislodge a mink from a land-drain. Hounds were moved on for a fresh draw, but were again checked as sab horns and voice calls were brought into play. Sections of the riverbank were sprayed ahead of the hunt who responded to a hopeless situation by hurrying the pack along as if on a sponsored hike rather than cast properly for a scent. At 4.30pm, they gave it up as a bad job, thanked the Ytene very much for a wasted afternoon, and headed back to Shrivenham for a consolatory cup of tea.

Saboteurs from TORQUAY and EXMOUTH groups tracked down their old friends the Devon and Cornwall MH on September 8th and found them under new management but little idea about how to hunt or what to do when visited by sabs.

Hounds were drawing the Okement at Monkokehampton when five saboteurs ran down from a footpath and holloaed the entire pack away from the huntsman, scattering hounds. In the fields below Nethercott School, the hunt tried to recover their dogs and their dignity (if minkhunts have dignity . . .) but were rendered unable to do so by a barrage of holloas from the wood across the river.

A hunt supporter then approached the sabs' driver (who was sitting in the landrover on the track above Bridge Town, blocking the hound box in to prevent any sudden flits), pretended to be the Master and demanded that he, a) move and b) surrender his horn. The driver politely declined and the supporter went off to think up another cunning plan. The police arrived from Okehampton but seemed more in sympathy with the sabs than the hunt and wouldn't do anything the exasperated hunters told them to do.

At last, the hunter's cunning plan was hatched, spoiled only by some dreadful over-acting. Pretending to pack up and go home, they actually sneaked off to hunt the River Torridge near Meeth. Saboteurs entered into the spirit of the thing by pretending to go to the pub, then moved off to wait for the hunt in woodland above the Torridge. Allowing hounds to put a good half-mile between themselves and the hound van, the sabs called the pack towards them across the water and into the trees. The poor huntsman was left in mid-river, forlornly squeezing inept notes from his horn in a vain attempt to get them back.

Game, Set and Match.



(Martin Palmer)

Dorset police guarding the Ytene discuss tactics with a saboteur.

Cotswold Vale Case Dropped!

FIVE SUPPORTERS of the Cotswold Vale FH, charged in the Spring of 1989 with assaulting saboteurs, have had their cases dropped in an eleventh hour decision from the Crown Prosecution Service.

As we reported in HOWL 44, the five were expected to face serious charges ranging from ABH, serious wounding, criminal damage and affray to carring offensive weapons. The case arose from the incident at the close of the 1988/89 season when hunt followers ambushed and attacked saboteurs.

Nineteen sabs were subsequently bound over by Coleford Magistrates after making voluntary statements to Gloucester police about the attack. Seven more, who refused to be bound over and were fined £100 each, took their case to appeal and won.

The latest development is a considerable set-back for the HSA and a very unusual legal decision. Six saboteurs were waiting to be called as witnesses against the hunt followers whose trial was expected to open on October 2nd, but with a few short days to go, all were contacted and told they would no longer be needed since barristers had reached an agreement and the case was to be dropped.

According to the CPS, the photographic evidence due to be submitted by the prosecution was now considered inadmissable because the pictures had been seen by, and of course taken by, the prosecution witnesses.

HSA will not be letting the matter rest however, and saboteurs are currently seeking legal advice about the decision of the CPS. In HOWL's opinion, when saboteurs have been the subject of such a vicious and serious attack by hunt supporters, there is always a case to answer, whether photographic evidence is admitted or not.



(New Forest HSA)

The brutality of foxhunting. A New Forest redcoat clutches the hindleg of a dead fox and encourages his hounds to 'rip 'im up'.



(Hastings / Bexhill HSA)

Police arrest a Hastings sab for 'stealing' the body of a fox killed by the Old Surrey and Burstow.

Cubhunting Reports

MANY GROUPS WERE unable to meet the HOWL deadline for cubhunting reports, but those we have received indicate that sabs have been generally pretty busy, some getting out more than once a week to brave the dawn chills and disrupt this crucial early stage in the foxhunting calendar. As usual, most of our first reports come from the south where hunters in areas like the New Forest have been doing violence to fox litters since the beginning of August.

OLD SURREY & BURSTOW

This pack had its first encounter with saboteurs on August 22nd at Blindley Heath. Twenty-one sabs from BRIGHTON, HASTINGS, BRIXTON, NORTHDOWNS and TOLWORTH groups followed them to the meet and were welcomed with traditional hospitality by a redcoat and some Neanderthal foot followers after just 15 minutes. Sabs were attacked on a public footpath and one needed hospital treatment.

By the time they had re-grouped and relocated the hunt, hounds were tearing at a fox carcase produced from a bag and dug out earlier that morning. One saboteur grabbed the body and ran off with it, followed by most of the pack but also, unfortunately, two constables who arrested him for theft!

A week later, the sabs returned to the hunt in force, augmented for the occasion by groups from EASTBOURNE, WEST LONDON, EAST LONDON, BOURNMOUTH, OXFORD and CROYDON - about eighty people - to demonstrate our outrage at the violence the previous week. The message was not lost on the hunt who stayed at the kennels on police advice that it would be the best way to avoid a 'riot situation'

For reasons best known to themselves, the hunt decided to take the hound van out empty while the sabs were patrolling outside, in an apparent attempt to box-in the Brixton group's landrover. Puzzled sabs could only watch helplessly as the highly skilled hunt driver reversed into one foot follower, sending him sprawling, ran over the foot of another, and then crunched into the bonnet of a supporters' red Metro which concertinaed gracefully. While all this was going on, the Brixton landrover drove round them and parked somewhere else!

SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE

HASTINGS, BRIXTON, TOLWORTH, BRIGHTON, NORTH DOWNS and EASTBOURNE groups found the Southdown at Berwick on September 1st despite the efforts of police to prevent them following from the kennels.

The worrried huntsman sat tightly on his hounds to discourage them from responding to sab horn calls, then took them up onto the South Downs. Keeping up with the pack on the open chalk hills proved tiring and difficult for sabs on foot, but they stayed close and distracted hounds with voice calls. The hunt did put a fox up on Bostal Hill but sabs pulled hounds away when they checked, leaving the poor huntsman waiting hopefully on the wrong side of the covert. When nothing happened, he turned round, spent thirty minutes collecting hounds from sabs and went sulking off back to the meet.

EAST SUSSEX

The East Sussex and Romney Marsh MH were placed under close surveillance from the end of July but had not started cubbing at the beginning of September. HASTINGS AND BEXHILL sabs clocked them in and out most mornings as they went puppy walking either by pushbike or on horseback.

BICESTER

Saboteurs from OXFORD had a couple of days in the rather unpleasant company of the Bicester With Whaddon Chase FH in early September. This pack have already established a reputation for violent behaviour and have still not learnt better ways.

After sabs took the hunt's hounds away for walkies at Godington Turn on September 1st, and forced the abandonment of several subsequent draws, one redcoat decided enough was enough and tried to break his bone-handled riding crop over a saboteur's head. Since her wound clearly needed medical treatment, sabs broke off to take her to hospital. They reported the incident fully



(Oxford HSA)

A Bicester and Whaddon Chase joint master holds his crop as an offensive weapon and threatens sabs from Oxford.

both to the police and the press and won a good deal of sympathy because of it. So, when they returned to the Bicester at Newbottle a week later, it is perhaps not surprising that they found the hunt in a somewhat more mellow mood. In many ways, this turned out to be a less successful day however, since the group's best hornblowers were unable to go and the six who did had to rely on voice calls. These proved good enough in causing hounds to check, but not in holding their attention for long.

NEW FOREST

The New Forest FH's first outing of the year, at Minstead Manor, was wrecked by thirty saboteurs from BOURNEMOUTH/FOREST, PORTSMOUTH, PETERSFIELD, WEST LONDON and BRIXTON groups. They made their presence felt within minutes of arriving, pulling hounds straight from the scent line and in so doing attracting the attention of several hunt louts who tried unsuccessfully to prevent further sab interventions.

The reaction of the hunt servants was rather less predictable. In the weeks that followed, all sorts of sneaky evasions were tried in an all-out effort to out-wit hunt saboteurs. They changed their hunting days and even started going out at odd times in the evening, but found sabs right behind them at virtually every meet.

Sometimes it has taken just two saboteurs to effectively destroy a morning's cubhunting in the Forest, particularly at one Thursday meet where simple horn calls were used to repeatedly pull hounds from the covert they were supposed to be drawing. One sab was arrested for refusing to leave the scene of the dig-out when ordered to by police, and since numbers were again small, there was little the sabs could do.

A lot of effort has been put into preventing dig-outs in the Forest, since this is the main means by which the hunt kills foxes. A major victory was notched up on September 15th when hounds met at Godshill. As a fox ran to ground and the spade men entered their first terrier, sixteen sabs stormed in and completely occupied the earths. Despite the presence of some very cross fox-hunters, fourteen policemen (the usual hunt squad) and a Forestry Commission warden (who accompanies the hunt at every dig-out), the sabs held their ground and forced a stalemate. Finally, a deal was struck. The terrrier men agreed to leave if they were allowed to retrieve their dog from underground (they had little choice really) and sabs were happy to comply. The positive outcome brought the group some very good local press coverage.



(New Forest HSA)

A New Forest Hunt Saboteur is arrested for refusing to leave the scene of a dig-out.



(Folkstone HSA)

Hunt saboteur and Blean beagle make friends.

BEAUFORT

BRISTOL sabs have been keeping regular appointments with the Duke since August 25th, often in the company of the BATH group. At Alderton Grove Farm on the 27th, sabs took advantage of the hounds checking whilst on a scent and distracted their attention sufficiently for the line to be lost. The huntsman was unable to re-cast for some time because his hounds kept listening to sabs instead.

After a dig-out at Hyam Wood a few days later, sabs took the entire pack from the huntsman and scattered them over a wide area. Half an hour passed while he tried to gather them back and the hunt didn't find them again all day.

By September 10th, when the hunt met at Pinbury Farm, they were getting so fed up with the constant interruptions that they adopted a policy of leaving a draw as soon as sabs were sighted.

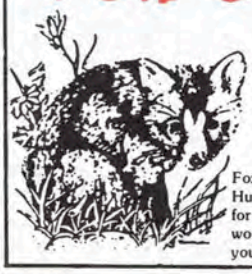
AND THE REST

OXFORD and OXON VALE saboteurs had another rough morning on September 3rd when the Old Berks FH met at Faringdon Grove. Spotting hounds at the edge of a covert near Radcott Ridge, the group called to them and the whole pack trotted over. Unfortunately, a couple of hunt thugs came waddling after them and assaulted two saboteurs. The sabs kept a lower profile after that, since there were only seven of them out that day, but continued to sabotage the hunt effectively.

BATH HSA joined the OXFORD group on August 25th for a surprise visit to the Avon Vale FH at Beanacre. After relieving the unhappy huntsman of his pack twice, sabs photographed the hunt trespassing on the Melksham to Trowbridge railway line. Six BATH sabs went on tour on September 1st, taking in the Blackmore and the Portman FHs and causing major disruptions at both. They then spent a couple of days with the Vale of the White Horse, but found this pack most unfriendly and liable to keep trying to chase the sabs away.

Other HSA groups have been out during August and September against the East Essex, the North Ledbury and the Isle of White FH. LINCOLN HSA had an excellent day on August 25th against the Burton FH and saboteurs from TORQUAY, EXMOUTH and BARNSTABLE tracked down the Axe Vale Harriers in September. It was the first time the hunt had seen sabs for two years.

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.

THE 1990-91 COMMITTEE

All the candidates who submitted CV's are now committee members, except for Leo Andersen and Sarah Lewis who both withdrew from the election. Following the first committee meeting, the various jobs have been assigned as follows: Will Clark, Legal Liaison; Andy Eardley, Salesgoods; Cameron Evans, Research and Secretary to the Association; Jamie Hepburn, Chair and Legal; Anne Llewellyn, Education; Keith Mann, 'Fringe' Bloodsports; Jason Parker, 'Fringe' Bloodsports; Ben Ponton, Press and Campaigns; Aubrey Thomas, Treasurer. Barbara Dickinson and Mike Timmins have been co-oped to fill the two vacancies left by Leo and Sarah (i.e. with voting rights) and to do the jobs of Secretary to the Committee and Contacts Officer respectively. Porl Tyler has been co-opted as Fundraising Officer, (without voting rights).

Readers will notice that the post of Legal Officer has now been divided into two. The Legal Liaison Officer's job is to keep track of all court cases revelant to the HSA. This will enable us to give help and advice (where needed), and since one of the most newsworthy things about the HSA is the amount of legal hassle we get, it will also be a great help to the Press Officer. However, this largely relies on sabs letting Will know about all their legal affairs. The Legal Officer's job is to provide help with court cases (not qualified legal advice - that's what your solicitor is for), to give legal talks to sab groups, and to build up a list of good firms of solicitors around the country. To do the last, Jamie needs your help: if you're in touch with a good firm, let him know.

THE 1990 AGM

For as long as I can remember, HSA General Meetings have been exciting affairs, with enough character assassinations and petty bickering to fill several episodes of Dallas. In amongst all that, there's usually been quite a lot of healthy, informed debate. This year's AGM managed to contain the latter without collapsing into the former.

There were several controversial proposals, with regionalisation probably the most important. The general feeling seemed to be that regionalisation was a good idea — but not yet. This was borne out by the voting, with the (slightly amended) proposals being heavily defeated, but the policy resolution that the committee should look into regionalisation further being even more heavily endorsed.

Anyone wanting to know more can write to the office for either a full set of minutes (donation of £1 towards photocopying and postage appreciated) or a list of which proposals were successful and which defeated (S.A.E. likewise appreciated).

Thanks again to West Midlands sabs for organising the AGM, and to Barbara for taking the minutes. Thanks also to Dave Wetton for thanking me for chairing it — did I detect a note of relief that he hadn't been called on once again?

APPEALS

First, does anyone have a typewriter which they would like to give to HSA? We're not fussy about the details: anthing from a portable manual to a multi-function nuclear-powered WP would be welcomed. Second, is there anyone out there who fancies being secretary to the committee? The job entails attending committee meetings, taking the minutes, and typing them. As with all committee work, this is a voluntary post, although expenses are paid. Anyone interested should contact the PO Box.

NOTICEBOARD

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CRUELTY FAIR will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Uxbridge, Middlesex on Saturday November 24th, 10.30am - 3.30pm. Organised by Hillingdon Vegetarians and Middlesex Animal Rights Group (Information: 081 5770810).

LINCOLN SABS! Please get in touch with BELFAST group who want to take you up on your offer to cross the water and visit some Northern Irish hunts with them!

POOR DUMB ANIMALS, is a light hearted play about hard-hearted treatment of animals and can be seen at the LOST THEATRE, 450 Fulham Road, (at Fulham Broadway), London, from November 12-24th (except Sunday). What happens to the man who tries to turn himself into a duck? What happens on a fox hunt? What did Pavlov's dog want to do? Do monkeys enjoy having their eyes sewn shut? What revenge did the hippo (female) take on the scientist (male)?. Easy, Vulgar and outrageous answers are supplied in 12 sketches. Bring along your hard hearted friends to learn hard truths! The play is on every evening at 7.30, box office opens at 7pm. Tel: 071 381 6151. Readers of HOWL will be interested to know that something like a full foxhunt will be on veiw, beginning to end - but no sabs present except in the audience! DON'T MISS IT!

NEW FOREST ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUP have launched a petition aiming to put pressure on the Forestry Commission to stop allowing the New Forest FH digging out in the Forest. 70% of foxes killed by the hunt are taken below ground. Copies and further information from 'Down To Earth', Beaulieu Close, New Milton, Hants.

PRO-DOGS needs your support. PRO-DOGS promotes a better understanding of Dogs - and a better understanding of our need for dogs. For information about their position on subjects like the Pat-dog scheme, Dog Registration, Breeding and Canine Carts, contact PRO-DOGS at 4, New Road, Ditton, Kent ME20 6AD

KARMA BADGES, the independent animal rights badge-makers have recently been taken over by a longstanding member of the HSA in Oxford. The current catalogue includes 72 different designs, and they also offer a badge-making service for your own designs. For a copy of the catalogue send an SAE to KARMA BADGES, 18, Richmond Road, OXFORD, OX1 2JL.

THE VEGAN SOCIETY has left Oxford and can now be contacted at 7 Battle Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA, Telephone 0424 427393.

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CRUELTY CAMPAIGN. Animal Aid (London Area) will be launching this on November 24th with a public meeting at Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, London WC1. Speakers on factory farming, slaughterhouses, vegetarianism and Living Without Cruelty. Stalls, literature and Vegan refreshments! Starts 1pm prompt (doors open 12.30). Help urgently needed with leafletting etc, contact John or Jane on 071 241 1362 or write c/o PO Box 254, London E5 8TB.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - To confirm all recent rumours within Southern Anti-Bloodsports Society concerning Steve Glint and Debbie Marsh - it's all true. Just for the record we have been giving each other big ones in the Forest and are loving every minute. If anyone would like more detailed information, please enquire via SABS Box number. Ends. Debbie, Steve.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs have produced an excellent set of Christmas cards featuring four different designs for just 60p per pack, or 50p if you're ordering 2 packs or more (plus P&P). In addition to the one featured here, there's an anti-fur cartoon and two wildlife pen and ink drawings (one of which you'll see on the letters page of this HOWL). For your order form, write to Clydeside HSA, PO Box 180, Glasgow G4 9AB. Beat the rush; order now!

LIVING WITHOUT CRUELTY DIARY 1991. Now in its third year, this diary is packed with information, recipes, and comment to interest anyone in the movement. Its now available at £3.99 from Green Print, Malden Road, London, NW5 3HR.

