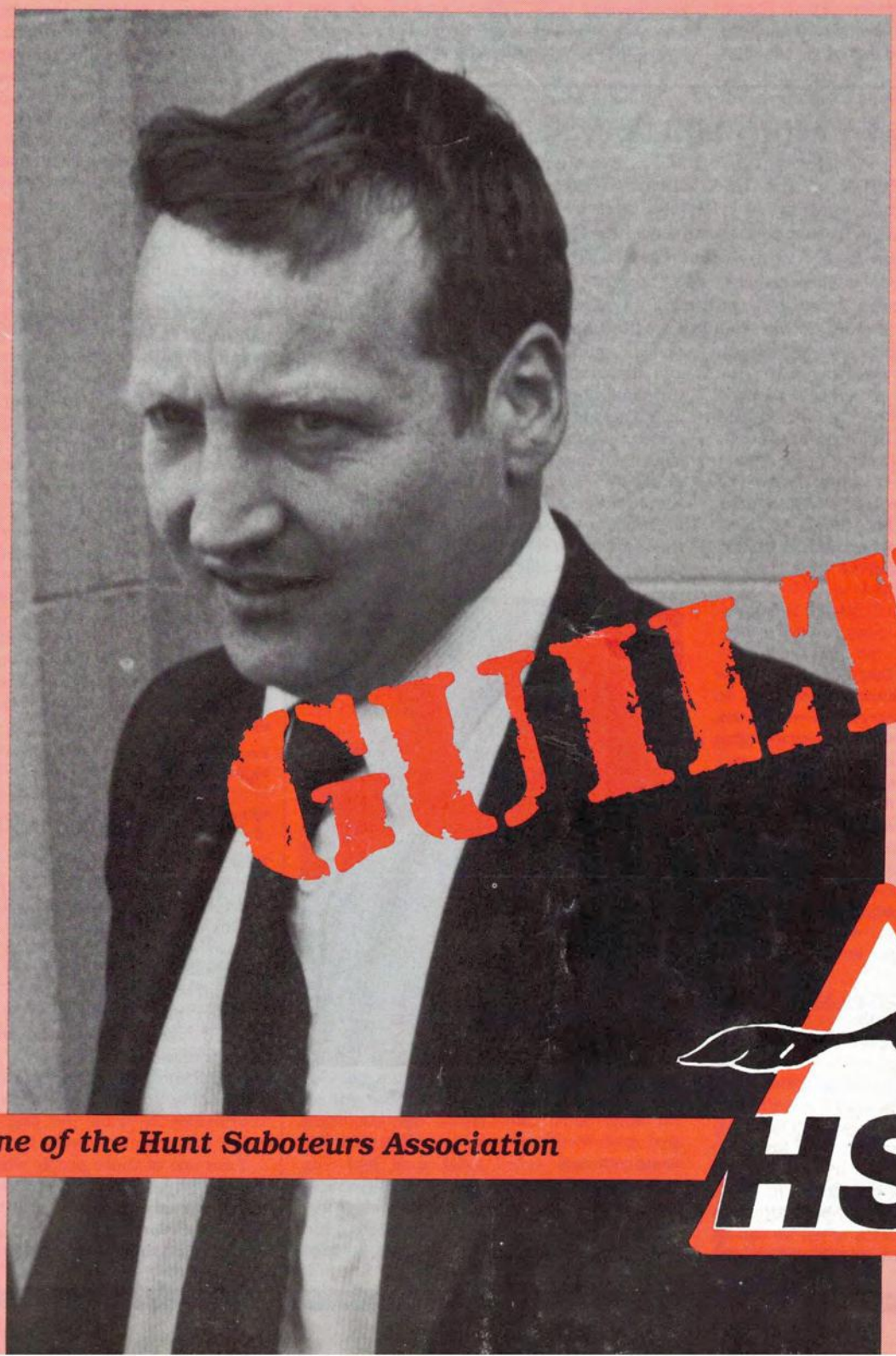
HOWL

Summer 1991 ■ No 47 ■ £1

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

HSA

HOWL 47 Editorial

THIS ISSUE OF HOWL has been put together by an editorial committee of Cameron Evans, Jamie Hepburn, and Michael Timmins. HOWL's regular editor, Steve Poole was unable to edit this issue due to pressure of work caused by massive memory loss on his word processor. We feel almost as sorry for him as we do for ourselves, having to edit HOWL at such short notice! Steve should be back in place for HOWL 48. (We hope.)

Just to remind anyone who is thinking about contributing to HOWL: articles should be typed, double-spaced, and with wide margins, if at all possible. Articles will be printed anonymously or with a pseudonym if requested, but the author's name and address must be supplied. Articles are considered on any subject relevant to bloodsports and/or the HSA. Photos are always welcome too, and HOWL does actually pay for them. If we publish one of your photos we pay £5.00 for it, and then £1.00 each for any other photographs taken by the same person and published in the same issue of HOWL.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who sent in articles, photos, new clippings, letters, and group news - and an even bigger thank you to the people behind *that*: the hunt saboteurs in the field.

Copydate for HOWL 48 is September 1st.

COVER PHOTO: Stephen Clifton - huntsman of the Isle of Wight Fox Hounds after being found guilty of badger digging. See feature on page 7

Dedication to Mike Hill

SINCE THE FORMATION of the HSA nearly 30 years ago, the bloodsports fraternity have reacted against us with the sort of violence and intolerance which could only come from people who see killing as a pleasurable pastime. Their response to the HSA's non-violent tactics has included ramming sabs' vehicles, assaulting sabs themselves, and bringing in "muscle" from outside. Many sabs having need hospital treatment as a result of these attacks, and perhaps the wonder is that no one has been killed before this.

Nevertheless, Mike's death came as a shock to all of us. I suppose this was partly the knowledge that it oculd so easily have been you, or me, or anyone: every time sabs attend a hunt we take that risk. But more than that it was the incredible feeling of comradeship that the HSA breeds, so that even those who did not know Mike personally still had so much in common with him that it felt as if they'd lost a friend. This strength of feeling was shown in the number of sabs from all over the country who attended Mike's funeral, and the number of people who travelled to Cheshire after his death to protest or to help in sabotaging the Cheshire Beagles.

It is clear from everything that has emerged since February that Mike was a caring, good, and gentle young man: the world needs more people like him. Our sympathy goes out to his parents, to his girlfriend, Julie, and to his friends human or otherwise at Freshfields and everywhere else. We will remember him.

Obituary

AT 4PM SATURDAY, 9 February 1991, Mike Hill became the first hunt saboteur to be killed whilst trying to protect hares from sick sadists in uniforms of red and blue belonging to the Cheshire Beagles Hunt.

Mike was only 18 years old and for the last two of them had lived and breathed animal rights, not just dogs and cats but for every living creature. He was a practising vegan, worked at both Heavens Gate Sanctuary and Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, was an active hunt saboteur with both Yeovil and Merseyside Hunt Sabs as well as attending national anti-vivisection demos like the Perycroft march.

Mike was too nice a person for this world. There was not hurt nor malice in his soul. He thought good of everyone and everything. He was quiet, unassuming, softly spoken and gentle with those abandoned animals in his care. Yet he was always bursting with new ideas, new plans and new actions. His youthful energy and commitment knew no bounds. He lived and died for his beliefs.

Hundreds gathered at his funeral in Yeovil to pay their last respects to Mike. Although nothing can bring Mike back to us, we can all ensure that the Cheshire Beagles Hunt kills no more hares - Mike would have smiled at that and then perhaps his killing can find some meaning.



Mike Hill

Our thoughts must go out to Brian and Jean, his parents, who have had to absorb so much in so short a space of time.

Freshfields Animals Rescue Centre

Happenings

Dear HOWL,

Having read the latest issue of HOWL (Spring '91) I felt the need to write to you and inform you of the latest "happenings" regarding our local hunt, the Brocklesby.

On 1 December 1990 Karen Parker, Jayne Abbot and myself along with three sabs from nearby Scunthorpe attended the meet, the location being known as Long Foss House, Beelsby near Grimsby. At approximately 10 minutes after the hund had set off the hounds went into "full cry" and a reasonably vigorous chase followed. Karen, Jayne and myself got out of the car at the edge of a large wood that spans either side of the road, this wood being known as Croxby. Although none of us saw the fox cross over at this point, the hounds came out of the woods and their intention was to cross over the road to the other side of the wood in pursuit of the fox. All three of us started using commands often used by the huntsman to control the hounds, for example "leave it" and "come by". These actions were successful.

It was at this point that a "red faced" chap on horseback known as Mr Ross Fenwich of Long Foss House came hurtling out of the wood in an abusive manner and instructed us all to "shut up" and "stop shouting at the hounds". After various replies from the sabs Mr Fenwick hit Karen about the head with the beak of his whip no less than eight times causing cuts and bruising to the head, face and body. Having seen what had occurred I instantly ran over and tried to grab hold of the horse's reigns as it looked like he was going to hit her again. The police were informed straight after the incident, the hunt was stoped and Mr Fenwich was arrested. From what I have been informed prosecutions against Mr Fenwich are due shortly. I will keep you informed.

Karen, Jayne and myself are due to appear at the South Street Magistrates Court on May 15th at 10.00am regarding this incident, the charge being put forward: Section 5 of the Public Order Act. Karen is at present organising a solicitor and I believe it will be Kev Tomlinson as on previous occasions.

P.S. Now that you are on a sound footing, all the best for the future. My subscription will shortly be on its way.

Paul Day
Humberside

The Joy of Discovery

Dear HOWL

I am a member of the HSA Supporters of very short standing - only about three months. But in that short time I have learned things that in all my 36 years I have tried not to think about or believe really happened. It is the stuff of nightmares.

I have heard of the horrors of "dig-outs", "bagged foxes", "hypocritical policemen" and "badger digging".

I now know how naive I've been and how much of a "townie" I am. Only using the countryside to walk the dog, although for miles, conveniently missing the local hunt!

I am one of those people who thought the "Boxing Day Pageant" was for entertainment - so, presumably, did the coach loads of old ladies, pensioners, etc who turned up. This was the first time I had ever got involved in it,

I was dropping my son off (another sab of short standing, and the one who has enlightened me, so far).

Why are the public so unaware of what is happening? Are they like me and prefer to pretend it isn't happening? Do they, like me, turn the pages over in the Sunday paper and pretend it's not in print?

The only information I got from the Press in the past was that hunt saboteurs (not a good choice of name) were all a bunch of pot-smoking, unemployed, rebel hippies who were just in it for kicks and to spoil a good day's sport. And that huntsmen only killed ailing and infirm foxes. How wrong I was to believe every word I deigned to read.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. No longer can this unwarranted, senseless killing go on in the name of sport.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? The National Trust cannot/will not come to a decision. Parliamentarians it seems are divided 50-50.

If someone could just give us a lead, we could all unite and show our abhorrence and maybe, just maybe, we could stop all the horror and allow the wildlife to live peacefully.

THEN PEOPLE LIKE ME NEED NO LONGER BURY OUR HEADS IN THE SAND.

Bev Cattell
Isle of Wight

New Tactics

Dear HOWL,
I would be extemely interested to hear whether any hunt sab groups in the country have tried out a sabbing tactic which I am sure would work in attracting hounds towards sabs.

I know that many sabs argue that we are having some impact on the effectiveness of hounds in responding to the horn and voice calls of the huntsman but from what I have seen hound almost always respond enthusiastically to the squeals of excitement from their mates when they apparently find a line of scent. In view of this I think it might be a good idea if we concentrated a little more on sabotaging for the hounds the reliability of the signal that many hounds seem to attach to the "full cry" call in determining the prospects of an exciting chase.

I feel absolutely certain that if tape recordings of hounds in full cry were played over loud speakers to packs, the hounds would respond by moving towards the attraction. If they did, think of the chances the hunt sabs would have of splitting packs if they played tapes on either side of the packs.

The only objection to this particular course of action I can foresee are: (1) that the sabs would have to be very careful where the played the tape and would have to ensure that hounds were not attracted to dangerous areas and (2) that the police might consider Section 5 to be an appropriate counter course of action (!) but, let's face it, we've had to contend with these problems for some time and, to my knowledge, sabs almost always act sensibly.

Liz Crocker
Tyneside Hunt Sabs
PO Box 1JY
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE99 1JY

Get It Right

Dear HOWL,
In the last issue there were a few inaccuracies which I think to be unfortunate. These relate to incorrect hunting terms being used. It is obviously acceptable that the incorrect terms are used when they are quotes from the police, members of the public etc. but when they are things written by sabs I think this is unacceptable.

The incorrect terms were calling foxhounds dogs and "hunter" and "huntsmen" for mounted hunt supporters. The correct terms are hounds rather than dogs, as most sabs will have been informed by hunt supporters at one time or another, and the only hunters at a hunt are horses! Also there cannot be "huntsmen" at a hunt as there is only one huntsman. The correct terms for people on horseback at a foxhunt are hunt officials (Huntsman, Whipper(s)-in, Master(s) and the Committee), the rest being Subscribers and Supporters.

Some people may feel the words to be irrelevant but I think it is important for several reasons. Saboteurs wishing to learn more about hunting by reading HOWL cannot do so properly when incorrect terminology is used. Secondly, we cannot hope to sabotage hunting to the best of our capabilities if we do not understand it properly. Finally, it gives a false impresssion of sabs, many sabs understand foxhunting (I say only foxhunting as this was the context the words were used in) very well. In fact many understand hunting as well and better than many people involved in foxhunting. I hope that in the future, sabs writing, or failing that the editor, try their best to make sure that the correct terminology is used for the subject written about.

Bod (no, not Bob!)
Aberdeenshire

The Danger of Inexperience

Dear HOWL,
If the attack on the property of the huntsman Mr Summersgill and the subsequent hit on the Cheshire Beagles have exposed anything about the animal rights movment they have exposed the appalling lack of tutoring and guidance given to new protestors by experienced, knowledgeable people.

In such an obviously highly charged situation as the vigil outside Mr Summersgill's house, how come inexperienced demonstrators were not advised - before the protest - of their legal rights? How come they were not told what would happen to them if they were arrested? And how come they were not told about appropriate courses of action they should take should they be arrested?

Every time Tyneside Hunt Saboteurs Association goes out sabbing an experienced sab lectures new or inexperienced members, on the way to the meet, about hunting and hunt sabotage tactics, their legal rights and ways of using the law tactically. We regularly give half hour talks before our fortnightly meetings on particular aspects of sabbing and last year we staged a one day, six hour seminar for new sabs on all elements of sabbing. This has not only enabled us to create a strong group of knowledgeable, well co-ordinated sabs but it has also helped sabs who do get arrested to help themselves and others in the best possible ways they can, namely: by keeping their mouths shut, ignoring the garbage the police tell them and insisting on exercising their rights.

New sabs cannot possibly be expected to pick up such legal knowledge without help. Whilst talks from the national committee members can help local grouops in establishing interest amongst new people in sabbing or in focusing attention on particular aspects of sabbing, established groups should not be relying on one-off talks to provide the detailed legal and hunting expertise on which sabbing is based.

Many sabs believe in a system of co-operative local power based sabbing. Such a system can only function effectively if new and old sabs pool their knowledge and resources. Without such cooperation new sabs cannot be blamed if, through ignorance, they endanger the lives of hunted animals or the freedom of themselves and their fellow sabs.

Liz Crocker
Tyneside Sabs

**The HSA is now organising "Sabbing Skills" Days which cover all aspects of hunt sabotage (see back for details). Additionally, large sabbing "events" like the Northumberland Beagling Festival will also feature tactics and legal talks.*

A Photographer Writes

Dear HOWL,
I would like to reiterate the point made by Jamie Hepburn in HOWL 45 that you do not have to have your photo taken when arrested or charged with an offence. I am always telling saboteurs this, but more often than not the police bluff or threaten sabs into having a photo taken.

Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act '84 (of which arrested persons are entitled to a copy) it states; "Force may not be used to take a photograph". This effectively mean s that you do not have to have a mug shot and the only way the police can take your photo is to catch you unawares. They may point out a paragraph in the 1984 Act which states that "photographs may be taken without consent", but this is no more of a right than an ordinary individual has of taking a photo of someone in the street.

Ironically, the only time when I actually asked to be photographed after being arrested and assaulted by a policeman I was told there was no film in the camera. I later took a civil action against the police for excessive force.

Simon Wild
Chichester

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY

Tel: 0602 590357
(24 hour answering service)

Beagling Festival

Dear HOWL
I was interested to read the report on the Beagling Festival in the last HOWL magazine ("Beagling Festival Reprieved", HOWL Autumn 1990). Whilst the article expressed disappointment at the low turn out of sabs I feel it failed to emphasise the impact this had on the effectiveness of the sabbing during the Festival. Only 50-odd sabs attended the whole Festival with between 10 and 15 sabs out each day. Each sab was at least matched or outnumbered by a policeman/woman on all but the last day of the Festival. Inevitably this resulted in minimal sabbing since sabs were unable to position themselves effectively and were unable to maintain their tactics for long. Crucially, though, this helped to create a low morale amongst some of the sabs who'd made the effort to attend this supposed week of "action".

It is because of this that I feel that the reason for the low turnout must be addressed. I am aware that many sabs in the south of England were assisting the Sussex sabs who were facing their own very grave problems. However if there were any sabs who boycotted the Festival for any other reason then I urge them please to contact the HSA Committee or Festival organisers. Only discourse will help us to improve our act.

Up until this year we had managed to reduce the number of visiting packs by two thirds; we had reduced the Festival from four to two weeks and we had reduced the number of hunts a day from a maximum of four to a maximum of two. These figures, achieved in just four years, speak for themselves. I believe that with a little more help next year we will almost certainly hear the death cries of this brutal two week spectacle. So come on sabs, if you have any suggestions write to Tyneside Hunt Sabs, PO Box 1JY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1JY.

(PS These are my own views. I don't speak for the Tyneside Group.)

Liz Crocker
Tyneside

Oh Deer (1)

Dear HOWL,
I was disappointed to read the article "Red Deer at the Trust" by Ian Pedlar in HOWL Spring 1991.

In it he says "... a workable compromise has to be found that would *safeguard the interests* (sic) *of both farmers and deer* (italics and (sic) insertion are mine). this assertion of his, however sincere, is basically unsound because a compormise safeguarding the interests fo the farmers and hunters *and deer* (as he later in the article asserts) can never become a reality for the simple fact that the interests of the deer on one side and that of the farmer and the hunter are diametrically opposed. no "compromise" of any sort can change this. A few concessions gained here and there are worthless and illusory.

Mr Pedlar, like politicians, tries to suggest pragmatism. But one should *not* be pragmatic about the sufferings and the very lives of defenceless animals. I am sure Mr Pedlar's intentions are sincere but someone quite aptly said he doesn't give twopence for good intentions which do the work of bad intentions.

(PS I enclose a donation for the Freshfields in memory of brave and noble Mike Hill.)

Mrs N Plant
Herts

Oh Deer (2)

Dear HOWL,
Due to the fact that my old pal Ian Pedler lost most of his teeth to the Beaufort Hunt in the 1960s, I am prepared to forgive him almost anything! However, I cannot let go unchallenged his claim that the League Against Cruel Sports is not addressing itself to the serious consideration of alternative deer control methods.

The League is in fact involved in a series of meetings at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), where we are debating with MAFF officials, the British Deer Society, the Country Landowners Society, the National Farmers Union, the Forestry Commission, and yes, even the British Field Sports Society, a pioneering humane Deer Management Scheme.

This scheme will involve the culling of deer with rifles within an agreed area and with the co-operation of landowners. It goes without saying that the League does accept, that having exterminated all natural predators of deer, man now has to accept the responsibility of removing old, sick and weak individuals which would in times past have been the targets of those natural predators, and which otherwise would die lingering deaths from starvation and parasite attacks. Reluctantly, we also accept that in the real world of economic crop and forestry production, there may also be occasions when deer numbers will be reduced by man - over and above the old, sick and weak.

I am surprised that Ian seems to accept the hunter's argument that if hunting were banned, pro-hunt farmers will "decimate this unique collection of animals, leaving nothing but a few scattered individuals". Such a scenario is impossible - even if there were a few vicious, vindictive farmers intent on destroying the very symbol of the Exmoor National Park.

Firstly, the 1985 NOP poll found that only a minority of Exmoor farmers support the Hunt. If Ian cares to examine his maps of Exmoor and the Quantock Hills he will find that the vast majority of the range of the red deer is owned either by the National Trust, the Forestry Commission, the National Parks Authority, the County and District Councils, the League Against Cruel Sports and many landowners who are sympathetic to deer conservation. In other words, even if a few embittered farmers decided not to tolerate red deer on there small farms, it would have virtually no impact on the size of the herds. The hunters' argument also gives the impression that hunting farmers do not shoot deer at present. An examination of local game-dealers' records show pro-hunt farmers are quite prepared to shoot and sell deer for venison, as well as tormenting them for fun with the hounds.

It should also be remembered that these farmers are not permitted to shoot deer at night - MAFF have decided not to issue any more night-shooting licenses. Therefore any farmer intent on exterminating deer would have to give up valuable working time to wait hidden in bushes to shoot any deer that might wander onto their bit of land. One shot, and one deer might fall dead - but the others will immediately scatter. and as experience shows, the deer soon learn to avoid any land which is dangerous in day-light hours.

So the "No Hunt - No Deer" argument is a con - a blatant attempt to blackmail those who care about the survival of red deer. The tactic does not surprise me but the fact that someone as knowlegeable as Ian Pedler has fallen for its is a choker! Richard Course, our ex-Director is of course doing all he can do to help the hunting fraternity, simply to get revenge on the League for throwing him out. The fact that he has written to every MP asking them *NOT* to ban hunting and now even defends fox hunting and vivesection fools no-one because no-one can respect such a pathetically obvious turncoat. Ian was Course's enemy - it disturbs me to see him taking the same line on stag hunting.

John Bryant
League Against Cruel Sports

Tyneside Hunt Sabs

Dear HOWL,
We are writing to express our disgust as to the way in which groups treat their younger members. The younger members of our group, collectively called "the creche" by the "elite" older clique of sabs, find their treatment deeply offensive and patronising, especially as these members aged between 14 and 18 quite often make the most sacrifices to participate in sabbing with regards to pressure form parents, school, police etc. Adding to such outside pressures are pressures from inside the group, ie being treated like dirt by certain members.

Now we come to group organisation. Lately new members are not being introduced to people in the group, are not given tactics talks, and are therefore left to feel isolated.

It has also come to our attention that hunt saboteurs "must" dress in a particular manner, ie army trousers, dark jumpers, or suffer from ridicule and jokes in the sab van. Surely this is a form of nazism (blond hair, blue eyes theory). Must all hunt sabs become clones of each other?

New and young members must be encouraged for their enthusiasm, not discouraged from saving lives because of the elitist attitude of some members of the group. Especially when it tends to be the newer and younger members of the group who are keenest when it comes to holding stalls and fundraising.

Come on sabs, let's get our act together.
Give us a chance.

The Creche of Tyneside Hunt Saboteurs

Minkhunt Meets

Dear HOWL,
Very few minkhunts get sabotaged in the summer months compared with foxhunts in the winter. Basically, this is due to a lack of meets being obtained.

In my view, it is vital that when sabs hear of a minkhunt meet, it is sabbed by lots of us. A large group of sabs can literally stop a minkhunt, as we have done with the Ytene and Northants so far this summer.

I am deeply saddened by the attitude of some sabs who wanted a mass "hit" on the Culmstock MH called off. Their reason? The hunt is fairly near to them, and a mailout has been sent to group contacts with details of the meet etc. without prior consulation.

The simple fact of the matter is this: any delay in the mailout being distributed would have given groups virtually no time to muster sabs in any numbers. As soon as the meets were known the mailout was off to group contacts without delay.

God! I spend plenty of time listening to hunters and policemen telling me to stay home. But to hear sabs dictating to sabs about whether or not to sab this MH or that MH really galls me.

Who gives a damn where the meets came from. The important thing is that we (as sabs) got hold of them, and used them wisely. Sorry if anyone feels that their toes are being trodden on or "their" sab territory violated. That's just tough.

We have to save lives and if that means sabs from up North getting meets for Southern packs, and vice versa then so be it.

Yours,
Joe Hashman

The Killing of Mike Hill

(From an article by Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre)

AT 4PM, SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1991 Mike Hill, who lived and worked here at Freshfields Animal rescue Centre, was killed in action whilst attempting to sabotage the Cheshire beagles with the Merseyside Hunt Sabs. This article attempts to put the facts before the animal rights movement and to dispel some of the downright lies, distortions and rumours that have been put forward by the police, press and some of the "officials" in national animal rights groups.

The Cheshire Beagles met at the Red Lion, Little Bidmouth, Cheshire (just down the road from the Oulton Park Motor-cycle Racecourse). All afternoon there were repeated scuffles with hunters, punches thrown at saboteurs and a wheel brace was used against one Liverpool sab. Towards the end of the day, still with no kill under his belt, the huntsman boxed up hounds in the small blue trailer which was being towed by an open-top pick-up truck!

The kennel-huntsman, together with another hunter, jumped into the pick-up. Three sabs were nearby who, on impulse, leapt onto the back hoping to stop him driving the pack off to another location to continue hunting away from sabs.

However, Summersgill immediately drove off at high speed with the three sabs clinging on. For five miles, around country lanes, in icy conditions, towing a pack of hounds and with three sabs perched on top Summersgill drove erratically and at high speeds.

The three sabs, terrified, trying to keep a grip and wondering where they were being taken (and what for) decided that as soon as the vehicle slowed down enough, or halted at a junction, they would jump and run like hell. Unfortunately, it would appear that Mike panicked and, in fear of his life, he took a jump from the pick-up as it rounded a bend, having slowed down to what they thought to be about 40 mph. He failed to clear the truck properly and was caught between it and the trailer which crushed him.

The huntsman would not stop but carried on for a further mile, only halting when the second hunt sab (Pip Spencer) smashed in the back window of the cab. Pip was attacked with a whip as he tried to stop the vehicle. As soon as it did come to rest Pip ran back the mile to where Mike's prone body lay in the road whilst Dave, the third sab, ran to a nearby house to call an ambulance. Summersgill proceeded to drive off only later going to a police station.

Let us make no mistake, Mike's death was the culmination of the trends over the last ten years of hunt sabotage on the Cheshire Beagles (and indeed, trends that are echoed all over the country with other packs). Firstly, there is a sustained level of violence against sabs and secondly a complete absence of police interest in the violence. There has not been one single prosecution by the Cheshire police for any of these attacks by the Cheshire Beagles over the last ten years, the worst of which resulted in a Liverpool University student receiving a triple fractured jaw. Because the police have never acted against the hunt they have continued to take the law into their own hands, dishing out violence willy-nilly. Now they have killed a hunt saboteur - has anything changed?

It would appear not. No charges are to be brought against Summersgill by the police. He still walks the streets, drives the vehicle which killed Mike and hunts the hounds which Mike was trying to stop. At the inquest a verdict of "accidental death" was brought by the coroner. He also said "If there is a lesson to be learnt from this tragedy it is that if hunt saboteurs choose to make a protest it ought to be a peaceful and not a hostile one." In the light of the previous ten years of violence from the hunt and Mike's death this is almost unbelievable. Of one thing people can rest assured. If the police are not willing to prosecute the hunt then we certainly are. Justice will be done.

Understandably, as the word flew around the animal rights network, people were angered. A demonstration was arranged to picket the huntsman's house at the hunt kennels outside Chester on the Monday morning. This was a spontaneous move. The demonstrators found the killer of Mike at home, with no charges against him, the hounds in his possession and blatantly displaying the vehicle and trailer that killed Mike.

After a two hour peaceful but noisy demo a section of the large crowd broke away and attacked both the vehicles and the house. A large amount of damage was done. There was never any hint of attacking the huntsman, his family or animals. Nor was there any attempt to gain access to his house. The demonstration then dispersed. The damage - done spontaneously - was unexpected and unplanned, committed in anger and frustration. I feel that many of you reading this who were not present at the picket would have probably acted on impulse in a similar manner.

Bearing in mind how the Cheshire Police have pursued the killing of Mike Hill just observe how they have investigated a few broken windows, caused by animal rights protesters. Compare and contrast the taking of a life with damage to property.

There has been a complete police over-reaction to the damage done. To date, over 40 people have been arrested and charged with riot (not released with a pat on the back like Summersgill) which carries a possible 10 year sentence. Virtually all of these people were charged by association - there is no evidence that they did any damage, they were just present. Only one person was actually arrested at the demonstration. All of those arrested that week were refused bail and remanded to prison - even someone who was seven months pregnant. An appeal was made and bail was eventually granted. One of the conditions was that each and every person had to put up £1000 security. For most of the people concerned this was difficult and an added burden. They had spent several days in custody yet Summersgill was not even held for 24 hours.

Since then, many homes have been raided by the police. The CID burst into this rescue centre late at night whilst the grieving family of Mike Hill were seated around the fire talking to workers here about Mike. The police were demanding entry, threatening to arrest everyone for obstruction, and wanting to search for a stolen camera. They had already arrested Mike's girlfriend and the two witnesses to his killing, seemingly oblivious to the devastation that they were obviously suffering. These raids and arrests are still continuing.

Since Mike died, the rescue centre has been the target of a stream of the most foul, distasteful and distressing hate calls from hunters at all hours of the day and night. Some of the sick comments forthcoming from them not only intrude on our own sense of grief and loss but made several of us break down.

We here have long been a target of bloodsports maniacs as we are only two fields away from the killing fields of the Waterloo Cup hare course meeting. Over the years they have been responsible for a number of grotesque acts designed to plague us - namely they have nailed a cat to the front door, thrown a dead cat through the front window, broken in and slashed and killed several of our rabbits, driven vehicles at workers outside the house and subjected us to a small portion of the sheer degradation, pain and fear that these sick scum inflict on the wild animal kingdom every day that they go out with their hunting dogs. The killing of Mike Hill has to be seen against a backdrop of all this.

The killing of Mike Hill has devastated his family, his friends, hunt saboteur groups all over the country and us here at Freshfields

and Heavens Gate. Nobody can foretell the repercussions and backlash that will result from the killing or indeed how it will affect the sabotage of hunts.

Mike would have wanted us to ensure that we did three things with his death: Firstly, he would not want to be forgotten. His name, his love, affection, caring for all, his dedication to the movement will live on in the Memorial Fund that we have set up in his name. Secondly, he would have wanted us to pursue the truth, to gain justice for his death. If the police are unwilling to do so then it is up to us to see that the truth is told. Lastly, and most importantly, he would have demanded that the Cheshire Beagles Hunt be stopped completely, never again allowed to hunt. Nothing less will ever compensate for his killing.

Mike Hill Memorial Fund, Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, East Lodge Farm, Ince Blundell, LIVERPOOL L29 3EH.

A fund has also been set up to help towards the costs of those arrested after the demonstration at the hunt kennels. The address is:

Doddleston Bust Fund, c/o Wolverhampton Polytechnic Students Union, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton.

NEWS

FOREGONE CONCLUSION?

SURPRISE, SURPRISE! Guess who has just been awarded an inaugural scholarship by the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester to address the hypothetical consequences of closing down a large pack of foxhounds - its economic impact on the community and effect on the countryside. It's none other than the former master of Sir Watkin William-Wynn's FH, and beef farmer, R Matson. We wonder what conclusions he will come to?

APOLOGIES ACCEPTED

THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT and Captain Farquhar, Joint Masters of the Beaufort Hunt recently escaped a jail sentence. The Captain had been hunting when hounds went onto a conservation park owned by Mr Lysley Twice. Their barristers apologised publicly for the incident, which apparently saved them from prison. I'm sure it did!

HOUNDS OF OUR SHEEP

Looks like the Belvoir Foxhounds (prestigious Prince Charles pack) has been getting on well with local farmers again. A farmer at Colston Bassett, Notts. has blamed them for letting her pregnant ewes out on the road. Mrs Stroud said "Most of them were heavy in lamb and four of them collapsed because of the strain of it all. I'm just worried about whether the lambs will eventually survive." This is all having an effect on the farmer's family since their loyalties are divided between pro- and anti-hunt camps.

ANIMAL LOVER?

Basingstoke MP Andrew Hunter (!) has quit as patron as Basingstoke RSPCA. The reason, for this wonderful animal lover, is that the local branch has staged its first anti-hunt demo. He was quoted as saying "Although I do not practice field sports, people who want to should be able to." Maybe he feels the same about badger digging/baiting?

SABS SAY PAY YOUR POLL TAX

This last year has seen more and more hunts trying to claim rebates from poll tax on their kennels. One of the latest failures has been the Meynell & South Staffs FH. They asked Derbyshire Dales District Council to give them discount on its stables and kennels at Sudbury, near Uttoxeter. The council rejected their application unanimously. A liberal democrat said "Hunting - a so-called sport - is cruel and disgusting. How anyone can get pleasure out of it I just don't know." Somehow I don't think the hunt supporters will agree since this refusal will be reflected in their subscriptions in the forthcoming season.

HUNT HAVOC

REBEL SUPPORTERS tried to take over a Devon foxhunt in April. Members of the South Devon Foxhounds wanted the hunt committee sacked because they had appointed a new master, Patrick Cooper, who came from the Dart Valley FH. He did not keep John Norrish on, who had been the kennel manager for many years and was well liked by the supporters. At an EGM in April, at which 170 of the 200 subscribers attended, the committee won the day. This probably won't be the end of the matter as it is said that many farmers will quit the hunt now and refuse it access over their land.

LOST AGAIN

THE WELL-KNOWN HUNT solicitor, Matthew Knight, who is based in Tunbridge Wells, protested to the Press Complaints Commission concerning an article written about him in the *Mail on Sunday*. The article alleged that he had master-minded a campaign against anti-hunt campaigners. Mr Knight claimed that this was inaccurate and misleading.

The PCC said "The article dealt with matters of serious public interest. The Commission has considered detailed, conflicting statements by the complainant and the reporter who met him and wrote the articles." Their conclusion was to reject the complaint.

This is yet another case lost by Mr Knight who seems to be in the habit of dropping libel actions against anti-hunt campaigners recently.

DEAD FOX TIED TO VAN

THE EDINBURGH & BORDERS HSA found out about a fox shoot taking place at an RAF base. What this consists of is a pack of hounds taken through a wood with a group of men shooting anything that they want (mainly foxes and their own hounds!) at the other end.

The actual hounds used for this were from the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH, who had had their final ever meet the week before (see feature article). The sabs used this day as a chance to learn how to handle this type of shoot. They had hassle off the RAF security man who threatened to call the military police.

After the shoot the sabs went back to a pub in Edinburgh and discovered some of the shooters in there as well. After 10 minutes the sabs left only to find a dead vixen tied to the back of their van. She had been peppered with buckshot on her rear right leg, just enough to bring her down. Her head had been smashed with a spade and her brush cut off.

The sabs immediately contacted the police who said that they had no evidence!

Robin Cook MP asked Archie Hamilton, Secretary of State for Defence, who is authorised to shoot foxes on this land. The reply was "No organisation or individuals have been authorised to shoot foxes on Ministry of Defence land at Kirknewton camp."



Dead vixen tied to the back of a hunt van

◆ A MAN CAUGHT a fox and baited it against three Jack Russells and a Staffordshire Bull Terrier after it was supposed to have eaten two of his chickens. The baiter, Paul Green of Bexley Road, Northumberland Heath, Erith, meanwhile stood and took pictures of this and then sent them to Boots to be processed. Staff there were shocked and immediately called the police (although whether they would do the same if it had been from one of their own laboratories is a different matter!) Green was convicted with ill-treated and baiting the fox and fined £500 with £200 costs.

The question is: will fox hunters be fined for similar offences whenever a dig-out occurs? I somehow doubt it.

◆ BARRY TUPLIN, head gamekeeper on the Huntsham Estate, Tiverton, was fined £1,000 in May after admitting two charges of using a trap to take a wild bird and third charge of using a live bird as a decoy.

The RSPB brought the prosecution by photographing Tuplin checking the trap which works by putting live sparrows in it. The bird of prey flies onto a perch, activates the hinge mechanism and is caught.

We wish the RSPB would care for *all* birds, including grouse that is shot on their land. Maybe this would gain them even more support.

COUNCIL CALL FOR BUCK HUNT BAN

A CALL ON THE Forestry Commission to ban Buck Hunting on its land has been made by the New Forest District Council after Liberal Democrats overturned a recommendation from the policy committee which would have shunted the issue to the New Forest Committee. It was the first major decision affected by their greater numbers on the council following an election.

The policy committee - which when it met in April had a Tory majority - was the most suitable body to discuss the issue. If it thought it appropriate it should make representations for the change in the law which currently permits hunting.

At the council meeting Tory, Jack Maynard, sought the re-instatement of his original proposition that the New Forest's residents concern at the practice of buck hunting by hounds should be acted upon. They urge the Forestry Commission to ban such activity on land under its control "with immediate effect."

◆ IN A BRAVE and fearless attempt, Crewe & Nantwich Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate Brian Silvester, has appealed strongly to Cheshire residents' sense of fair play and justice in the wake of the death of Mike Hill. His concern, so far, is merely for the "excessive" policing (and requests for overtime from various officers from the Cheshire force no doubt.)

Brian likens the whole situation in Cheshire to that of the Miners' Strike and asks the police to deal with the sabs "... in the same way that they stopped the flying pickets." He further adds, "Many saboteurs are paid to protest and come from far away in convoys of cars and vans. They have been known to turn over the cars of hunt followers and spit in their faces, they should be stopped before they embark on the marauding exploits."

What interesting thoughts from a prospective law-maker and upholder of British democracy(!)

HUNTING MUSEUM PLAN

You might be forgiven for thinking that, in the current dire economic climate, county councils might be a mite concerned about such weighty issues such as lack of proper housing, declining education standards, lack of interest in paying the poll tax etc. Not so Leicestershire CC who are busy bending over backwards to accommodate the trustees of a proposed museum of hunting in Melton Mowbray, Leics.

The Libraries and Museums Committee, clearly acting in an unbiased way are concerned that a balanced view of the sports history should be portrayed in the museum, giving an equal opportunity for the work of the anti-hunting groups to be displayed. Will it happen?

Of course, they are not alone in this wish. Some members of the Board of Trustees would be equally concerned that opposition to this "sport" is shown. Some of the most concerned might be:

Michael Clayton - Editor of *Horse & Hound* magazine

Lord Kimball - Vice President of the BFSS

Mr O D Lucas - County councillor who admits to being pro-hunting and killing foxes last year.

Melton Mowbray exists itself right in the middle of some of the world's most prestigious hunting country (home of the Quorn, Belvoir and Cottesmore FHs) and could never be described as "anti" by any stretch of the imagination.

With notorious policing at the Cottesmore when sabs arrive and growing evidence of masonic links between the hunts, councils and police, Leicestershire CC can now reveal its intent to run for the "Council least likely to upset a hunt" award.

FEATURE

A Huntsman's Guide to Breaking the Law

ON 15, 16, and 17 MAY at Newport, Isle of Wight Magistrates Court the case against Stephen Clifton huntsman with the Isle of Wight Hunt, aged 35 of the Hunt Kennels Gatcombe, Isle of Wight and James Butcher, aged 25, a terrier man with the Essex and Suffolk Hunt, of Hunt Kennels, Overbury Hall Road, Lower Layham, Hadleigh, Suffolk, were brought to court charged with badger-digging and attempting to kill a badger.

RSPCA special investigation unit of Horsham, Sussex acted on a tip-off from an un-named RSPCA informer. They staked out the dig at nearby vantage points at Great Combley Woods, Arreton, Isle of Wight last April which resulted in the arrest of the two men, both denied the charges and said they had been invited by a local farmer who had a



Simon Wild

30 May 1991, Isle of Wight, badger digging case. LEFT: Brian Toon, MFHA. CENTRE: Stephen Clifton, Huntsman. RIGHT: Susan Payne, Joint Master IOW FH.

vixen and cubs in his hanger and that the fox cubs were worrying his sheep, (note the cubs were about eight weeks old at the time).

Evidence brought in by the RSPCA included a photograph of a frightened badger in the sett, also badger fur and a nearby pile of fresh badger droppings. The two terriers also had badger hairs in their stomachs.

Mr Michael Polland MFH with the Isle of Wight Hunt said Clifton had been with him for 16 years and was often called out by local farmers to deal with vermin, and that he would never dig into an occupied badger sett. To this the prosecution replied, with all that experience then he should have known what he was doing, especially with all the signs outside the sett that there was a badger in residence.

Mr Paul Martin, aged 34 of St Edmunds Walk, Isle of Wight, gave evidence against them saying he was in a party of four which included Clifton and Butcher that had set out with terriers in search of badgers. He had been invited along by Butcher and was in no doubt, the nature of the expedition was a badger dig. Mr Martin also told the court that he had been on a previous dig with Butcher and Clifton when two badger cubs were dug out which they tossed up onto the soil and put side by side to be killed. Mr Martin said he saved the cubs by telling Clifton he wanted to rear them as pets. Mr Martin said he decided to turn Informer because of the cruelty involved with the slaughter of the badgers which sickened him. He also told the court that they had spent 90 minutes trying to get the badger out, at one point Clifton tried to drag the badger from its sett by its tail. When it tried to escape he went to smash it with a shovel, and terriers were sent down the sett. Clifton told Butcher to "Go and get a gun and we will shoot it". At this point the RSPCA and police officers appeared on the scene. Stephen Clifton ran off into the woods but eventually gave himself up. The RSPCA said, "We have been investigating Stephen Clifton since 1975", but had failed to come up with enough evidence to bring him to court. Both men were found guilty and ordered to pay a £500 fine and £500 costs making a total of £1000 each. Stipendiary magistrate Gareth Cowling told them the sentence was lenient because both men face losing their jobs and eviction from their homes which are tied to their work.



Simon Wild

31 May 1991, Isle of Wight, badger digging case. LEFT: Susan Payne (Joint Master IOW Hunt). CENTRE: James Butcher. RIGHT: Butcher's girlfriend.

In the court was Barry Peachey who writes under the name of A. G. Fox in *Shooting Times*, the so-called legal adviser to the hunting set. Also present was Brian Toon, Master of the Foxhounds Association, who was finally lost for words but made a few noises. Jim Barrington of the League was there, so was Mike Huskinson author of Outfoxed.

Clifton and Butcher face a further charge soon of possession of a dead badger which was found in the freezer at the Hunts Kennels at Gatcombe.

That evening there was intensive local television coverage including a special feature on badger baiting in which the Isle of Wight Fox Hunt was mentioned frequently.

Summing up, the three days spent in court were well worth it, if only to see the sick faces of the hunting fraternity as the verdict was announced, and the delighted grins from the Sabs as we turned across the aisle which separated us from them. We made a dash for the door so we could greet them as they came out, they sneaked out of the side entrance and into their getaway cars, but we were prepared for that, and met them with a barrage of abuse and shouts of badger baiters as they left, looking pretty sick. I don't know why but they gave us the victory salute as they departed.

Marlene Roberts
SABS

Time to Tackle the Anglers

WHY DO SO FEW PEOPLE campaign against angling? Is it because fish are not furry and appealing, or because fish are out of sight in an alien environment? I think for animal rights people, the main arguments are that angling is socially acceptable and because it is thought to be a fringe issue.

Most people at one time or another have either been angling or have close family or friends who do it. This often results in embarrassed apologies when the subject of "why don't we do something about angling?" comes up. the excuse of social acceptability is rather strange when you consider that the same argument could be put forward for not campaigning against meat eating: most people ate meat as children and we all know many who still do eat it.

As far as the second argument goes, how can a bloodsport which causes pain, stress and often death to tens of millions of fish and which has over three million human participants, be called a fringe issue? Angling is a bloodsport which must be actively opposed or the animal rights movement can be accused of speciesism.

Now that I've got that off my chest, I will go on to describe the basics of angling and the arguments against it.

What is Angling?

Angling is by definition, the taking of fish by rod, line and hook and is interchangeable with the term fishing. The "sport" is divided into three categories: sea, game and coarse fishing, but only the latter two are viable targets for most sab groups.

The quarry of the game fisherman are salmon, trout and to a lesser extent grayling.



Artificial "flies" are used as bait and their presentation to the fish calls for considerable skill. This, together with the often high cost of

game fishing, results in the elites attitude amongst many practitioners. Game fisheries are constantly re-stocked, (as game fish are edible and killed when caught) from fish farms and predatory fish and birds such as herons are often destroyed as vermin.

Coarse fishing is by far the most popular branch of the "sport". It involves the catching of a wide variety of freshwater species (except game fish), for example pike, bream, carp and tench. They are mostly inedible species and are put back after going through the ordeal of being "played" to tire them out, landed, unhooked and handled. The unfortunate fish may also be photographed and/or confined in a keepnet.

Within course fishing there are three types of angler: the pleasure angler - just out for a quiet, relaxing time and not too bothered what and how much he catches; the specimen hunter - one of a minority who are



only interested in the largest fish and the breaking of records; the match angler - gets his kicks from competing with other anglers to catch the largest weight of fish in a given time.

Match Fishing

I think it is important to describe match fishing in a bit more detail, because matches are the best target for angling sabotage: you know where and when the anglers will be.

Apart from the social prestige, match winners receive cash and other prizes. Throughout the match, the fish caught are contained in keepnets, until the end when they are subjected to an often lengthy weigh-in period out of water to decide the winner. Matches usually last from three to five hours, with each angler fishing from a particular spot of bank called a "peg".

The speed needed for catching and unhooking the fish inevitably leads to rough treatment. Keepnets cause much suffering due to large numbers of fish being squashed together, becoming highly stressed by lack of oxygen and build-up of metabolic waste.

Bait

At present one of the most controversial areas in angling circles is the use of live fish as bait for predatory species, such as pike. The bait fish are caught or bought from a fish farm. Treble hooks are used to impale the fish which is then cast out into the water, where it swims until taken by a predator or it dies from its injuries. During the casting, the livebait may tear free from the hooks, which obviously adds to the fish's injuries.

Many anglers think that livebaiting is cruel. Logically if they think that, then they must agree that fish can suffer, so why don't they stop angling? Obviously their intellect does not stretch that far.

Of course there is also cruelty involved in other types of live baits, eg maggots, bloodworms and lugworms. Crabs are a favourite bait of sea anglers, often having their legs pulled off whilst still alive.

Fish and Pain

How do we know that fish can suffer? The anglers often say that they don't. Fish are vertebrates with a complex nervous system and sensory organs, together with a brain. Although, it is impossible to prove conclusively that fish do feel pain, it is also impossible to prove that a dog, a cat or any other vertebrate other than man, does either. However, we assume that due to similar physiology and behaviour of in response to stimuli, that Fido does indeed feel pain. With our knowledge of fish biology, there is no logical reason why fish should not feel pain. This is common sense, but these assumptions have also been examined by scientific studies.

The major study of all the evidence was the RSPCA sponsored Medway Report, an enquiry into shooting and angling, published in 1980. A panel of leading scientists, with representatives from angling and shooting organisations concluded that all vertebrates, including fish, are capable of feeling pain, with no distinction between warm and cold blooded species.

The report described the trauma caused by hooking and handling fish out of the water. On leaving the water, the gills collapse. Oxygen circulates in the bloodstream for a while, but then bleeding occurs from the gills. Handling removes the transparent outer mucus layer which waterproofs the fish and protects it from disease. Impalement by hooks causes injury and removal is particularly difficult if the hook has been swallowed or has pierced the eye or other part of the body, this being termed "foul-hooking".

Other studies have been undertaken in Holland and Germany which have also found that angling is responsible for causing stress. German law is more advanced that in this country; in 1988 the organisers of a fishing match were prosecuted for causing cruelty to fish, after the fish were confined overnight in keepnets. This lead to the German Angling Association cancelling all its matches for the remainder of the year.

Tackle Victims

Fish are not the only ones to suffer as a result of angling. There is a huge problem of the death and mutilation of wild and domestic animals as a result of lost and discarded fishing tackle. Swans, ducks, gulls, dogs and cats are amongst the victims. Such incidents are frequently reported in the local press, for example in April this year a marine biologist called for a ban on recreational anglers at a village harbour in Northumberland, after a local dolphin, Freddie, was wounded for the fourth time by fishing tackle.

Fishing line is non-biodegradable and together with hooks and weights, remains potentially lethal for a long time. Waterfowl are particularly susceptible. They suffer lacerated beaks and throats and slowly starve to death. Entanglement can result in severed limbs.

The problem is difficult to quantify, but to give an example, from January to June 1988, RSPCA inspectors rescued 54 swans, three geese, 11 ducks and a cat injured by tackle. One inspector in Essex estimated that 20% of his call-outs were to rescue wild birds caught in tackle.

Anglers maintain that only a minority of their number deliberately discard tackle. Even if this were true, most tackle is of the "lost" variety. It is impossible for even the most careful angler not to lose some tackle to bankside and underwater snags. The only answer is to ban angling.

Environmental Conservation and Damage

Anglers often claim that without them, the rivers would be open sewers, with no fish. Where have we heard this before? From hunters and shooters perhaps.

Although some anglers do some work to protect the waterways, their main conservation bodies the ACA and the NFA

have few members; the latter only 500. The majority of anglers don't care. Even the angling magazines complain about this apathy.

It is of course not just the anglers who protect the waterways. Lots of environmental groups and the conservation volunteers do much valuable work. They also care about other types of habitat which don't contain fish! The National Rivers Authorities also have a statutory duty to protect the water.

Anglers also cause environmental problems. They not only lose and discard fishing tackle, but many leave a variety of rubbish behind. This problem is so serious it has resulted in clubs being banned from sites. Vegetation is also hacked down to create fishing pegs. In winter certain river banks resemble mud slides.

Anglers create a nuisance to passers-by, who are expected to keep quiet and step over rods, etc. or risk a mouthful of abuse. They are also very anti-canoeists and boaters, as they disturb the water and stop the catching of fish. Far from being the guardians of wildlife, a recent Nature Conservancy Council report showed evidence linking high numbers of anglers to low numbers of otters, due to disturbance. There have also been moves by anglers to increase the persecution of mink, because they have the audacity to eat fish!

Basically, anglers like to pretend they care about the environment because it gains them public sympathy and because with polluted water there will be fewer fish, and fewer fish to abuse means less fun.

Fighting Against Angling

The start of bad publicity for the anglers was with the swan and lead weight issue. Anglers were disorganised in their response and the government finally banned certain "guilty" sizes of lead in January 1987.

The Campaign for the Abolition of Angling was formed in 1981 and has been aiming to widen public interest to include fish, rather than just tackle victims. In June 1988, to mark the start of the coarse fishing season, the CAA instigated National Anti-Angling Day. This has become an annual event. This year we had a full week of action.

Increasing numbers of people are becoming aware of the cruelty involved in angling and a number of local authorities, with help from local animal rights campaigns, have imposed restrictions, for example on types of baits which can be used, and outright bans on fishing certain of their waters.

Sabbing against angling is very much in its infancy. The HSA has put together various ideas, but more experience is needed to see what works best. This is an opportunity to experiment.

The CAA has a large number of information sheets on all aspects of the bloodsport, together with leaflets, posters and merchandise to promote the anti-angling message. Please do help us to target the anglers and change public opinion.

Remember, by successfully sabbing and angling match, many hundreds of fish can be prevented from stress, suffering and sometimes death. There should be no difference in the way we regard a fish or a fox. At most only a few foxes will be saved by a day's sabbing, so it would be logical to sab fishing matches rather than fox hunts. (The same argument could be used for more groups doing shoots, but that's another story.)

Of course, don't stop sabbing hunting, just spare a day or two for the fish as well.

Marianne Macdonald

For more information, contact CAA, PO Box 130, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5NR.

"Bathgate No More, West Lothian No More, L&S No More"

(with apologies to The Proclaimers)

THE HISTORY OF HUNT SABOTAGE AGAINST SCOTLAND'S OLDEST FOXHUNT

It has to be said at the start that the L&S did have a certain knack of putting their foot in it, even a couple of hundred years before hunt sabs started to bite back. How many hunts can claim (or would admit to) having a huntsman savaged to death by his own hounds. A mixture of a dark night, too much drink and choosing the wrong door saw the end of the L&S's first paid servant.

Organised saboteur activity began in 1979 when sabs from Stirling University and Dundee had a go at the L&S near the end of the 1978-79 season. Effective sabbing from the now expanded Central Scotland hunt sabs (well Clive Swinsco's waistline was expanded) resulted in the first of many violent attacks from hunt supporters, when 10 sabs were very sportingly set upon by 40 hunt thugs. A spokesman for the hunt later told the press, "I was there, there was no incident".

Hunt violence assumed serious levels during March 1980 when at one meet supporters told sabs present, "We're not hunting fox today, we're hunting you". A Stirling University minibus was blocked by hunt supporter's landrovers, who then attempted to dismantle the bus by hand, every window smashed, every panel dented and tyres slashed. They then started on the occupants, one sab was hit more than 40 times. At the resulting farce, sorry court case, technicalities resulted in most charges being dropped, but after two court appearances seven hunt supporters were fined a total of £2,800 for assaults and BoPs. Ever ready to drop his friends in the shit, Master of the L&S, Tom Boland, told the press, "It must be remembered that these people were not members of the hunt, but supporters". Two months after the trial, Boland invited sabs to a kennels open day and 50 sabs duly turned up to outnumber the hunt, of which the seven "supporters" were part, but funnily enough no violence occurred this time.

The 1981-82 season saw the formation of the current Edinburgh group who joined forces with the Stirling University sabs. During a dig out in January 1981 sabs were unable to prevent a hunt supporter kicking a bolted dog fox back into pursuing hounds as it struggled to get through a fence, but did manage to save the vixen when she was bolted from the same earth. Sabs made good publicity of this event on BBC Scotland television news by presenting the mutilated remains of the dog fox in a funeral procession to the SSPCA to highlight the society's refusal to take a stand against fox hunting, which it still refuses to do so today. A Scottish national hit with over 80 sabs saw the season out with more violence on sabs and arrests of hunt supporters.

The next year sabs began to be arrested by the police for such crimes as "running across a field in a disorderly manner". This vein continued until Scottish sabs met with some Scottish MPs. A staunch ally of sabs Dennis Canavan MP highlighted the police bias by a protest in Parliament, he demanded to know why mounted police, on duty, hunted with the L&S and took orders from its master. As a result police backed off but instead just turned a blind eye to increased hunt violence.

The Edinburgh sabs with other anti-bloodsports help successfully campaigned to get hunting banned on land owned by Lothian Regional Council and West Lothian District Council in 1982-83. With these bans the L&S lost both territory and meets. As a result of this and regular sabbing, support began to dwindle. The L&S now averaged 25-30 riders instead of the 60+ it regularly attracted at the end of the 1970s. Unfortunately sab numbers also started to fall, with the lowest point averaging six. Numbers picked up again in 1984 after the opening meet was filmed for a BBC Scotland news feature, which showed sabs saving a bolted fox at the days end.

In a desperate move to stop saboteur activity, the L and S committee began civil actions in the law courts to interdict (Scottish injunction) three sabs, and interim interdict was granted against one. The numerous court appearance over the next year resulted in a permanent ban on one of Edinburgh hunt sabs founding members, Les Ward. Hunt sab numbers were galvanised by the court cases, not quite what the hunt expected for spending thousands on legal fees. With police pressure decreasing the L&S again resorted to using intimidation and violence against sabs.

Sabs bade farewell to Tom "Chamber" Potts, the huntsman in 1984. His replacement Graham Roberts lasted only two seasons before he was sacked for incompetence and moving in a female supporter, Heather Shields after his wife left him (she later turned informer to sabs). A new whipper-in started and finished the same time as Roberts, Robert Howarth, the only

psychic hunt servant known. His parting gift to sabs "I'll give this hunt five seasons maximum before it folds", bang on target Robert! With the "sad" death of Tom Boland, the mastership of the L&S began to resemble pass the parcel with nine joint masters coming and going in the hunt's last five years.

Hunt officials as well as supporters began to appear in court, now as defendants and the prosecutions began to mount up. Funnily enough some police attitudes began to change as a result. Even the weather started to conspire against the hunt in 1986 with a two month freeze only thawing for the seasons final meet attended by over 70 sabs from the Edinburgh and Stirling groups.

A new huntsman was installed for the 1986-87 season, with for the first time a full time paid terrierman, not a problem in himself, but very good at getting out large numbers of violent thugs and pointing them towards sabs. For the next three seasons violence on sabs and vehicles became an everyday occurrence for regulars. Numbers though continued to grow as the group expanded to become the Edinburgh and Borders sab group. A string of successful court cases in 1988-89 against hunt officials and supporters led to decreased violence.

The hunt now began a series of calamities, killing cats, attacking dogs, hounds rioting through housing estates, this all led to a lot of adverse publicity and growing antipathy from local landowners. The last factor now appeared to hit hardest, as effective sabbing, bad publicity from numerous violent clashes and lack of fox killing led to many meets and territories being denied to the hunt. The biggest blow came at the end of 1989 when the huge Callander estate near Falkirk threw of the L&S, who used to hunt the area twice a month.

A sure sign of infighting among the hunt appeared when sabs gained a hunt informer, the girlfriend of sacked ex-huntsman Graham Roberts. Information received varied from meets to financial irregularities, often embarrassing to the hunt who knew there was a mole but couldn't find it. Information came our way for two seasons before the worm turned as she attempted to gain the mastership of the L&S, sabs foiled this by making it public knowledge who the mole had been.

In the earlier months of 1990 the hunt nearly closed down, when huntsman David Sims and terrierman Ian Marfleet were both sacked. As no replacement could be found Sims was re-appointed. Marfleet was allowed to go possibly due to the cost of defending him at a week long trial also involving sabs. The hunt were desperate for funds and without a point to point course (owned by Lothian Regional Council) decided to hold a hunt ball. Sabs planned a demonstration and publicised the action, resulting in the cancellation of the ball on the day it was to be held, after only selling 70 tickets. At the end of the 1989-90 season joint master "Ginny Smith" told the press, "Its very doubtful if we can continue". Not surprising for a hunt that could only kill four foxes that season, all by digging out.

The 1990-91 season started badly for the hunt when rampaging hounds nearly scared a pensioner to death, resulting in the loss of the only regular midweek meet. During the cubbing season (September to November) the L and S only met four times at two meets. Desperate for new hunting grounds they tried the slopes of the Pentland Hills near Penicuik on terrain more suited to fell packs. Violence was on the increase again with sabs on the receiving end on occasions when not together in numbers to fight back. As the season drew to an end it was thought the hunt had managed to get through another season and would re-emerge in the autumn. Instead with a wonderful sense of timing the MFHA put out a press release on Friday 1 March stating that the L&S would fold at the end of the current season, that being Saturday 2 March. Over 80 sabs from Edinburgh and Borders, Stirling, Tyneside and Aberdeen groups turned up, to quote a local paper, "A helluva lot of people for a funeral procession". Riders and supporters were only informed of the closure at the meet. Despite the terrierman starting to dig out before the hunt set off, it was still our day. Two incidents will stay with me for a long time, the first of over 50 sabs stalking the field back to the meet to a chant of "SCUM, SCUM, SCUM", ringing in the mounted fields ears. The second was hunt supporter Paul Reid trying to point out to police sabs who allegedly had kicked a car, himself being arrested for carrying an offensive weapon (a large spanner). When asked its intended use by police, he replied "To use on the saboteurs", and so was then further charged wit the intent to use as well. With support like that it begs the question, how the f*** did this hunt last 230 years?

David Pritchard
Edinburgh and Borders Hunt Sab Group



Scottish sabs at cancelled L&S Hunt Ball, March 1990

On the Fringe

SNARES

Yet another "Fringe" bloodsport that saboteurs fail to give any attention to is snaring. Hundreds of freelance terriermen regularly set snares in our countryside in the hope of trapping mink, foxes, badgers, squirrels and moles, to name but a few.

Many different types of trap are available and used but the most common is the wire snare "wire", which is nothing more than an piece of coiled wire and a piece of string, easily the cheapest or home made and the most portable and is designed to close around the neck (or whatever) of the quarry and has little chance of pulling free, the next favorite is the fenn trap which is designed like the commonly used mouse trap - to snap shut on its victim.

Snares/traps are set on known or suspected animal runs' or at the entrances to their homes and are usually camoflaged in the undergrowth, they are supposed to be checked daily and the dead or more likely crippled, "dispatched" and removed.

From my own experience, let alone the knowledge of the type of person that abuses animals, it is clear that traps are not checked as regularly as they should be (by law and for humane reasons) and that massive suffering is caused through the trapping of animals.

Not only are the types of traps outlined cruel by design they are also indiscriminate, all too often non target animals and birds are caught and left to bleed, freeze or starve to death, become prey for another animal or await their fate at the hands and feet of the "fieldsportsman". Pet animals also succumb to the antics of the conservation minded lout and trap.

Animal traps were first invented and used by primitive man as a method of catching food and for clothing - a necessary evil at that time, now they are used purely for sport and profit with the boring pest control excuse, funnily enough as with the sort of people trapping animals the design of traps is very similar to the days of neanderthal man!

There are also a wonderful variety of sea traps in use around the coastal fishing waters designed to trap lobsters and other edible sea creatures, not for sport but none the less for an equally abhorrent and unnecessary practice.

Many traps are laid illegally and legal or not they are cruel and seeing a it is unlikely that any law will be passed to outlaw them it is once again our problem. If you happen to come across any of the offending items when out walking the dogs - they are particularly prolific in and around game bird rearing pens - then use your imagination and ensure nothing dies as a result of your inaction!



Oxford van run off the road by Bicester support

Survey Results

JUST AFTER THE END of the recent hunting season the HSA sent out a legal questionnaire to all of its local groups. Between 80 and 90 have now been returned, giving the first comprehensive picture ever of the HSA's legal affairs.

In past years the HSA has relied on knowledge of individual incidents as a guide to the overall situation. Since the individual incidents have only been a tiny fraction of the season's events, this has resulted in a very vague and sometimes inaccurate idea of what's been happening. It's also meant that any complaints the HSA has made about levels of policing or numbers of sabs arrested and released without charge have been difficult to prove. It's also made it difficult for the HSA to have any coherent legal strategy.

All that is now changing. First of all, sabs are tending to inform the HSA much more about their legal problems. In consequence, even if only one member of a particular group is arrested for (say) Section 5, held till the hunt ends, and released without charge, the HSA is much more likely to hear about it. That one arrest may not be particularly newsworthy in itself, but it is part of a much larger picture. For instance, in June of this year there were sabs in court virtually every day that the courts were open. Mostly these were the usual dribs and drabs of Section 5 cases - so if everyone had neglected to tell the HSA, we'd have been saying to the press that there were only one or two court cases that month!

So what else has the survey revealed? One interesting point is that Section 5 is going out of fashion with the police. This comes as something of a shock to most people! Anyone who can remember the run up to the introduction of the Public Order Act in 1987 will recall the glee of the bloodsports fraternity: Douglas Hurd told the Tory Party Conference that the Public Order Act would give police much wider powers to deal with sabs. They will also recall quite a bit of angst in the sab world. The HSA's Legal Officer at the time sent out a copy of *the entire act* to every group contact. (It was the first contacts mailout that I received, and I dutifully waded through it, wondering if it was going to be like this every month! I understood about one word in ten - but it looked bad.)

But when the cases started coming to court, it became apparent that Section 5 wasn't all it was cracked up to be. There were a few defeats along the way, but except for the Northeast, most courts have acquitted more than they've convicted. With Section 5 convictions increasingly hard to come by, police forces around the country are gradually falling back on the old chestnut Action Likely to Cause a Breach of the Peace. Surrey and Sussex police, for instance, have more or less given up charging people with Section 5. First of all the standard of proof required is less for Action Likely ("the balance of probabilities" as opposed to "beyond reasonable doubt" for Section 5). Secondly they are probably hoping that sabs will accept a bind over without too much fuss - with Section 5 pleading guilty results in a criminal record and very likely a fine.

Another trend is reflected in the number of serious charges sabs are facing in relation to clashes on hunts. This season has seen an upturn in violent attacks by hunt supporters. (See HOWL 45 for incidents at the New Forest, the Bicester, the Beaufort, and the Old Surrey and Burstow; HOWL 46 for the Bicester again and the Beaufort again, the Surrey Union, the Fitzwilliam, the North Staffs, the Chiddingfold, the West Norfolk, the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire, the Pentyrch, and the Cheshire Beagles.) Very few hunt members have been arrested following these attacks - but numerous sabs have been charged with Section 2 and Section 3 of the Public Order Act (Violent Disorder and Affray respectively), ABH, and Criminal Damage. Many of these charges have been reduced already; no doubt more will be reduced in the future. A large proportion probably won't make it to court. But it's an interesting response by the police, to treat the victim as the criminal. Incidentally, most of these charges were brought after Mike Hill died - regardless of when the alleged offences took place. There couldn't be a crackdown going on, could there? Active hunt saboteurs are referred to the other article on this page, "Serious Offences" giving advice on what to do if you are arrested. The article was produced in direct response to request from sabs after this change in police policy had started to become apparent. - one the the benefits of the HSA's better communication.

Looking at the number of arrests across the country, it's clear that the worst place to be a sab in terms of legal grief is the Hampshire/Sussex area. The four sab groups with the highest number of arrests (Brighton, Portsmouth, West London, and Winchester) operate mostly in those counties. Following closely on their heels are groups operating in the Northumbria, Humberside, and Lincolnshire Constabularies. Cumbria seems to be the place with the least problems: Furness sabs report no arrests in the last eight years! No doubt there are other problems to compensate for the lack of police attention.

Despite the large numbers of arrests, most groups felt that this season had been better than last, possibly as a result of the steady stream of Section 5 cases which most of them had won. (Leicestershire police, for example, would have high up on the league table for the 89/90 season.)

The survey also revealed several court cases against hunt members that we weren't previously aware of, and provided several more firms of solicitors for the HSA's "approved" list.

In fact, the questionnaire has provided the HSA with so much information that I've decided to make it a regular end-of-season feature. (Cue groans from over-worked contacts.) And oh yes - as I write this there are still 25 or so to come in. Those of you who are guilty get to it!

Serious Offences

IT IS COMMON ENOUGH for sabs to be arrested for minor public order offences. Usually no charges follow or, when they do, the case often goes our way. In itself this is obviously good; unfortunately it seems to have lulled some people into a false sense of security where more serious charges are concerned. If you are arrested there are three crucial things to remember:

1. Ask to see a solicitor. Except in a few extreme cases the police cannot deny you access. If you have been arrested for a serious offence then one of the HSA's solicitors will come and see you, regardless of what time of the day or night it is or where you are being held. It is a common trick for the police to say "they won't come this far" or "a local firm is acting as their agent". For Breach of the Peace maybe - but not for Riot. However you must ask for that firm: no-one else can do it for you. Do you know your solicitors' 24 hour phone number?
2. You are allowed to inform one person (other than a solicitor) of your arrest. Your friends and family may be worried about you and the HSA may not even know that you have been arrested. There is a lot we can do from providing vegan food to helping arrange sureties.
3. Do not answer questions or make a statement. If the police want to interview you without a solicitor, refuse. Your solicitor will certainly advise you to remain silent. (Which is why the police would rather you didn't see a solicitor...) Answering police questions is a one way ticket to court - and a conviction. Anyone who tells you otherwise is a fool or a police officer. (Or both.)

The reasoning behind the first two points is this: as soon as we, the HSA and a firm of solicitors, know that you've been arrested we can start working to get you out. The longer

you delay informing us, the longer you'll be in. The reasoning behind the third point is that there is no point us trying to get you out if in the meantime you're handing the police a conviction on a plate. If anyone has any questions about being arrested (or indeed any other legal matters) please get in touch with the *Legal Officer c/o the office (0602 590357) or the PO Box.*

Adding Insult to Injury

A FRIEND OF MINE was ridden down a few years ago by a particularly nasty character from a local hunt. His leg was badly trampled with horseshoe-shaped cuts along it. He wasn't bleeding badly, however, but he couldn't walk unsupported. When we finally got him back to the road I called over a nearby policeman.

"Tell him to come and see me if he wants to make a complaint," came the reply. I eventually persuaded him that he could walk 10 yards more easily than our injured sab. "Oh yes, he's grazed his knee," the policeman said. Needless to say, he wasn't interested in our allegations.

By now most of you are probably nodding your heads in agreement: something similar will most likely have happened to your sab group. Many sabs now distrust the police so much that they don't even bother to report incidents to them. Unfortunately this is just what they want. No assaults reported = no crimes to solve. It's also just what the hunt wants. They are glad to be in a situation where they can assault you and the cops don't even hear about it. And in the meantime they're busy complaining to the local inspector about how much trouble you cause.

So what do you do? We still advise you to report the incident to the police (and to us!) but there are further steps you can take. One of the solicitors on the HSA's "approved list" has agreed to help sabs anywhere in the country who have been attacked by hunt members in the following two ways.

Firstly there is the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, which provides compensation out of a central fund. If a hunt member has been convicted, then you will almost automatically get CICB - but even without a conviction the option is still open.

Secondly you can sue the person(s) in question for damages.

Ideally you want the culprit to be prosecuted for the criminal offence by the Crown Prosecution Service and to be sued by you for damages. If he or she is poor, then you would be better off with a CICB claim. But if the police and/or CPS don't act, then you can get something approaching justice with one of the latter two courses of action.

This looks like being a welcome development, and numerous cases are currently under consideration. About 20 writs will probably be served before the next season begins, and HOWL will have details as they come to court.

If any members of your group have been attacked within the last three years, you can either contact the HSA's Legal Officer or else the solicitor mentioned above. He is *Jeremy Bate, at Wilson Flight and Shaw, 33 Chobham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1JD, telephone 0483 715527.*

I Fought the Law

HUNT SABOTEURS are all too familiar with being arrested for something paltry, held till the hunt is over, and then released without charge. In the article below HSA Legal Officer, Jamie Hepburn examines the phenomenon, and explains what can be done to combat it.

Over the past season it's become more and more evident that the number of sabs arrested bears little resemblance to the number of sabs taken to court. Generally sabs are released without charge, or else charges are dropped before the case gets to court. Why is this, and what does it represent?

Out in the real world the police tend to arrest people who they are pretty sure have committed an offence, or else who they're pretty sure they can fit up for an offence. (Guildford Four, Birmingham Six, copious people "investigated" by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, etc etc.) With people who commit crimes, eg rape, murder, etc, there is an incentive for the police to "solve" them - ie, get a conviction. With hunt saboteurs this incentive doesn't exist: the police by and large know that we haven't done anything wrong, and that the threat of a Section 5 charge isn't actually going to stop us coming back next week. Several forces have therefore adopted a policy which amounts to what solicitor John Mackenzie has termed "summary detention". This means that the police decide not only whether to arrest you, but also whether you're guilty and how long to detain you for. Readers of *2000 AD* will recognise the powers granted to Judge Dredd.

The fact that even notoriously pro-hunt Magistrates Courts have started chucking out their precious Section 5 cases has finally started to register on most forces. The obvious response to this would be to recognise that horn-blowing and so on do not constitute Section 5 offences - unfortunately some forces have yet to realise this. The day after a case against a dozen sabs was thrown out, an officer from the same station on the same hunt threatened to arrest us for the same thing: being hunt saboteurs near the hunt. We asked him if he knew about the court case. He said he did "but you'll still be arrested". As it happened, we were too far away for him to carry out his threat, but the intent was there. That officer knew perfectly well that he would never get a conviction for us "being there". But he reckoned that a spell in the cells would sort us out just as well if not better: we'd be banged up for a few hours but with no embarrassing court case to follow.

There's no way they should be able to get away with that: the police must be made to realise that they will have to justify their actions in court. If they don't take us to court then we must take them to court.

A lot of sabs are already doing this. Mackenzie Knight reckon that they have 100 individual plaintiffs in actions against the police, with one of the largest joint actions due to come to court in August. Hampshire Constabulary - notorious for its heavy-handed attitude towards sabs - has paid out £1,000 in two out-of-court settlements in the last year. Chances are they'll being paying out more before too long.

There is, of course, a time limit within which you must start an action for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment, etc: six years. So anyone arrested in the 85/86 season or since is still in time. John Mackenzie has offered to advise in writing any sab who has been arrested in England and Wales. Further he will conduct any case where he thinks there is good cause for action or else provide written suggestions which can then be taken to the sab's regular solicitor.

Anyone writing to John about an incident should include the following:

1. Full name;
2. Address for regular contact and telephone number;
3. Date of arrest and place;
4. Police station taken to and constabulary
5. Account of circumstances of arrest including what was said as to the reasons for the arrest at *any time;*
6. Charge, if any;
7. Result of any court case;
8. Copies of any paperwork, eg custody records, charge sheets, statements, etc.

This is not an easy option, or course, but in the long term the only thing that will curb the worst excesses of police behaviour is the knowledge that they'll have to pay for it - literally!

John Mackenzie can be contacted at Mackenzie Knight, 74 Whitton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2DD, telephone (081) 569 6289.

Get a Job!

It has come to HOWL's attention that most sabs are dole-scroungers, so we are following the government's Jobclub initiative and are trying to find work for our readers. Several sabs have expressed interest in the position of huntsman for the their local pack, (or failing that, first whipper-in) on the grounds that they're better at it that the present employee, and have move experience in hound control. Although hounds show regular interest in this proposal, no hunt committee has (yet) accepted it. HOWL has uncovered another potential source of employment, however: legal work.

Rates of pay vary a great deal; if you work for a firm that deals mostly in legal aid cases, you won't die rich. In fact, most "criminal work" tends to be problematical, since clients who end up in prison aren't usually too keen to pay up. Ideally you want to work for a "rapidly expanding firm based in southeast England". HOWL has received a pamphlet for one such firm.

They describe themselves as progressive and innovative, with a strong private client base. In case anyone has an image of solicitors as old or boring, the pamphlet tells you that most of the partners are in their 30s and 40s, and the atmosphere is friendly and outgoing. Readers will be glad to know that the firm's offices are surrounded by beautiful countryside in an area which offers good sporting and leisure amenities. The firm is called Cripps Harries Hall, and organises many sporting events each year, which employees may take part it. Hang on a minute, haven't I heard that name before ...

Legal News

◆ The attempt by various members of the West Norfolk FH to gain an interlocutory (ie temporary) injunction against five hunt saboteurs has failed. The "East Anglian Five" were represented by Tim Cary of Leiths Prior solicitors (telephone 0603-610911), one of the firms recommended by the HSA. At a hearing in February the plaintiffs (ie the hunt supporters) attempted to extend the law to cover their claims, but the judge, Sir Peter Paine rejected this. He ordered them to pay the defendants costs in addition to their own. HOWL estimates that the joint costs will run to tens of thousands. Anyone wishing to indulge in a bit of economic sabotage is advised to contact the West Norfolk FH for details. The action seeking a permanent injunction has not yet been dropped, but financial considerations will presumably force the issue.

◆ Older readers will remember this photo (right) from the cover of HOWL 42 - and many more will recognise it from the HSA's new set of four posters. It shows Hampshire FH whipper-in, Mark Evans assaulting Portsmouth sab Pat Kelly in 1988. At the time Hampshire police (in the form of one PC Clive Cutts) took the interesting attitude that law and order was best served by arresting Kelly. Even more remarkable (or not, as the case may be), Evans was never charged over the incident. Evidently the Hampshire Constabulary feel that horsewhipping a hunt saboteur is (like beating your wife, as one MFH said a few years ago) a purely private matter. This incident became just that, a purely private prosecution. The case was taken up by John Mackenzie of Mackenzie Knight (telephone (081) 569 6289, as recommended by the HSA) and finally came to court this summer. Evans made a counter claim, which was duly demolished, and he subsequently lost the case. Unfortunately, the other half of the case - against Hampshire police - didn't go quite so well, with the court finding that Kelly's arrest was justified! An appeal is being considered. On balance though, it does show that even when the police fail to act, hunt saboteurs can get justice of sorts through private prosecutions. Anyone who has had problems with inactivity, apathy, or plain incompetence on the part of local police or CPS should contact the HSA.

◆ A rider from the North Staffs FH was recently acquitted of smashing a sab van's windscreen, but a week after he walked free his son was convicted of ramming another sab van with his Rangerover, and ordered to pay £300 in compensation. He was also bound over for 12 months in the sum of £150. Given the incredible level of violence displayed by the North Staffs hunt, the resulting court cases are disappointing to say the least.

◆ Ten sabs are facing charges of Violent Disorder (Section 2, Public Order Act) along with assorted Criminal Damage and ABH charges, after the Surrey Union meet on 12 January. In the first fortnight of January sabs sustained a variety of serious injuries, including one broken leg, two broken noses, one suspected fractured skull, and numerous cuts and bruises. Charges have been brought against one hunt member. To the best of our knowledge no hunt members have sustained comparable injuries, yet ten sabs have been charged. The sabs are all pleading not guilty, and have asked for any witnesses to the events of 12 January to come forward. Can anyone who was there please contact the PO Box? *Someone's freedom might depend on your testimony.*

◆ The Surrey Union have now taken up a tried and tested HSA tactic in their increasingly desperate attempts to stave off closure: they are making an official complaint against Surrey police for failing to provide adequate protection. Whether Messrs Funnell, Goodchild, et al have initiated this action on the advice of their ever-willing solicitors Cripps Harries Hall, or whether it's a brainstorm of their very own, HOWL does not yet know. Whichever it is, the case promises to be fascinating stuff. HOWL will have the results.



Simon Wild

Mark Evans of the Hampshire Hunt whipping Patrick Kelly

◆ Holderness huntsman William Deakin was convicted in the spring of Criminal Damage to a sab van - he was given a conditional discharge for a year, to go with the bind over he's already acquired. Sabs suspect that he will behave himself somewhat better in the forthcoming season.

◆ Nearly 40 people are now facing charges of Riot (Section 1, Public Order Act) as a result of the disturbances at the kennels of the Cheshire Beagles. Although HOWL would never dream of questioning the wisdom of the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, it seems slightly odd that the minor damage caused to one house warrants Riot charges while the so-called "Poll Tax Riot" of 31 March, 1990 only notched up Violent Disorder (Section 2) charges. HOWL also notes with disgust that the Cheshire police managed to treat the events at the kennels with more attention than the death of Mike Hill himself. Surely human life matters more than property?

◆ Five saboteurs from East Anglia have been



Alec Smart

March of the clockwork coppers - Surrey police failing again to provide adequate protection?

charged with Affray (Section 3, Public Order Act) as a result of incidents at the West Norfolk FH. Three more are facing Section 5 charges. Remarkably, none of the hunting folk involved have been arrested. Luckily for the sabs, two local journalists were present, so for once there are independent witnesses.

◆ Stephen Thayne, whipper-in at the Chiddingfold Leconfield and Cowdray FH, has recently been convicted of Assault and Battery. The 89/90 season saw saboteurs at Chiddingfold meets on a regular basis, and riders and car followers reacted violently. (HOWL 46 detailed the conviction of one Duncan Branch for assaulting two sabs.) The court heard how Thayne rode his horse through a group of sabs, knocking one of them to the ground. He was given a one year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £170 costs.

◆ Three rural louts have also been brought to book for their actions at the Chiddingfold hunt. It emerged in court that the three youths had been brought in by the hunt to "take care of the antis". In the course of duty they chased a car-load of sabs at high speed around country lanes, which the court accepted had left the sabs "terrified". The driver was convicted of Reckless Driving and the two passengers of Affray.

◆ Both the Horse and Hound Ball and the Game Conservancy Ball were picketed by animal rights activists this year, and as usual the assembled bloodsports fanatics couldn't restrain their worse instincts. At the Horse and Hound Ball the Metropolitan Police did slightly better than their country cousins by managing to arrest a few of the ball-goers as well as the usual trawl of protesters. The Game Conservancy Ball (the first ever, by the way) saw the Met revert to normal police practice: none of the assembled shooters were arrested, and there was indeed no trouble anyway. But hours later when the protesters emerged from the pub, the cunning police trap was sprung and six people were arrested. One of them was charged with Drunk and Disorderly, but that was dropped. Too bad - it would have made a change from Section 5.

Gone to Ground and Accounted For

THERE IS A NATURAL turnover of hunts, with changing circumstances forcing one into decline or allowing another to start up. The Gogerddan Foxhounds in west Wales closed down a few years ago: the Dove Valley Minkhounds, based near Stoke-on-Trent, were set up last year. In itself the closure of a hunt does not necessarily represent a victory for the HSA (for instance we can't claim to have "shut down" the Gogerddan) although we are of course glad to see them go. But the hunts that have departed this year bear closer examination.

Mr Goschen's Foxhounds - Closed

Or rather, Mrs Goschen's Foxhounds, since Mr G himself popped his clogs a year or two ago. This hunt was one of the last "private packs" of foxhounds left in the country, and used to be one of the smarter hunts in southern England. Mr Goshen paid for the whole kit and caboodle himself, not accepting subs, and maintaining a good pack of hounds to hunt a sometimes difficult (and rather small) country. Until about eight years ago.

In the early eighties the Goschen's started getting regular visits from sabs, and this attention soon started to pay off. The number of kills dropped rapidly, and the quality of the hounds declined. Within a couple of years efficient sabbing had reduced a once-good pack to that common southern phenomenon: a pack that hardly kills above ground. As so often happens, however, the presence of sabs did little for the good humour of some supporters. (Mr Goschen's hunt was at one time reckoned to be one of the south's most violent hunts.) On one notable occasion the terrierman lost his temper and went to hit someone. Unfortunately for him his wife was standing right behind him and when he drew back his fist his elbow connected with her face, breaking her nose. That was the end of that fight!

By the late 80s the hunt had calmed down a bit, and sabs were allowed to get on with their work in peace and quiet. The hunt's old - and efficient - huntsman had left, replaced by a rather less impressive figure: hounds were now with sabs on a regular basis. The number of car followers dropped from 20 or 30 down to about half a dozen: the 70 or 80 riders became 40 (on a good day). Admittedly dwindling support had less effect on a private than on one which depends on subs for its survival. Faced with heavily depleted country, the hunt was in severe trouble. When Mr G died, it was widely believed that his hunt would soon follow him: it did.

Four Shires Bassets and Derwent Valley Beagles - Closed

To understand the problem that beagle and basset packs are facing you have to look at a slightly wider picture than just individual hunts. Fifteen years ago virtually every pack of beagles in the country advertised its meets, now the figure is zero. Some packs have given up producing meets cards, and only ring even trusted supporters the night before the meet. Others have developed complicated routines for losing sab "tails" waiting outside the kennels. One local pack forbids its followers from having any identifying stickers on their cars, and at the meet all cars are usually parked inside a barn so as not to attract the attention of sabs out looking for them. Additionally, most packs are incredibly suspicious of newcomers. As the regular supporters grow older, the whippers-in become less fit, with eventually disastrous results for hound discipline. And it has a snowball effect too; potential young recruits tend to avoid packs with a reputation of being full of Colonel Blimps. As support dwindles the pack faces financial problems too. These problems are shared to varying degrees by beagle and basset packs across the country. Added to the normal difficulties of keeping a pack of hounds they can prove fatal, particularly if the hunt is still being sabbed on a regular basis. (Witness the demise of the once-proud Aldershot Beagles.) HOWL doesn't know the exact details of the problems of the Four Shires and the Derwent Valley (although Richard Brown, huntsman of the latter, says there is "no more money") but we can be sure that lack of publicity helped put them under.

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Foxhounds - Closed

A feature article elsewhere in HOWL covers the long campaign against this hunt; suffice it to say that if it weren't for the HSA, the L and S would still be killing foxes.

The Dart Vale and Holdon Harriers and the South Pool Harriers - Amalgamated

We can't claim responsibility for this one, unfortunately. But the truth is even funnier anyway: one set of animal abusers have wiped out another set. The new regulations governing disposal of animal carcasses (due to the dangers of BSE) have meant that the traditional "service to farmers" offered by hunts (ie feeding dead animals to the hounds) has had to be withdrawn, because of the cost. Since a lot of farmers only tolerate the hunt for just that service, this isn't particularly good news for hunts short of country. It also means financial headaches because they'll have to pay for more food for the hounds. And that is what has happened to these two packs. Hopefully more will follow shortly

Well, who's next? HOWL thinks that the Surrey Union or Clinkard's Hounds are possible favourites, but there are others who face similar problems. Anyone fancy a flutter?

New Groups

THE NETWORK of local groups is the backbone of hunt sabotage. Comprised of dedicated individuals who, going out often several times a week, take the struggle against bloodsports to the very perpetrators themselves. Their reward for this is the catalogue of arrests and assaults you find described in every HOWL. Sabbing does mean more than putting up with the constant threat of violence from frustrated hunters and police harassment. Money is constantly needed, whether for van maintenance, hire fees, buying essestial equipment etc. A lot of organisation is required, from finding the hunts and researching them through dealing with the press. Looking back over this you might wonder why anyone would want to go sabbing, let alone set up a new group - which entails even more work, frustration and worry than normal. However, it is lucky that some people do have the commitment, time and energay to do such things.

With these thoughts in mind we thought it would be good to have an article bringing the spotlight to bear on some of the newer groups around.

So how does a new group come into being? At the moment there are usually two ways. Firstly, experienced sabs may move into an area where there isn't an existing one, roll up their sleeves and get recruiting.

This happened with **North Dorset HSA**. It was formed earlier in the year with a core of experienced "old timers". They intend to really shake up the Dorset hunts in the forthcoming seasons with a massive campaign of non-violent direct action.

For the first few outings they merely observed, getting to know the opposition. They revealed themselves to the Portman Foxhounds in late February at Compton Abbas. The local coverts were thoroughly pre-beaten before the meet. The terriermen were also observed sending their dogs into a badger sett and then blocking it up afterwards. These lowlife know that if a fox goes to ground in one of these, and they start digging into it, the potential for trouble is enormous. However, just five minutes before the hunt was due to set off the sabs sneaked back and unblocked it.

The actual active sabbing part of the day was pretty successful. Hounds were called away from the huntsman early on and effective horn blowing saved a fox from being chased in Fontwell Magna. Later in the day the pack was split while a sab went off to collect the rest. With the pack reunited sabs holed up a friendly villager's garden until the whipper-in arrived, furiously demanding them back. After a delay, to ensure that the fox was safe, he was allowed to take custody of them again but proceeded to pack up almost immediately.

North Dorset are now active against the minkhunts and fundraising to get their van into shape. One plea - the experienced sabs



M. Timmins

West Norfolk's HSA's first day out. Successfully stopping a shoot.

would love a load of new faces to come along and get involved so if anyone is interested then get in touch.

A second new group from down south is Winchester HSA, formed by a couple of the region's stalwart sabbers (if they don't mind being described as such!) They had a busy first season, introducing many new sabs to the notorious New Forest Foxhounds as well as the Hampshire, Surrey Union and Hursley Hambledon. A couple of visits were also paid to the New Forest Buckhounds who haven't seen that much pressure from the "antis" recently.

The public of Winchester have been very sympathetic to their cause - one pub collection making over £200 in an hour! These two have now moved on again but the group is gong from strength to strength with their own vehicle due on the road shortly.

The other way, at present, that a group comes into existence is when an interested person contacts either an existing group or the national HSA saying that they want to get something going.

This is what happened with the **West Norfolk HSA**. One enterprising local took it upon himself to get the ball rolling. A meeting was arranged for everyone who had expressed an interest at which a tactics talk was held. **Norwich** sabs had a chance to have a natter and plans were made for the next day - their first.

The West Norfolk Foxhounds were followed from their kennels but, in a rather embarassing moment, were lost as soon as they moved off from the meet. However, whilst scouting about for signs of them a shoot was discovered. Now, I know experienced sabs who wouldn't interfere with a shoot and it is a credit to these first timers that they were willing to stand in front of the guns immediately. The shoot was less than happy about this turn of events and went for lunch. Eventually the hunt was located but they packed up immediately because the huntsman, with a severe throat infection, could hardly blow his horn and had to be driven back to the meet. After a brief halt to send him a "Get Well Soon" card it was back to the shoot. They were even less chuffed to see sabs for a second time. They were even more reluctant to cease their activities a second time and it all got a bit hectic with sabs running through the trees, trying to pin-point where the guns were going off around them! By the end of the day, a decent shoot of about 30 guns was reduced to a half a dozen die-hards having a rough shoot in some trees. Although not a very conventional start to sabbing many more lives were saved that day that if they had been present at a hunt.

Later weeks saw them getting into the art of hunt sabotage properly as well as making good contacts with the press. They are already producing their own regular newsletter and with plenty of fundraising occuring, Norfolk bloodsports will definitely be kept on their toes in the future.

This is only three of the newer groups that have arised this season. There are more and we wish them every success (but please send in some group news in the future!)

The two routes mentioned by which a group usually staggers into existence are both fairly passive ones - we wait for something to happen. However, this is a fairly complacent attitude which must, and is, changing. A survey was sent out to all local groups and from those that were actually returned places have been pin-pointed where new groups are thought to be most viable. At the time of writing plans are being made to actually go out and take the initiative - to find people who want to go sabbing rather than wait for them to approach the HSA. Don't expect miracles but over the next year hopefully there will be even more local groups out there where it matters - in the field.

Fell Week

THIS YEAR'S FELL WEEK was held over the Easter weekend and was generally a success. Rather than the week long extravaganza of last year it was just four days but that didn't stop sabs having a good time and doing plenty of sabbing.

Day one was Good Friday and it was decided that the first targets were to be the Eskdale & Ennnerdale Foxhounds. When the hunt set off up the fells sabs followed them and succeeded in taking the hounds for a walk several times over the day. Unfortunately, people became split up and scattered over quite a wide area. Although no violence occurred because of it (except one person who was hit by a supporter), it did mean that near the end of the day, when a fox was run to ground, there were only five sabs present. In the face of about seventy supporters there was nothing they could do but watch as it was dug out and killed. This put a damper on an otherwise successful day.



Merseyside HSA

Wensleydale foxhounds wonder what's happening

A Channel 4 film crew came out as well and filmed a lot of the events. When the hunt had packed up and were back in the pub they went to interview them. Being aware of how valuable public image is they proceeded to abuse and push them about. What an interesting display that looked on television!

The next day it was the turn of the Ullswater Foxhounds at Patterdale. Sabs ensured that they were up on the fells beforehand, laying in wait for the hunt to come up. Unfortunately, they found out that we were up there and set off up the opposite one. A mad scramble down ensued and a dash round in vans to the other side to hopefully intercept the hounds. The hunt was located and sabbed despite the attentions of a rather obnoxious tractor driver who seemed to have no love for us. Eventually they boxed up and went home.

Saturday evening involved a wonderful sabs social at ***** in Lancaster. The food was good, the music was good (except for a few occasional Abba records) and a fun time was had by all. Thanks to all those who helped to put it on. Much appreciated.

After an evening like that it was just as well that the next day was a blockade of the Wensleydale Foxhounds kennels. This particular unregistered pack had "abducted" a couple of sabs a few weeks before, driven them onto the moors and dumped them. About 40 sabs hid themselves on the fells behind the kennels whilst another 30 or so went down to the main gate to have a banter with the hunt. Maurice Bell decided that he didn't really want to go out that day, disappointing the supporters that had turned up and so the sabs on the fells were called down. The hunt was a bit alarmed by another group of sabs suddenly appearing en masse at the back of their kennels and did not take it too well but there was no serious trouble.

The final day, Easter Monday, saw sabs returning to the E & E. Every possible fell was covered with a party of sabs and a flying squad in the valley to ensure that the hunt could not do a runner. It was wet and windy weather and the prospect of sabs being with them all day obviously persuaded them to stay at the meet. Consequently, a few vans had a chance to make a dash over the Ullswater at Patterdale again who packed up as soon as they arrived.

The four days showed that mass sabbing does have its place and can be very effective. The Easter weekend is one of the most prestigious times for the Fell packs with people travelling from all over the country to be with them. However, sabs presence ensured a much reduced level of hunting activity and only one kill at any hunt sabs attended. Considering that they would have killed many more than this had we not been there it can definitely be regarded as a success.

Many thanks to all the local sabs in Cumbria for the hard work put into organising it, especially Bev for the food!

Groups that attended were: **Carlisle, Liverpool, Manchester, Scotland, Newcastle, Sunderland, Leicester, Nottingham, Huddersfield, York, Hull, Leeds, Bradford, West London, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Sheffield** and a couple of long distance sabbers from **Plymouth**.

Group News

THIS GROUP NEWS covers the period from the turn of the year to the end of the fox/hare hunting seasons. It has generally been a successful period for active sabotage, although this has been marred by an increase in violence and arrests for legal activities.

It is important that everyone has the chance to find out what the local groups are up to but this can only occur if the information is sent in. So, if your group isn't mentioned get that pen out next time!

EAST ANGLIA

Norwich HSA reckon that they have had one of their best seasons ever - usually at the expense of the West Norfolk Foxhounds. With 29 visits from sabs during the season the hunt has tried every conceivable means of stopping sabs, ranging from the usual intimidation and violence, right through to high court injunctions (see Legal section). Alas for them (and their pockets!) none of it has worked.

The only kill witnessed by Norwich sabs at the West Norfolk occurred on 27 February. The hunts whipper-in, Mark Reynolds, was carrying the horn as the huntsman was laid up in hospital with a throat infection (aahhh!). The hounds were soon out of control and running all over the place. Sabs saw a cat sitting by the side of the road and tried to get the hunt to gather its hounds. With the usual lack of concern for animals they were ignored and seconds later the cat was dead. The corpse was just lying by the roadside as the hunt tried to dig a fox out that had sought sanctuary underground. Despite there being only seven of them present, sabs managed to prevent any kill. To round off a dismal day for the hunt they were unceremoniously escorted off a local air base they had chased a fox on to.

The following Saturday, Norwich were joined by **Ispwich** and the newly-formed **West Norfolk HSA**. However, the hunt spent all day skulking around Sennone Park (owned by Thomas Cook, he of travel agent's fame) not daring to venture forth.

The next week Norwich and West Norfolk sabs stopped the hounds as they were rampaging through Litcham Common, a nature reserve. The hunt then went up to a warren, seeming to a dig-out. Sabs naturally followed and were promptly set upon by assorted riders, supporters, and terriermen. A journalist at the scene, who had come at the invitation of sabs, witnessed the whole incident and the write up the following week did the West Norfolk's reputation no good at all.

The hunt's closing meeting was attended by over 50 sabs from all over Norfolk, along with a visiting van load from **Peterborough HSA**. After a successful banner demo and leafleting session at the meet itself the hunt was kept on the run all day and, as usual, no kills were reported.

Other packs that have seen Norwich sabs loving attention recently have been the Waveney Harriers, Dunston Harriers, North Norfolk Harriers, Fitzwilliam Foxhounds and the Essex Foxhounds.

Further down south the East Essex Foxhounds have had a hard time of it, being constantly attended by sabs from **Sudbury, Halstead** and **Colchester**. They stick to this hunt week in, week out, in the belief that the more you know a particular pack and its country the better you can sab it. This certainly seems to work with the East Essex. The only kills witnessed by sabs since Christmas have been from dig-outs.

On 12 January it seemed to be a case of the East Essex Deerhounds/Harehounds as the pack rioted after both. The hunt were hampered by the lack of a proper whipper-in. He just disappeared one day never to return. Spooky! The huntsman, O'Shea, also had difficulties with his horse. He first noticed problems at about 12.30 but carried on riding the poor animal for another couple of hours before blowing for home.

False trials have also worked well in this area. Using a dead fox proved to be very successful on 26 January with the hunt being so impressed by the trails laid that they appeared to claim the body as one of their own kills!

The East Essex terriermen crew has also dwindled over the season. So much so that by 9 March at Toppesfield it was down to just one, supported by a couple of followers. Although blowing for two kills at a dig-out it later transpired that the tally was one fox and a terrier, and that this had required four shots to complete the sordid task.

Poor old O'Shea was hospitalised with a stomach ulcer (not surprising considering the season that he had had!) causing the hunt to finish their season early. Not wishing to be left twiddling their thumbs **Colchester** and **Halstead** teamed up with **Norwich** sabs for a joint hit on the Essex Foxhounds. The regulars seemed rather perturbed by their presence, perhaps blaming some of the East Essex riders, who had come over for the day as well, for bringing them along. The Essex's terrier crew do seem to be a rather more discerning bunch of characters than most though - as they proved by taking great delight in waving a copy of HOWL out of their van window at the sabs. The burning issue of the day was whether they could actually read it?

Moving up again we come to **Cambridge Anti-Bloodsports Society** and **Newmarket Sabs** who have had a very active season, often in the vicinity of the Cambridgeshire Foxhounds. CABS do not in intend to be idle over the summer months either. They have been granted a three month door-to-door collection permit by the city council. Obviously this requires a lot of hard work to organise but they should certainly reap the benefits.

One of the newer groups in the region is **Huntingdon Sabs** who have not let their inexperience daunt them, having been out 15 times since January. Most of this has been at the Fitzwilliam Foxhounds who have constantly abused and threatened them. The Cambridgeshire have also been visited a couple of times. At their Meldreth meet in February, sabs successfully took control of the pack. The huntsman took exception to this and when he caught up with them again he proceeded to try and pin them up against a fence. More riders appeared and in the ensuing trouble one sab was cropped by a rider, receiving a nasty gash to the ear. Not to be put off, Huntingdon are looking forward to a summer spent playing with the minkhunts and fundraising.

OXFORD AND SURROUNDINGS

Despite having difficulty getting the numbers out, **Oxford HSA** have had a full season sometimes being joined by sabs from **Amersham** and **High Wycombe** as well as a few visits from **Bath HSA**.

The Vale of Aylesbury Foxhounds received their fair share of attention. At the Five Bells meet in Stanbridge, some nifty spraying saved one life but later in the day fox was bolted from a pipe just 20 yards from the waiting pack. The terrier crew had been working at it for quite a while beforehand and consequently it was in no condition to flee. An easy kill for this sporting hunt.

At the Milton Common meet later in the season a better time was had. Extensive pre-beating and spraying ensured that not a fox was to be found, allowing sabs to concentrate on splitting the pack. The huntsman had a fun time hunting the hounds on the heel line of a fox that sabs had flushed out hours before!



Somerset Beagling Festival 19 February 1991. Oxford sabs discover an infiltrator in their ranks

Despite there being only three sabs present at the Chenies meet a couple of weeks later Nick Jones, the huntsman, seemed to be in a hurry. No sooner did he enter a covert then he was coming out the other side - not stopping to draw properly at all. The mounted field probably had the best gallop of the season just trying to keep up with him! Two of the masters were obviously not so impressed and demonstrated their confidence in Jones' abilities by sneaking away and partaking of a pint in a local hostelry.

The Bicester & Whaddon Chase have also had some loving tender care lavished upon them. Three times in one week at the beginning of March in fact! Starting on Tuesday 5th sabs arrived late but managed to be ahead of the hunt and ready for action when needed. Fortunately this was rare as the Bicester couldn't actually find much to hunt. Near the end of the day they did manage to bolt one from its sanctuary. Being sporting fair-minded people the poor animal was given a whole 30 seconds head start. Due to the top class nature of the pack however they still managed to lose it.

Two days later saw a return visit, this time accompanied by Bath sabs. With some successful sabbing being done, one of the supporters thought it would be a laugh to ram them off the road (see News section). Feeling that the van might not be up to a whole day of such treatment it was decided to pay a visit to the Christchurch & Farley Hill Beagles. They turned out to be a real bunch of gents - the joint-master came up and shook the sabs hands when they arrived. Feeling a trifle non-plussed and unsure of how to react, the problem was solved by a sab taking the pack away with horn and voice calls. Once the huntsman had gathered his errant charges together again he accepted the inevitable and went home.

The third visit to the Bicester occurred on the Saturday. Under difficult conditions, and mindful of Thursday's little "incident", the sabs did the best that they could, despite repeated harassment from the hunt.

NORTH

Sabs activity is still going on strongly in the north west of England. With groups from **Manchester, Liverpool, Preston** and **Bolton** being joined by the new **Lancaster** group the Cheshire hunts have been getting the attention the poor old Holcombe Harriers used to receive.

The strained relationships between the fox hunting and shooting worlds could not have been helped when in early January at Lower Peover the Cheshire Forest huntsman led sabs to a pheasant shoot. With hounds and "antis" both approaching the small party of shooters couldn't pack up fast enough - not a shot was fired. This relentless attention to duty on the part of sabs caused the Forest to cease all of their remaining Saturday fixtures and hunting on Fridays instead. This desperate tactic will obviously lose them support and much needed funds.

Following Mike Hill's death at a meet of the Cheshire Beagles on 9 February (see elsewhere in HOWL) it was announced that the hunt intended to continue with their few remaining meets. Just a fortnight later they returned to the killing fields, parading in front of the press at Bickerton Poacher.

From then on until the end of the season it was the same story every week - large numbers of sabs being met by even larger numbers of over-zealous police. They even brought their own mobile cells along, obviously expecting trouble. Despite their anger, sabs got on with the job of stopping the killing. The police seemed disappointed in this and insisted on arrested people anyway. This was for such heinous crimes as "walking along a public footpath" and running alongside the pack. There were no more hares killed during the season.

The weather has not been kind to the north east groups this year, forcing them to travel further afield to get some life saving in. Still, sabs from the **Tyneside, Sunderland, Newcastle University** and **Newcastle Polytechnic** groups have had a few memorable days.

At a late season hit on the Farndale Foxhounds they teamed up with various northern groups to ruin a good sporting day. The highlight was when half a dozen new sabs prevented a dig-out. This was despite being heavily outnumbered by the usual burly terrier lads and gamekeepers. These species of sub-humans bravely called for reinforcements but none came to their aid. They then called for the police and the area was immediately swamped with a whole two of them. They again sent for reinforcements. An hour passed, the hunt had moved off and still the sabs bravely stood their ground. Eventually more police arrived and sabs had to reluctantly move or face arrest. Seconds later the cavalry arrived in the shape of **Hull, York, Sheffield, Preston, Liverpool** and others. The police had a sudden attack of amnesia and promptly forgot about the arrest threats. The fox got away.

YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire region has been really getting its act together this season with increased communication between groups leading to better co-ordination and less deaths for "sport".

The Middleton Foxhounds have had a lot attention lavished upon them this year. Perhaps the most fun day out with this pack occurred on 16 February at Norton Grimston. With not enough grey matter to be affected by the cold, the hunt decided to venture out on foot in a thick blanket of snow covering the ground. Around 70 sabs joined in the party mood and had an excellent snowball fight - amongst themselves as unfortunately the hunt declined to get involved. The unhappy hunt stood around for an hour and then went back home without even trying to hunt.

With the Middleton being so un-sporting sabs toddled off to the York & Ainsty (North) who were engaged in a fox drive. Unlike the harmless Beetle variety this involves the hunt of foot, drawing through the woods to flush out foxes. The guns waiting on the other side then proceed to blast anything that moves. Many hounds are often lost in such a blood-lusting frenzy, shot by their "own side". A few well times holloas and horn calls from sabs resulted in the pack going walkies - followed by the huntsman floundering in the snow. When he finally retrieved the pack he went home in disgust.

Sabs were again successful at Mount Ferrent Farm near Birdsall. Every time the hounds went into a covert, sabs called them out. The hunt were none too chuffed about this and called out a landrover full of fun-loving country boys armed with pick axe handles. This emboldened the riders who persisted in trying to ride sabs down. Luckily no one was seriously hurt.

The York & Ainsty (South) have become totally paranoid about giving out meets, which can only affect their support. On one occasion when sabs did manage to attend they took the hounds for a massive run, crossing the River Derwent and leaving hunt staff miles behind!

A well-known favourite with Yorkshire sabs is the Holderness Foxhounds who have switched to going out on Fridays, instead of Saturdays, in an effort to find undisturbed hunting. The only thing they have to lose is support and money.

The Badsworth have also been receiving their fair share of attention with sabs from **Sheffield** paying them regular visits.

One bloodsport that rarely receives much organised attention is shooting (except the grouse moors in August). However, a highly successful regional day of action was carried out recently. Sabs from all over Yorkshire met up in one central location whilst scout cars surveyed the area. The first shooting party found stopped pretty sharpish when sabs entered the land and pushed off to the pub for lunch. With a bit of alcohol induced bravado they were more reluctant to stop a second time in the afternoon but within ten minutes sabs persuaded then to do so. When the police arrived they asked sabs to leave the land and told the shoot to call it a day, which they did. On the way to the next shoot, sabs were delayed by having to convince four men using ferrets to catch rabbits that they ought to desist. When they did finally reach it the guns were already packing up. A very successful day out, saving hundreds of lives.

Along with the established groups in the major urban centres like **Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Harrogate** and **York**, the Yorkshire region has been expanding into smaller places as well, building on the depth of anti-hunting feeling that does exist in the countryside. **Ripon** and **Pocklington** now have good, regular groups and they are developing well in **Scarborough, Whitby** and **Malton**. With this sort of initiative the Yorkshire blood-junkies had better watch out even more next season.

As a final note, sabs were very upset to hear of the demise of the Derwent Valley Beagles who *used* to hunt the area between York and Whitby. Their hearts go out to Richard Brown, the *former* huntsman who simply said, "No money left." Shame!

SOUTH WEST

Down in the depths of Devon the areas have been co-operating well. With groups in **Plymouth, Torquay** and **Exeter** and their transport problems now finally sorted, things are looking very rosy for the "antis" (if not the hunters!).

Probably the most memorable days were spent with the Cheldon Buckhounds who hunt roe deer on foot - well, they have to really, as the hunt only possesses one horse, which the staff take turns in riding! The actual pack is comprised of hounds from other hunts who were all drafted because of

their tendency to riot after deer. Imagine the confusion and ability of a pack of strangers suddenly being encouraged to hunt a quarry that they had always been severely admonished for going after before. The possibilities for sabs seem endless!

In late April at a well supported meet the hounds seemed eager to respond to the sabs attention. After called off one deer sabs calmly walked them out of the covert. The huntsman arrived to collect his pack, brandishing what appeared to be a "cheapie" HSA horn and crying "I'll still beat yours ...". Just to prove a point, sabs let him re-enter the covert only to call them out again when he cast them. Later in the day the huntsman requested the help of sabs to gather the hounds after they entered land of a farmer with an itchy trigger finger. "Quick boys" he said. "Help us call them out of there or 'e'll come out and shoot the lot of us." Feeling in a generous mood sabs obliged and were duly rewarded by an offer of £50 for their horn, which they politely declined. The rest of the day was spent observing the hunt drawing an empty wood. They persisted in this behaviour until the hounds, succumbing to fatigue, started to curl up and fall asleep! Moved by compassion, sabs offered the huntsman a fiver to pack up. He tried to haggle for £20 but when this was refused he boxed up for free with half his pack already slumbering.

The Dart Vale Harriers resumed advertising this season in a desperate attempt to bolster falling support. They ceased two years ago in an effort to keep sabs away. It didn't and this season was no exception with several fun days out had in their company. With little support, reduced country and a master who can't keep bailing them out, they finally announced their merger with the South Pool Harriers (who but two years ago had vehemently denied that they would ever do such a thing). This move by the South Pool apparently stems from the desire to ensure that their own country is large enough to survive rather than any real compassion to the Dart Vale.

Yeovil HSA have continued to build on their renewed strength after a brief lapse of a couple years. The few old timers are feeling refreshed by the injection of new blood. There have been no really spectacular days, just plenty of good, down-to-earth sabbing. The Seavington Foxhounds, Cattistock Foxhounds and Blackmore & Sparkford Vale FH have all seen their attention as well as an unexpected trip with the Chilmark Beagles. They were actually looking for someone else, but a change is as good as a rest they thought, and proceeded to successfully sab them.

There have been two groups going out from Bath this season. The regular Bath HSA and a smaller group known as **Bath Vale Hunt Sabs**. **BVHS** have been out twice a week most of the time, usually spending Mondays in the company of the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds. The rest of the time has usually been spent in the company of the local beagle packs.

Tuesday 19 March, saw them with the Holme Valley Beagles at Street, who had come all the way down from Yorkshire to take part in the Chilmark Beagles festival. As soon as they arrived they rated the hounds off a hare and scattered them off to all four points of the compass. The disgruntled beaglers spent most of the rest of the afternoon collecting them and packed up shortly afterwards.

On Wednesday 27th, sabs visited the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles at Monkton Deverill. Sabbing seemed unnecessary as their new huntsman, Josh Stratton, was unable to keep his pack together long enough to do anything but riot after deer and small piles of sheep droppings (it says here).

A visit was paid to the joint meet of the Royal Artillery and Avon Vale Foxhounds before moving on to the Beacon Beagles at Draycot Foliat. Sabs from **Bristol** and **Wiltshire HSA** came along as well but it did not prove to be the best of days. The supporters were highly intimidatory and **Wiltshire** sabs' taste in headgear was not appreciated (deerstalkers??!!!).

Cotswold sabs have also had a busy tail end of the year. Most of the time has been spent with the North Ledbury Foxhounds. They experienced very little trouble, from either the heavies or the police, and found the pack easy to sab. Apart from fundraising they are also waiting with anticipation for a forthcoming match in a five-a-side football league they are involved with. Their opponents? The local constabulary! For some reason, the numbers who have expressed an interest in playing have reached an all time high.

Scotland on Sunday newspaper, a sab phoned up the hunt to sympathise with their plight and was rewarded with details of all of their future meets!

At Bangour Hospital in February some effective sabbing resulted in a terrierman threatening to kill a sab. This was duly reported to the police and the man was arrested, to the accompaniment of much sniggering from his fellow heavies.

A Scottish national hit was called on the L & S in reply to the hospitalisation of five sabs earlier in the season. Over 90 sabs from **Fife, Tayside, Clydeside, Stirling** and **Ayrshire** groups went along and the hunt proceeded to draw the coverts at supersonic speed in an effort to out run the opposition. Despite this turn of pace sabs succeeded in splitting the pack. In one wood, two heavies managed to break a sab's nose. However, when more sabs arrived on the scene these "gentlemen" were politely but firmly(!) lectured on the errors of their ways.

At their final (ever!) meet in March the assembled field were told of the decision to disband the hunt. Their usual bloodthirsty mood became positively murderous. Over 80 sabs were met with a torrent of abuse and spitting which the police declined to do anything about except arrest a sab for complaining when she had been cropped.



A jolly fellow from the closing meet of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH waves with a friendly gesture to hunt saboteurs

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh & Borders sabs are indulging in a well-deserved end of the season celebration as "their" hunt, the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire, have finally closed down (see feature article). The poor old L & S didn't manage to start the New Year until 26 January at Torpichen. Sabs from **Edinburgh & Borders** and **Stirling** followed the hunt into some woods on foot. The riders appeared upset by this and started screaming abuse. Meanwhile, sabs on the road watched a fox calmly exit from the trees, just yards from one of the joint-masters.

After a major article on the hunt in the

Again, the hunt raced off trying to lose sabs. At one point the huntsman appeared brandishing a foxes brush and claiming a kill. He was almost frothing at the mouth and managed to drop it, resulting in him having to desparately scramble off his horse to retrieve it.

There were several other attacks during the day on sabs but their determination and number forced the hunt to keep moving. Back towards the meet a car tried to run sabs down and the police finally became involved. One sab was put in the back of a police car whilst Paul Reid (a supporter who makes the Kray twins look like pacifists) started

accusing others of attacking the car. One PC went up to him, unzipped his anorak and extracted a 10 inch spanner. His excuse was "To defend myself against these saboteurs." He was consequently charged with Possessing An Offensive Weapon With Intent To Use It. What do we keep telling people about not making statements Paul? There was one kill at a dig-out but sabs were soothed by the knowledge that this would be the hunt's final ever one.

On 16 March sabs from **Clydeside, Stirling, Tayside** and **Edinburgh** had a good day out with the Fife Foxhounds. The only kill all day was when one of the rider's horses had to be destroyed after a bad fall.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Irish sabs have attended all but two of the Iveagh Harriers' meets this season and have had a visible effect on both the pack and the supporters' morale. At their final meet at Ardress House (a National Trust property), horn and voice calls drew the hounds straight over to the sabs. One fox was put up but lost. One hare was put up but lost. Basically, sabs won the day with no kills reported. Back at the meet, sabs sun-bathed and gave the hunt a good send-off by unfurling an unmissable 20-foot banner saying "Stop Bloodsports!".

With no mink hunts to sab, **Northern Ireland** are spending the summer fundraising, recruiting and laying plans for the region's anglers. Watch this space!

MIDLANDS

Birmingham sabs have had a bit of a lean time this season but are getting it back together again. They have often been out in the company of **Wolverhampton sabs**, who have managed to build a strong, effective group. Most of the time has been spent visiting the North Ledbury and North Herefordshire Foxhounds with occasional visits to the Albrighton FH.

On 1 April, they visit the North Ledbury as an end of season meet. However, high spirits were dashed when hounds picked up a strong scent and killed in the middle of a field within two or three minutes. Very suspicious thought the sabs. Undaunted they successfully pulled the hounds of several scents. However, right at the end of the day, just as it appeared that hounds were going to be boxed up, they were taken into a field by the side of the road, picked up a scent immediately and again killed in a couple of minutes. Another bagged fox was suspected and this was later confirmed during a conversation with the terrierman from the neighbouring North Herefordshire who was present that day. So, not a good end to the season, but **Wolverhampton** have promised that they'll be back and that they are definitely "alive and kicking".

Worcester sabs were joined by **Wolverhampton** in March for perhaps the best day of their season at Cannon Frome. The North Ledbury were just starting the first draw when sabs pulled half of the pack over. This was in full view of the supporters and severely annoyed the huntsman. The same thing was repeated a couple of times in different coverts. Eventually a fox was put up, but sabs were a prime position and successfully rated the hounds to a halt despite the best efforts of the huntsman to encourage them onto the line he had actually seen the fox take.

Over in the east of the Midlands, **Leicester HSA** have had a fairly quiet end to the season. Problems with transport and money, and a difficulty in motivating people, have led them to not going out as often as they would like. However, they have still been visiting the Cottesmore Foxhounds whenever possible, often in conjunction with **Loughborough HSA**. The problems with the hunt's private security force (Leicester Constabulary) have continued. Their latest ploy is trying to arrest people for trespass, even when there is no agent of the landowner within three miles. The sabs have produced their own newsletter and leaflets and are trying to recruit more members.

Nottingham and **Mansfield** sabs have been out regularly since the New Year, weather permitting. On one visit to the Belvoir sabs were in the right place at the right time just as a fox crossed the road. The hounds arrived a minute later and were instantly checked by the use of voice and whips. Although the huntsman arrived and took them on to the line again, valuable time was gained. They have also been out and about with their local beagle packs more than before. The Per Ardua Beagles were on the receiving end several times as well as the Oakley Foot. On one memorable occasion, the huntsman for the Oakley refused to pack up on principle. Despite all of his support having left, and only one whipper-in still there, he would not go home. The sabs that were still managing to be out with him, finally gave him best as the rain came down and staggered back to their van, wet and footsore. Five minutes later, as if he had proved his point, he packed up. They hope he enjoyed the day as much as they did.

With a new Land Rover on the road and a busy summer of fundraising and minkhunt sabbing ahead, there is definitely no rest for the wicked.

Sabs from all of the **East Midlands** groups got together at Lincoln racecourse for the South Wold's point-to-point meeting. Lincoln sabs success in getting point-to-point meetings banned from this council-owned course meant that this was the last ever set of hunt races to be held there. As the course is actually common land, sabs had full rights of access and started the afternoon off with a picnic and football match (Lincoln were beating Nottingham before a dog punctured the ball!). When the races started, sabs stood in front of fences in an attempt to peacefully halt them. The police had different ideas however, and proceeded to arrest 13 people, especially anyone with a video camera. All were later released without charge. No races were actually halted but the point was made.

SOUTH EAST



Cowslip

SE Sabs hunt hounds at Surrey Union to good effect

In response to the severe violence meted out at the New Year (where sabs were ambushed by suspected hired thugs wielding baseball bats and ridden over whilst sitting on a fox earth to prevent the hunt digging-out) a major hit was called on the Surrey Union Foxhunt at their Forest Green meet in January. No one managed to actually keep a record of which groups attended, but over 200 sabs were present. Despite these numbers, members of the hunt tried to have a go at sabs, succeeding in injuring several, including a 55-year old man who was recording the action with a now inoperable video camera. However, no serious hunting occurred and the rest of the day was spent endeavouring to keep up with the hounds as the huntsman galloped all over trying to escape. He ended up hiding in a barn until the police escorted him home.

The Surrey Union have been pursued for the rest of the season at every advertised meet by sabs from **Guildford, Lewisham, Brixton, West London, Kingston** and probably many others.

On 30 January, **West London, Lewisham,**



SE Sabs stop a dig out on Old Surrey and Burston

Point meeting.

Brighton HSA have been concentrating on the Old Surrey & Burstow Foxhounds this season, often in the company of **Brixton, Kingston** and **East Grinstead**. The hunt's generally obnoxious and violent behaviour has not endeared them to the local constabulary or public. On one occasion, some rather local lads assisted the sabs in stopping a dig-out and helped remove the hunt from the land. A couple of new recruits were obtained one day when two local women simply jumped in the van and spent the day sabbing!

Further over to the east, **Herne Bay** and **Folkestone HSA** spent until mid-February with the West Street & Tickham FH. They totally destroyed any chance of hunting properly and the only kill reported was at a dig-out where police prevented any intervention. The hunt then turned more violent and these groups went back to their

Just to prove nothing puts the North Downs off - they can run but they can't hide



Guildford and **Kingston** paid them a visit. The hunt seemed to run away most of the time and the huntsman even went so far as to take the hounds to a farm and refuse to come out again! He finally emerged after some strong prompting from Joint Master, Pru Goodchild.

In the snow at Norwood Hill, both the "call hounds over" and "hunting on" tactics seemed to work simultaneously leaving the huntsman distraught and alone in the middle.

As if the Forest Green hit had not taught the Union a lesson, a regional one was called in response to the continuing violence. Around 100 sabs turned up and the hunt packed up by 2.00pm. A local TV crew came along and the resulting programme was a corker! Sabs were professional, police incompetent and the hunt just plain stupid. (It is being considered making Pru Goodchild an honorary HSA member for her services to the cause after the wonderful display she put on for the cameras!)

The campaign against the hunt is not restricted to sabbing but includes visits to their hunt ball, Hunter Trials and Point-to-regulars, the East Kent Foxhounds. Staying with them until the end of the season ensured no kills witnessed above ground and only two that were dug out.

The **East Sussex Hare Protection Society** was formed this season to help prevent the slaughter of hares in the area. Their main target is the Pevensey March Beagles and tactics consist of not only sabbing but more traditional campaigning methods, like petitions and leafletting as well.

Twice in March, the group checked every known meet of the Pevensey Marsh but failed to find them. The only conclusion that could be drawn from this was that the hunt was so desperate for a sab free day that they went out of their own country altogether. In late January, any kills were prevented at the Warthing meet by effective use of sprays. By 5.00pm, in the gathering dark, the hunt could not be found (though they were known to still be out) and sabs joined the supporters who had already gone home. A good day's sabbing but the numerous ditches and waterways kept the sabs on their toes.

SOUTH (SABS)

Reading & District Hunt Sabs have had a very busy season playing with the Chiddingfold, Surrey Union and Hampshire Foxhunts and Clinkard's Beagles. However, most of the time has been spent in the company of the Garth & South Berks FH.

At the Hursley Hambledon FH in March, around 80 sabs from **Eastleigh, Winchester, Southampton** and **Petersfield** all got together for a fun day out. In pouring rain, the hunt seemed uninterested in actually hunting and more in giving the sabs something to do by running away all of the time. Despite this, contact was maintained throughout most of the day. One sab was seriously assaulted when a group of 20-30 supporters chased a small group of sabs across the field. One person fell behind and was hit in the head and groin with a spade. They were bleeding a lot and had to be taken to hospital in an ambulance. If the hunt can't gets its blood in one way then it seems determined to get it in another.

One of the newer groups in the region are the **North East Hants Hunt Sabs**. Made up the people from Fleet, Aldershot, Farnborough, Camberley, and Sunningdale (even if the last two are actually in Surrey!) they have been out regularly honing their tactical abilities on hunts such as the Hampshire FH, Garth, Vine & Craven, Chiddingfold, Hursley Hambledon, Surrey Union and Clinkards Beagles. Several fundraising and recruiting events are planned including a sponsored walk in June in conjunction with **Basingstoke HSA**.

New Forest sabs have had an extremely successful season with the New Forest Foxhounds recording their lowest number of kills over. This success however, has lead to an increase in violence from the supporters,



Reading sab calls hound across

but the sabs have not been deterred. On one occasion 25 sabs were surrounded by over 40 organised heavies, but they carried on regardless, successfully preventing any kills. As the season neared its end the police attitude did seem to change for the better. They finally realised that sabs were not there to cause trouble and would not be put off by threats of violence. The sabs are hoping that next season will continue in the same vein. Another reason for optimism is that the Forest has a new huntsman who was appointed late. Consequently, the bond between him and his pack will not be good, making the sabs' job a lot easier.



Paul Clarke

Terrier men of the Garth and South Berks smile at the thought of sab bashing, before also attacking a car



Rachel White - New Forest sab, is relieved of part of her equipment. "Good thing I've got another one stuffed down my trousers" she thinks.

MINK HUNTING

Sab groups don't get a rest over the summer unfortunately! With minkhunts going out all over the country there is still plenty of work to do.

Your average mink hunter tends to come for the lower echelons of the fox hunting world, ie, the terrier boys and associated heavies. They also tend to be quite secretive about their meets and people have to put a lot of work into finding them. However, once meets are obtained you can usually guarantee a good turn out of sabs, ready and waiting to stop the killing.

The first sab of this season was expected to be on the firm favourites of southern sabs, the Ytene. However, Devon sabs surprised everyone by kicking off with the Devon & Cornwall Minkhounds on 27 April at Chudleigh Knighton. With only short notice, five local sabs went along, plus one from Bradford who was (un)lucky enough to be picked up by them the night before whilst hitching along.

On arrival at the meet, the hunt was rather taken aback by sabs' presence. They boxed the hounds up and threatened the sabs with the police, who were going to "Zort youm buggers owt good n' praaper!". Eventually, it managed to penetrate far enough into their skulls that the police weren't interested and so attempted to hunt. They were severely hampered in their efforts by some good holloaing and horn blowing which irritated the huntsman to such an extent that he ran after the sabs' Land Rover screaming and waving a stick. The hunt next tried to do a runner, but when this ploy failed, they holed up on the land of one of the areas leading fox hunters. The heavies were called in and proceeded to chase sabs with iron bars and wooden clubs. Sabs thankfully managed to escape but some damage was done to vehicles. With the hunt successfully disrupted the sabs prudently decided to call it a day.

The following week, about 20 turned up for the D & C and the police took a bit more notice although the sabs feel that three patrol cars, two traffic cars and a Land Rover was perhaps a trifle excessive. Again, unsuccessful attempts at hunting were made and the hunt took refuge on a farmer's land. When he came along, he threw a fit and promptly threw them off. Accepting the inevitable, they packed up.

The same day, the Ytene account was finally opened when about 60 sabs turned up at their meet. They sat there. The hounds and supporters sat there. Sabs sat there. The hounds sat there. The supporters drove off. The hounds sat there. The sabs sat there. The supporters returned. The sabs sat there. It passed 6.30pm. The sabs *still* sat there. The supporters left. The hounds left. The sabs left. What a pleasant day for everyone concerned!

Sabs were back a week and a half later, on a Wednesday evening. This time an effort was made to actually hunt, but the combined efforts of 130 sabs made it all rather futile.

The next two Wednesdays saw the Ytene swapping its meets in an attempt to actually get some action in. They did succeed the first time (after all we're not perfect!) but were caught out the following week and were again forced to pack up.

Those Midland regulars, the Northants Minkhounds, were visited the next Saturday by sabs from as far apart as London, the New Forest and Liverpool. Just goes to show how popular they are! The hunt were a trifle upset by the appearance of sabs on the river bank and sought refuge in a field. Calling for transport, a horse box arrived into which hounds, staff and supporters all crammed. Sabs tried to draw this overloading situation to the police's attention but were told to stop being petty! Everyone went back to a farm and hung around for a while before the hunt called it a day, travelling back to the kennels while police put road-blocks up to prevent sabs following.

A new pack, which has only been in existence for a couple of years is Dove Valley Minkhounds who hunt the river systems of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The huntsman and master is Greg Mousely, a well respected breeder and terrierman for the Meynell & South Staffs Foxhunt. He is not noted for his love of "antis", once attacking his own vehicle when he couldn't get at the sab's one. So, this meet was approached with a bit of trepidation. However, fears were proved groundless as everyone rolled up to the meet. After sitting around for a while, twiddling their thumbs, they decided not even to unbox and simply went home.

In summary of the meets covered so far, the hunters either haven't started or have been forced to pack up early. Not a bad start to the season. With plenty of plans afoot, it looks like being a bad summer for the minkhunts.



Jo Caller

Northants Minkhound's whipper-in and the art of peaceful negotiation

HSA Treasurer's Report 1990/91

Since the November 1989 EGM and the overthrow of the old regime the Association balance stood at nil. This of course was due to the accounts previous to November 1989 being held by John Hale (the old treasurer) along with bank accounts and balances. This is still the case today. In the 1989 AGM the Association voted that the Association become a Limited Company. This was endorsed in the 1990 AGM along with a vote to become VAT registered.

The Association became a Limited Company and VAT registered and started to trade as such on 1/1/91. The Association accounts for 90/91 only reflect money received on old Association invoices after 1st January 1991 and with respect to money paid out only up to 31st December 1990, with the exception of £5,500 transferred from the Association accounts to the Limited Company, bringing the Association balance to nil.

The Association bank account still remains open but only to accommodate direct debit mandates which are transferred to the Limited Company account at regular intervals.

The Limited Company accounts run from 1st January to 31st December each year and are submitted to Companies House before April the following year. As this is the first year of trading there are therefore no Limited Company accounts available until next year. However, a half year set of accounts will be available at this year's AGM and by post on application from the PO Box on or around 14th July 1991.

Bearing in mind that the 90/91 figure is in essence only six months trading, there is not much that can be established by comparing 89/90 to 90/91. For instance, postage appears to have been halved, whereas in fact, the Limited Company up to April has spent £2,045.23 already on postage. However, what can be seen is that both our input and output figures have risen substantially. Also encouraging is that membership has risen sharply, which has enabled us to donate £2,120 to groups; to spend £872 on specific campaigns, eg the Fell Week; £400 on research into illegal activities, eg dogfighting; and £500 in getting legal education to active saboteurs.

Obviously in relative terms this is peanuts but considering that we started from scratch 13 months previously, we believe that these figures not only show us re-establishing ourselves, but also progressing onto bigger and better things. From January to April, the Limited Company has spent £1,450 on promotional stalls; £500 on advertising; and has committed £3,000 already on stall pre-booked for 1992. A cycle we hope of more promotion, more members, more money, and more action.

Our old, old problem of salesgoods was always a result of not having enough stock or even money to buy stock. We have never since the early 1970s had more than £8,000 worth of salesgoods on hand. This resulted in orders taking forever to fulfil. The Association's stock on 1/1/91 will show as £10,279. However, by the end of April 1991, the Limited Company is worth in excess of £20,000. This is only the figure for shirts, pens, badges, etc and does not include literature, posters, leaflets, or other printed matter, all of which we are building up.

You may have noticed other slight movements forward: our leaflets are no longer cheap and nasty; our set of four new designs of posters are the first posters we have produced for years. You may also have noticed that you can now phone through your order and subscriptions using credit cards.

EXPENDITURE	89/90 (7 MONTHS)	90/91 (12 MONTHS)
Travelling expenses	737.28	1,577.74
Salesgoods	2,150.37	3,310.60
Stall/hall hire	537.25	110.00
Raffle cost	1,014.00	12.50
prizes		12.50
Postage	2,594.62	1,229.20
Office rent	88.00	299.11
Officers' expenses		
secretary	650.00	1,600.00
salesgoods	638.12	653.00
Jason Parker	-	100.00
press	-	333.99
legal	100.00	506.02
committee secretary	30.73	105.49
fundraiser	-	184.00
Keith Mann	-	400.00
Helen Carter	-	50.00
Printing		
HOWL	1,582.70	6,035.94
other	311.97	2240.15
stationery	164.22	-
Telephone	118.58	482.66
Advertising	436.52	165.50
Research	88.00	18.00
Foxcubs	190.00	250.00
Campaigns	90.07	872.93
Bank		
unpaid cheques	-	54.00
charges	6.00	40.00
Photocopier	-	128.92
Group loans	-	2,120.00
Court case	-	91.00
Refunds	-	109.16
Data protection	-	56.00
PO Box	-	41.00
Total for Association	£11,637.08	£24,660.91
transfer HSA Ltd	-	5,500.00
	£116,37.08	£30,160.91
TOTAL		£41,797.99
Income		
Membership	3,283.00	7,410.70
Sales	6,936.89	8,657.59
Postage	269.82	446.37
Donations	4,434.02	4,143.82
Raffle	2,433.00	3,400.20
Other	-	382.58
	£17,356.73	£24,442.26
TOTAL		£41,797.99
Value of stock transferred to Limited Company on 1/1/91		£10,279.20

◆ An appeal for support for Lis Dorer has reached us. She drives all over Hertforshire to rescue animals that have fallen foul of anglers' discarded tackle. The vet's fees, special food etc. cost a lot of money and she is entirely dependent on public donations. She has even considered selling her wedding rings to keep the service going. The address is:

Mrs Lis Dorer
Swan Rescue
14 Moorland Road
Boxmoor
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP1 1NH

A couple of dates for your diary, courtesy of Action for Animals.

◆ On Saturday, 3 August there will be a Cattle Action Day to protest against the treatment of cattle all over the country.

◆ In October there will be a campaign conference at Holborn Library, London entitled "Fund the NHS NOT animal experiments".

Further details on both events can be obtained from:

Action for Animals
PO Box 254
London E5 8TB
Telephone: 071-241 1362

◆ A national demonstration against the fur trade has been called for Saturday, 5 October in Halifax, West Yorkshire. It is aimed against an arctic fox fur farm owned by Mr Gary Charlesworth of Ovenden Wood.

There will be a march, followed by a rally with guest speakers.

Further details can be obtained from:
Animal Protection Foundation
PO Box 168
Cardiff CF5 5YH

◆ In response to the Government's hysterical reaction on the subject of dog attacks, a new group has been set up called the Campaign for Responsible Dog Ownership. It aims to oppose any wholesale destruction of breeds and to highlight the real reasons for attacks and strays - bloodlust and sadism on the part of owners and human irresponsibility. They have launched a petition and letter writing campaign and would appreciate donations! Copies of their aims and objectives, as well as petitions and further information are available from:

The Campaign for Responsible Dog Ownership
Box DOG
35 Robin Hood Lane
Kingston Vale
London SW15 3PU

◆ A mechanically-minded sab is trying to set up a register of spare parts for Land Rovers so that groups can more easily keep their vehicles on the road. If you know of any bits and pieces that are cheap (or free?!!) then contact:

HSA Land Rover Spares Register
PO Box 1
Charlton
Nottingham NG4 2JY.

Club Draw Prizes
(APRIL)

1st Prize:	**J Norton**	£24.50
2nd Prize:	**M Colburn**	£14.70
3rd Prize:	**J. Bak-Van Wyn Gaarden**	£9.80

The Club Draw is dead easy to enter - it costs just £2.00 per stake per month. You can have as many stakes as you like for three, six or twelve months. Half the money goes straight to HSA to help save hunted animals, the rest is divided as follows:

1st Prize 50%
2nd Prize 30%
3rd Prize 20%

Remember the more stakes you have the better your chance of winning, and the more money in the draw the bigger the prizes (and the more money HSA gets!). So get those entries in!

COMMITTEE

AGM AND NEW COMMITTEE

This year's AGM will be held in Nottingham on 25 August - Bank Holiday Sunday. This means that we don't miss a day's sabbing on the Saturday, but also that no one has any excuse not to stay for the party afterwards. Accompanying this HOWL is an AGM guide with a map of the venue and an agenda.

There are no elections for the committee this year, since only ten people are standing, they will all automatically become committee members. The ten people standing are: Helen Carter, Cameron Evans, Jamie Hepburn, Anne Llewellyn, Keith Mann, Jason Parker, Ben Ponton, Eric Staples, Aubrey Thomas and Neil Webster. The CVs of any or all are available from the PO Box on request (and will be available at the AGM).

SABBING SKILLS DAYS

The HSA is now organising regional sabbing skills days. As HOWL goes to press we've had the first one in London, and the second one (in Wolverhampton) is only a week away. The day involves a wide range of events which vary from introductory talks for new sabs and more complex tactical discussions for experienced folk, through legal and press workshops, to sessions about recruitment and "turn-over" of sabs. There's something for everyone! Reaction to the first day was very favourable, combined with lots of good ideas on how to improve it. We hope to take the HSA Roadshow around every region eventually - but if you ask the Contacts Officer nicely, you'll probably get priority. What would you like from this sort of event?

Huntsmanballs

"We do like it when you chaps turn up - it livens up the afternoon."
Supporter of Christ Church & Farley Hill Beagles to sabs.

"Why? Do you particularly like going home?"
Sabs to CC & FH supporter before taking their hounds away and forcing them to pack up.

"Their big deal is to go to hospital - although they don't need treatment."
Roger Lyles, Master of the West Norfolk Foxhounds, speaking to the Eastern Daily Press reporter after a 62 year old anti-hunt protester is knocked unconcious by hunt followers.

"None of us were arrested. I think the police were completely unbiased."
Roger Lyles (again!) commenting on an incident when sabs were violently attacked at a meet of the West Norfolk FH.

"Why don't you bugger off or I'll come round and disrupt you watching telly you buggers!"
Large Beaufort supporter, 11 March 1991

"There is no North/South divide".
Aubrey Thomas, HSA committee member.

Fox Cubs



Fox Cubs is aimed especially at the younger person. It is for the 7-14 year olds and its purpose is to educate them with the truth about ALL animal cruelty.

They will learn the facts of hunting with hounds, shooting, fishing and all the other ways in which humans abuse animals .

Fox Cubs will not only teach them about wildlife and its habitat, but it will show them how they can help. Young people who have been members have left and joined the HSA with more knowledge than some new adult members, this is at the age of maybe 14 or 15. They will have the knowledge of how to save foxes from a tactical viewpoint. Perhaps you have a nephew or younger sister, then why not join them up for a birthday present! The membership is just £3.00 per year. For more details on how to join, please write to:

Fox Cubs
PO Box 1
Carlton
Nottingham NG4 2JY

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