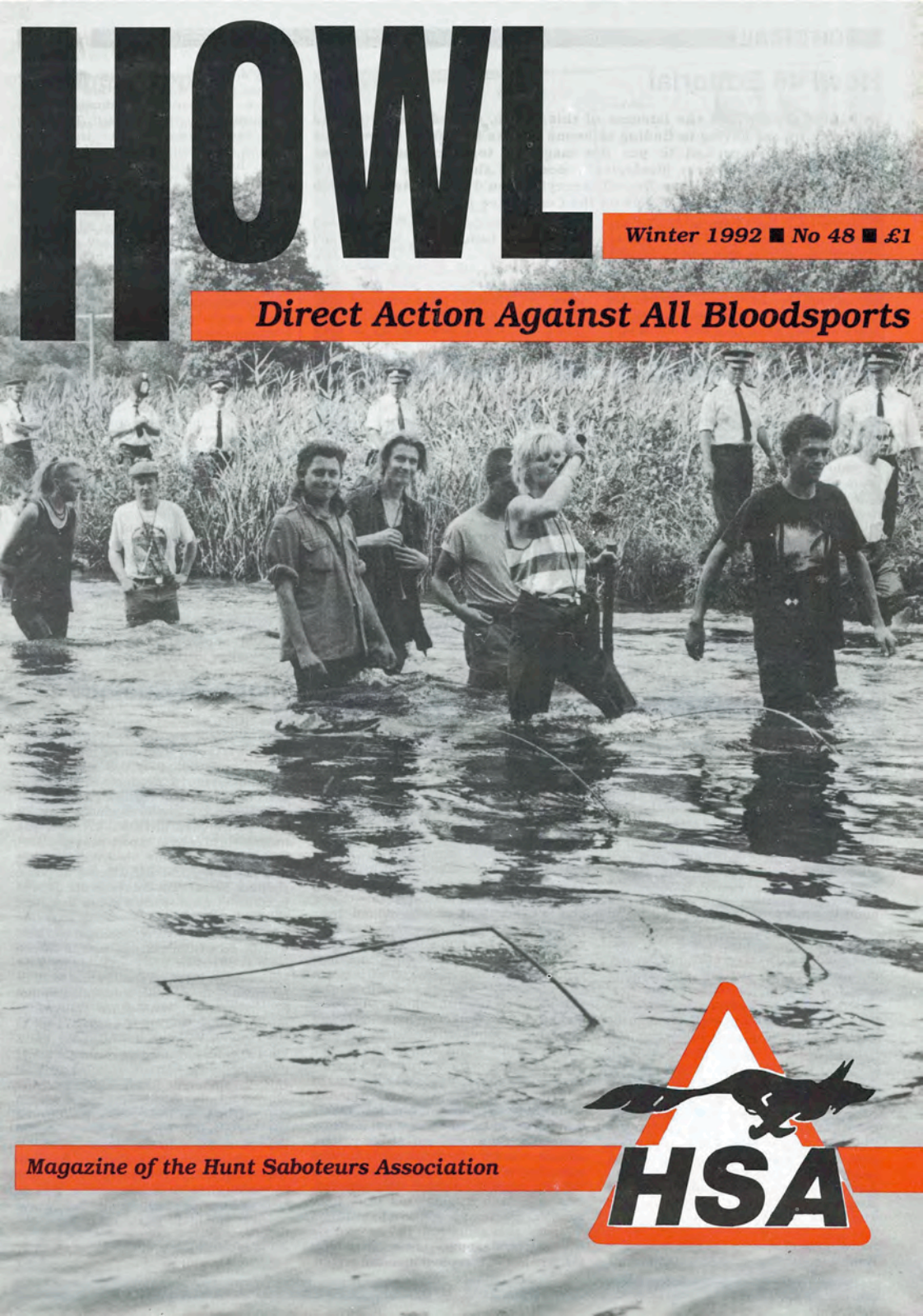
HOWL

Winter 1992 ■ No 48 ■ £1

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports



Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association

HSA

Howl 48 Editorial

OUR APOLOGIES FOR the lateness of this HOWL, caused mainly by the difficulty we are having in finding someone to take over from Steve Poole as editor. We have had to put the magazine together more or less collectively, and however ideologically desirable that might sound, it's not always a recipe for sure-fire efficiency! If you'd like to take the job on, please take note of the advert on the Committee page.

There's a lot of legal news in this HOWL, which is exactly what you'd expect bearing in mind the success with which the HSA fightback against arbitrary arrests has been conducted. No-one in this movement should still be harbouring any doubts about whether it's worth trying to take the police to court when they step out of line. Of course it is! Getting arrested and harassed without due cause by over-zealous police officers is *not* some kind of occupational hazard which saboteurs are supposed to endure with fortitude. The police will only persist with it where they think they can get away with it; their tactics will change once they know they are likely to be sued for it. The ball is in our court. Chuck it back hard.

We're also running another article on deer control and poaching by Ian Pedler. This isn't because the HSA wishes to stir up trouble with the League (or with HSA members for that matter, many of whom may not agree with Ian) but because we feel that the issues he raises, however controversial, are rarely addressed with much enthusiasm in the movement. His last article was answered in our following letters page by the League's John Bryant. This is a perfectly comradely debate, and well worth having. We hope it will continue.

Many thanks, as usual, to all of you who keep us up to date with your group news, hit reports, press clippings and photographs. Keep 'em coming. Articles for HOWL are always welcome; try to keep them to about a thousand words or less if you can. Letters should be about 300 words or less. We'd particularly welcome more articles about your sab group, how it works, which tactics you use, which hunts you visit, how large or small the group is, how long it's been together and so on. That's not quite the same as sending in your group news; it's more to do with discussing issues like style and group dynamics. After all, hunting practices change from region to region - doesn't sabbing?

Copy date for HOWL 49 is March 31st 1992.
Views and opinions expressed in HOWL *do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or of the HSA.*

COVER PHOTO: Dorset police find the arm of the law not quite long enough to reach HSA's intrepid Ytene-busters. Itchen Abbas, August 12th, 1991.
(Photo: Simon Wild)

In my area there are no group meetings to discuss tactics etc, or give new people a chance to learn in situations less pressurised that the sab itself. There has even been a recent tactics training in London about which many sabs did not know. But then the 'gurus' expect us to phone them all the time in and out of season.

Another problematic situation is the sabbing of fishing meets. I am all in favour of sabbing fishing but not any place any time. I do not think that it is in the greater interest of the anti-blood sports cause for groups of sabs to descend upon a father out fishing with his young family or a retired gentlemen out for a quiet afternoon. I am not defending their activity but there has to be a larger role for information and education in respect to the occasional angler who may not be aware that fish can feel pain and who otherwise may be against all other forms of bloodsports, and may even support the HSA on other issues.

Having spoken to several sabs I know the concern runs deeper than has yet been expressed. Such situations again put us at risk of distancing new members and long standing sabs alike.

In summary, there are enough difficulties when out sabbing so lets pay more attention to the needs of other sabs. Everyone in the HSA is important and everyone should be appreciated. Next time you're out sabbing why not have a chat with the person you've seen before but never talked to.

Anon

LETTERS

Group News

Dear HOWL,
Where the hell do you get your local reports from? As you may have gathered, I have sent in a selection of press cuttings from the *Sun*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* and the *Express*, as well as the *Southern Evening Echo*, referring to an incident on Saturday March 16th concerning the Hursley Hambledon Foxhunt - not normally considered one of the Sabs region 'danger packs'.

Infuriatingly, these events were dismissed in HOWL as a mere 'fun day out' in 'pouring rain' (actually the weather wasn't at all bad - a bit damp but near perfect hunting conditions), where 'the hunt seemed uninterested in actually hunting' (they hit a good few scents but were too crap to anything about them). In addition to this, the ambush of the Southampton group's van leading to a smashed windscreen and the injury to Rebecca Price (who had previously warned police, hunt officials and the supporters who later attacked us, of her pregnancy) were entirely absent.

Incidentally, around a dozen hunt supporters have been charged with the attack, including three charges of GBH with intent. Keep your eyes peeled!

Darren Frampton,
Southampton

Clique Mentality?

Dear HOWL,
It seems a great loss that after 20 years of sabbing the ability to deal with new sabs, occasional sabs or those who do not share the clique mentality has yet to be developed by some groups.

My own local group, which is well established and should know better, do next to nothing to make people welcome and feel part of the team. (I will not name them as I want all groups to seriously consider the problem.)

The main problems as I experience them centre around an almost football hooligan like mentality. This is exhibited in a macho-confrontational attitude with police and hunt, frequently resulting in otherwise avoidable incidents which distract us from preventing the death and torture of wild animals. I am no friend particularly of the police, but trying to score political points or giving our personal grievances a public airing in their company not only makes sabbing that bit more difficult but also may intimidate and frighten fellow sabs. Ultimately those who dislike being arrested and all that it brings not only stay away from the police but also the sab group. This has to be both our loss and that of the animals.

I am also concerned by the way in which several groups revolve around a small number of people or even one person.

Rights in Custody

Dear HOWL,
I am a recent member of HSA and read with interest your legal advice in HOWL 47. I am a volunteering lay visitor in London, which means I visit detainees in police stations to ensure their rights are respected. I would therefore like to expand a little on legal advice given in HOWL 47, as it was incomplete in several important respects.

A 24-hour duty solicitor scheme operates in England and Wales at all police stations. Thus, *most* detainees are allowed to consult with a solicitor at any time, free of charge - whether in writing, over the telephone, or in person. This right can (and will) be delayed in cases of serious offence such as terrorism.

Secondly, if the person nominated to be informed of the detainee's detention cannot be contacted, two other alternative nominees may be chosen. Lastly, a copy of the Code of Practice accompanying PACE 1984 may be consulted on request. I would certainly advise anyone arrested to read this. In any event, the custody officer is obliged to give to the detainee a written notice setting out these rights. If s/he does not, they are in breach of the Codes of Practice and open to disciplinary action.

In my opinion, the best advice for a sab who is arrested is for them to exercise their legitimate right to silence, so that they do not unwittingly incriminate themselves! The less said to the police, the better.

Name and address supplied.
London

Snaring Trappers

Dear HOWL,
In response to your feature *On The Fringe* in HOWL 47, I feel some tactical points were missed. Nor are they covered in the HSA Tactics booklet. If anyone comes across any snares, smashing them up is not necessarily the correct course of action to take. A trapper will frequently check snares and will simply and cheaply replace them if they are removed or destroyed.

To sabotage more effectively, the wire could be cut in an inconspicuous manner, perhaps close to the point where it is anchored or tied, or in a spot hidden by brush or loose dirt. This will ensure that it does not strangle any passing animal. If the snare is made to look perfectly normal after disabling it, then hopefully the trapper will come to check it, see it looks intact and walk away, leaving a completely harmless snare behind him but none the wiser.

This and other methods of trap and snare sabotage are explained in the Animal Defence chapter of *Eco-Defence: A Field Guide to Monkey Wrenching* (Ned Ludd Books). Well worth reading!

Eddie,
Brixton

Getting Involved

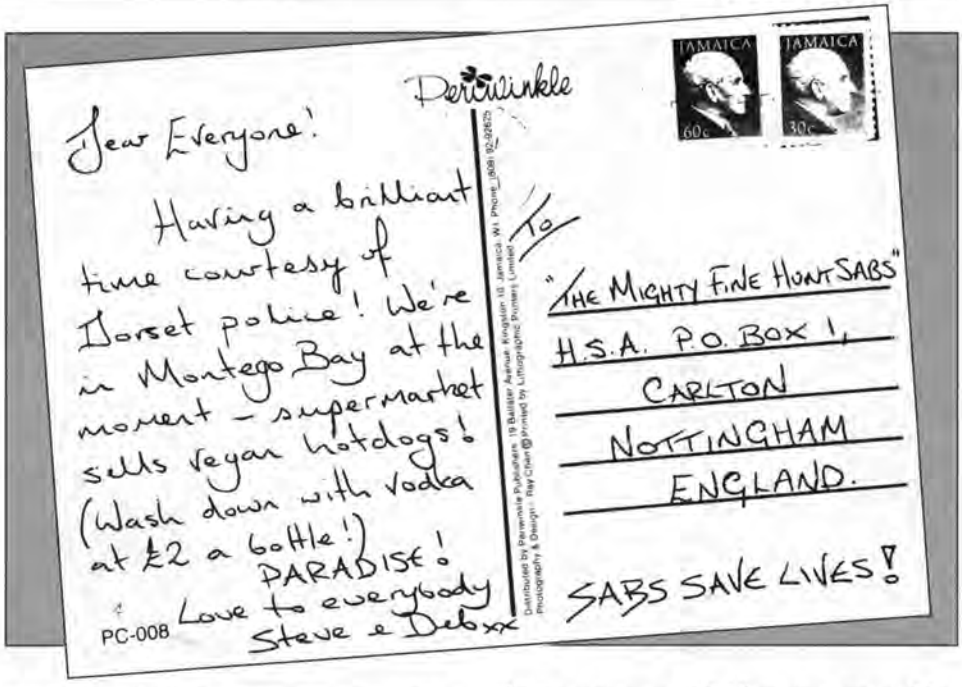
Dear HSA
Thank-you very much for the £9.00 cheque I received recently as 3rd prize in the Club draw. I have returned this to you as is in the same post I also received a cheque for £50.00 from a premium bond win, and so would like the £9.00 to go towards producing HOWL.

I have been interested in hunt saboteuring for a number of years, but until recently only with 'passive' involvement. I have always had reservations about going out sabbing, being under the impression that a number of sabs only went out to 'attack the rich' and spoil the fun of the moneyed classes. I must also admit to some reservations over the amount of aggression and violence offered by hunt supporters, as I firmly believe that violence is most definitely a very last resort and try to use a 'turn the other cheek' approach wherever possible.

However, some of the abject cruelty exposed in HOWL, along with some coaxing from a friendly sab living locally has persuaded me out into the field recently, and I must say it is very enjoyable. Much to my surprise, the majority of sabs I have met are reasonable, articulate and intelligent, with a genuine concern for animals seeming to be the only reason for their getting out of a nice warm bed so early in the morning. I have also encountered no violence whatsoever this year: there have been a few threats and intimidation from hunt supporters, but peaceful negotiation soon brings an end to that and we are left to get on with the job in hand. I have met some great people in the last few months, made some good friends and am glad that I got involved.

As I write this, I am waiting for my lift to arrive as we are off to Yorkshire to sab a beagle pack. If you print this letter, may I appeal to all HSA supporters who, like I was four months ago, are sitting at home wondering whether to get involved. Get in touch with your local sab group, and get out there and try it. You won't be disappointed!

Keep up the good work.
S 'Norman' Hunter



Chiddingfold 32

Dear HOWL,
Regarding the Chiddingfold mass arrests reported in HOWL 45 and 46: There were 32 arrested on two consecutive weekends at meets of the Chiddingfold, Leckonfield and Cowardly FH. Of these 32 people, only four were actually charged.

The three from Chichester were found guilty of obstruction, two of these have since been acquitted on appeal and the third is in the process of appealing. The fourth, Allan Hetherington-Cleverley, was charged with assault upon the joint master, Jeremy Hagan Whaley, and with disorderly behaviour. He was found not guilty after a two day hearing at Chichester Magistrates' Court on June 18th and 20th 1991, nine months after the event.

That is nine months during which he has had his legal and democratic rights of peaceful protest taken away by the Magistrates' Courts, even though he has protested his innocence throughout. It would seem that Chichester's Lay Magistrates do not like people disrupting their hunt, even if they do it peacefully. The Crown Prosecution Service has throughout the past nine months refused to prosecute Whaley for assault and are instead graciously summonsing him to be bound over on June 26th at Chichester.

There really is no justice in our country and we should be ashamed of our police and judicial system. Allan is now suing the police, Whaley and the hunt for exemplary damages for assault, wrongful arrest, unlawful imprisonment and passing confidential police information to Mr Whaley.

It is interesting to note that the only other people charged on the day were his three witnesses, and Allan was arrested by Inspector Bardwell (a friend of Mr Whaley's) after he complained to the Inspector that he had been attacked and knocked unconscious by Whaley.

As for Allan's earlier case with the stolen fox, HOWL 45 page 22, it is now being dealt with by the Prime Minister's Office and we will keep you informed.

P Miller
for and on behalf of Peacehaven Anti-Bloodsports

Shooting and Politics

Dear HOWL,
The next general election is rapidly approaching, with the Labour Party supposedly having adopted a policy of outlawing hunting with hounds, although whether it will actually come to pass is extremely dubious.

It must be time for sabs to contemplate the future. At the moment, most sab groups are involved only with sabbing hunting with hounds. So, will a ban spell the end of hunt sabbing too? Well, thousands of birds, (pheasants, partridges, wildfowl etc) will continue to die, as they do now every day of the year from the guns of shooters. And, supposedly, we are against *all* bloodsports.

If sabs are to turn their attention to shooting, then they must start NOW, because it takes time to develop tactics, gather information and gain experience to sabotage shoots with any success. In Yorkshire now, we are actively targetting shoots, spending whole Saturdays in trying to sabotage them. We're not only tackling grouse-shooting at times of the year when there is no or little hunting with hounds going on, we're also sabbing shooters during the main fox and hare hunting season. After all, days spent with shoots can be far more profitable in terms of the number of lives saved. So get out there: it's not difficult.

Bob,
Huddersfield HSA



LONDON BANNER PROTEST

LIVING PROOF that thirty-something HSA veterans can still do it - with the aid of a mechanical hoist. Amongst those pictured here protesting against the annual Faroe Islands slaughter of pilot whales, on the balcony of the Danish Embassy in London are Sue Roberts, Gary Treadwell, Robin Howard and Alan Knight. Keeping their feet firmly on the ground below were Nijal Gore and the infamous Wettons.

The early morning stunt in June cost £250 for lorry and hoist hire and an undisclosed amount for a celebratory breakfast in a Chelsea cafe. Armed embassy guards eventually persuaded them to abandon the protest, but not before some very useful publicity had been gained. In fact, the best press coverage came from Denmark itself where taxpayers expressed their dissatisfaction with the very expensive embassy security system they've just been helping to pay for.

Alan, Robin, Sue and Nijal were all HSA committee members in the 1970s, when Gary was one of the 'John Peel 3'.

(Photos: Cee Wetton)



'AFTER ALL, THEY ARE VERMIN' ...

THERE WERE ANGRY protests this summer from two communities at opposite ends of the country as hired gunmen blasted indiscriminately away at unsuspecting families of foxes.

At Halling, Kent, David Groves has been acting as a one-man fox-destruction society for the last 25 years. He has killed 'a lot, I have stopped counting'. In August this year he angered other villagers by hanging a cropped fox tail on his washing line to dry. Groves is in the habit of cutting the brush from each of his victims and presenting them to his friends as trophies, according to a report in the *Kent Evening Post*. He reckons it is 'the same as having ... a mink coat'. One villager recalled that she often sees dead foxes in fields close to Halling, all with their tails sliced off.

A bigger row broke out at about the same time in Grimsby when a family of foxes, long regarded with affection by local residents, were attacked by gunmen hired for the purpose by a bowling club.

According to the club, the foxes had been 'digging up the green every night' causing more than £1,000 worth of damage. But this claim was disputed by their own greenkeeper, Peter Atkinson. 'The truth of the matter is that the club had no evidence that it was foxes causing the damage. It could have been dogs, cats or even rabbits for that matter', he told the *Grimsby Telegraph*. 'It is absolute rubbish for the club to claim that £1,000 worth of damage had been caused. All that was needed was a bit of grass seed and the whole thing could have been repaired for about £10'.

People living near the bowling green, alerted by shots one evening, challenged the gunmen as they stood on the green, killing foxes by torchlight. They said they had been hired by the club. Two foxes were shot, then they left. Peter Atkinson arrived for work the following morning to find the club using the sprinkler system to wash blood off the grass. 'I was disgusted', he said.

When angry residents contacted the local paper and demanded to know how such behaviour could be legal in a civilised country, the club's spokeswoman, Christine Appleyard commented, 'I know it seems cruel, but after all they are vermin, and it might not mean a lot to some people but we do have to keep the greens in tip-top condition'.

A few days later, the club were rewarded for their action by persons unknown in the local community who paid a nocturnal visit to the green and dug it up. The club responded first by ordering Atkinson to 'stay off for a week', and then sacked him without explanation.

The Kent and Grimsby incidents offer further proof, if it were needed, that most people are more than happy to tolerate urban and village foxes, and that they are often flabbergasted when they learn that there are no laws to prevent their slaughter. Provided he does not first hold them captive, David Groves is quite at liberty to continue creeping about the fields at Halling, shooting wild animals and indulging his passion for medievalist tail-cutting rituals. Equally, despite the protests of local residents, Grimsby's bowls club may continue to hire gunmen to protect their precious lawns from trespassing foxes.

It is high time the Cruelty to Animals Act of 1911 was radically revised, and the real meaning of the word 'vermin' clarified. My *Universal Dictionary* of 1960 is helpful: 'Pestilent human beings; the criminal and predatory classes of society; low riff-raff; the scum or dregs of the population'.

Steve Poole



This is why we are here

From the inquisitive face of a young foxcub in Chiddingfold country, who trotted up to the Reading group and made friends, to the lifeless mask of another, butchered by the Cheshire Forest Foxhunt. These pictures were taken within a week of one another during September cubhunting, at opposite ends of the country. Foxhunting is an ugly game; we're here to put a stop to it.
(Photos: Reading HSA, Mersyside HSA)



NO SUPPORT IN SCOTLAND

REGULAR READERS of *Horse and Hound* will have grown tired in recent years of Michael Clayton's unceasingly optimistic remarks about the popularity of foxhunting. The fact that more and more hunts seems to be closing down or amalgamating even as the ink dries on his typewriter does not worry him unduly because, he says, the cause of their demise is not unpopularity. Neither is it the accumulative effects of sabotage (no, no, no, absolutely not, no indeed, these misguided hooligans have absolutely no effect whatsoever upon hunting, why we hardly even notice them, and when are the police going to start facing up to their responsibilities and eradicate this disgraceful interference with a perfectly lawful activity ...)

No. The only reason ever acknowledged for the disbandment of a hunt is loss of land through urban encroachment and road-building. Presumably this must explain the recent tragic loss of two foxhunts in Scotland - the much sabotaged and banned Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH, and the less well-known Wigtownshire FH. Well, no actually. The death of the former has been awaited and expected by Scottish sabs for several seasons now and the cause will be no mystery to regular readers of HOWL. As to the latter, why not ask the joint master, the Countess of Stair? 'Everybody is terribly sad about the hunt going, but we just don't have enough people any longer'.

Okay, Mike? So there's diminishing support for hunting in Scotland. Have you got that?

CHIDDINGFOLD HOUNDS OUT OF CONTROL

THE ANNUAL chaos of cubhunting claimed another unintended victim in West Sussex this summer when a baby deer was savaged by young hounds.

Dogs belonging to the Chiddingfold FH ignored the instructions of their huntsman, Jeremy Whaley, and seized upon a fawn, tearing it to pieces. Whaley, who seems to have known the deer personally, assured the press that it had definitely been sick 'and I think it would have died anyway'. But he admitted that the incident was 'very bad for the hounds' training'.

Since the whole purpose of cubhunting is to take new, untrained hounds into the countryside and teach them to hunt foxes, it may not seem surprising to us that incidents like this take place. Huntsmen cannot claim, as they may later in the season, that they they are in total control of the pack. If they were, there would be little point in cubhunting. It is obvious therefore that cubhunting has a recipe for chaotic mayhem built into it and it should not be legal.

Whaley's remarks, far from making the matter acceptable, actually make it far worse, because what he is saying is that if young hounds get a taste for deer during cubhunting, they may indulge it again later in the season.

MORE LIGHT FINES FOR DIGGERS

LIGHT SENTENCES for badger diggers are still the order of the day in most English courts. At Huddersfield in October, three more men were convicted of digging for badgers, but they escaped with paltry fines of £300 each.

Richard Thompson and Kevin Finnerty of Lupset, and Neil Thompson of Horbury, all denied digging for a badger in a sett at Flockton last February. They claimed they were after a fox, despite the evidence of two local farmers and badger protection groups that the sett, in a drain, had been in constant use by badgers for a considerable time.

Neil Thompson was brazen enough to claim in court that he wasn't digging for a badger then, but that he certainly *could* have been. He knew exactly where to go. 'I could go to a badger sett in 20 minutes and dig them now', he said. 'No one would see. I could block them in and dig them when it was dark'.

In a confusing outcome, the three were cleared of a second charge of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, but convicted on the main charge of digging for one. We can only wonder what the court thought they were intending to do with the animal once they had dug it out if they weren't going to kill, injure, or take it. Sketch it perhaps.

According to the presiding magistrate, Mary Castell, they were spared the £2,000 maximum fine because they were on low pay. One, who was unemployed, was excused his costs. Presumably, many local benches simply don't take the harassment and torture of badgers particularly seriously. For whilst it is all very well for magistrates to take a person's means into account when fines are being ordered, we have seen few examples of similar lenience and understanding when, for example, people who are too poor to pay their poll tax are hauled before the court. When did

Sabs protect badgers





Two terrier men from the Chiddingfold FH are treated to a reading of the Badger Sett Protection Act by a member of a Sussex badger group. Saboteurs had found them getting ready to dig into a sett after a fox ran to ground. The second picture shows a saboteur unblocking a sett that had been stopped up with loose earth and sticks by the same hunt. If you find evidence of illegal blocking of badger setts, always pass the information on to your local badger group and police.
(Photos: Simon Wild)

you last hear of a convicted badger digger receiving the £2,000 fine that was due to him?

MORE HUNTS TO FACE BANS

THE COUNTY Councils of Cornwall and Gloucestershire have joined the growing list of local authorities who have voted to ban bloodsports from land under their control. There are now more than 120 local authority bans operating in Britain.

The Cornish decision for a ban was supported by a petition signed by 15,500 people in the county, putting to shame the counter-petition organised by the Campaign for Country Sports which attracted only 1,500 names. Cornwall has 11,500 acres of publicly owned farms and country parks; and Gloucestershire about 6,000 acres.

In August, bloodsports were banned on all land belonging to Annandale and Eskdale District Council, and the Hursley Hambledon FH were told they were no longer welcome in Romsey market place on Boxing Day by the Town Council in October. At Oxford University, the Students Union placed a ban on the bloodsports club to prevent it running a stall at the Freshers Fair, and West Lancashire District Council has drafted a by-law which, if granted Home Office approval (some chance), would effectively prevent the Waterloo Cup from taking place!

A motion to ban hunting on land controlled by Aylesbury Vale District Council was narrowly defeated in October by 20 votes to 19. Since there were 13 abstentions, there must be plenty of scope to alter this decision some time in the future. As one anti-bloodsports campaigner said after the vote was announced, most of the councillors seemed 'more frightened of those who hunt than respectful of the electorate'.

A ban on deerhunting in the New Forest, supported by the District Council, 95% of the respondents in a newspaper poll, and 39,000 signatories to a petition, is presently being scuppered by the Forestry Commission. Since most of the Forest belongs to the Crown, and the Commission are its managers, it is ultimately up to them to invoke a ban. But as usual, they remain deaf to public opinion. They continue to grant hunting licences to the buckhounds and will only comment that 'It is the Forestry Commission's policy to permit hunting to take place where it has traditionally been carried out'. More scandalously still, neither the buckhounds or foxhounds have to pay a penny for their licence, despite recent revelations that the Commission spends £11,000 a year from the public purse on the supervision of hunting.

WILDFOWLING UNDER ATTACK

THE LONG-RUNNING campaign to stop wildfowling in the Pagham Harbour nature reserve, West Sussex, has ended in a victory for the birds.

One hundred and fifty years of shooting was brought to an end in July by a Country Council decision to ban it, and refuse to renew the wildfowler's lease. The Council has at last recognised that owning an internationally important nature reserve and allowing wildfowlers to shoot birds in it are contradictory.

Unsurprisingly, the BASC has predicted serious poaching problems now that legal shooting has been banned, and cites a case in the North West where poaching followed a ban, only to be followed in turn by reintroduction of wildfowling and a consequent downturn in poaching. But just in case any of you cynics out there were about to jump to the wrong conclusion, poaching stopped - the BASC says - because wildfowlers are up early enough in the morning to prevent it. Banned wildfowlers, as we all know, never shoot endangered species, even when to do so might make people think that poaching was a symptom of the ban.

The Reserve will now be patrolled by volunteer wardens who, unlike the wildfowling vigilantes so favoured by the BASC, will not have to decide whether a shooter is legitimate or not. Anyone seen with a gun will be breaking the law. Surely that's a lot easier?

The struggle to end shooting at the nearby Chichester Harbour suffered a temporary set-back in the summer when the Harbour Conservancy voted to renew a wildfowling licence there for a full 14 years. Anti-bloodsports groups had lobbied the conservancy to limit the licence to two years so that impact assessments could be carried out before shooters were given carte blanche to carry on.

Once again, the BASC has commended the wildfowlers' 'conservation' and anti-poaching work at the site. If the BASC is so keen on trumpetting test-cases from the North West to back its claims however, it might like to take a long hard look at the situation on the Solway Firth. Here, a 12,000 strong flock of protected barnacle geese has been reduced by about 5% from poaching. There have been very few prosecutions because, as the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust concedes, poaching is hardly ever detected while it is happening.

Obviously another example of a ban on wildfowling causing problems. Bring back the wildfowling vigilantes ... Well, actually its not. There's been no ban. Wildfowlers *are* regularly on site. Let's hope the Harbour Conservancy at Chichester keep this in mind from time to time over the next fourteen years.

ANOTHER PR COUP!

THE SOUTH & West Wilts FH proved how skillfully they have learnt to handle the press during the late cubbing season - by assaulting a reporter from the *Western Gazette*.

As Yeovil, Shaftesbury, Bath and Oxford sabs were subjected to the usual mindless thuggery from hunt supporters at the South & West's Sedgehill meet, *Gazette* reporter Brian Flynn looked on in amazement. The HSA's old friend David 'Kipper' Herring, now master of the pack, told Flynn he was 'quite happy that the people on the hunt acted properly'.

This was something of a surprise to the reporter. He had just seen a hunter ride into saboteurs and then smile for the camera; watched one sab receive a thump in the face from a follower without provocation, and then narrowly escaped getting run over: 'I had to dive into a ditch when a car tried to run me over as I looked on', he wrote afterwards. '*Western Gazette* photographer Len Copland was threatened with a large stick and warned not to take pictures of what was happening. He was also knocked to the ground by a horse as he walked past the hunters'.

The police made no arrests, and when asked for a comment appeared to think the saboteurs were at fault. 'If a saboteur blows a horn or behaves in a way which makes a hunter angry, and is likely to cause a disturbance, he has committed an offence', said a spokesman - presumably ignorant of a number of court rulings to the contrary.

However much we regret violent incidents like these at hunt meets, we should be grateful for their occasional exposure in the provincial press. If the *Gazette* had not been present, yet another series of serious assaults against non-violent saboteurs would have gone unnoticed by local communities.

ANTIS BACK SHOOTING

NEW PROPOSALS from the Ministry of Agriculture to control the numbers of Exmoor's deer herd by shooting them, have been given approval by a local anti-hunting pressure group.

The Devon & Somerset Residents Association for Deer Protection have agreed with MAFF that herd numbers are too high and a cull is necessary. MAFF intend to employ members of the British Shooting Society to carry out the cull - which, if it *is* necessary, once again exposes the spurious claims made by staghunters that hunting with hounds controls deer. The Residents Association are now calling on the Ministry to ensure the cull is strictly controlled and that the hills do not just become a shooting gallery.

The MAFF plan comes in the wake of the failure of the last government inspired solution - the granting of night-time shooting licences to farmers to kill 'surplus' deer. That three-year experiment was abandoned in 1990 when it became clear that they had created the perfect cover for poachers, and that having Exmoor farmers wandering the hills in the dark, armed to the teeth, might not be the best way to safeguard the security of local residents.

BADGER TRAPS DESTROYED

FIFTY BADGER trapping cages belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture were disabled by activists at a farm near Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire in August. Doors were removed, badgers freed and creosote poured over the cages after local people discovered that over a hundred badgers had been trapped and executed there.

The Ministry continues its policy of slaughtering badgers as potential carriers of TB in the West Country, despite its own findings between July and December 1990 that of, 480 badgers caught, only 3% were positive carriers of the disease.

The Ministry responded to the loss of its traps by accusing the activists of putting local farmers' livelihoods at risk by encouraging the spread of TB.

Thuggery on Film



A Sab camera inside Oxford HSA's van catches the moment (above) when a whipper-in for the VWH smashes the windscreen with a stick. Below: The result of his handiwork. *(Photos: Oxford HSA)*



TVS GET IT RIGHT

TELEVISION VIEWERS in the south of England were treated to an amusing 30 minutes of sympathetic programming at the start of the season.

A TVS documentary on sabs, hunt violence and policing hit the 'saboteur-hooligan' myth well and truly for six by broadcasting the woefully long list of huntspeople who have been convicted of violent and serious crimes against saboteurs in recent months. Brian Toon, who can usually be heard calling saboteurs a bunch of mindless yobbos, gave himself up to a rare moment of objectivity and conceded, 'These saboteurs are very sophisticated people' (because they have fought back against wrongful arrest and false imprisonment for non-offences).

This was almost as revelatory as Michael Clayton's peculiar announcement on Radio Four's 'Call Nick Ross' that if hunting were banned, there would be 'anarchy in the countryside'. Michael's usual line is that this is what saboteurs create *now*, and all because hunting *hasn't* been banned.

A police superintendent then admitted that last season's policy of arresting hunt saboteurs willy-nilly on vague charges of violating the Public Order Act simply by breathing in hunt country, was to be abandoned as unwise in Sussex: 'It would be foolish because there have been cases gone to court locally which said look, that was wrong'.

All of which left Jeremy Whaley, huntsman with the beleaguered Chiddingfold, in a very despondent mood. Asked how he thought the new season would go without mass arrests on saboteurs, he spluttered: 'Well, how long can anybody put up with ... (stops, turns, hangs head and walks off camera) No, I've had enough ... (mutters miserably) I don't know ...'

SILAGE

Silage - An occasionally indigestible digest

Compiled by Steve Poole

THIS COLUMN'S aristocrat monitors have been twitching feverishly of late. No less a chap than Viscount Althorp (Lady Di's brother) has been heard making intelligent remarks about hunting ('Ban it') on English television and embarrassing his brother-in-law, the heir to the throne. Some rather less intelligent aristocratic remarks came wafting from the graceful windows of the House of Lords during the report stage of the Dangerous Dogs Bill however. Home Office minister, Earl Ferrers wandered as far off the subject as his untethered mind would allow, and disclosed a conspiracy between his Department, the BFSS, and senior police officers, to stamp out hunt sabotage this season (not a great success, was it?). But for this issue's most eminent gentrified twitterings, SILAGE must turn to the £40 million heiress of the Earl of Ilchester's fortune, Charlotte Morrison. Hunting Charlotte claims that 'it has been known for members of our own fraternity to dress up as saboteurs. They need the extra cash to subsidise the upkeep of their horses. I hear the pay is rather good'. She is, of course, a joint-master of Dorset's Cattistock FH where the kennel-huntsman has been an HSA member for the last 18 months (and regular readers will remember with fondness Alistair Jackson's stint as HSA Chairman in the mid 70s ...). Dorset ... Isn't that where our own Fidel Castro lives now? (Well, that's what it said in the Guardian anyway).

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Good to see the Conservative Women's National Committee towing the party line about keeping bloodsports out of politics. They organised a fund-raising auction at this year's Blackpool Conference where members were invited to bid for the prestigious thrill of a day out with the VWH, the Berkeley, the Beaufort, or (wait for it) the Quorn! With still a fortnight to go before the expose that would cause their resignation, the Quorn's joint masters even slapped a reserve price of £200 on their donation - which, according to the auction catalogue, makes a day out with the Quorn an altogether more socially desirable prize than with any of the other three (who get bracketed together under something called 'Value Category D'). Is the Duke of Beaufort aware that the Tory Women's Committee rank a day in his company as no more exciting than a tour of the Lloyds Building, or bed and breakfast at the Drum, Gilmerton??? Incidentally, for the benefit of

any Tory readers who made unsuccessful bids, the HSA is planning a whole string of days out with the above foxhunts at absolutely rock-bottom prices and with action guaranteed. Prospectus available on request.

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SILAGE was devastated by the misfortune of Mme Emmanuelle Argand in November, as she watched her husband butchering grouse on the Duke of Roxburgh's Estate near Kelso. She was paralysed when a falling grouse landed on her head and knocked her into a ditch. The accident came as little surprise to Douglas Sutherland, author of the *Good Shooting Guide*. Douglas, who I suppose must be regarded as an expert in these matters, has declared, 'One is frequently hit by falling birds'.

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Here we go again dept ... SILAGE is thinking of running a competition to find the best paid group of sabs in the country. Wha'd'ya mean, you don't get paid a penny? Don't give me that. I happen to know for a fact that they're all on a fat wage in Rutland for a start, because Captain Fanshawe told a man from the *Daily Telegraph*. Brian had met a sab during cubhunting you see, who 'told me he admired my hounds but added he was a student and needed the £20 a day he was receiving'. Okay, the floor's open; send your cuttings to this column and we'll see who can up the stakes on those midland maggots.

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Three cheers for the brave burghers of Helston, Cornwall who revenged themselves on the Cury FH in the summer by refused to lend them the Town Council Trestle Tables for a donkey derby. 'I don't think the Cury Hunt has gone down very well in our area', explained Councillor Ronnie Williams.

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A small award for investigative journalism is surely due to the anonymous scribe on the *Huddersfield Examiner* who described badger-baiting case defence witness, Barry Peachey, as 'a wildlife expert' (October 16th 1991)!

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SILAGE was saddened by the demise of the BFSS free post information service in July, following the delivery of a great many unsolicited, heavy and expensive parcels of building bricks. These, it appears, were generously sent to the society 'in case they wanted to build a new club house', but obviously they didn't.

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It is one of life's great pleasures to open the morning paper and read 'Naked Huntsmaster now faces divorce' (*Dudley Express and Star*, October 5th 1991). SILAGE is not a column for muckspreaders of course so I'll leave the vulgar details of Wheatland MFH Richard Milner's naked brawl with his wife where it belongs (in *Dudley Express and Star*), and turn to the *Western Daily Press* (September 13th 1991), for the much more uplifting 'Angry vicar prepares to join hunt saboteurs'. This one's about Bert Jones, minister at the United Reform Church, Avebury, Wilts, who contacted and then joined his local sabs after supporters of the VWH (value category D) threatened them during cubhunting. This caused something of a stir in the county press - which is odd because newspapers rarely seem inclined to kick up a fuss about hunting vicars, of which there are a great many.

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Congratulations are due to Cotswold HSA's five-a-side football team who trounced Stroud police 14-10 in a league game that strangely escaped the attention of the world's press this October. Explaining his team's tactical superiority, HSA skipper, John Watts declared, 'we are a disorganised rabble and no-one plays in position'.

✦✦✦✦

And finally, a special SILAGE award for bare-faced autocracy goes to the ruling council of the National Trust and its guiding light, Baroness Malalieu. Fed up with AGM resolutions instructing them to prevent stag hunting on Trust land, Mallalieu drafted a successful motion this year giving the council the right to veto discussion of any issue that has been debated within the last five years. This, she maintains, is in the interests of 'true democracy'. So there'll be no more liberal wingeing about the council ignoring the wishes of its members - the matter will not even be discussed. The baroness is, of course, a well-known socialist and foxhunter and a member of the Labour Party to boot! We name the real Militants - come on Neil, get your witch hunt in gear!

Shires Week

THE SHIRES, in hunting terms, are five hunts, the Quorn, Belvoir, Cottesmore, Fernie and Pytchley. The Fernie and Pytchley, as far as we knew, hadn't started cubbing yet so we only had the remaining three to contend with.

The idea behind a 'Shire Week' was to put pressure on these packs at cubbing, when each of the hunts train their new hounds into finding and killing foxes. If sabs can stop this early in the cubbing season it makes the pack less efficient and so less likely to kill. The main reason for picking the Shire packs is that they kill over 100 foxes each throughout the season so it was hoped that we could have an effect on that total. It was also hoped that sabs would learn from the week and that as a result cubbing tactics would be sharper across the whole country.

Bank Holiday Monday, August 26th, saw a few vans and cars full of sabs from around the country turn up a the opening of the Quorn. 6.30am saw us at Ingarsby, a village in Leicestershire near Leicester. Since this was their first meet it was crucial that sabs take control of the hounds.

This they did within seconds of stepping into the field. The riders and supporters were all over the place trying to get them back. The hounds were totally confused, with the riders telling them to go back to the horn, but at the same time thinking they were with the huntsman (ie, sabs with horns) - this broke the bond straight away. The hunt eventually left the railway embankment they were drawing and went on to draw a field full of root cops - after trying to hunt them the huntsman gave up - sabs had won a second time. From there he carried on trying to draw various places but sabs managed to stop him each time. This saw the start of what would be escalating violence throughout the week. A few riders got off their horses and started pushing sabs around. A sab had his horn broken by a foot follower (who incidentally, was arrested a few weeks later at a hunt about 100 miles from the Quorn, for assaulting a sab).

Towards the end of the day, a sab was arrested for blowing a horn, even though police had been with sabs all day and had ignored horn blowing until then. Another sab was arrested for having a horn down the front of his trousers. They were both later charged. The day was successful and the hunt were destroyed because the rapport between the huntsman and the hounds was broken when sabs blew hounds out and the hunt were trying to get them back - more than a little confusing for the hounds!

The next day we again got up before the sun to pay a visit to the Belvoir at 'court leys' near Brandon in Lincolnshire. One van broke down on the way and when they finally turned up it was to find a sab with blood coming from his nose (which turned out to be broken) and a fox having found temporary safety in a drain below a field. Everything turned out alright for the fox because the terriermen (who had travelled from the Cumberland Farmers, we think) decided to stop digging on advice from the huntsman. After giving that advice the hunt packed up for the day.

On Wednesday 28th we visited Nottingham HSA's old friends, the Cottesmore Fox Hounds, who were around Barholm, near Stamford in Lincolnshire. They were found in Stowe cover so we decided to see if the hounds still liked us - with the help of our horn they came streaming across to us. At this point the violence from the hunt started with one sab being strangled and another supporter hitting people. We followed the pack for the rest of the day and saved some hounds which had gone over to the nearby railway line. The hunt unfortunately managed to kill a couple of foxes in root crops with sabs unable to intervene.

We decided to visit the Cottesmore again the next morning at Barnsdale on the



Photo: Jason Parker

Quorn riders look on helplessly as a lone sab runs away into the early morning mist with hounds close behind him.

north shore of Rutland Water in Leicestershire. They drew Barnsdale Wood for most of the morning because during the 'main' season there are usually a lot of people walking around and they realise that hunting is not as popular as they would like to think. We were expecting violence again because from Monday (the first day) the violence from the hunt and their supporters seemed to be getting worse. Our fears were justified because after blowing out the hounds a few times the hunt moved off north and disappeared so a couple of sabs walked down a track to look for them, together with a couple of policeman. They were set upon by some supporters who badly bruised one of the sabs. The police saw all of this and arrested one of the supporters. The hunt carried on for a while but never drew woods properly because sabs kept up with them. They finished after about 1 3/4 hours which is very early, with no kills as far as we are aware.

Friday saw us get up early again to visit the Belvoir Fox Hounds at Aswarby, south of Sleaford in Lincolnshire. This would turn out to be the worst day so far because as we turned up the hunt were in a cover near to Thomas' Farm. There was nothing we could do to stop the slaughter - the horn and voice had little response, with the hounds in full cry most of the time. The police turned up after a few minutes and went over the top, arresting three people for nothing more than walking a few feet on a footpath. From this point onwards there was even less we could do because the police were arresting people for anything.

The South Nottinghamshire Fox Hounds aren't a Shire pack but since they were a



Photo: Jason Parker

'Basically, if they can't catch you, they can't arrest you'. Saboteurs keep the wholesome advice of the HSA legal officer in mind as they split forces to divide the attention of a puffing constable. Belvoir Hunt.

few miles away we decided they should be visited for the last day of the week. When we turned up at 7.00am there were three riot vans of police plus various police cars. After a while we managed to evade the police and find the hunt. They were drawing some scrub land next to a working quarry so normal tactics were used and hounds started to come out of the scrub to sabs even with the riders and supporters trying their best to get them back. After about quarter of an hour of this the hunt decided to draw along the River Trent which proved to be uneventful.

When they finally packed up we found a fishing match on the Trent and sabbed another set of animal abusers. None of them packed up but most did stop fishing while we were there.

Results of the week: less than five kills which, for cubbing in the Shires, is a huge achievement. The Quorn suspended hunting for a week, again a substantial victory. And hopefully some sabs learnt a lot more about sabbing cubbing and about the basic life-saving tactics used in the field.

Carnage or Control: What Price Deer Hunt Abolition?

A personal view by Ian Pedler

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th 1992 will see yet another attempt to introduce a private members bill into the House of Commons with the intention of abolishing blood sports. This one, the Wild Animals (Protection) Bill moved by Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, would make it an offence 'to wilfully cause a dog to kill, injure, pursue or attack a wild animal.'

Accepting that there is not the slightest possibility of this bill becoming law, or in fact of even reaching a second reading and that it is nothing more than an attempt to enable honourable members to make a pronouncement on the issue, the fact remains that at some future date, admittedly only with the return of a Labour government, a serious attempt will be made to introduce legislation that will abolish deer hunting on Exmoor and the Quantocks. However admirable this may appear, and personally I would welcome the end of a practice that is cruel, socially degrading and completely ineffective as a form of control, the fact remains that without adequate safeguards and enforceable control policies the future survival of the red deer starts to look extremely precarious.

You would have removed both the sufferings caused by hunting and the headline catching incidents so beloved by the tabloid press, only to condemn the deer to lingering death from shotgun, crossbow and snare in silent isolation. For how often does one see emotive press on the subject of deer poaching, an issue far more deadly than all the stag hunt packs put together? For without taking comprehensive measures to protect the deer from certain elements of the local farming community who at present tolerate considerable crop damage as the price paid for supporting the hunt ... there will be wholesale slaughter. There has been ample historical precedent and it will undoubtedly happen again.

An indication as to the seriousness of the situation in this area can be gauged by the fact that the Quantock wardens have requested the assistance of the 40th Commando Unit from Norton Manor, near Taunton, to help with the tracking of deer poachers on the Quantock Hills. The situation is now so desperate that the very survival of the deer herd is in question.

When it is considered that a carcass can fetch £250 on the black market and that on average a single poacher can kill nearly forty deer in a year, and all this taking place against a backdrop of the combined interest of the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation, League Against Cruel Sports, Quantock Staghounds and numerous other partisan organisations, then it would appear that we have a major problem. The tragedy of the situation is that the warring blood sport factions have so far failed to take the issue seriously, as to do so would detract from the propaganda value of their own arguments.



Photo: Ian Pedlar

Poacher's packet. An Exmoor road sign peppered with shot.

It is fine for the LACS to claim that as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have decided to cease the issue of night-shooting licenses, farmers can only kill deer in the day time. The only problem here seems to be that no one thought to tell the poachers of this fact. Which raises the question, couldn't the people who shoot deer in the dark (ie, deer poachers) possibly be in any way connected with the local farming community? Or is it that being over-suspicious?

The hunt of course use much the same stance, playing down the overall size of the poaching problem. To do otherwise would belie the fact that they are singularly failing to protect the herds adequately; their only real concern being that there remain enough to provide good sport for their supporters.

This game of political football with the survival of the West Country's red deer population is nothing new, the most deplorable example taking place during the late '70s, when Lord Northfield attempted to strengthen the lamentably inadequate 1963 Deer Act. The object of his amended bill was to increase the fines to a realistic level, make repeated poaching a prisonable offence, to limit the type of weapon used in the killing of deer and give the police more power to search for evidence of culpability. At no time was the bill ever intended as either a pro or anti blood sport measure, but only as an overall attempt to safeguard wild deer throughout Britain against the illicit and often survival threatening trade in poaching.

After a tortuous passage through both Houses of Parliament and numerous compromise agreements to appease all forms of vested interest, the bill, in a very muted form, did finally become law.

But not before Marcus Kimball, then Chairman of the British Field Sports Society, had encouraged various MPs to object on the grounds that the Devon and Somerset Staghounds disliked certain clauses concerning the use of shotguns for killing. This weapon is often used by them to kill the deer at the end of a hunt and also for their infrequent deer drives, which take account of the surplus animals that hunting alone fails to account for. We also saw the LACS using the same tactics for the opposite reason - that the bill was not anti enough. Among those persuaded was Labour MP, LACS Executive Committee member and sponsor of the 1969 Deer Hunting and Hare Coursing Abolition Bill, Arnold Shaw, who, when asked for his reasons in opposing the bill was quoted as saying 'because it would allow the practice of deer hunting to continue. My own particular aim is to eradicate hunting.'

The shameful truth was that both sides offered no constructive assistance, only short sighted opposition as the Bill failed to pander to their respective needs and sought only to eliminate the suffering of the deer.

It is essential that we do not let emotional bigotry blind us to a situation that could prove catastrophic to the very existence of this unique herd of animals,, for while it is unreservedly true that a blanket ban on other forms of blood sports would make little or no appreciable difference to the overall numbers of fox and hare ... this is patently not the case with regards to the red deer of the West Country.

What is required is not ad hoc piecemeal legislation aimed at specific cruelties, but an overall deer protection policy, backed and enforced by Government agencies that act against all forms of abuse to wild deer.



Photo: Tim Walker

Policemen and supporters wait patiently while a minkhunter digs into his pocket for the Chief Constable's christmas box.

Ytene Mink Hunt Saboteurs Summer '91

THE SUMMER of '91 has been a great success for the mink living in Wessex, and for sabs from North Dorset, Bath, Bristol, Yeovil, Winchester, New Forest, West London, Bournemouth, Oxford and others. The Ytene Mink Hunt has been subjected to consistent, and for a mink hunt, regular sabbing all summer.

It all began back on May 4th, when 60 or so of us descended on sleepy Fifehead Magdalen and stopped Rosie and Co even leaving the farm where they met.

We followed this up on May 15th with 130 sabs trashing an evening meet at West Stour. After a futile hour or so, with sabs swimming the River Stour to sit on a suspected mink den, Tony Smart, the huntsman, blew for home.

The following Wednesday the Ytene gave us the slip and got in a sab-free hunt on the Somerset Frome at Rode, but the next week they again left Dorset to try the River Nadder at Donhead St Andrew in Wiltshire. Again they packed it in after little more than an hour; we were in total control, and hounds were taken back to the meet on leads!

That Saturday we took the day off to visit the Colmstock MH in Devon, and sent them packing too!

On June 8th the Ytene were in Dorset again, at Langton Long near Blandford. It was a massive sab turnout, and once again the hunters didn't even bother to leave the meet. The hound van was escorted back to the kennels, where sabs spent the rest of the day in case they tried to do a sneaky (in fact, most sabs were in the Castle Inn at Maiden Newton, where a photo of sabs was put above the bar! They love us).

The rest of June saw block-ins at the kennels and the Ytene gave up hunting on Saturday as usual, although we didn't know this immediately and kept up a presence each week. In fact, we got the bug, and North Dorset with the New Forest sabs were out on many weekday evenings searching.

What the Ytene did was to start early morning Saturday meets and any weekday evenings at random to avoid us. But we were still going, and the Yeovil sab motorcycle aces rumbled Rosie's Ytene hounds on July 6th, back at Langton Long. They met at 6.30am, and sabs (all 15 of us!) got there at 9.00am. They immediately packed up and went home. One of the police out that day said 'We're here to protect you as much as anything. That huntswoman, Rosie, wasn't allowed out of the van today - she's a walking Breach of the Peace!'

July passed by with more block-ins but no actual sabs, but the beginning of August heralded more action. On August 5th they met at Charlton All Saints, south of Salisbury in Wiltshire. New Forest, North Dorset and Oxford sabs arrived 15 minutes after the start and went for it immediately. Although the hunt outnumbered us at this stage the 40 or so strong Ytene turned tail and returned to the meet. We blocked them in here, and as the evening wore on, our friends from Bath, Bristol and Yeovil joined us. Nearly two hours later the hound van was given a police escort home!

On August 7th they met near New Arlesford in Hampshire; 2pm was a bizarre time to meet, and it wasn't until 4pm when sabs located them hunting a tiny stream south of Northington Grange. As we arrived the heavens opened, and the hunters took refuge in a farmhouse. The hound van was duly blocked in. However, they nipped out the back unseen. Luckily, the were soon sussed, and sabs walked with the hounds for the mile or so back to the meet.

Itchen Abbas, near Winchester, was the Ytene's venue on August 12th. They waited nearly an hour at the meet, while a large police presence was gathered, then they set off. With only 30 or so sabs, we were outnumbered but the day was excellent, despite several arrests. Sabs spent the whole afternoon either in or around the River Itchen. The Feds refused to get their feet wet, so for some sabs it was necessary to stay in the river all day to avoid the 'strong arm of the law'. Other sabs flitted from bridge to bridge, river to bank, keeping in front of or in amongst the hunters. There were mink about - some were scented, but proper hunting was impossible. At 6pm they stopped. All the sabs arrested were released without charge except one who was cautioned. Mackenzie Knight will be kept busy from this!

On August 15th the Ytene had the audacity to hunt in Dorset again, meeting at an obscure place near Bishops Caundle. As they set off the 20 or so sabs stepped in to halt the hunt. The police told us to leave, but we argued that silly Bobby Tucker, the hunt joint master, was not the landowner's agent and we wouldn't budge! Over an hour passed by with the hunt going nowhere before the poor old tenant farmer was found. 'I'm only the tenant,' he pleaded 'I 'ave to the hunt on.' So we said 'Okay, we'll get out of this field', and we did. Minutes later we were back by the tiny stream they were on. The hunters turned back and tried to go the other way - by now sabs were all over the place. Most were on the road but a handful of us got down to the Caundle Brook, where they now were, and nicked the hounds. We took them hop



Photo: Simon Wild

Saboteurs take to the water and form a line to prevent the hunt (pictured in the distance, standing on a bridge) from drawing upstream. Itchen Abbas, near Winchester, August 12th.

skippy along for a field and then took to the brook to avoid the brave police: 'Why do you have to get in there?' Our running off with the dogs was obviously too much for the Ytene though, and we gave the hound van an escort home.

To date, the last time we sabbed the Ytene this summer was at Bere Farm, Soberton Heath, on the Hampshire River Meon. There were only eight sabs - thanks to West London, New Forest, North Dorset and Oxford for turning up - and all but two got arrested. Most of the sabs had stopped the hunt at the riverside, while others were pulled in for standing on a bridge. It's a sign 'o the times - the Ytene are crumbling

At the time of writing this it's early September. No doubt our friend Diggory Diggory Delvit (anyone know Beatrix Potter?) will still have to be alert until October when this lot pack up for the season so if you're reading this, Rosie, see ya soon babe!!

Enormous thanks to everyone who has helped us this summer.

North Dorset HSA.



Photo: Simon Wild

A Ytene hound defects to the sabs at Itchen Abbas and leaves his old whipper-in stranded in the distance (he's the one furthest from the camera ...)

Class of '91.Ytene-busters attempt formation smiling.



Photo: Tim Walker

Alston Hare Week 1991

ALSTON HARE WEEK is the smaller of the two northern hare-hunting festivals and has escaped our attention for some years while sabs have concentrated on the Northumberland Beagling Festival. There are seven days' hare-hunting organised by the Weardale and Tees Valley Beagles, whilst the claim of participation by foxhounds seems to be tenuous - a regular meet by a local pack.

The areas hunted presented the main problem given the low number of sabs available. The moors above Alston rise steeply to 500-600m: the more northerly meets are on lower hills near Hadrian's Wall. Both areas have wide open hills with no tree cover, rough grassland, heather, psilocytce mushrooms, mosses and marsh: there are few or no roads to assist mobility; given damp, misty weather, conditions were very wet and hunting slow whatever the pack, with hares reluctant to run.

Sabs too started slowly, finding the Weardale and Tees Valley on Saturday 19th at Forest and Teesdale after the morning meet, with the first sabbing at Weardale that afternoon where the Airedale Beagles were sabbed by a handful of sabs despite a strong field.

On Monday, Tyneside were joined by Cumbria sabs and others but numbers were still low. Transport was a problem that day which allowed the Airedale to kill the only hare of the week. After a pub lunch the field of thirty plus were feeling brave enough in face of the nine sabs to make some choice references to Mike Hill - see you later lads. Their words spoke much louder than their actions in this case and their poor hunting left us with nothing to do. Even they had realised that we were there for the week and there were a couple of incidents back on the road but no injuries.

On Tuesday, hunting moved to the northern area and took place almost throughout the day in thick mist - visibility 100m. Sabs managed to pull hounds off a hare without seeing the pack - calling on the first hound to speak until the hounds lost the scent and the hunt gathered them off and moved off elsewhere. This all-day hunt by the host pack finally ended when hounds ran away up towards sabs and were run on and then split up.

Unfortunately, the mist had cleared enough for Cumbria police to see all this, and we were threatened with mass arrest if anyone did anything else ever. Wednesday saw the arrival of the Armagh and Richhill Beagles and the Pipewell Foot. Neither impressed; neither killed. Cumbria police kept their promise by arresting two sabs for Breach of the Peace and the inevitable Section Five.

Thursday's hunting was back near Alston. Sabs were surprised and amused to find the Westerby Bassetts lolloping across a grouse moor at 550m above sea level. In fact they hunted as well as any given

damp, slow conditions, and some time passed before sabs were able to run hounds on over the scent and break their concentration. Tempers became frayed but no serious confrontation took place. The bassetts killed one rabbit. At lunchtime, one Ian Wear of Newcastle and District Beagles was sighted lolloping to and from the George and Dragon. No sightings have been confirmed of Ian either on the hunting field or being spoken to by other beaglers.

In the afternoon, Pipewell Foot produced the worst hunting of the week. Despite numerous uniformed whips they saw their pack disappear across the Nent Valley and up the fell opposite, a mile distant - all without our intervention. On return the pack were confined to an area about 400m square while Cumbria police headed off the few remaining sabs. For this brainless display they win the HSA's Alston Hare Week Golden Psilocyte Mushroom Award. At the same time a sab van had its tyres let down. Any suggestions that this was in any way connected with local hunts are totally scurrilous and will find no support from this writer.

Sabs had information that a Yorkshire pack was expected for Friday. In the event no hunt was found on Friday morning. On Friday afternoon the bassetts hunted again, failing even to catch a rabbit.

The final day's hunting, again in the northern area, was by the Armagh and Richhill. They had much trouble keeping on a line and sabs intervened only once or twice, eventually taking pity on the hounds and giving them an exercise run. This ended the morning's hunting.

It also ended the day's hunting and the week's hunting since as far as we know no hunt took place that day and what beaglers there were stayed in local pubs. So the whole week ended with a whimper and then a bang as a Tyneside van was twice rammed from behind. There were some minor injuries but as usual our opponents did not kill. The matter is the subject of police enquiries. Any suggestion that the driver concerned was connected with local hunts is totally scurrilous and will gain no support from this writer.

Our thanks to all who attended: sabs from Tyneside, Sunderland, Cumbria, Durham, Nottingham and Derby. Thanks too to the HSA for finance and research and above all to those sabs who managed to attend all week.

Two lessons from the week: for sabs - meets on wide open spaces like these need more people to cover them; for the hunts - attending beagling festivals in the north of England is no longer worth the petrol money.



Photo: Jayne Parker

The Quorn face another kind of crisis. Two riders give chase as their entire pack bolts out of covert to follow the horn of a saboteur (pictured on the skyline). Shires Week 1991.

Quorn in Crisis

THAT WAS THE headline in *Horse and Hound* on November 7th, reporting on the recent publicity that the Quorn Foxhounds in Leicestershire had received. It all stems from a meet at Diesworth near Castle Donnington on September 21st, which was a cubbing meet. An undercover agent for the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) had someone videoing their activities during the cubhunting season. On Sunday 27th October the *Mail on Sunday* ran a full page story on the cruel practices of the hunt. The LACS had released a video showing a terrierman pull out a fox cub after a short dig in a fox earth and throw it with his hands into the hedge. The hounds were set onto the animal straight away and promptly killed it.

'So what?' a lot of sabs might say, 'This happens a lot with hunts all round the country'. But the difference with this is that it was on video and as a result the hunt were accused of breaking their own rules, which all masters should abide by. One rule states 'foxhunting as a sport is the hunting of the fox in his wild and natural state with a pack of hounds' and goes on to say that, if a fox is run to ground and a decision is made that it should be killed, 'it must be humanely destroyed before being given to the hounds'. The press had latched on to this story so much that in the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire area it was on every TV bulletin for a week and a half and the Quorn were having to defend themselves each time there was a new story.

On Tuesday 29th October the hunt committee held an emergency meeting and during it the four joint masters offered their resignations, Joss Hanbury, Barry Hencock, Di Turner and Alastair MacDonald-Buchanan, together with hunt chairman Lord Crawshaw. Their offers were not accepted. They did however accept 'a degree of culpability to the allegations made' said spokesperson Rod Thomas. He also said that the hunt would bring in its own strict code of practice in relation to the use of terriers.

Saturday 2nd November had brought more bad news for Prince Charlie's hunt. All four masters and the chairman had their registrations accepted. The National Trust had announced that they had banned the Quorn from their land on the day of the AGM. The reason given was that the licence was in the name of Barry Hercock, who had resigned. However they said that they would consider a reapplication. If the National Trust do not accept the new application then the Quorn would be banned from 200 acres of land, mainly in their Saturday country and Tuesday country and they are already under a lot of pressure as regards the availability of land to hunt on those days.

They were due to hunt the following Saturday but they cancelled, saying they were going to the National Trust AGM. Their meet card did not indicate this - I suspect it might have had more to do with

the fact that the HSA had put out a fax to all the local and national newspapers saying that the East Midlands sabs would be turning up to stop them from killing - it looked as if we sabbed them without even turning up!

The Sunday papers reported the week's events and who the new master and chairman would be. The chairman was David Samworth who used to be a master and chairman of neighbours, the Cottesmore Foxhounds. His wife is currently a master of that hunt. The new master is Captain Fred Barker, an old master of the Quorn. He joined the Vale of White Horse mastership in 1985 after the Quorn, until a few years ago. While he was master of the Quorn in 1984 an earth stopper with the hunt was convicted of badger digging in the Quorn country.

During the weekend the police took various firearms away from the hunt kennels for investigation.

The following Saturday the East Midlands area sabs had turned up at 'Owthorpe' with the press for the meet of the Quorn. Basically the hunt ran away from sabs after they brought the hounds out of the covert, and hid from sabs and the press until around 1.30pm when they packed up - two and a half hours early. They had lost a lot of support both from riders and car followers.

14th November saw the Master of Foxhounds Association meet to discuss the matters. In conclusion they ruled that the masters had broken Rule 1 (explained earlier) and Rule 5, which states that they must abide by the rules of the MFHA. They ruled that neither Mr Hercock nor Mr Hanbury could hold a mastership before May 1st 1995 and the others who had resigned before May 1st 1992.

Saturday 23rd November once again saw sabs at a Quorn meet, this time at Belton near Loughborough. Once again the huntsman ran with the pack and lost riders and supporters all over with no kills.

The Quorn say they have cleaned up their act. Hopefully this means that Brian Cuppit from Clifton in Nottingham, who was convicted with Mark Shaw for badger digging, will no longer be seen out with them - this shows what sort of person they attract.

Prince Charles, who rides regularly with the Quorn, has been very quiet. He did ride with the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds a few weeks after the coverage of the Quorn but guess what? The police are looking into the day's events because a badger sett is reported to have been illegally blocked. It doesn't look as if he can get away from dirty hunts - I suppose he could pack up!?!

At the time of writing this (end of November) I understand that Alan Betts, the terrierman involved in the incident, was still going out with the Quorn. And how can huntsman Michael Farris still hunt hounds? He was questioned over the phone by the LACS agent about the video (before the publicity) and he said that he would not like people to see it - perhaps he knew what the consequences would be.

Joss Hanbury is due to hunt the Cottesmore Hounds next season (he was joint master a few years ago), together with their present whipper in. At the time of writing I have seen and heard nothing to suggest he will not be hunting hounds. How can a man who has been 'convicted' of cruelty by his own ruling body be allowed to hunt hounds again? Bearing in mind that it was reported in 1975 in *Horse and Hound* that a Mr Hanbury climbed a tree to dislodge a fox from a branch for the hounds he does not seem to be a particularly kind, sporting person. He doesn't seem to respect people either - in a Sunday paper a few years ago a picture appeared showing a woman called Betty Warner, a woman who had been cook to a large landowner - she was reported as having difficulty in walking and the picture revealed that she was housed in a cottage on Mr Hanbury's estate which was in a very dilapidated state and obviously damp - I'm sure he could have done something about it!

So what now? The Quorn have been banned from Loughborough market place for their Boxing Day meet. This is a big achievement and a large step forward but they will be killing somewhere else with a new master and chairman who enjoy killing foxes. They are still going around the countryside, but so are we!

As a postscript to this article, it's worth noting that the disgraced Quorn, banished from their usual public relations stunt at Loughborough on Boxing Day, gathered instead this year at the country pile of one of their members, Whattoff Lodge. It was not a very merry occasion. Support has dwindled by 50% - indicating that however Michael Clayton may witter on about public interest in Boxing Day meets, few of the public seem interested in travelling very far to demonstrate it. And by 1.20pm, without a kill to their name, this sorry little bunch of fox hunters had all hacked off home.

Cameron Evans

Sabs in Court

◆ The case against the various people arrested for the incident at the Cheshire Beagles' kennels has now been committed to Crown Court. Charges against about a dozen people have been dropped (three were dropped at the committal itself) leaving either 26 or 28 in all. HOWL finds is difficult to understand why alleged minor damage to property is regarded as more serious than the death of a young man - for which no one has been charged.

◆ Readers of HOWL may recall events at the Surrey Union FH last January. The hunt were very violent towards sabs on several occasions (see separate piece on John Funnell MFH) and a national hit was called. Ten people were arrested for Violent Disorder (s.2 of the Public Order Act) and assorted other offences. One person has now had his charge dropped, and the others expect to go to court early in the New Year.

◆ The incident at the Hursley Hambeldon FH last March is also due to come to court soon. Ten members of the hunt and four sabs are all facing Violent Disorder charges, with various optional extras added on. Tony Smart (who is also huntsman for the Ytene MH) has two counts of GBH against him, for instance. Other supporters face ABH, GBH, and Wounding charges, while the sabs face nothing more serious than ABH. Draw your own conclusions.

◆ Two West Midlands sabs were recently on trial for Affray (s.3 of the Public Order Act) and ABH this autumn. The court heard a ludicrous story about how they punched the helpless terrierman of the Wheatland FH to the ground etc etc. The court recognised this for the fairy tale that it was, and the sabs were acquitted. Interestingly, it emerged not long after that the Master of the Wheatland FH, Richard Milner, had been doing just that to his wife. Funnily, Milner hasn't been charged.

◆ A Brighton sab has been acquitted of Assault and Battery on the huntsman of the Chiddingfold Leconfield and Cowdray FH. The sab had originally been convicted, but took the case to appeal and the conviction was quashed.

◆ All the cases arising out the Game Conservancy Ball and the *Horse and Hound* Ball have now either been abandoned or won. Shame on those who accepted bind overs! Readers may recall that the police managed to arrest various people outside a pub hours after the picket at the Game Conservancy Ball had ended - this included a legal representative from Mackenzie Knight! The five of them faced the usual pathetic array of charges, including s.5/Obstructing Police/common assault/etc. Hardly the sort of affair that the Met is accustomed to. Even these paltry charges failed to stick, however, and HOWL is left wondering why the Met bothered to police the event as heavy-handedly as it did.

◆ The Metropolitan Police over-reacted again at an angling match in West London. After an hour and a half of peaceful and effective sabotage several vehicles full of police arrived and did their Sweeney impersonations. Sabs were chased all over Hayes - one escaped by hiding in a box in an industrial estate - and six were arrested and charged with Threatening Behaviour (s.4 Public Order Act). By the time this came to court the Crown Prosecution Service had added Disorderly Behaviour (s.5) as an alternative charge. Two sabs were acquitted and four convicted of s.5. The four appealed and their convictions were duly quashed.

◆ The week of action against the Shires packs saw positively sensitive policing by the normally over-the-top Leicestershire



Photo: HSA

Master of the Surrey Union, John Funnell, tries to explain his loutish behaviour to the world's press. Funnell is seen here outside Guildford Crown Court where he received a suspended prison sentence for deliberately riding over a saboteur.

constabulary. There were only seven arrests over six days, six of them for Action Likely to Cause A Breach Of The Peace, and one for ABH. Two hunt supporters were also arrested, though no details of any charges are known. The reason for this sudden attack of common sense can only be guessed at, but a clue was provided by a conversation between a rider and a policeman.

> Rider: Officer! Why don't you arrest the antis?
>
> Sgt: We can't do that any more. We can't just arrest them for nothing. Times have changed. There's 140 libel actions (sic) against the police at the moment. One of them's even against this force!

(See elsewhere in this issue for details of the glorious victory over Leicestershire police.

◆ City dwellers amongst our readers will be familiar with the image of the yuppie with Porsche and carphone. It transpires that this piece of 80s 'Enterprise Culture' has now penetrated as far into our countryside as deepest darkest Norfolk. Of course, country folk have adapted it to their own customs and their own uses. Regular spottings of this phenomenon have occurred at the West Norfolk FH, where the MFH pulls a phone from his hunting pink and dials 999 on sight of sabs. Rumour has it that Norfolk Old Bill aren't too keen on this new-fangled wheeze.

◆ From innovations to tradition: not content with twentieth century laws like the Public Order Act, Yorkshire police have dredged up something from 1875 - 'besetting'. Apparently they've attempted to apply this to sabs following hound vans to cubbing meets. Needless to say, it hasn't worked, so it's back to the future ...

More Hunters Convicted

FOR MANY YEARS sabs have taken the view that it's not worth pursuing actions against hunting folk, because of the enormous amount of influence they wield. While it is certainly true that hunters have a record of 'charges dropped' which would make your average Mafiosi blush, nevertheless justice can be done, so it *is* worth pressing charges. The following stories show why ...

◆ Mr John Funnell, Master of the Surrey Union, was found guilty of ABH on Brixton hunt saboteur, Andrew Tuck on August 20th.

Mr Funnell rode his horse not once but twice over Andrew while he was sitting on an earth at a hunt on December 31st last year. Andrew needed stitches to a head wound, and now has a permanent scar on his face. Mr Funnell was given a two month prison sentence, suspended for two years by the judge at Guildford Crown Court.

During the court case terrierman Michael Lake had been asked 'do you think that chasing hunt saboteurs is a kind of sport?' his reply was 'yes'.

Maybe they are preparing for when hunting is banned ... so get your running shoes on!

◆ In December, two more suspended prison sentences were awarded, this time to followers of the Old Surrey and Burstow FH.

One of them, the eccentrically named Nigel Trevithick-Wood, is married to a joint master. He received a six month suspended sentence for punching saboteur Martin Bright in the face at a cubbing meet last August. Whipper-in Mark Bycroft was also convicted of an attack on Martin, but sentence was reserved until January pending social reports. He is afraid he may lose his job if he gets a prison sentence. Kenneth Banks, a foot follower, received a 12 month suspended sentence for punching another sab in the groin.

Both Bycroft and Trevithick-Wood claimed they had been provoked. Describing the terrifically cruel taunts he had had to endure, Bycroft told the court,

'They were shouting abuse such as "It's the start of the season. You are not going to get anything today"' *(I say, that's a bit strong - Ed)*. Trevithick-Wood seemed at a loss to explain how Bright had come to fall 'flat on his back' after he had punched him but, bringing all his wits to bear on the problem, he told the judge, 'It is possible he toppled over from the way he was standing'. Ah, that must be it. The jury were most impressed.

◆ On the subject of Master of Foxhounds, HOWL has also received news of another conviction. The MFH in question is Francis Momber of the Hampshire FH. Unlike Funnell, Momber didn't manage to injure anyone - instead he smashed several windows of the Portsmouth sabs' landrover, showering the occupants with broken glass. This appalling behaviour resulted in his conviction at Winchester Magistrates' Court of Criminal Damage. He was given a one year conditional discharge, and ordered to pay £500 costs and £175 compensation. Given the revelations about the master of Wheatland, and the convictions of Momber and Funnell, HOWL wonders quite what the qualifications are for being an MFH ...

◆ Older readers of HOWL will remember the incident at the South Dorset FH on the day of the 'Poll Tax Riot' - March 31st 1990. They may also recall the hunting fraternity's ludicrous suggestion that only one hunt had been sabbed that day because the country's sabs were too busy rioting. (In fact it was because most packs had already had their closing meets.) That day actually saw violence at two hunts: at the Lunesdale FH in Cumbria a terrierman threatened sabs with a knife and other supporters rolled boulders down the fell at sabs, and at the South Dorset FH supporters overturned a car containing several hunt saboteurs. Over a year later, justice has finally been done: two followers of the South Dorset have been convicted of Criminal Damage, and ordered to pay compensation to the car's owner.

◆ The New Forest FH have been notorious amongst hunt saboteurs for their violent behaviour for many years. So it wasn't a great surprise to see two of their followers convicted of assault. Adrian Bungay and Keith Colbert were both given conditional discharges for one year after a court heard how they attacked two Southampton sabs last year. The two men were ordered to pay £100 and £20 in compensation respectively, and both were ordered to pay costs.

Successful Actions for Wrongful Arrest

ANYONE WHO has read at least one issue of HOWL will know that, with a few honourable exceptions, police forces around the country treat sabs appallingly. They arrest them for imaginary offences, they conduct unlawful searches, and they ignore offences committed against sabs. For many years HSA members were powerless against this sort of behaviour - but not any more. Over a hundred individual hunt saboteurs have taken out civil actions for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment, oppression, and similar torts. Only one has so far come to court, but several others have been settled out of court. HOWL, of course, has the details:

◆ First to settle were Hampshire police. They'd arrested a West London sab for the usual paltry reasons - but for once they didn't have it all their own way. The sabs' solicitors, Mackenzie Knight, started proceedings for wrongful arrest, which must have come as something of a shock to southern England's most notorious police force (sab-wise, that is). They offered the sab £500, which was accepted.

◆ Next were Dorset police. Readers are referred to the story elsewhere in this issue about the South Dorset FH. The sequel to that was that a bomb was found in or near a shop belonging to a member of the South





WRONGFUL ARREST?

(Photos: SABS/ Simon Wild)

Two pictures of New Forest sab, Steve Glintenkamp, suffering the arbitrary attentions of southern police this summer. In the first, he is being arrested by Hampshire officers after two New Forest FH followers have just kicked his fellow sab Debbie Marsh in the stomach (on the ground , behind). Debbie was pregnant at the time. Her attackers were permitted to continue abusing both Debbie and Steve as he was taken away, and neither of them were arrested. In the second picture, five officers from Dorset police manhandle Steve away from a meet of the Ytene MH and into an awaiting police van, keep him there for three hours and then release him without charge. It is up to us to discourage police behaviour of this kind by taking out civil actions against them wherever appropriate.

Dorset FH. Dorset's finest promptly arrested the sabs who'd been in the car! Given that previously the sabs had been getting very good press as a result of the incident, and the hunt had been getting the reverse - and given the antics of nearby hunting freak, Jim Newbury-Street, who planted a bomb underneath his own landrover - it seems far more likely that the bomb was planted by a member of the bloodsports brigade. Elementary, my dear Watson. No charges were brought against the six sabs, and Dorset police finally coughed up: £14,000 plus costs.

◆ Next came Cheshire police. In the aftermath of Mike Hill's death, various hunt saboteurs were on bail with conditions attached concerning attending hunts. Anyone breaking those conditions would be liable to be arrested for breach of bail. Two sabs were duly arrested - the only minor hitch was that the sabs in question *weren't* on bail. All credit to Cheshire police, they settled within a few months: £500 plus costs.

◆ In September the biggest case yet came to court. Nearly two years earlier Thames Valley Police have over-reacted spectacularly to a joint hit by West London and Oxford sabs on the Old Berkeley Beagles. Aylesbury police managed to bring in a veritable army of policemen, complete with a helicopter, to chase the sabs around the countryside. Approximately 20 sabs were arrested 'to prevent a breach of the peace' - strange, considering the violent reputation of the Old Berkeley. Some of the sabs were held until early Sunday morning, and one was told she'd have to walk home because she'd missed the last bus and 'your friends have left you'. (A total lie: they were waiting outside.) She asked the police what would happen if she was raped or mugged, to which one them replied: 'Take a look at yourself, dear, I don't think that's very likely.' Nine sabs took part in the action against Thames Valley Police, and the court found in their favour. They were awarded a total of £12,000 plus costs, for torts ranging from wrongful arrest to trespass against the person (ie, being forced into a ditch by a police helicopter). Amazingly, sabs went back to the Old Berkeley a few days after the case finished, and were treated to yet another display of unbiased policing. Haven't Thames Valley Police learnt their lesson yet? See below for more of the same!

◆ Leicestershire police - in particular Melton Mowbray - have had an appalling reputation amongst Midlands sabs for many years, so it was only fitting that one of the early civil actions should be against them. Just over a year ago a sab was arrested on the Cottesmore FH for the heinous crime of walking up a footpath. In Melton Mowbray police station the custody sergeant attempted to blackmail the sab into signing an admission of guilt by threatening to hold him till Monday. When the sab pointed out that this was unlawful the sergeant shouted 'Don't tell me what the law is.' Well, someone obviously has to. Twelve months later, Leicestershire police settled out of court: £500 plus costs.

◆ Lastly, only a month after Thames Valley Police were ordered to pay hunt saboteurs £12,000 damages, they caved in on a second case involving wrongful arrest and unlawful imprisonment of hunt saboteurs.

This case arose after saboteurs from Newbury and Oxford held a peaceful banner demonstration against bloodsports at the Oxford Country Show on Sunday June 17th 1990. Eleven saboteurs were arrested and held overnight at St Aldates police station, Oxford. The next morning at Oxford Magistrates' Court all eleven refused to be bound over as they felt they had done nothing wrong to warrant such action. Their stand was vindicated in August 1990 when the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to pursue the case.

In response, the sabs launched legal action against Thames Valley Police for wrongful arrest and unlawful imprisonment. They had after all been arrested and detained for over 18 hours for no good reason, without so much as an apology from the police. The case against the police, conducted for the saboteurs by John Mackenzie, was due to be heard at Oxford County Court on November 25th 1991. However, only a week before it was due to start the police decided to back down, paid a total of £22,000 into the court and agreed to pay costs, estimated to be in the region of £30,000. They obviously felt they could not face another courtroom condemnation of the sort they experienced in the Aston Abbotts case, not to mention the £120,000 bill they faced after losing that case.

Thames Valley Police strongly resisted calls for an inquiry after the Aston Abbots case, saying they felt they had the balance about right in dealing with hunts and saboteurs. Surely now they must admit something is very wrong - a police force that pays out over £170,000 in a month for unlawful actions cannot claim to have 'got the balance right.' We urge them once again to reconsider their policy very carefully and ask serious questions of the senior officers who sanctioned both mass arrests.

Back to Basics

THERE ARE SIX basic topics which I think sabs need to know about. You cannot expect the police to play by the rules out of the goodness of their hearts - but a small amount of knowledge on our part will curb their worst excesses.

1. Trespass

Trespass is a civil offence, and as such is *nothing to do with the police*. They may inform you that you are trespassing, and they may *ask* you to leave. That is a simple request which you may choose to obey or disobey.

The landowner or his or her agent may also ask you to leave. Again, you may choose whether or not to comply with this request. If you refuse, he/she/they may use reasonable force to remove you. If you agree, you must leave by the shortest possible route.

2. Action Likely To Cause A Breach Of The Peace/Section 5

These are the two common catch-all offences used by the police against sabs. Many police forces take the view that sabotaging hunts (ie use of horns, sprays, voice calls, etc) may constitute an offence under these laws. If they do, your best defence in the short term is to steer clear of the police - this may mean a certain amount of healthy exercise. Basically they can't arrest you if they can't catch you. Most policemen are totally unfit, and will give up after running a short distance. The best long term defence is to fight and win any subsequent court cases. If you are arrested for anything, contact the HSA.

3. Name and Address

The police often ask sabs for their name and address. Unless they have reasonable suspicion that you have committed a criminal offence (ie, not Trespass) you do not have to give it to them. They may (occasionally) threaten to arrest you if you don't give it, but this is usually a bluff: if they really wanted to arrest you they wouldn't be pissing around asking for your name and address - you'd be nicked.

4. Being Arrested

If you are arrested, the only thing you should tell the police is your name, address, and date of birth. They will try and get you to tell them lots of other things - you do not have to! They're not asking for your benefit.

Secondly, they will try and get you to make a statement/do an interview/answer a few questions. DO NOT AGREE TO THIS! It is an attempt to gather evidence to convict you, nothing more, nothing less. It is no use thinking 'I've done nothing wrong, I've got nothing to hide'. The police have many years experience in turning your words into a confession. Your only defence is to say nothing. (And don't get drawn into a conversation about why you are saying nothing - this is another trick.)

A full fact sheet about what to do and what not to do is available from the HSA.

5. Being Released

When you are released, someone will be waiting for you, no matter what time of day or night it is - unless the hunt is still going on. The police often lie about this to frighten you, but that is one worry no one should have!

6. Your Solicitor

Does everyone in your group have a 24-hour number of your local solicitor? Everyone should have it, in particular new recruits.

If you have any questions, or would like to know the nearest firm of solicitors, please contact the Legal Officer at:

HSA
PO Box 1
Carlton
Nottingham
NG4 2JY

Group News

HUNT SABOTEURS have had an exceptionally busy summer this year, with possibly the best ever season against the minkhunts, two beagling festivals sabbed in the space of about a month, and a good start to the cubhunting season reported by groups. As well as all this groups have been busy collecting tens of thousands of signatures on anti-hunt petitions, raising funds and raising public awareness about hunting. Some groups have also spent time clearing the banks of waterways of the debris that anglers leave behind.

Its important that every one has a chance to find out what their local group has been up to, but groups can only be included if the information is sent in; if your group isn't mentioned then let us know what you've been doing so we can put it in next HOWL.

SOUTH WEST

As well as visiting the Ytene Mink Hounds numerous times this summer sabs from the South West have been busy with other minkhunts as well. Sabs from **Bath, Bristol, North Dorset, Yeovil** and **Devon** paid a visit to the Culmstock Minkhunt at Colyford. The hunt tried to give sabs the slip by moving ten miles away - however sabs tracked them down, promptly split the pack and watched the hunt run to a farm where they stayed for the rest of the day.

The North Cornwall Foxhounds have not escaped the attention of Cornwall sabs. On one day sabs witnessed two foxes so the promptly sprayed the line of one fox and pulled the hounds off the line of the other and sent them the wrong way. Later on they saw a fox approximately 100 yards in front of the pack - they sprayed the line and that action, combined with the hot weather, meant the hounds lost the scent.

Bath and Bristol sabs were joined at the Duke of Beaufort's kennels by sabs from the Cotswold group. After calling hounds off the first draw, they saw the hunt go into hiding.

The following Saturday saw Bath, Bristol, **Cotswold**, North Dorset and Yeovil sabs at the South and West Wiltshire Foxhounds. Sabs spent the day pulling hounds out of covert after covert and splitting the pack far and wide. One particular high spot occurred when sabs took the hounds right away from the huntsman when he was not looking - he had a bit of a shock when he turned around!

After this success Bath and North Dorset sabs paid a visit to the Mendip Farmers Foxhounds. Arriving to find the hounds in cry, the sabs rated them off the line and took them for a 300 yard run. After this initial success the day continued in much the same way with hounds being prevented from killing by sabs who either walked them or blew them out of covert.

There was a highly successful evening against the Wilton Foxhounds with sabs from North Dorset, the New Forest, Bournemouth and an all women's group from Bath and Bristol. The next morning Bath and Bristol sabs renewed acquaintances with the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds who spent the time running around the woods.

The Avon Vale Foxhounds were visited by Bath, Bristol and Wiltshire sabs and the sabs were well placed to intervene when necessary. The following Thursday saw sabs from Bath, Bristol and North Dorset back with the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds. Sabs were successful in taking the hounds off the line of several foxes and at one point they ran off with the whole pack.

As well as attending meetings of the Chilmark Beagles, Bath sabs have been out with the Marlborough College Beagles who were found walking to the meet and then headed straight back to the kennels for the day.

The end of September for the Bath, Bristol and Cotswold groups was spent with the Duke of Beaufort's Foxhounds when sabs successfully pulled hounds off the line of a fox at the end of the day. Plymouth sabs have been out with the South Devon foxhounds at least once if not twice a week, and they say this hunt is now looking in a very sorry state. Other days have been spent in the company of the South Pool and Dart Vale Harriers, the Spooner and West Dartmoor Foxhounds, the Eggesford Foxhounds and the Cheldon Buckhounds. North Dorset sabs also took to the water in order to sabotage anglers, with undoubted success.

At the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Foxhounds meet at Bishops Caundle in North Dorset, sabs used horn calls to draw hounds out of coverts, across a brook and into confusion.

A hectic day was had again with the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale the following Tuesday where, although the hunt killed, sabs were instrumental in saving the lives of other foxes. Other days with the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale have seen North Dorset sabs using horn and voice calls to great effect. One day, after half the pack had gone off with one sab and half with another, saw the hunt packing up as soon as they got their hounds back.

North Dorset and **Bournemouth** sabs had a great day with the South Dorset foxhounds. When a fox left the first covert drawn, sabs distracted hounds with voice and horn calls so that the hunt had no chance of finding the fox. The hunt tried drawing more coverts but each time sabs were on hand to call the hounds out again.

In late August the South and West Wiltshire Foxhounds were at Gillingham. Sabs spent the first two hours in covert with the hounds and even though there were plenty of foxes around, sabs made sure that no kills were recorded. This same hunt had great difficulty keeping their pack the following Monday when sabs constantly used horn and voice calls with great success. At one point a fox was in a covert which was being held up by riders, but sabs intervened at just the right moment to create sufficient confusion for the hounds to escape.

There were six visits to the Portman Foxhounds by North Dorset sabs, who were joined on some occasions by the Bournemouth group. On one occasion the sabs' vehicle was rammed twice and written off, but good times have been had with them as well, with a great number of foxes being saved and hounds being called over by sabs very successfully on many occasions.

Yeovil, Bournemouth and North Dorset sabs attended the opening meet of the Ilminster Beagles. At first the hunt boxed up and tried to lose the sabs but this was not successful. When they finally started to hunt sabs made sure that every hare was safe by either stopping the pack or running off with them. At one point they took them all the way back to the meet.

SCOTLAND

After the demise of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire, who were followed by the Wigtonshire into the history books, Scottish sabs now have less bloodletting to curb. The **Edinburgh** group have been in the company of the Duke of Buccleugh's Foxhounds during cubbing and haven't witnessed any kills. One Saturday all the huntsman did was run away from sabs, which annoyed the supporters. As the sabs followed the hunt they came across three terrierboys in the process of digging out - the sabs told them to get their terriers out and clear off, which they promptly did.

Clydeside sabs have been to the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds. On attending their opening meet sabs immediately pulled hounds out of the first draw, so the hunt resorted to that renowned tactic when faced with sabs - they ran away. However, sabs caught up with them and, using two groups, split the pack, which annoyed the hunt immensely. At another covert where three foxes were put up sabs sprayed the line and the hunt promptly lost them. It wasn't the only thing they lost - in the final draw the huntsman somehow lost his hounds!

OXFORD AND SURROUNDS

Groups in the Oxford area have been kept busy over the summer by their local anglers and minkhunts. At the Four Shires Minkhounds meet at Notley Abbey, local sabs were joined by others from **Bath**, the



Photo: Oxford HSA

Oxford sabs trot through the woods, followed by most of the Four Shires Bassett Hounds.

South West and the **SABS** region. The hunt packed up and returned to the meet.

In August local trout anglers were sent home by sabs standing in the water and explaining that they wouldn't leave until the anglers did.

Sabs from **Oxford, Banbury** and **Thame** have been out several times with the Vale of White Horse Foxhounds. This has been much to the annoyance of supporters who have taken their anger out on sabs and their van, although this has not deterred sabs and the pack has been called out of coverts plenty of times to reduce the hunt's chances of killing.

The Vale of Aylesbury Foxhounds' opening cubhunt with their new huntsman was another early morning for the Oxford group. Here the sabs tried a variety of pre-meet tactics through coverts and did not witness any kills.

Bicester with Haddon Chase Foxhounds had difficulty in keeping their hounds with them at the Knapps Hook meet. The pack became unsure of who to go to and ended up running between sabs and the hunt, giving foxes plenty of time to escape. The occasional time they were in cry some timely horn and voice calls stopped them.

A wet day with the Old Berkshire Foxhounds saw sabs using horns to pull hounds out of the first draw. Following the hunt to the next draw, sabs again used horns to great effect.

With local meetings planned and more sabs joining, the pressure is going to increase on these hunts and their bloody activities.

Two saboteurs call to the VWH from somewhere in the Sahara Desert.



Photo: Oxford HSA

MIDLANDS

Groups in the Midlands have spent some of the summer in the company of the Northants Minkhounds and the Dove Valley Minkhounds. On the 18th May, sabs in the **Midlands** were joined by others from the **North West** and **Oxford** at the Northants Minkhounds meet at Coley Weston. The hunt packed up and headed for home as soon as sabs arrived. On the 15th June sabs again attended the Northants Minkhounds. Here Midlands groups were joined by others, including **York** and **Norwich**. Again the hunt packed up and left.

The relatively new Dove Valley Minkhounds, hunted by Greg Mosley of Meynell and South Staffordshire fame, also received the attention of sabs. On June 1st sabs from the North West, York, **Harrogate** and Oxford joined others from the Midlands to meet the Dove Valley at Blyth Ford Farm. The hunt didn't even bother unboxing the hounds and went straight home. The following Wednesday saw the hunt sneaking back to the same meet, only to be discovered by sabs from Liverpool who made sure there were no kills that day. The hunt then became totally paranoid. They cancelled and changed meets and refused to hunt any of the area's main rivers, for fear of being found by sabs.

The start of cubhunting saw sabs from various parts of the country coming to the Midlands (see Shires Week feature). **Lincoln** sabs have been out against the Blankney Foxhounds. At the end of August 14 sabs from Lincoln split the pack within five minutes of arriving at the meet and pulled the hounds out of covert. Whilst trying to avoid sabs the hunt flushed out two foxes but were unable to follow any due to the actions of sabs. **Nottingham** and **Mansfield** sabs have also visited the Blankney Foxhounds. They found the hunt holding up coverts so the sabs set to work and with the hounds being continuously called away from the hunt it was clear what they had to do - pack up and go home - which they did.

The High Peak Harriers were the next to receive some attention at Wardlow. As soon as sabs arrived the huntsman gathered his hounds together, walked them around for a while and then went home. The opening meet of the High Peak Harriers was held at Flagg. Over fifty saboteurs turned up from Nottingham and Mansfield, **Sheffield** and **Manchester**. Some good voice calls and horn work saw the pack split into four with the hunt going home a couple of hours early. The following Saturday saw sabs from Nottingham and Mansfield, **Huddersfield, Bradford** and a new group from **Derby College** at the DNS Beagles. They tried to hunt for about forty-five minutes, failed miserably and took the hounds for a five mile road walk with sabs in tow.

EAST ANGLIA

The East Essex Foxhounds have been visited by sabs from **Colchester, Halstead** and **Sudbury** during their cubbing. On their first day of Saturday cubbing 30 sabs used their numbers to great advantage in calling hounds away from coverts where cubs had been seen and took great delight in taking the pack away for some time. Even when they were attempting to hunt sabs used voice calls and horns to great effect whenever the hounds appeared at the edge of the covert. This worked particularly well on the young hounds. As well as there being sabs and the hunt at the meet, there were two police cars, a police van and the police helicopter. However none of this prevented successful sabbing.

The sabs returned again the following Saturday, and again used horn and voice calls to call the hounds out of covert. At one point hounds were very close to a fox, which in turn was close to sabs. The sabs rated the hounds successfully, resulting in the escape of the fox.

Cambridge sabs started the season kennel-watching the Camebridgeshire Foxhounds. They have now ventured out with sabs fifteen times and are trying to give sabs the slip by hunting early morning, mid-afternoon or evening, all to no avail - the sabs are still there.

After a busy summer which included doing stalls and collections as well as sabbing, the Norwich group have now started the season against old favourites the West Norfolk Foxhounds.



Photo : Oxford HSA

Solidarity shooter maintains his stiff upper lip and dons sunglasses for a low profile while saboteurs make themselves comfortable on his butts. Glorious 12th, Abbeystead.



Photo: Oxford HSA

That's what we like to see ... Grouse Shooters climb back into their vehicles and head for home while saboteurs and mounted police keep an eye on them.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Over the summer sabs from **Northern Ireland**, while not having any minkhunts, have been busy against local fishing matches. A new coarse fishing stretch on the lower River Bann in County Down saw sabs successfully using whistles and water disturbance to disrupt a fishing match for over two hours. The following Saturday saw sabs using the same tactics again, with the

same level of success.

THE NORTH

Groups in the North of England have been kept busy by the blood sports junkies. On August 12th sabs from the **North West** region were joined by others including **Norwich, North Herefordshire, Orpington, Northern Ireland** and **Nottingham and Mansfield** amongst others to target the Duke of Westminster's shoot. The Duke spent a bloodless day as sabs took control at Lee Fell, North Abbeystead and stopped another shoot which had been going on for only ten minutes at Hawthornwaite.

As the Cheshire Forest ventured forth for their first cubbing meet sabs joined them and watched the hunt pack up after a couple of hours, having made absolutely no attempt to hunt. The following Saturday saw the Cheshire Forest being joined by sabs from **Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Blackburn, Cumbria** and **Bangor** where good voice and horn calls prevented any kills in the three and a half hours the hunt were out.

Workington sabs have been out against the Melbreak Foxhounds and no kills were witnessed.

Over in the North East sabs were out on Newcastle's Town Moor for possibly the first ever sab against falconry (unless you know differently!). Half a dozen falconers had been spotted by a sab out walking his dog and a few phone calls later saw a similar number of sabs out - the falconers were followed to their cars and told the situation.

The Northumberland Beagling Festival took place in September and saw sabs from **Hastings, West London, Leeds, Edingburgh and the Borders** and **Liverpool** joining the local contingent to sabs a total of nineteen hunts over eight days.

Tyneside, Sunderland and **Newcastle University and Polytechnic** groups have been out against the Tyneside Foxhounds and prevented any kills.

October saw the start of the North East's other beagling festival at Alston. Sabs from **Tyneside** together with others from **Workington, Carlisle, Lancaster, Nottingham** and **Mansfield, Derby** and **Liverpool** had a successful time, despite their being vastly outnumbered by supporters, one of whom seemed to find it necessary to walk around with a handful of rocks (see separate article).

YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire groups have been out regularly over the past months which has meant less killing at the hands of Britain's 'sporting' brigade.

During anti-angling week sabs from the Yorkshire region were active helping anglers to see the error of their ways. On the 16th of June two fishing matches were sabbed by disturbing the water and blowing whistles. Later in the day other groups of anglers received their attention.

The inglorious 12th meant that the saboteurs were up at the crack of dawn in search of the guns. The first shooting party was spotted at about 11.00a.m. on Snilesworth Moor - they stopped shooting as soon as sabs arrived and went for an early lunch, which turned into an early tea and probably an even earlier breakfast as the shoot was not to venture out again that day. Another shoot was located but unfortunately had finished for the day by the time sabs arrived. Sab groups out on the day included **York, Pocklington, Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, Harrogate, Ripon, Sheffield, Hull, Cleveland, Grimbsy, Hastings** and **Newcastle**.

On the 17th August sabs from York, Hull, Harrogate, Pocklington, Huddersfield, Ripon and Leeds found a shooting party at 9.00a.m. near Ripon. The shooting party delayed their start for three and a half hours in order for the police to arrive. However, this didn't deter sabs who arrived at the butts just as shooting was to start. This ment that the shooters retired to the lodge to decide what to do next. They set off again and police interference meant they got two sab-free drives but another three had been stopped. Sabs were also out on the grouse moors on the 24th at Dallowgill where an unfriendly person decided to load his gun, point it at sabs and threaten to kill them. Statements were made to police about this incident but sabs are unsure as to whether or not it is being followed up. Police then detained sabs preventing them reaching the butts in time. On the 31st August a shoot was located at Nidderdale which was stopped until the police arrived.

The shooting party drove off and the police stopped the sabs from following. However another shoot was located and they decided to pack in for the day.

The cubhunting season has seen various Yorkshire groups acting against their local packs. A morning out with the York and Ainsty (South) saw the sabs stopping a dig out while over at the Middleton sabs were successful in calling hounds out of a covert which contained four foxes, although one was killed in very dubious circumstances. Other packs which have been visited so far by Yorkshire groups include the High Peak Harriers, DNS Beagles, Holderness Foxhounds and the Holcome Harriers.



Photo: Simon Wild

The end of another buckhunt in the Forest. SABS region saboteurs stop the hounds.

SOUTH EAST

Brixton, Lewisham, Orpington, Guildford and **Brighton** sabs have been paying visits to the Old Surry and Burstow. Sabs used horn calls and holloas to call hounds out of woods, and the hunt decided against drawing certain woods due to the presence

of sabs, although they knew there were foxes in them. The following Saturday saw sabs again at the Old Surry and Burstow, where hounds were called off a fox by sabs even through they were only about two yards behind it.

The **West London** group had staked out the Garth and South Berkshire kennels, which was sufficient to dissuade the hunt from going out. The Hampshire hunt has also received attention from sabs. Sabs from **Basingstoke** and West London have been successful in preventing any kills. On the way home on one occasion, sabs came across a couple of ferreters who were stopped. The police were called and there are now investigations taking place regarding poaching by these ferreters.

In August, sabs from Orpington and **Kingston** had a good day out with the Surrey Union. Firstly sabs stopped a dig out, and then proceeded to split the pack over several miles of countryside. It took until 10.30a.m. for the hunt to get the pack back together, by which time any scent which had not been covered by sabs with sprays had dried up. With sabs at the kennels the Surrey Union have been wary about venturing out, unless the police are there to help them make their escape.

Another hunt which seems cautious about venturing out on Saturdays is the East Kent Foxhounds which sabs from **Folkestone** have been monitoring; in fact they appear to have given up on Saturday hunting entirely.

A successful day against the West Street and Tickham Foxhounds saw sabs from **Herne Bay** stopping a dig out while the police were getting annoyed with the hunt.

Sabs from West London and Oxford joined forces to sab a fishing match, where the combination of water disturbance and the use of canoes was very effective.

SOUTH (SABS)

Sabs in the South have been very busy this summer. The Ytene (see feature article) have tried everything to avoid sabs but to no avail - sabs were there to put a halt to be the blood spilling. **Eastleigh** hunt sabs have started using a tactic which seems to be becoming increasingly popular against angling. This is to actually get into the river and walk up it in a beat line. This seems to have a high level of success; many anglers just pack up and go home straight away - hopefully they take all their rubbish with them.

Sabs from the **Isle of Wight** have sabbed the Isle of Wight Fox hounds during the cubhunting season with great success.

Sabs from the South and from the South West have so far attended every meet this season of the New Forest Buckhounds. On the second meet of the season sabs from the **New Forest, North Dorset** and **Bournemouth** were successful in stopping hounds from separating in stopping hounds from separating a buck from the pack in several areas of woodland. Eventually, however, a buck and a doe were found and started running. After a very short chase the buck stood at bay to let the female escape, and was killed. At the next meet, sabs from the same groups were successful in calling the hounds off a buck and the hunt went home without blood on its hands.

There were over 40 sabs at the following meet, and the hunt were blocked in for over two hours before they could get started. The first draw was then ruined by sabs. At the second, a buck started running but sabs were well placed to intervene. They called hounds off the line and split the pack, setting the style for the rest of the day; at least four other bucks were saved.

In late September, sabs had another day with the buckhunt, saving one buck by sending it one way and the hounds another. Two more interventions that day ensured there were no kills.

Another pack in the south that had its bloodlust stemmed by sabs is the New Forest FH. At one meet, the pack appear to have been chasing a vixen with a probable litter of cubs in the area, but sabs called them off the line and eventually split the pack. This was enough to persuade the hunt to leave those particular foxes in peace. When hounds marked to ground later in the day, sabs occupied the earth for an hour and a half to stop the dig.

Bognor and **Chichester** sabs have spent many an early morning with the Chiddingfold FH. Sabotage has gone well, and on one occasion they brought the hunt to a complete standstill.



Photo: Simon Wild

You ain't going nowhere... Saboteurs make their presence felt with placards after blocking in the New Forest buckhunt's hound trailer.

Mid Wales Animal Rescue needs your help! In a bid to rescue as many young foals as possible from sale in Welsh markets for horse meat, the centre needs to raise £5,000 for stabling and care. If you'd like to help save these animals, please send your donations, however small, to: Mid Wales Animal Sanctuary, Rhydd Y Wawr, Gwystre, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6RN. The sanctuary is run by a past Chair of the HSA, so don't neglect them in their hour of need!

Trusthouse Forte Hotels have been offering trips to Boxing Day meets for their guests' amusement. Milton Keynes Animal Rights Group are collecting information for a campaign to put an end to this. If your local Trusthouse did it this year, the group would like to hear from you. Ring 0908 609647.

Stevenage Animal Rights are holding a national anti-vivisection rally outside the town's Glaxo works (off the A1 South) on Saturday June 6th 1992, assembling at 11am. Put it in your diaries now or you'll forget - and then phone 0438 359424 for further information.

A benefit LP to aid the Mike Hill Memorial Fund is currently being put together by Freedom Village at Thame, Oxfordshire. If you're involved with a band, or know of a band/performer that would be interested in contributing a song for the album, Miles Cooper and Chris Cork want to hear from you as soon as possible. If you're sending a tape, please include a lyric sheet and a contact address. Write to Freedom Village at 90 High Street, Thame, OX9 3EH.

Manchester & NW HSA have changed their PO Box following some unwanted interference with the last one. You can get in touch with them now at PO Box 155, Manchester M60 IFT. The Rochdale address is defunct.

Were you out with the Surrey Union on January 12th 1991? Or were you with the Hursley Hambledon on March 16th?. Our solicitors, McKenzie Knight, need your photos, video tapes and recollections of these two meets for pending legal actions. Please contact them at once c/o John Holton, 74 Whitton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2DD, or ring them on 081-569 6289.

COMMITTEE

As there were only ten candidates for election last year all of them were successful. Jobs were allocated as follows: Helen Carter, Marketing; Cameron Evans, Secretary; Jamie Hepburn, Chairman and Legal; Anne Llewellyn, Foxcubs; Keith Mann, Fringe; Jason Parker, Campaigns; Ben Ponton, Press; Eric Staples, Fundraising; Aubrey Thomas, Treasurer and Salesgoods; and last and thinnest, Neil Webster, Contacts and Student Liaison. With no one applying for election to the post of Tactics Officer, Cameron and Jamie agreed to split the work between them.

In September, Tina Secker was co-opted onto the committee to fill the post of Research Officer. At her own request, she was not given voting rights. In November, Jamie resigned as Chairman, in order to be able to devote more time to the post of Legal Officer. Tom Frampton was co-opted in his place, with voting rights. Any HSA member wishing to attend a committee meeting should enquire via the office, with details of what, if anything, they would like to discuss with the committee.

COMMITTEE ELECTION 1992

CVs are invited from candidates for election to the 1992-3 Committee. Candidates must be members of the HSA of at least one year's standing as of March 31st 1992. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by two other HSA members, both of whom must also have been members for at least a year, and neither may propose or second any other candidates, or stand for election themselves. Contrary to popular belief, there is no information which *must* be included in a CV, but it is common practice to include the following: how long you have been sabbing and/or how long you've been a member of the HSA; whether or not you're a vegetarian or vegan; your age; what job you would like to do on the Committee; your employment status; the direction you would like to see the HSA take and the sab group (if any) you are a member of.

Existing posts are: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Contacts Officer, Tactics Officer, Legal Officer, Foxcubs/Education Officer, Campaigns Officer, Press Officer, Research Officer, Sales Goods Officer, Fundraising Officer, Marketing Officer. Although you may state the job - eg. Treasurer - you wish to do, the election is for membership of the Committee and not for individual posts. These are voted on by the new Committee at its first meeting. CVs should not exceed 250 words.

MOTIONS FOR THE 1992 AGM

The next HOWL will not only carry CVs, but also motions to the 1992 AGM. These fall into two categories: Policy Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments. Both require a proposer and a seconder who have to be members of the HSA as of March 31st 1992 (the one year's membership requirement does not hold true for this). Copies of our current Constitution are available on request from the office. A donation of £1.00 would be appreciated to cover postage and photocopying.

OFFICERS WANTED!

As a matter of urgency, the HSA needs a new HOWL editor to take over from Steve Poole, who is stepping down through pressure of work with his PhD. The main qualifications you'll need are limitless enthusiasm, a degree in lexicography (useful for de-cyphering sab handwriting), and a bad reference from Rupert Murdoch (Max Hastings will do at a pinch).

For the past five years or so, the job of HOWL editor has not been a Committee post. This means that the magazine retains a certain degree of editorial independence from the Committee, and that the editor is an appointee without voting rights. If you're interested in taking the job on but daunted by the expected work-load, don't lose heart! The work-load is only as great as you make it. The key to good editing is not chaining yourself to the word processor for three weeks churning out 24 pages of copy all by yourself, but delegating as much of the writing as possible to other people! That leaves YOU free to plan and commission articles, change the design, and edit unsolicited manuscripts from far-flung corners of the empire ...

The second post we need applicants for is that of Fringe Bloodsports Officer, since the present occupant of that job is (ahem) unfortunately detained at present. If you would like to be co-opted onto the Committee to investigate and keep tabs on all those less public forms of bloodsports from badger baiting to dog fighting, and you have some basic working knowledge of these activities, you're possibly just the person we're looking for.

If you're interested in either of these posts please apply in writing, c/o the Secretary at the Nottingham PO Box.

Club Draw Winners

The following were all lucky winners in the HSA Club Draw between August and December. If you haven't done so already, why not join it now? It's an excellent way of helping the HSA *and* winning some cash for yourself or your sab group at the same time! Details from the Fundraising Officer c/o the PO Box.

August
1) D Wilson
2) B McEwan
3) C Hunter

September
1) B Mato-Turner
2) P Cuzens
3) M Clarke

October
1) V Preddle
2) D Maitland
3) L King

November
1) M A Bathurst
2) D Islam
3) V Preddle

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