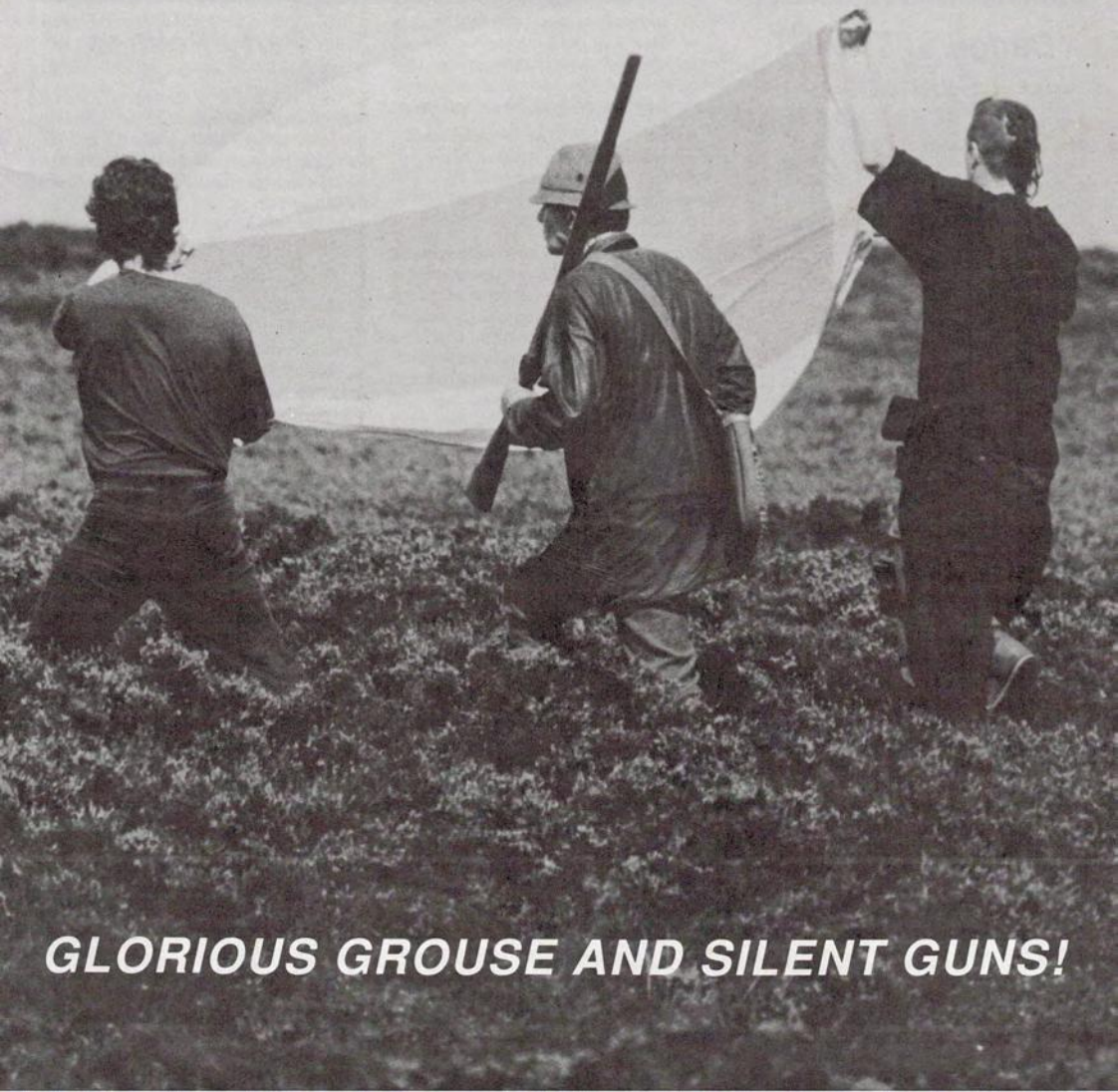
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the
Hunt Saboteurs
Association
Autumn 1992
No 50 £1



GLORIOUS GROUSE AND SILENT GUNS!

HOWL 50 EDITORIAL

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Whilst it's certainly some achievement to have reached the fiftieth issue of *Howl*, it's perhaps not the time for celebrations. As *Howl* readers may already know, six hunt saboteurs are now serving prison sentences for their part in the protests over Mike Hill's death in February 1991. Worse still, a private prosecution against former Cheshire Beagles kennel-huntsman Alan Summersgill, whom sabs will always hold responsible for Mike Hill's death, has failed. However, you can do something positive to help the Dodleston Six by supporting them whilst they're in prison - please support the SARP appeal on page 7 of this *Howl*.

The are *some* things to feel pleased about, such as the successful Weeks of Action against grouse shooting, beagling and cubhunting reported in this issue, the closure of the Norfolk Beagles, and the defeat in the High Court of bloodsports lawyer Barry Peachey, who has been left with a legal bill of over £250,000.

Elsewhere in this *Howl* there's a *Forum* article about sabbing and the police which I hope will be the start a debate on this issue. If you'd like to respond to this or any other item in *Howl*, please send your contribution to the address below. Needless to say, views expressed in *Howl* are not necessarily those of the editors or of the HSA.

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to Stuart Lord, Steve Poole, Cameron, Neckie and everyone else who helped get this issue of *Howl* together.

Gareth, Editor

LETTERS

Badgers: The TB Scandal

The following letter is from Martin Hancox MA, until recently a member of the Government's own Consultative Panel on Badgers and TB. He resigned in disgust at the Ministry of Agriculture's continued killing of badgers which he says has nothing to do with stopping TB and everything to do with "saving face for the superannuated badger baiters in the 'civil' service and preserving John Gummer's own ministerial reputation." For further information contact the Dartmoor Badgers Protection League, Riverside Cottage, Poundsgate, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NV.

Dear *Howl*,

The first wild tuberculous badger was found in Gloucestershire in 1971, thereby launching the 21-year-old Great Badger Debate on Bovine TB. Four incontrovertible facts:

1) Culling badgers as part of the cattle TB eradication scheme has failed (Bovine TB levels in the South West remain roughly the same as they were in 1976 when badger-gassing started).

2) The MAFF has so far spent £11 million on killing badgers. The proposed new culling scheme will cost a further £5 million over five years. Data from the Government's own *Dunnet Report* shows that this is not cost-effective.

3) The alternative answer would be to bring in better blood tests for cattle to back up the present skin test which currently allows 1500 TB infected cows per year to go unnoticed. This measure would benefit farmers and vets.

4) Bovine TB is not a risk to human health - the upsurge in TB levels is linked to poverty, AIDS, etc; it is nothing whatsoever to do with bovines or badgers. The two types of TB, bovine and human, are completely different.

On commonsense, scientific and economic grounds badger culling should cease, which is why I resigned from the Government panel. The MAFF intend to carry on with a politically farcical policy, against the advice of leading scientists. However, there is a chance that John Gummer will change his mind, if enough pressure is applied. Write to him at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, asking him to end the state-licensed slaughter of badgers once and for all.

Martin Hancox
Stroud, Gloucestershire

Thanks!

Dear *Howl*,

Cornwall Hunt Sabs would like to thank Mary and Ruth for all their hard work during the close season raising funds and promoting the cause of hunt sabotage throughout Cornwall.

Due to their dedication to wild animals we now have over £1000 and nearly double the number of members.

Cornwall HSA

Party Politics

Dear *Howl*,

I write in response to Bernadette Aardern's letter in *HOWL 49*, in which she claims that this year's General Election was the first time that a party had a clause in their manifesto to ban hunting with hounds. I presume she means the Labour Party.

The Green Party has ALWAYS had a clause against all forms of hunting, and before that the Ecology Party did too, so since 1973 there has been a party consistently opposed to hunting.

Amongst other things, the Green Party would press for a reduction in meat consumption, encourage educational establishments to offer vegan/vegetarian food, stop the trading in fur and ivory products, prohibit animal circuses, abolish zoos except for the benefit of the animals, and control and monitor racing involving animals. The Green Party is far more dedicated to animal rights than the Labour Party ever will be.

Paul Harrison
Edinburgh Sabs & Green Party Researcher

Cover Photo

Sabbing is plain sailing! This issue's cover shows intrepid sabs using a bedsheet to prevent grouse shooters from making any kills.

The picture was taken on the North Yorks Moors on 15 August 1992. (Courtesy of "The Leader")

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1 CARLTON NOTTINGHAM NG4 2JY
TELEPHONE (0602) 590357 (24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE)

BANK DENIES SUPPORTING BLOODSPORTS

In *Howl 49* we revealed that the Bank of Scotland operates a Mastercard credit card which benefits the British Association for Shooting & Conservation. BASC members apply for the special 'affinity card' and in return a 'donation' is made to the BASC's funds.

The bank has recently been in touch with *Howl* to deny that they are showing support for the BASC's activities. Mr J Robin Browning, the bank's General Manager, admits that that some renumeration is paid to the BASC, but he claims that the deal is simply a "business transaction" and that significant payments are not involved. Whilst he would not disclose exactly how much his bank pays to the BASC, Mr Browning did say the amount could be around £1000 per year. He also claimed that HSA supporters "would not expect us to set ourselves up as censors nor to make moral judgements."

More importantly than the actual amount of money involved, financial support of this kind helps to make the BASC look "respectable". Readers who think the bank *should* make a "moral judgement" against the killing of animals for entertainment can write to Mr Browning at the Bank of Scotland (not to be confused with the Royal Bank of Scotland), The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.

BFSS IN UPROAR AT CO-OP BANK

Meanwhile, the Co-operative Bank's decision to refuse banking services to those involved in bloodsports and vivisection has brought a hysterical reaction from bloodsports enthusiasts.

BFSS Chairman Nicholas Bonsor MP described the Co-op's policy as a "worrying example of the successful manipulation by a radical minority of an institution which simply ought to know better." The Co-op Bank took the decision following consultation with the RSPCA, RSPB, Worldwide Fund for Nature and TGI (Tory Green Initiative) - hardly the "manipulative radicals" Mr Bonsor refers to.

Hunt Demo

Dear *Howl*,

It is well known that when asked for their views on bloodsports (especially fox and stag hunting), the vast majority of British people are unequivocally opposed. However, it recently occurred to me that even though these opinions are important, I think that many people are *passively* opposed to bloodsports - they may not get actively involved because they don't know how to go about it, or, as is most likely, because they associate active involvement (ie, sabbing) with press coverage of sabs being abused and arrested

Consequently, would the HSA consider organising a mass demonstration against hunting for "'the average man or woman in the street" to attend? For example, at an opening meet people need not necessarily sabotage the hunt, but can simply arrive as the hunt assembles, and show their feelings through the sheer numbers of protesters gathered. A demonstration like this would serve to further highlight the growing number of people who are prepared to make a stand against bloodsports. Local and national press coverage would help to get this point home.

My father is one such person who is against bloodsports but who would not be prepared to go sabbing. However, he voiced great enthusiasm for a mass demonstration, pointing out that people could attend who are not fit enough to chase hounds for miles and miles! He also assured me that many of his work colleagues would join in, which emphasises the fact that there are so many people who are against bloodsports and would make a stand, if only they could be organised and given direction by people like **us**.

Elaine King
East Sussex

Badger Traps

Dear *Howl*,

As your readers are no doubt aware, the Ministry of Agriculture has ignored all the expert advice and is continuing to trap and kill badgers.

Whilst I would not condone any illegal activity, sabs should be aware that it is easy to damage or remove the traps used. What's more, I have it on good authority that the Ministry is becoming increasingly frustrated and annoyed by interference with these traps.

Traps cost a lot of money and if they are constantly being damaged it may even add weight to the arguments against badger culling and help to change official badger policy.

In any case, removing badger traps definitely saves lives!

Dave Salmon
Lichfield, Staffordshire

Legal Points

Dear *Howl*,

I would be grateful if you could use your legal pages to explain the situation regarding giving your name and address to the police.when threatened with arrest. I know that drivers have to give their details to the police when asked , but what about other sabs? There seems to be some confusion about this and I'd be grateful if you could clarify matters.

. Also, after charging someone with an offence the police often ask for information (place of birth, profession, height, weight, etc) for an "antecedents form". The police usually say that this information is essential and that sabs must provide the details, but I'm sure this is not the case. Perhaps the HSA Legal Officer would like to comment?

Adrian Thorpe
Carlisle

Jamie Hepburn, HSA Legal Officer, comments:

There is an article in this issue's legal section concerning the law on giving your name and address to the police. All sabs should familiarise themselves with this information.

On the subject of antecedents, there is no legal requirement for anyone to provide the police with this kind of information at any time and I would strongly advise sabs never to give their "antecedents" to the police.

Forte Hotels

Dear *Howl*,

In reply to Mary Steel's letter concerning Forte Hotels UK Ltd (*Howl 49*), it amused me to read her patronising comments regarding Forte's attitude towards pets.

As HSA members and supporters of animal rights, surely we should not promote the acceptance of 'pets' anywhere, as any domestic animal has already lost its true rights by being suppressed and manipulated by human beings.

Miss T R H Harrigan
Reading, Berkshire

Hunt Ban in Bucks?

Dear *Howl*,

A Motion will be put before a meeting of South Bucks District Council on 22 December 1992 urging the Council to ban all hunting and trapping on its land. Please could all *Howl* readers in Buckinghamshire write, urging the council to approve the Motion, to Mr Levings, District Secretary, SBDC, Council Offices, Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2HN.

Letters should not be sent until December, as most councillors will only hear of the Motion around then.

Virginia Bell
Buckinghamshire

MPs CALL FOR BAN ON MINK HUNTING

Attempts in Parliament to get mink farming banning are not expected to succeed. An Early Day Motion which describes mink farming as "cruel and barbaric" has been signed by over 80 MPs. In January 1993 the Minister for Agriculture must either renew or drop the Mink (Keeping) Order.

However, British Democracy being what it is, the decision will be taken without a vote.

Another EDM (No. 380) calls for the ending of the MAFF's "expensive, pointless, cruel and unnecessary" badger culling.

JOINT MASTER FOUND DEAD IN NEW FOREST

Police have said that the death of Peter W Bailey, Joint Master of the New Forest FH, is not suspicious. Mr Bailey, formerly of Burnside Farm, Lyndhurst, was found dead in late July at Ladycross Enclosure at Brockenhurst in the New Forest, Hampshire. He had apparently died from a single gunshot wound to the stomach. A local sab suggested that Bailey's guilt had "become too much to bear..."

US FUR TRADE "IN DECLINE"

The Animals' Voice magazine reports that the American fur trade is winding down. Last year imports of fur products into the US were down by more than half and trapping was also cut by 50 per cent.

Many famous fur retailers have been forced to close down. In Beverly Hills, the once-fashionable fur store 'Sompers' has been declared bankrupt, and the Korean-based Jindo Fur Company, which set out to become "the McDonalds of fur" by operating sweatshop factories and selling coats at half the usual price, has been forced to close all forty of its US stores.

PLUM PUDDING

BFSS funds were recently boosted by a donation of £600,000 left to the organisation by hunt supporter Ivan Leach who died in June.

The amount would have been nearer £1 million, but the taxman took a large cut first. The BFSS say that the cash will help to "replenish funds" following their massive expenditure on publicity during the General Election.

As *Shooting News* recently reported, Mr Leach, who frequently made donations to bloodsports causes, died in "tragic circumstances". Having dropped a match onto his lap, he attempted to put out the flames with **brandy.** Whoops!

POLICE TRY TO BLOCK FUNDRAISING

Police in Cornwall are trying to prevent local sabs from collecting donations from sympathetic members of the public.

Cornwall HSA have applied to Caradon Council for a permit to make a street collection in Liskeard following successful collections in Truro and Falmouth. The earlier collections passed off without incident, and the local paper reported that the group had received "a favourable response to their efforts from members of the public."

However, local police chiefs have claimed that a breach of the peace could occur if the collection goes ahead. It seems that any activity undertaken by sabs - even harmless fundraising - constitutes some crime or other as far as the police are concerned. The council has yet to make a decision.

SNAKESKIN SALES STOPPED

Following a letter-writing campaign, department stores in the John Lewis chain will no longer be selling products made from snakeskin. The company received dozens of letters pointing out that snakeskins cannot be obtained without causing immense suffering to the animals.

There are many instances of snakeskin products supposedly produced on "snake farms" being made from the skins of wild snakes caught in cruel traps. John Lewis plc say that they now accept that "there is no humane method" of obtaining snakeskin.

QUORN HUNT IN DISGRACE AGAIN

HUNT STAFF CONVICTED UNDER FIREARMS ACT

The conviction of two Quorn FH workers for firearms offences has brought the troubled hunt into disrepute once again. The case against kennelman Christopher Docherty and terrierman Alan Betts brought television and newspaper reporters flocking to the Magistrates Court at Loughborough on 26 August. As the *Daily Express* reported, "magistrates watched the filmed final moments of a squealing fox cub's life as he was dragged from the ground. Seconds later the tiny creature was shot and his carcass thrown to the hounds."

Docherty, of The Kennels, Gaddesby Lane, Kirby Bellars, Melton Mowbray LE14 2TQ, was found guilty of failing to keep a firearm in a secure condition and fined £150. Betts, of Silver Street, Whitwick, Leicestershire, was found guilty of possessing a firearm without a certificate and fined £100.



Gun shame of royal hunt

PRINCE Charles' favourite hunt faced humiliation last night after filmed final moments of a squealing fox cub's life as he was dragged twick, Leicesters guilty of possessin

Headline in the *Daily Express*, 27/8/92

Although the case attracted national media attention, what the papers *didn't* say was that despite a very strong prosecution case (the video evidence couldn't have been clearer), the supposedly independent Crown Prosecution Service refused to take any action against the two men. If it hadn't been for the private prosecution brought by the LACS, these two criminals would never have been convicted - more evidence (if any were needed) of the CPS's continuing bias in favour of bloodsports. The magistrates played their part, too. The fines handed out to the convicted men were almost insignificant. As a protester said after the trial, "One wonders what the sentence would have been if two hunt saboteurs had been convicted of serious firearms offences."

Of course, what really matters is that the two men *were* convicted, and it is being suggested in the press that Prince Charles will now have no choice but to sever all links with the Quorn FH, once described as his favourite hunt.

BLOODSPORTS "LAWYER" LOSES LIBEL CASE

Sabs will be pleased to hear that Barry Peachey, self appointed legal advisor to the bloodsports community, recently lost a libel case against the League Against Cruel Sports and is now stuck with a bill for legal fees totalling **a quarter of a million pounds.**

Peachey - who edits a highly dubious "legal column" in *Shooting News* under the name "A G Fox" - brought the ill-fated case following a report in the League's journal in 1987. Peachey was very annoyed by the article which he claimed was libellous, but the jury disagreed (unanimously) and the High Court ordered Peachey to cough up both sides' court costs - at least £250,000.



Peachey before losing the case and £250,000 *(Photo : Simon Wild)*

This is the latest in a series of disasters in Peachey's disturbing career. Years ago he was a country bobby in Hampshire, but he was forced to leave the police force (officially because of "back trouble") after he attended an incident at a farm where two pet dogs had been caught allegedly worrying sheep. PC Peachey arrived at the scene and, employing his unique insight into the law, shot the dogs dead. There was of course no lawful basis for the shooting, and animal-loving Peachey was duly disciplined. Later he was fined for disobedience after writing articles for *Shooting News* without clearing them first with senior officers.

Since leaving the force, Peachey has continued to put his vast legal talents to good use. When he's not telling the bloodthirsty readers of *Shooting News* how to avoid the long arm of the law, he travels from court to court, appearing as an "expert witness" at the trials of badger-diggers and other thugs. "Legal Eagle" Peachey's sparkling wit and charm seem to be lost on magistrates who tend to convict the badger-diggers regardless. And although Peachey advertises himself as a lawyer, the Law Society and the Bar Council have confirmed that he is neither a qualified solicitor nor a barrister.

In the past Peachey has also claimed to be "Legal Adviser to the BFSS". You might think that a former policeman who shoots dogs, defends badger diggers in court and loses High Court libel cases would be a perfect front man for the BFSS, but unfortunately the BFSS don't want him on their payroll, for obvious reasons.

Peachey is thought to have inherited his love of animals from his father who was Kennel Huntsman with the New Forest FH in the 1950s.

HUNTING THE BADGER

Peachey's legal page appears every week in *Shooting News* magazine, which is known to advertise books on dog fighting, poaching and badger digging. The magazine's latest inspired publication is a book by Peachey himself, entitled *Hunting the Badger*. In his column in *Shooting News* Peachey once boasted that he was "handy with a spade". He denies being a badger-digger, but in the recent libel case at Winchester, two independent witnesses said that they heard Peachey tell a court in 1986 that he had "participated in badger digging on the continent".

In December 1986 Peachey appeared at Melton Mowbray Magistrates Court, Leics, as a defence witness at the trial of three badger-diggers. At first Peachey argued that "border terriers are not used for badger digging as they are too small" and that "lurchers are also of no use against badgers." However, under cross-examination, Peachey was forced to admit that he had himself written a review of a book, *Badger Digging With Terriers*, in which the use of both border terriers and lurchers is described.

Peachey's knowledge of badger-digging is a cause for some concern. Recently he wrote about a convicted badger-digger who is banned from keeping dogs. "Regardless of this," says Peachey, "he is still keeping dogs and digging almost anything that he can find below ground." Refusing to name the man concerned, Peachey goes on to relate the story of how this individual had run from the police to evade capture, leaving half a dozen terriers in a badger sett. Peachey seems to know all about the incident, but as far as we know the police haven't yet approached him for a statement.

If he is ever to pay off his legal bill Peachey will presumably have to increase the fees he charges for his curious brand of "legal advice".

CRUELTY AND POLLUTION RIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Hunt supporters often argue that the environment and animal welfare are issues best left to those who live in the countryside. Concern about cruelty is usually dismissed as the "sentimental nonsense" of those who don't understand how the countryside works.

However, the *Independent* says that although animal cruelty is generally imagined to be at its worst in cramped cities, "reports of cruelty, neglect and carelessness causing injury to animals in the countryside are soaring."

A legal loophole allows farmers convicted of cruelty offences to continue to own animals by simply employing "farm managers" to look after them. This is exactly what farmer Colin French of Brook Farm, Winslow, Buckinghamshire did after he was banned from keeping farm animals for 15 years. Now the man he employed as a stock manager has himself been convicted of 26 cases of cruelty to animals. An injunction prevents the RSPCA from entering French's land, and so they can't check up on the state of the animals.

One RSPCA Inspector reckons that there are many cruel, inadequate or careless workers involved in farming, and they have an unusually wide scope to inflict suffering.

Another farming scandal was brought to light recently by the National Rivers Authority, who say that almost half the farmers in England and Wales are polluting water supplies with an assortment of toxins, including manure, pesticides, unwanted milk and other by-products of agribusiness. The NRA report concluded that these poisons are hundreds of times more damaging to the environment than human waste. The Authority's figures reveal that farms are responsible for the annual production of over 200 million tonnes of slurry, much of which is poured into the country's waterways.

Something for sabs to think about when next they are accused of not understanding country ways...

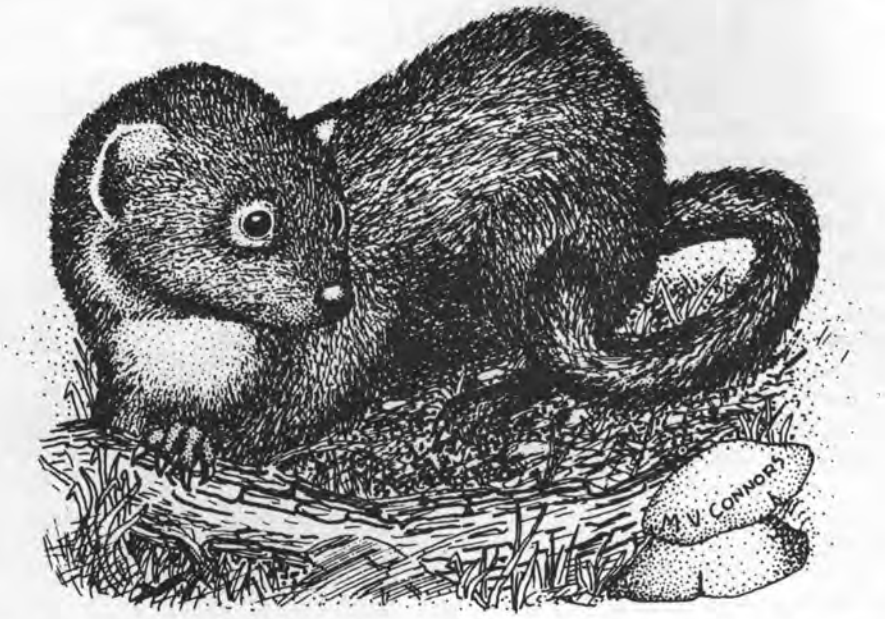
ANGLERS CLAIM "MARAUDING MINK" ARE "STEALING FISH"

The much-maligned mink is once again being blamed for all kinds of "crimes", including the killing of fish, the animal's natural food.

Wild mink are said to be "out of control" in Priory Country Park in Bedford, where traps are being used to capture them. The mink, which are accused of the grave offence of "stealing from anglers" (ie: eating fish) are then shot by park wardens.

In North Yorkshire the demise of the water vole is being blamed on the "marauding mink." The solution? Kill the mink as well, of course! However, the real problem is human interference. To survive, water voles must mix with voles from other colonies in the same area, thus preserving genetic diversity. As the *Yorkshire Evening Press* reports, voles are vanishing because "habitat destruction has been so widespread in some areas that distances between colonies are too great for water voles to cover."

The clearing and destruction of the water voles' natural habitat is seriously affecting population levels of other animals as well as mink. The vole is also part of the food chain for owls, herons and stoats.



The beautiful wild mink, much derided by bloodsports maniacs, is now accused in all seriousness of "stealing fish" from "sportsmen"

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

Four Nottinghamshire men recently appeared at Skegness Magistrates Court charged with interfering with badger setts. **Wayne Thomas Coupe** (27) of 26 Kirklington Road, Rainworth NG21 0JR; **Gary Arthur Tucker** (26) of Wharmby Avenue, Mansfield; **Stephen Cyril Tucker** (37) of 44 Lyndhurst Avenue, Blidworth NG21 0RJ, and **Andrew Terrence West** (27) of 17 Abbots Crescent, Farnfield, found the public gallery crammed with protesters demanding justice. West is also charged with possessing a dead badger and sparrowhawk. The trial will take place on 17 December.

HUNTSMAN ON BADGER CHARGE

At Tavistock Magistrates in Devon four scum from the Dartmoor FH were charged under the 1991 Badgers Act with two joint charges of interfering with a badger sett at Little Sherberton. In court were Hunt Master **Michael Weir** and Whipper-in **Jonathan Northmore**, both of East Monksmoor, Bittaford PL21 0HE, **Gary Moore** of Ipplepen, Newton Abbot and **Paul Williams** of Hartford Road, Ivybridge. Well, well, eh - hunt staff on badger digging charges...

Newton Magistrates dished out £500 fines and costs on badger digger Kenneth Humphreys of Brooklea Close, Trefonen, near Oswestry. Humphreys gave the court the old excuse that he thought he had cornered a fox.

A wildlife TV expert helped land **Les Yafano** (20) of 2 Vine Street, Middlesbrough TS2 1BS and **John Haytey** (18) of Clarendon Road, Middlesbrough a £500 fine each. Yafano, who has a previous conviction for skinning cats, had his two terriers and hunting equipment confiscated. Using an electronic tracking device the men had put two terriers down a badger sett in Cleveland. Both pleaded guilty at Teeside Magistrates.

The West Country courtrooms have been busy with hunting vermin. **Edward P Lycett-Green**, Hunt Master with the Portman FH, of Cereleton, Park Hill, Charlton Marshall, Dorset, and four followers (**Patricia Harris** (54) of Marsh Farm, Ibberton; **Dean Andrews** (24) of the Wesleyan Church, Gussage St Michael; terrierman **David Winder** (37), of The Kennels, Bryanston, Blandford and farmer **Patrick Langdown** (35) of Milton Abbas) are all accused of causing an affray after putting a sab's Landrover windows through and using threatening and unlawful violence.

At Dorking Magistrates a sab was cleared of assaulting **Pru Goodchild** (Surrey Union FH Joint Master) of Fir Tree Cottage, Ewhurst Road, Peaslake, Surrey in a simple case of mistaken identity. Pru said that hunt sabs all wear similar clothes.

LIVERPOOL RABBIT TORTURERS

A group of young men from Merseyside appeared at Kirkby Magistrates in July charged will ill-treating a rabbit. A park ranger who saw the incident told the court that he heard the gang cheering and shouting as they ran after the rabbit and beat it to death in a car park: "They were chasing the rabbit and kicking it and it was trying to escape," he said. Despite the rabbit's squeals of terror, the youths kept it trapped under a coat and lashed out at it with sticks and their steel toe-capped boots. A reporter said that the men "showed no remorse and didn't seem bothered" when they appeared in court. The case has been adjourned. Denying the charge are: **Stephen Perry** (51 Thistley Hey Road, Kirkby, Liverpool L32 8ST), **Stephen Woods** (16 Changford Road, Kirkby L33 9UD), **John Nickson** (Ravenscroft, Tower Hill, Kirkby), Peter Kealy (Pentland Road, Kirkby), **James Hughes** (Shacklady Road, Kirkby L33 9XE), **Richard Wright** (Sherlock Avenue, Haydock, St Helens WA11), **Andrew Lowe** (Warrenhouse Road, Kirkby L33 9XG), **Stephen McGaw** (Jarrett Road, Kirkby L33 9UE) and **Joseph Riley** (Bigdale Drive, Kirkby L33).

On a lighter note, **John Trevor Law**, owner of shooting rights at Barrock Park, Low Hesket, was convicted of assaulting Stuart Roberts and Raymond Maxwell, both of Harraby, Carlisle. After finding the two men taking rabbits with guns, ferrets and dogs at Mellguards, Southwaite, Law (62) admitted punching Maxwell "at least twice". He said he pushed Maxwell and as soon as he fell into the car boot his leg came up. "I thought he was going to kick me. I took action and hit him again when he was standing in front of me. I thought I would hit him just in case. I hit him when he got out of the boot because I didn't know what he was going to do". And you thought they only assaulted us!

DODLESTON: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SIX JAILED IN MIKE HILL PROTEST CASE

Almost two years after Mike Hill's tragic death at the Cheshire Beagles, six sabs are now serving prison sentences for their part in the protests at the house of kennel-huntsman Alan Summersgill and several others have been convicted and fined. Meanwhile a private prosecution against Summersgill has failed; magistrates decided that Summersgill, still an ardent hunt follower, was not even guilty of a driving offence.

The case was dealt with at Knutsford Crown Court, Cheshire, in the summer. Four defendants, faced with the prospect of very long prison sentences if convicted on Riot charges, pleaded guilty to reduced Public Order charges and they, along with four others who were found guilty by the jury, were given suspended sentences and fined £250 each. Several others were acquitted outright by the court. Five further defendants were, however, sentenced to 12 months, and one was given a 15 month sentence.

In their latest newsletter, Support Animal Rights Prisoners say that everyone in the Animal Rights movement can help the six people now serving sentences: "On the one hand we can simply shrug our shoulders and shake our heads at the blind bigotry of the British legal system and do nothing. Or we can opt for the second choice, which is to ensure that these six caring men are *not* forgotten while they are in prison and that we will do our utmost to support them in any way we can."

SARP have set up an appeal fund to help friends and relatives to visit the Dodleston prisoners. The fund will also help the prisoners to purchase the few essentials available to them in jail. Donations payable to "SARP" should be sent to: The Dodleston Six Appeal, c/o SARP, PO Box 96, Northampton NN5 5JT. *Howl* urges all readers to support this appeal and to send whatever they can afford.

It is also vital that cards and letters are sent to the Dodleston Prisoners to express solidarity and support. Remember that all letters are opened and checked. **Neil Croucher** DV1515, **John Curtin** DX0978, **Martin Eggleton** DV1518, **Graham Wood** DX0976 (all serving 12 months) and **Dave Blenkinsop** DV1530 (15 months) are all detained at HM Prison, Kirkham, Preston, Lancs PR4 2RA. **Keith Mann** NE0316 is currently being moved from jail to jail - letters and cards should be sent to him c/o PO Box 155, Manchester M60 1FT.

LACK OF SUPPORT CLOSES NORFOLK BEAGLES

Good news from Norwich & Norfolk Anti-Bloodsports Group, who are pleased to announce the demise of the Norfolk Beagles. This means that Norfolk is now without a foot pack.

Local sabs say that they helped to close the Kings Lynn-based hunt, which was first visited by the present Norfolk sab group back in 1983. Following this first sab the hunt immediately stopped advertising and hasn't done so since. The number of Norfolk Beagles supporters was recently described as "pathetic", and closure was inevitable when the money ran out.

Sabs in the area are now concentrating on the three remaining Norfolk-based hunts, including the West Norfolk FH who are currently being sabbed 2 or 3 times each week.

THUG APPOINTED AS HUNTSMAN

Sabs in the South East were surprised to discover recently that a Mr Mark Bycroft has been appointed as Huntsman of the Old Surrey & Burstow Foxhounds.

Less than a year ago Mr Bycroft, then the hunt's whipper-in, was found guilty at Guildford Crown Court of Assault and Affray after a sab was chased, beaten and whipped by Bycroft and two other men. At the time sentence on Bycroft was deferred after the court heard that he was likely to lose both his house and his job as a result of being convicted. Eventually he was given a suspended sentence and 100 hours community service.

When the hunt advertised for a new whipper-in in *Horse & Hound* it was assumed that Bycroft had been given the boot. However, his criminal record has had no effect on his hunting career and instead of losing his job, Bycroft, just *21* years old, was elevated to the top spot in time for the start of the new season.

Then again, the Old Surrey & Burstow were desperate to appoint someone in a hurry and may have overlooked the black mark on Bycroft's CV. An insider claims that the former huntsman, David Evans, got so drunk and abusive at the point-to-point meet that they had to "let him go". For some reason they reckon it's better to have a criminal in charge rather than a swearing drunkard.

This means that both the local foxhunts now have convicted criminals for their huntsmen. Bycroft's Assault & Affray is matched by the ABH conviction picked up by John Funnell of the Surrey Union FH, for which he was nearly sent to prison.

Basher Bycroft has apparently told Surrey police that he will behave himself this season. Sabs in the area say that they are expecting an interesting year...

HOUNDS TERRORISE PENSIONER

61-year-old widow Mrs Pat Smith was left injured and traumatised after she and her cocker spaniel were attacked by hounds from the Cury FH.

The attack took place on 10 September whilst Mrs Smith was taking a holiday in Cornwall. She was enjoying a walk with her dog, Katy, at the Trelowarren camp site near Lizard when around 25 hounds came running over a hill. Three hounds grabbed Katy and started biting her. Mrs Smith tried to protect her dog and was bitten herself by the hounds.

"I tried to hold her up but I was nearly knocked over," she said. "Three dogs had hold of Katy by the tummy and there was a bad tear on her right leg."

Katy was saved from certain death by another holidaymaker who was standing behind a fence. He took the terrified animal from Mrs Smith. The field in which the attack occurred is private land reserved for campers and their dogs.

One witness said that Mrs Smith and her dog "didn't stand a chance."

"She was in a state of desperation, screaming," he said. "The little dog was crying and howling. The whole situation was exceedingly traumatic - the hounds were not responding to their handlers' commands."

Huntsman Geoff Thomas was at a loss to explain why his hounds were completely out of control on a private camp site. Hunt Secretary Mrs S Coates was also reluctant to talk about the matter, claiming that she had been told not to say anything by the Hunt's insurance company. Apparently the hunt *have* agreed to pay Mrs Smith's expenses.

No one has been arrested or charged over the incident.

Meanwhile Mrs Smith is so shocked and traumatised that she cannot remember all the details of the attack. "I was absolutely terrified. I haven't stopped shaking since," she said.

FOXES MOVING TO THE SUBURBS

Latest Ministry of Agriculture figures show that foxes are prospering in towns and cities, with some built-up areas having as many as eight foxes per square mile, well above the levels in most country habitats.

In effect, wildlife-conserving, nature-loving foxhunts are forcing foxes out of the countryside and into the towns. As one paper put it, "the pickings are easier and there are fewer hunts tally ho-ing through the back gardens of suburbia."

HUNT SABOTAGE AND THE POLICE

"ALL COPPERS ARE BASTARDS"

The following article - which is sure to be the cause of some debate - is offered as one sab's personal point of view. Readers are reminded that views expressed in* Howl *are not necessarily those of the editors or the HSA. Also, I'd be very grateful for other views on this matter for publication in* Howl *51 - Editor.

Hunt saboteurs are constantly up against the law. It somehow goes with the territory. One of the ways we have dealt with this has been jokingly. In a situation in which we are powerless, it often seems like humour is the only option left to us. ***The police are no joke.***

It is not the intention here to present "legal solutions" or tactics on how to deal with the police. The intention is to reaffirm the feelings about the police which sabs may, until now, have *repressed*. For those who support sabbing but have never been out themselves, it is intended as an education.

Some may feel that the situation with the police varies. Some seasons we have a lot of sabs nicked, others less so. Some seasons sabotage can be relatively free of police interference, other seasons resemble a Police State. Whilst things are in a state of flux, one thing remains consistent: ***The police are in the way.***

It is now universally accepted that the police will be present at hunts and will arrest sabs if they feel they are able to. For the police to feel able to doesn't mean a sab has to blatantly break any law. If the police feel they can nick sabs they will do. As a Humberside police inspector once remarked, "Today I make the law."

When anyone is arrested, whether they are sabbing, picked up on the streets, at a football match, etc, they are presented to the custody officer at a police station. This person then has to decide whether the arrest was justified. Invariably the arrest *is* justified, because the police are in a position of power so that everything they do is right (whether it has to be twisted to make it legally 'right' is besides the point). The police have the power to do whatever they want.

More than this, the police of course benefit from arresting people. For example, a disturbance is reported at a hunt. Regardless of what happens, each copper has to fill in a report. If they have arrested someone for breaking a law or to prevent a law being broken it will look good for the arresting officer. They will be seen to be doing their job well. They will be seen to be solving more crimes, and for the police solving more crimes means promotion. ***Hunt saboteurs are very easy to nick,*** especially for rural coppers.

There are also a lot of pressures on the police when they are at a hunt. Let's look at them. If sabs are present, then the situation is confrontational. Whilst there is often a facade of friendliness between sabs and hunters, both sides are intent on stopping the other's activities. To the hunter the whole thing is a game (that's why they call it a sport). Sabs are either going to spoil the game or add to the excitement. For us it can never be a game - the scum are intent on killing and must be stopped. The police have to choose sides (whilst pretending to be neutral) - invariably they choose the hunt.

Why? Because not only is hunting legal, it is also carried out by people in positions of power, people who own land, dispense 'justice' in the courts, and sit in the House of Commons. Not every hunter fits the bill but enough do to make the police recognise this.just as we do. The police of course are also in a position of power, given to them by the same people who hunt. Obviously the police will side with their allies in power.

In doing this they are simply recognising and acting upon class privileges. Ah, that word class, so commonly ignored by the animal rights movement - despite the reality of class conflict being so blatant whilst were out sabbing. How long do we have to see masonic handshakes between the police and the hunters? (eg, Alston Hare week 1991; North Yorks grouse shoots 1992). How long do we have to see chummy chatting between the police and hunt staff, by the roads on fox hunts, in shooting lodges on the moor? Lets face it, its not because hunters are more interesting or more friendly people. Far more importantly, how long are we going to ignore the fact that the reason hunt sabotage is hard and getting harder is that the police are hijacking our efforts? Although it is the hunt who actually end up doing the killing, the responsibility must be shared - the police are directly responsible for *so many* deaths each year.

We are already directly involved in class struggle (whether our motives for sabbing include this or not) and the police are quite clear about which side of the fence they're on. Yet we ignore the class issue with as much gusto as John Major talks of us living in a classless society. It's almost as if we can benefit from keeping quiet about it. ***We can't.***



Impartial policing? Police spending the day in the hunt Landrover, Southdown & Eridge FH, East Sussex 1988

During the recent week of action against grouse shoots in North Yorkshire *(see article on page 10)* the police excelled even themselves. There were at least 33 arrests (of sabs of course). Most of these arrests were due to the police trying to arrest as many people as possible (they had brought in a van with individual cells in it especially for the occasion). Others were arrested for "interfering with the gun'"; ie, for trying to prevent murder. Upon arrest the sabs were subjected to the kind of intimidation normally reserved for blacks and travellers. One woman, whose child was staying with her grandmother, was condemned by the police for being "a bad mother"; a young woman (a "juvenile" due to her age) was threatened with social services, and her mother had to attend a police station miles away from her home. Everyone was fingerprinted and police photographers videoed everyone all week, especially those arrested. All this for "breaches of the peace". Of course it must be emphasised that despite this, the week was very successful in stopping shoots and saving thousands of lives. This is a credit to those sabs who took part and managed to achieve so much despite hassle from both the

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MOVES TOWARDS BETTER PUBLICITY

In her fictional "news story", Helen Carter shows how we could make better use of rural opposition to hunting.

"SABS HELP LITTLE OLD LADIES"

Six hunt saboteurs were praised by the members of the community of a small Sussex village, after they came at their request, to stop the local hunt from killing foxes.

The big Bigbottomly and Cabbagebrain foxhunt were due to meet on the lawn of a local hunt supporter in the small village of Cresswell on Wednesday March 11th as they have done for many years. But this year they met with opposition from several angry villagers.

One of them was Mrs Rose Finklestone, aged 80, of Oak Cottage, Cresswell. Over the last ten years both Mrs Finklestone and several of her neighbours have grown to like the wild animals that live around them.

"We don't know why the hunt have to come here to kill the foxes," she said. "Most of us quite like them - and they come into my garden at night to eat the scraps I leave them."

She also remarked that they were looking forward to seeing cubs in the summer months.

But the news that the hunt would maintain their tradition by coming to the village was met with outrage by several locals. A feeling which inspired them to ring up local hunt saboteurs to see if anyone could help save the foxes. Luckily Mrs Finklestone had picked up a leaflet from the local health food shop.

The saboteur group were not accustomed to doing mid-week hits but they managed to rally together five people in an old Ford Cortina to get to the meet. What followed was an extremely unsuccessful day for the hunt. Each time hounds found a scent the saboteurs were able to call them off it by blowing hunting horns. At 3 pm the hunt packed up without a kill, so delighting the locals.

But members of the hunt were not amused - neither was landowner Mr Henry Fforbes-Ffatarse on whose land the meet had been hosted.

"It should have been an excellent day," he was heard to comment. "We always have a good days hunting in Cresswell - these protesters completely ruined our day - they are nothing more than yobbos!"

But support for the saboteurs was evident among many villagers.

"It was wonderful to have the saboteurs here," Mrs Finklestone remarked. "This must be the first time we've been able to stop the hunt from killing our foxes!"

The story above is fiction, but could be real. I myself am an active saboteur - I live in the country and know a lot of old people - "Mrs Finklestone" could even have been my aunt.

So how many people do you know who could be asked to call out your group, if the hunt were on the rampage in their village? And how many of them would be prepared to then tell the local paper that they had called us out? This is where hunt sabotage actually starts to become a service to the public - something that would probably be looked upon extremely favourably. Think about it for this season - and get those leaflets out to those villages!

Helen Carter



HUNT SABOTAGE & THE POLICE

police (how much more we could have done if the police hadn't been there?) and the odd violent shooter.

We have nothing to gain *by not* exposing these incidents as examples of the way class society, through the police, protects the leisure interests of the ruling class. We know most people hate hunting, most people also hate the ruling class (after all the working class make up "most people"). Our experience of the police could be used to intensify the feelings ordinary people have about hunting - it might even bring us more allies.

Hunting is obviously cruel. Most people realise this, and we shouldn't stop emphasising just how cruel it is. However, we can only benefit from explaining why it continues, why dog fighting and other "working class" bloodsports are illegal whilst grouse shooting and fox hunting (so blatantly upper class) are not, why so many sabs are arrested, why the police spend so much time and money protecting money interests. ***We don't need to hide all this,*** unless the only people we're bothered about attracting or educating are middle class liberals, who themselves hide away from the reality of class society.

Something happened in 1991 that a lot of people had suspected would happen sooner or later. A hunt sab was killed whilst sabbing. The man responsible for his death remains free and continues to go out hunting. Six people are currently in jail for demonstrating about Mike Hill's death. If such an incident doesn't wake people up to the nature of our society being divided along class lines, then what will? The hunt, the police, the CPS, the judges and magistrates are, whether we like it or not, very much in league. That "league" is organised by each understanding their role in class society.

What can we do about it? We can continue to do what we are doing. We can continue to sab the bastards, we can continue to sue the police for stupid arrests, we can realise that we already know most of this and begin to put our understanding into practice. So that we no longer hear sabs drone, "its not a class issue, its all about cruelty". We can (and obviously should) make no comment to any questions being asked by the police. In the police cells this will result in less evidence against us, in the fields it avoids us being drawn into futile arguments with the police (just another way in which they get in the way). I'm not advocating hostility with the police. Unless we have the numbers, this road usually leads to the cells. Cool indifference to the police might be better, although wouldn't it be great if we could de-arrest our friends more often?

We could also stop appearing friendly to the hunt. Negotiation with them just wastes time. ***Perhaps we could put a class perspective into our propaganda*** - if we don't know much about class politics we could read up on it (I don't mean *Socialist Worker*) or simply look around us with a critical eye.

I won't try to hide how much I hate the police - I hate them as much as I hate the hunt. They are both scum. As people struggling for a world free from hunting and free from animal exploitation, we must expose the way the police act, and fight back against them as much as the hunt. We owe it to those people currently in prison for fighting against animal abuse (the police and courts put them there and took away their time and liberty) and to Mike Hill.

"ACAB"

GLORIOUS GROUSE AND SILENT GUNS

Report compiled by Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs

Sabs had an excellent start to the grouse shooting season in Yorkshire when two shoots were sabotaged and immediately packed up for the day on Wednesday 12 August.

The first shoot to suffer was at Simon Bostock's Dallowgill Estate, west of Ripon, where shooters were found setting up their second drive of the morning. This was duly sabotaged and after sitting around for a while the shoot decided to call it a day.

The second shoot was located in the Lofthouse Moor area on the Earl of Swinton's Estate. This shoot also decided that it was useless to continue and packed up for the rest of the day. To cap it all off two rabbit shooters were discovered at Dallowgill and they were also persuaded to finish for the day.

On the same day other groups of sabs were active on the moors in North Lancashire and Durham.

Press coverage for the day was good, with an all-day running commentary and several news articles on BBC Radio York.

Friday 14 August saw a small group of sabs venture out to the Duke of Devonshire's Bolton Abbey Estate in Wharfedale. The shoot, which turned out to be a party of Americans, were soon located. Unfortunately, the sabs were then blocked in by police whilst the party escaped. Sabs were unable to relocate them.

The next day, Saturday 15 August, once again saw two shoots receiving attention.

One group of sabs returned to the Bolton Abbey Estate where they eventually found the shooting party on Pockstone's Moor and immediately forced them to pack up. Two sabs were arrested.

Meanwhile another group of sabs found a shoot party on Goathland Moor, part of the North Yorks Moors. This shoot was a family syndicate renting the shooting off the moor's owners, the Duchy of Lancaster (apparently).

Whereas most grouse shoots tackled by sabs involve driven shooting - where beaters send birds over stationary guns at the shooting butts - this syndicate had 3 drives involving a combination of driven shooting and walk up shooting.

Their walk up shooting involved spreading out in a long line, evenly spaced, and walking across the moor, shooting anything that moves. Sabs had to ensure that they were with guns at all times. Unfortunately a few birds were shot, but a lot fewer than if we had not been there. Needless to say we ruined their day - some of the guns there only go out once a year; such a shame.



Arrestable offence? One of the party threatens to shoot a photographer *(Photo: Deb)*

After the weekend began one of the maddest sabbing weeks ever! Yorkshire Hunt Sabs were joined by sabs from other areas for a week of action.

Monday 17 August saw sabs take on the infamous Blubberhouses shoot on the south side of the Yorkshire Dales. This is where the disgusting Nineteenth Century pervert Lord Ripon once shot a record number of grouse.

There were large numbers of grouse on the moor this year, too, but very few of them were shot.

A party of Belgians, out to shoot the wildlife, were extremely disgruntled when sabs arrived at the butts for the first drive. With cries of "C'est tout a fait" most packed up and others who tried to shoot were relatively unsuccessful. A huge number of birds flew over the butts unscathed, a beautiful sight.

The police arrived, and after a chat the party decided to shoot from the same butts and beat from the other side.

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Almost a whole day without sabs in attendance took its toll on the grouse at Dallowgill *(Photo: L Fleuty)*

GLORIOUS GROUSE & SILENT GUNS

To counter this, sabs formed a beat line and beat birds away from the guns and managed to put 30-40 birds over the beaters' heads. Some birds *were* shot, but at this time sab numbers were low and this was the most effective tactic.

After a very long lunch break the shoot tried a third drive at a different set of butts with sabs surrounding all the butts. Only a few grouse were shot. At the end of the day only about 25 grouse had been shot, instead of the possible 200 or 300. *Au revoir mes amis; ne retournez pas!*

Tuesday 18 August saw the glorious return to the Duke's Bolton Abbey Estate. Sabs piled up to the butts just in time to prevent all but two grouse from being shot. Amazingly, the party immediately conceded defeat and didn't shoot again for the rest of the day. Around twenty guns were present; each had paid £1400 to shoot. A possible £28,000 refund!

On Wednesday 19th sabs travelled further north to the Scrafton Estate on Caldbergh Moor, not far from Leyburn. Sabs got up onto the moor, the shoot retired to the lodge and stayed there for several hours before sensibly deciding that it was a waste of time to try and shoot. They packed up. Another day's "sport" ruined and many lives saved.

On the next day, Thursday 20th, sabs turned up once more to sabotage events on the Bolton Abbey Estate. How amusing it was to find that all shooting had been cancelled until further notice! A scout round confirmed this to be true. This meant that three days shooting had been cancelled. Wonder what the refunds were like for that?

Seeing as the Duke of Devonshire wouldn't oblige, we went to see the Earl of Swinton on Lofthouse Moor who packed up for the day as soon as sabs arrived on "his" moor.

Faced with all this rather unsporting behaviour, sabs ended the day by sabbing another shoot party on Carle Fell above Nidderdale. A Sab was arrested for alleged criminal damage. A beater who assaulted a sab was not arrested. A bit unfair, but it was a very successful day.

Up until this point the police had not really been interested. They had blocked the occasional road and arrested five sabs but had not really hampered our efforts. On Friday 21st they changed their attitude. When sabs made a run for the guns at the Dallowgill Estate near Ripon, ten big men hired as land agents moved in, backed up by 30-40 police with two mounted officers, a prison van and several other vehicles. Thirteen random arrests were made and a number of sabs were assaulted by the "agents". The remaining sabs decided to go elsewhere to save lives and so the Duke of Norfolk was privileged by our presence at his Arkengarthdale Estate at the very tip of North Yorkshire.

As soon as sabs arrived the shoot packed up. To round the day off sabs managed to disrupt the last drive of a shoot on nearby Harkerside Moor.

It was revealed that a special police task force had been set up to deal with us throughout the week. The police later denied this to the press.

On Saturday 22nd we returned to the North Yorks Moors to see our old friends from the previous Saturday, this time on Wheeldale Moor near Goathland. Two drives were successfully sabbed in the morning with a minimal number of grouse being shot. After a long dinner break, the shoot waited for the police to arrive, and then tried a walk up drive. Sabs formed a beat line in front of the guns and beat birds away from the guns.

Twelve random arrests were made. Two people were kept in all weekend and appeared at Whitby Magistrates on Monday 24th August and bailed with the condition that they were not to attend grouse shoots in North Yorkshire. *Whilst the police task force were busy wasting public money concentrating on us, 200 football fans had a fight at Ripon races - enough said.*

So, 35 arrests in all. We bagged more grouse shoots than ever before. We saved at least a couple of thousand birds' lives. We made one of the biggest Estates in North Yorkshire cancel their shooting and we ruined the reputations of various others. A success!

Sabs must remember that the grouse season runs until 10 December. We must not be deterred by the arrests; we must continue sabbing the shoots all the way through. Finally, thanks to all the sabs who travelled from near and far to save lives - we couldn't have done it without you.

Yorkshire Hunt Sabs



Above: A sab stands guard over a shooting party
Below: Shooting abandoned for the day on the Duke of Westminster's land in North Lancashire
(Photos: D Giles & G Denman)



FESTIVAL SABOTAGED FOR SIXTH YEAR RUNNING

The Northumberland Beagling Festival was this year sabotaged for the sixth consecutive year. Consistent pressure forced the hosts, the Newcastle & District Beagles (NDB), to change the Festival's format yet again. The were fewer meets than ever before.

This year, via advertisements paid for by the BFSS, the public were invited to come and watch the official Festival which consisted of just five meets. In fact there were actually two meets per day (ie: 20 in all) with a late afternoon meet in the main week of the Festival. Hunting actually commenced in the week before the advertised start of the festival, but luckily cynical local sabs ignored the official line and turned out on Wednesday 16 September to sab the Holme Valley Beagles from West Yorkshire who packed up at noon. Sabs went on to sab the NDB in the afternoon.

Thursday saw the Wick & District Beagles, from Bristol, sabbed in the morning but the NDB killed in the afternoon. No hunt was found on the Friday.

The advertised meets began on 21 September at 10.30 am on moors above Redesdale. From the opposite side of the valley we could see vehicles lining the roads. There were two TV crews, police vans, police Landrovers, a police horsebox, five sab vehicles, reporters, supporters, security staff cars, a BFSS rep, the local MP, and even a hound van! Overhead a police helicopter flew past.

However, the great British public declined to take up the offer of paying £3 to stand on a public road, except for two people who were mistaken for sabs and asked to leave the land.

As hounds unboxed, saboteurs entering fields were confronted by heavies from a private security firm who had been hired to evict them. This was a surprise both for sabs and for the Northumbria Police. About a dozen heavies were hired from **Olympia International** (of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire) who were managed at the scene by **Mark Pendlebury**. The contractors were **Estate Management Services**, represented by **Steven Stacey**. The final paymaster is not yet known, but the cost was said to be £15,000. Press reports which claimed that the heavies were ex-SAS men did not impress those who saw them in action!

As with any heavies, those who suffered most were smaller sabs, sabs out on their own and women sabs. In the face of this tempers were kept and there were always sabs there to distract hounds. There were no chases but the NDB did chop a leveret at the end of the day.

On Tuesday Hertfordshire's Newmarket Beagles hunted nearby. The weather was poor, and security staff used All-Terrain Vehicles (four-wheeled motorbikes) to chase after sabs - perhaps they had seen them used in the Falklands?

The same pattern of evictions followed, but on a later meet the supporters had to circle the hunt, no doubt doing a fine pre-beating job. From this normal sabbing began to emerge. When hounds managed a longer chase they left this circle and sabs were waiting to call them away. Hunting ended soon after.

On Wednesday three sabs went off to the Trinity Foot Beagles. Unfortunately sabs lost track of them on the A697.

Back at the NDB kennels the hunt escaped a planned demonstration by leaving early - something for sabs to watch out for in the future.

By the time hunting began sabs were already on the fell. The hunt killed quickly after a short chase before sabs could intervene. Evictions were notably rougher, with the security men trying to bundle sabs into vehicles to cope with the distances. The hounds were called off two scents as they crossed a ridge. as they crossed back the entire pack was called from 400 yards away, leaving the huntsman and security staff behind. Instead of hunting, the beagles ran around a plantation, and this was the end of the day's hunting.

There was a smaller meet on Thursday and the NDB soon came within reach. They were unable to sustain a long hunt. Eventually hounds ran from the main area and were hunted on into a plantation. They could not be made to run on through, but stayed to be collected after a long delay. Unfortunately the hare they had over-run crawled back to the meet and was killed after being hunted to a standstill. There was little that sabs could do to save it.

Friday's pack were the Wick &District Beagles. The meet was accessible and the hunt had a hard time. Hotter weather and lots of rabbits made hunting harder still and they finished early at the cost of one dead rabbit. When inept whips failed to stop the hounds from crossing a road, several sabs were either arrested or summonsed.

Sabs later found the afternoon meet near Birtley. As sabs arrived in dribs and drabs the security men got over confident, attempting to get into one of the vans and following another at speed for some miles. However the SAS lads' new Escort could not outspeed the ageing Lada. As the main body of sabs arrived the security staff lost their confidence and the hunt packed up at once.

On Saturday no beagling was found and sabs descended on a Tynedale Fox Hounds cubbing meet to show their appreciation for allowing the Festival into their country. A useless meet was prolonged until 11.30 am. Afterwards low cloud prevented shooting on local moors and the only hounds sighted proved to be the Wick & District going home.

Overall, the problems created by the security staff were overcome, and sabbing resumed as normal. The small number of meets made it difficult to get used to things.

The Festival was smaller again this year, down from 24 to 20 meets, including the unpublished ones. It cost £15,000 for a "festival" consisting of three local pack meets and two by visting ones, one of which killed one rabbit. The Festival is hardly alive and kicking. Our prediction for next year's costs is £25,000, assuming zero inflation and no increase in interest rates - otherwise it will cost them even more.

The 1992 Northumberland Beagling Festival was sabbed by groups from Leeds, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Lancaster, Cumbria, Sunderland, West London, Lewisham, Basingstoke, Borders, Edinburgh and Newcastle. Thanks to everyone and apologies to anyone left out of the list.

*Beagling*Balls

This year's Northumberland Beagling Festival generated some interesting quotes which were reported in the press...

"Foxhunting is partly about keeping the community in good order..."
Rupert Gibson, Master of the NDB, and organiser of the Beagling Festival.

"When there is snow on the ground, the hares are a foot higher than normal and they do untold damage to trees."
Rupert Gibson again, explaining why hares need to be hunted.

"The saboteurs were reluctant to be interviewed for a 'fascist rag'."
R W F Poole, ex-Master of the West Percy FH and occassional "farming" diarist for the Daily Telegraph.

"The trouble is that we are seen by some of these people as a set of murdering bastards."
Rupert Gibson yet again!

Source: The first two quotes are from the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* of 23 September 1992; R W F Poole accurately describes his employer in the *Daily Telegraph* of the same date; and Rupert Gibson's honest statement appears in the *Northern Echo* of 22 September 1992.

SHIRES WEEK 1992



An injured sab is taken off to hospital after being ridden down by the Quorn during Shires Week *(Photo: Andy)*

Sabs travelled from all over the country in September to take part in the third successful week of action against the Shires Packs in and around the East Midlands.

This year it was decided that the Shires Packs would still be the main focus of attention, but that sabs should split into smaller groups and so cover more hunts. This strategy saves more lives, and previous experience suggests that fewer sabs at a hunt leads to more time spent sabbing with less time wasted being arrested and getting into arguments.

First on the list were Lincolnshire's Blankney FH who were sabbed on Saturday 5 September. After the hounds were pulled out of a wood by sabs, the huntsman started to draw fields, but, because of pressure from sabs, he was forced to keep his hounds very close.

Sadly there were two kills, both in kale fields. At the first, Lincoln sabs tried to get a photo of the dead cub. A rider decided to smash their camera and was then arrested by the police. After the second kill Nottingham sabs saw the dead fox cub which was about six inches long, but before they could get a picture the huntsman shoved the cub into his coat before passing it to another rider.

On the following Monday sabs visited the Quorn FH in Leicestershire. Two sab vans waited outside the hunt's new kennels near Melton Mowbray until two horseboxes, one driven by a redcoat, left the kennels. Sabs followed until it was discovered that both boxes were empty, and the redcoat was just a kennelman in disguise!

Sabs returned to the Quorn on the Tuesday where this time they located the hunt which was already in a kale field. Despite valiant attempts by sabs a cub was killed. Under pressure from sabs, huntsman Michael Farrin continued his policy of drawing coverts in record time without bothering to properly hold them up. Sabs managed to stay in touch with his lightning speed tour of the area until he disappeared into a much larger covert. After about ten minutes of horn blowing the entire pack left the wood for a brief run across an adjacent field. The day was marred when a senior hunt member rode over a young female sab causing severe leg injuries *(see photo)*. She was rushed to Leicester Royal Infirmary in an ambulance. Legal proceedings will follow.

Another group of sabs visited the Cottesmore FH on the same day. They arrived just as new huntsman Neil Coleman was putting his hounds into the first covert of the day, where he stayed for about an hour. Several foxes were put up in this time, which the hounds failed to find.

Coverts were drawn very quickly with the pack kept tight, even through root crops. The only trouble came from one hairnetted throwback female - well known to sabs from Captain Fanshawe's last meet - who moaned at a Marathon-running old Meltonian constable to "do something" and escort sabs from the land. There were just two kills - a remarkably low number for a Cottesmore cubbing meet.

Joss Hanbury, deposed Quorn FH Master was out riding with the Cottesmore and informed sabs that the Quorn weren't hunting that day. Nice try!

Both the Blankney FH and the Belvoir FH were sabbed on the Wednesday. The Blankney hunted ten kale fields, with the hounds kept in a very tight pack well away from the edges of fields. Inevitably, however, there were a couple of kills.

Sabs were delighted to meet up with the female rider who, on the previous Saturday, had warned them not to set foot in Lincolnshire again on pain of death. This time she kept quiet! Also present was a policeman who on the previous meet had claimed that he didn't take sides and was just doing his job. This time he was off duty, riding around in his Landrover supporting the hunt.

At the Belvoir sabs caught up with the new huntsman (formerly of the Bicester and Whaddon Chase) who had been brought in as the drafting of the new season's pack commenced and had spent the summer in the kennels with his new pack. It showed - he kept up with the hounds all the time, constantly using voice calls. His field held up a covert for *four hours* (is this a record?) and although they killed four foxes, sabs managed to maintain a constant barrage of horn and voice calls to good effect. As the huntsman's voice was easy to mimic, the hounds frequently came over.

On Thursday 10th a kennelwatch at the Quorn was foiled when hunt vehicles blocked in the sab van allowing the hound van to escape. Instead, sabs found the Cottesmore at Exton Park Farm, a large private estate.

Police did their best to keep sabs away; two sabs were arrested for blowing horns. At one point a fox escaped from a kale field closely followed by about 10 hounds. a quick crack of sabs' whips and some horn blowing sent the hounds off in the wrong direction.

After a couple of hours' break sabs headed off to an evening meet of the Fitzwilliam FH where the hunt tried to put as much distance as possible between themselves and sabs. Sabs cracked their whips to take two hounds off the trail of an adult fox. The fox got away as the rest off the pack rioted onto a deer instead.

Later hunt tempers began to fray. After a sab vehicle was blocked in two sabs were arrested. A sab from Leeds was also arrested under Section Four for allegedly "poking a horse" *(?)*

Leicestershire Police excelled themselves on Friday by turning up at the Quorn in seven different vehicles complete with a video camera and two photographers. Bizarre leaflets were also handed out to sabs - see page 14 of this *Howl*. Despite the police overkill sabs managed to get onto the land and as usual the huntsman moved along so quickly that the hounds failed to even pick up a scent.

The week of action was concluded on Saturday 12 September with a visit to the South Notts FH A few minutes of horn blowing was enough to call the whole pack out of a wood. The hounds were then taken for a run through some nearby fields. With sabs blowing horns at the front of the pack and others cracking whips at the back, the hounds were kept on the move for about twenty minutes. When the same thing happened again later the huntsman became so annoyed that he took off to avoid sabs. Throughout the morning stray hounds were seen wandering the fields. The hunt packed up at 10 am having made no kills.

All in all the week was considered to be a success. Many lives were saved and, importantly, a great deal of damage was done to the rapport between huntsman and hounds during the vital early foxhunts of the season.

Thanks to all those who joined us for the Shires Week.

CURY FH SUPPORTER JAILED

More bad publicity for the Cury, the obscure Cornish Foxhunt who recently mauled an elderly holidaymaker and her dog *(see page 7)*.

At the end of September, Cury member and "fieldsports enthusiast" Anthony Tubbs was jailed for six years after robbing numerous friends of their savings.

67-year-old Tubbs, a former solicitor, was found guilty of stealing the entire livesavings of eleven people, including two other hunt members and a local butcher. He was especially fond of robbing elderly women, including 70-year-old Etta Sadd who allowed Tubbs to help her with her investments and has been left penniless. Tubbs made sure that his victims would never get their money back by tying up the cash, totalling £340,000, in family trusts. Passing sentence, Judge Graham Neville told him: "You preyed upon people who were really your friends without the slightest feeling of mercy."

Staff at the Cury FH are refusing to comment on the matter.

FANSHAWE SNUBS COURT

The infamous former Master of the Cottesmore Foxhounds, Captain Brian Fanshawe, surprised Bourne magistrates on 10 September 1992 by failing to appear in court.

Fanshawe was supposed to be answering a charge of ABH, but his solicitor kindly explained to the court that Fanshawe couldn't make it because he was "worried about reprisals."

When a defendant fails to appear in court, magistrates usually issue a warrant for their arrest. However, for some reason the rules were changed on this occasion and no warrant was issued against Fanshawe. The magistrates simply adjourned the case.

The charge against Fanshawe came about following events at Toft, Leicestershire, in March 1992 when several sabs were injured and hospitalised (and arrested, of course!) during Fanshawe's last day out as Master of the Cottesmore FH.

POLICE PUBLISH "SAB ADVICE"

Leicestershire Constabulary have issued a bizarre leaflet which asks saboteurs to leave private land when asked to do so by police officers and to make statements when arrested. Curiously, the leaflet doesn't explain what trespassing has got to do with the police, nor does it say anything about a suspect's right to remain silent during police interviews.

The leaflets were first handed to East Midlands sabs by Melton Mowbray police at a meet of the Quorn FH in early September.

Leicestershire Police have already paid out hundreds of pounds in an out-of-court-settlement to a saboteur who was arrested and later released without charge *(see legal article on page16)*. Several similar cases are pending.

It was police from the Melton Mowbray station who last year tried to implement a 200 yard "exclusion zone" around Cottesmore Huntsman Captain Brian Fanshawe.

The police leaflet has been studied by the HSA's solicitors who advise sabs to refuse to take these or any similar leaflets offered by police officers. If any sabs *do* have copies of similar leaflets, they should send them to the HSA's PO Box address.

The following is an extract from the leaflet, which is entitled *Advice to Hunt Protesters...*

"Police Officers who attend Hunt Meets are carefully briefed beforehand by a Senior Officer and the need for impartiality at all times is strongly emphasised at those briefings. Officers are cautioned against taking sides in any dispute which may occur, despite any personal feelings which they may hold. They are clearly told that in order to address their primary duty, which is to preserve the peace, they must at all times, be fair, sensitive and, where appropriate, firm.

Those who wish to protest against Fox Hunting can help the Police greatly to ensure that the peace is kept. There are five DOs and five DON'Ts to remember.

The DOs first:

- Do keep your temper

- Do comply with any lawful request by a landowner, or his agent, to leave PRIVATE land.

- Do respond positively to a request to move away if it is made by a police officer who reasonably fears a Breach of the Peace may occur.

- Do give a statement to the Police if asked to do so and be prepared to attend Court, if necessary.

Now the DON'Ts:

- Don't threaten or assault members of the Hunt or spectators.

- Don't put yourself in danger by attempting to prevent horses or hounds following a particular route.

- Don't blow horns or create loud noise in an attempt to distract horses or hounds - it may result in injury being caused.

- Don't use bad language or other abusive behaviour.

Oh yes, there's one more DON'T:

- Don't expect that the Police can act in every case in the way you would wish. They are bound by law and by the strict rules of evidence."



UNLAWFUL ARREST:
FUNDRAISING THE EASY WAY?

There has been a good deal of publicity within the hunt sab movement about suing the the police for unlawful arrest, etc. Several articles have been written about the end results (ie: loadsamoney) and several more encouraging people to do it. What follows is (we hope) something different: an account of two actions for unlawful arrest.

The first case is a *true story* (rather like photo-love, for our romantically-inclined readers) of a successful action, whereas the second is a *fictional* example of how not to win. It's fictional because as yet no one has lost a case over sabbing arrest. It contains true details, however, which have either resulted in solicitors refusing to act for sabs or in the loss of cases against sabs. I hope it's useful.

Case 1: Success

Late cubbing: 6th October in the Shires. Sabs from the East Midlands hit the Cottesmore FH at America Lodge. The meet is 8.00 am, but the Nottingham van arrives a few minutes late. After a bit of scouting, half a dozen sabs go up a farm track - a public right of way - and find the hunt drawing a small copse.

About ten minutes later the police arrive. One approaches a lone sab, who is standing about thirty yards off the footpath. A conversation ensues:

PC1: Are you with the hunt?

Sab: No.

PC1: In that case I must tell you that there are restrictions in force. No one who isn't connected with the hunt is allowed to be in this vicinity.

Sab: What are those restrictions?

PC1: Well, I don't actually know. There's an officer over there who can tell you.

Sab: Well, when he comes over I'll be interested to hear what those restrictions are. You stick around till then.

After a few minutes, the sab walked along the edge of the wood, accompanied by the policeman. The atmosphere was friendly, with both of them saying "Good Morning" to the riders.

Two more police officers joined them, and another conversation followed:

PC2: You are on private land, and I am asking you to leave. The footpath is the beaten track back there, and this is not a beaten track.

Sab: That's true enough, but I haven't been asked to leave by the landowner or his agent, and although you can ask me to leave, I'm not obliged to.

PC2: I'm not *asking* you to leave, I'm *ordering* you to leave. If you don't I will arrest you.

Sab: You can't arrest me for trespass.

PC2: Try me.

Sab: Trespass is a civil offence. You don't have any jurisdiction.

PC2: Your presence here is likely to cause a breach of the peace. If you don't leave I will arrest you for that.

Sab: I have been here for about twenty minutes, some of that time down there with your colleague. There has been no breach of the peace so far, and it is patently obvious that no breach of the peace is likely now. Ask him, if you want. (pointing at PC1).

PC2: Well, you are trespassing.

Sab: Maybe I am. When I am asked to leave by the landowner or his agent I will go.

PC2: I am an agent of the landowner.

Sab: Police officers cannot be employed as agents of the landowner.

PC2: We're not *paid*, of course.

Sab: I didn't mean that you were paid. You as a police officer cannot be an agent of the landowner.

PC2: What about football matches? There are stewards there, and also police officers.

Sab: You're not acting as agents of the landowner, though.

PC2: Yes we are.

Sab: Look, you know as well as I do that police officers cannot act as agents of the landowner. If an agent asks me to leave, then I'll leave.

PC2: *(Giving up and turning to the other officers)* Go and find an agent. That man in the bowler hat, I think.

After a few minutes (with no sign of the agent) the sab walked back towards the footpath. With another sab he started to walk along the footpath parallel to the wood. Before they had gone five yards, PC2 appeared in front of them.

PC2: You've been told to stay back there. All footpaths become private property when there is a hunt in the vicinity. *(The second sab started to say something, but PC2 continued)* There are three hunt members up there, and if you go up there you will cause a breach of the peace.

Sab: I've already had this conversation with you once, I'm not interested in having it again.

The sab started to walk past, and PC2 arrested him.

A year later, Leicestershire Police settled out of court to the tune of £500, for about one and a half hours in custody.

Case 2: Failure

An imaginary foxhunt in Southern England. Sabs have been with the hunt all day, accompanied by the local constabulary. Well, most of the time: sabs have kept in the fields and kept moving, so the police presence has hampered sabbing rather than halted it.

Late on in the day, hounds have run a fox to ground and are marking. So far the hunt staff haven't arrived, and a lucky sab is starting to call the hounds from the earth. Well, maybe he's not so lucky, because just as hounds start to come, the cops arrive:

PC1: Stop that racket or you're nicked.

The sab starts to run, still blowing. PC1 is fifty yards away, and the sab would easily have escaped, but another PC has come around the other side of the wood, and...

PC2: That's it, son, I've got you.

(Continued on page 16)

UNLAWFUL ARREST

The sab is bundled into the van waiting on the road, with his arresting officer. By now the annoyance of getting arrested is turning into bolshiness. PC2 sets it off:

PC2: Should have behaved yourself, shouldn't you?
Sab: You won't be so clever when my solicitor gets on to you.
PC2: Yeah? I'm worried.
Sab: Yeah. He's well good, he'll sue you and get me lots of money.

In the station PC2 says to the custody officer:

PC2: This character's gonna sue us, Geoff.
Sgt: Oh aye? What's your name son, Perry Mason?

Later on, the police try to interview the sab, but he knows well enough not to make a statement about the incident, and is eventually released without charge. On the whole, everyone's cheerful: although the hounds marked to ground, twenty sabs reached the earth in time to prevent a dig-out: the police, after some argument, decided arresting twenty sabs wasn't worth the hassle, and ordered both sides to leave. So no kills.

Subsequently, however, the sab lost his action against the police for unlawful arrest. Why? There are several factors:

1) Although the arrest was technically unlawful (for instance, the sab was not told what he was being arrested for), by mouthing off in the van he gave the police the opportunity to get their stories straight. The police version of events is:

PC1 warns the sab to stop blowing the horn, or he'll be arrested under Section 5 of the Public Order Act. The sab continues blowing, running away. PC2 arrests him, with the words "I'm arresting you for blowing that horn, under Section 5 of the Public Order Act."

The PCs are lying, but the court believes them.

2) Because the Custody Sergeant was aware that his prisoner intended to sue, he made sure that everything went exactly by the book. Custody Officers are often lazy, sloppy, ignorant or malicious and the Custody Record they produce may contain vital evidence about your arrest and detention. Why give them the opportunity to falsify it?

Neither of these stories should be taken as an exact guide on how to behave with the police, but this article was written as a direct result of a request at the AGM, and has, I hope, filled a gap...

If anyone has any legal questions about unlawful arrest or anything else, please write to me c/o the HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

Jamie Hepburn
HSA Legal Officer

"WHAT'S YOUR NAME THEN, SUNSHINE?"

GIVING YOUR DETAILS TO THE POLICE



For many years the HSA has handed out the blanket advice that you should never give your name and address to the police unless you are driving a vehicle or have been arrested.

There *are* circumstances, however, when failure to provide your name and address (but *not* your date of birth) can be grounds for an arrest.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 ("PACE") deals with the police's power to arrest someone without warrant (ie, without going to a Magistrates Court to obtain a warrant - hardly likely at 3 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon).

Where an "arrestable offence"is concerned, a police officer can arrest anyone whom he/she reasonably suspects of committing that offence. So if the police believe that you have committed an arrestable offence and they ask you for your name and address, they can arrest you - *whether you give them the information or not.* Frankly, I think it is very unlikely that they would be standing there asking you for your details if they really did believe you'd broken the law. So I would refuse to give your details.

The situation which presents difficulties, and which is far more likely to occur, is when an officer believes that you have committed a "non-arrestable offence" - for instance, Section 5. (Section 5 is *not* an arrestable offence in itself - it becomes one if you continue to behave in the "offending" manner *after* having been warned).

So what are the police powers here? Under Section 25 of PACE an officer may arrest you (for a non-arrestable offence) if he/she reasonably suspects that you have committed such an offence, and you have failed to supply a satisfactory name and address; ie: you have given them either no details at all or you have supplied "suspect" details.

I cannot apply the above theory to every situation that hunt saboteurs are likely to face this season, but I can provide a few pointers:

1) Do the police really *suspect that you've committed an offence, or are they just after your details?*

2) Are the police within easy grabbing distance? If not, leave.

3) Do the police really want to arrest you? If there's one cop and 12 sabs, I'd refuse to give my details. Even if the officer arrests you, the other 11 can carry on sabbing unhindered.

4) Are you going to be storing up trouble for the future by co-operating? (I've always felt that the police operate very much like the school bully: the more they think they can get away with, the more nonsense they'll try).

5) Does your local force have a habit of passing on your details to the terriermen? If so, refuse.

6) What time is it? If it's 10.59 am and the meet is at 11.00 am, the police almost certainly don't believe that you've committed an offence: they're gathering information, or they're wasting your time.

I could go on, but I won't: the key is to use your common sense and don't let the police bully you. Personally, I would never give my details to the police, as a matter of principle. But it's a complex issue, and I hope that this article has made it a little clearer! Remember that the police have no power to detain you unless they have arrested you. Remember also that none of the problems outlined above will arise if you keep clear of the cops all day!

JH

THE TOOLS OF SABOTAGE: HOW TO MAKE AND USE A WHIP

The use of whips in hunt sabotage is, I've found, very much neglected. We use the horn and holloas in the same way as the huntsman, so why not the whip? The whip is used to control the hounds if they are rioting after an animal they shouldn't be, or to stop the hounds from going onto main roads, railways, etc. The hounds will stop at the whip because they have been trained to be scared of it. So all the huntsman or whip-in has to do is to crack the whip and the hounds will stop dead. If you see a huntsman crack his whip near a hound you will see it cower with fear. We can use this to our advantage by stopping the hounds when they are in full cry.

MAKING A WHIP

The whip is an essential piece of sabbing hardware and is very easy to make.

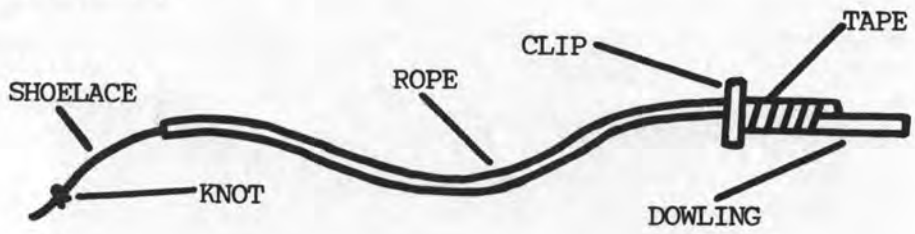
For the handle all you need is a piece of doweling from a hardware shop. This should be about half or three-quarters of an inch thick. Doweling is bought in long pieces which you then cut down to the length you want. I would recommend that you keep the handle as short as possible so that the whip will fit easily into your pocket.

The best rope to use is climbing rope which is available from army surplus stores (or look around for something similar). The rope for each whip should be about 1.5 metres long - the general rule is to hold your arm out and let the rope hang to the floor - that is the length you want.

Tape about 8 cm of the rope around the doweling using strong tape (such as gaffer tape). To fasten the rope to the doweling, the best thing is a plastic clip - available from electrical or gardening shops - which, once fastened, cannot be undone.

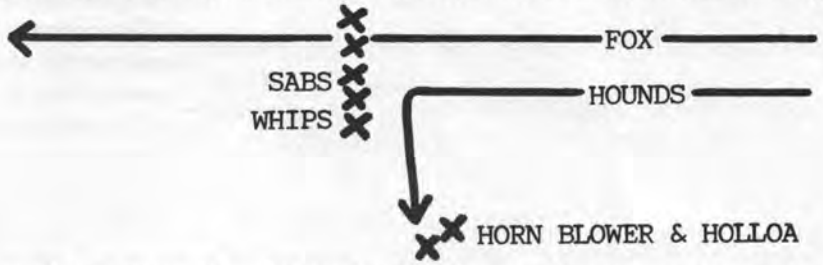
The cracking noise is made by adding a shoelace - this only needs to be about 20 cm long. Tie this onto the end of the rope and put some tape around it. You will be able to make it more secure by practising different ways. Put a knot near the end of the lace; this helps it to crack.

To crack the whip, lift the stick until the shoelace is just off the ground. Flick the stick upwards and then downwards so that the stick follows down the line of the ascending rope. It may take a while but keep trying - you will be able to do it with practice.

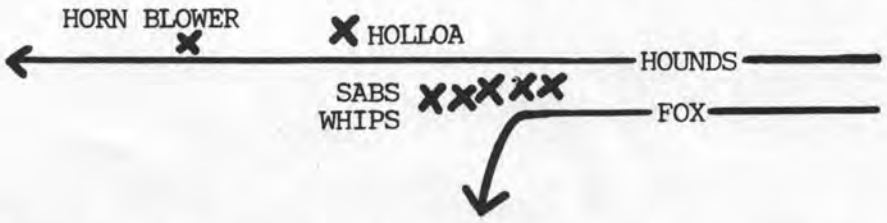


USING THE WHIP IN THE FIELD

The most obvious place to make use of the whip is when hounds are in cry. Stand on the line where the fox has just gone (making sure the fox has passed and you've been quiet). A few sabs should then start to crack their whips when the hounds come near. they must also *rate* (tell the hounds off) so that they think they are doing the wrong thing. A horn blower should stand at right angles to the line of the fox. The horn blower should have *holloaed* first, then started to blow fast notes to encourage the hounds to come to them. In theory the hounds will come to the horn blower, the sabs with the whips should then move away from the line of the fox so the huntsman doesn't know where the fox has gone:



A good time to use the whip is when the fox has changed direction and sabs run to where the fox has gone to stop the hounds from following the line. The horn blower should be encouraging the hounds to hunt on past (*hunting on*):



The whip can also be employed when a fox comes out of the covert. Sabs run in towards the covert and *rate* the hounds back with voice and horn calls:



Cameron Evans, Tactics Officer

SABBING REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Compiled by Stuart Lord

SCOTLAND

Sabs from **Edinburgh** and **Borders** have been ready and willing to visit the Duke of Buccleuch's FH cubbing programme, but following intense pressure from sabs last season the hunt abandoned their Saturday meets.

Besides sabbing a shoot in the Borders, Scottish sabs journeyed south of the border for August 12th and the Beagling Festival.

NORTH WEST

Sabs from **Carlisle**, **Manchester** and **Liverpool** succeeded in finding the elusive Lyth Valley Mink Hounds and had a good time sabbing them, the best day being the 17 May near Sedbergh, Cumbria. Having lost control of the hounds to sabs for most of the day, the huntsman left the river, gathered the pack and returned to the meet by 1.30 pm. Police were summoned but when they arrived it was only to escort the hunt back to the kennels.

More travel took sabs from throughout the region to Northumberland for the main week of the Beagling Festival in September.

Back at home, North West sabs have sabbed cubbing meets in Cheshire, helped by new group **Wigan** who have also been active against the Holcombe Harriers. Another new group, **Darwen**, is up and running and has also been sabbing the Holcombe twice a week.

Manchester Animal Protection Group staged an all too rare hit on angling. One protester brought fishing to a halt by swimming in the Bridgwater Canal fully clothed. The group later held a demonstration outside a Manchester tackle shop.

WALES

Harverfordwest's **Wild Animal Protection** group staged an anti-angling protest in support of the actions co-ordinated by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling. The event had wide-ranging advance publicity which deterred most regular anglers from the usually popular Canarth Fells area and the protest passed off peacefully.

YORKSHIRE

Sabs from the Yorkshire region have been going out on cubbing meets with the Bramham Moor FH and the Middleton FH.

In addition, Yorkshire sabs organised the week of action against grouse shooting which was attended by sabs from all over the country *(see page 10)*.

Along with many other groups, **Leeds** sabs also went to Northumberland for the Beagling Festival.

NORTH EAST

Tyneside and **Sunderland** sabs started the season on 12 August by searching the whole of South Northumberland and North Durham for a shoot. They report that in over 100 square miles of moorland between Tyne & Tees and Cumbria there were only *two* walk up shoots out. This is some of the best moorland in the country. In finding and sabbing what little shooting there was they were assisted by **Borders** sabs and new sab group **Cleveland**.

North East sabs went down to Yorkshire to help with the week of action against grouse shooting *(see report on page 10)*. Other shoots have been found nearer to home, with one in Weardale being done twice and some earlier kills they had made being accidentally run over and squashed.

There were a few good hits against the Tynedale FH's cubbing programme which resulted in the hunt dropping some Saturday meets altogether.

The main event was the Northumberland Beagling Festival which started for local sabs in the week before the advertised festival. Sabs from as far off as **Belfast** and **South London** (and everywhere in between) arrived for the main week *(See separate report on page 12)*

North East sabs' transport problems have now been sorted out and the region is better organised with several new and reformed groups.

Sabs look forward to visiting the Newmarket Beagles to thank them for assisting in the Beagling Festival.



4 September 1992: A cubhunting meet of the Old Surrey & Burstow FH is ruined by saboteurs. The huntsman is convicted thug "Basher" Bycroft - see report on page 7 *(Photo: Simon Wild)*

SOUTH EAST

Sabs from **Hastings** and **Maidstone** started on fox hounds early with a run on at the South of England Show on 25 June. **South London** sabs followed this up with a visit to the Surrey Union's puppy walking - well worth it to see a huntsman so annoyed before the end of August.

Groups from the South East supported sabbing at the Ytene MH throughout the summer with visits by **Brixton, West London, South Downs** and new group **West Kent** who also sabbed the Northamptonshire MH.

Lewisham sabs were out with both the Surrey Union FH and Old Surrey & Burstow FH for their first cubbing meets.which were abandoned. No kills reported so far.

South Downs sabs also visited the Ytene in August when hunt thugs were in attendance. The photograph shows them using "minimum force" to evict a trespasser. Ball-bearings were later catapulted at a van with enough "minimum force" to pierce the body-work..

West London and **Lewisham** sabs also travelled to the Northumberland Beagling Festival in September.



Above: Ytene Minkhunt staff using "minimum force" to throw a sab over a fence near Ringwood, Hampshire, 27 June 1992 ***(Photo: A Smart)***

EAST ANGLIA

Last season saw **Cambridge** sabs out a record number of times against Cambridgeshire Fox Hounds. Over the summer they have been sabbing the Northamptonshire Mink Hounds - this has usually resulted in the hunt boxing up and going home.

East Anglia now has a new sab group at **Lowestoft** who have already been out against their local hunts.

(Group News reports continue on page 20)





Above: A saboteur inspects hunt supporters' catapult damage to a sab van. Left: Surrey Union huntsman exercising his hounds, August '92 ***(Photos: D Friend & P Gammon)***



Sabs splashing about in the water with the Ytene Minkhounds staff, June 1992

SOUTH WEST

Action against the Ytene MH began in mid-April with a successful hit on the 18th by sabs from **Bath, North Dorset** and elsewhere. A dig out was stopped. On Bank Holiday Monday things hotted up as sabs from **Bath, Bristol, Cotswolds, Wiltshire** and **North Dorset** hit the Ytene, stopped a dig out, and fended off attackers going home. Again no kills.

Plymouth and **Yeovil** sabs joined lots of other groups in plaguing the Ytene throughout the summer in the face of increasing violence and atrocious policing, which ranged from ignoring hunt assaults to threatening to charge those sabs who'd been assaulted.

At Trowbridge on 13 June sabs dodged thugs in the field and discouraged a mink from bolting by clattering a metal bridge. Coming away from the hunt sabs found that the thin blue line had marched off for tea at the meet - not that this shows any bias whatsoever. A complaint was lodged with the Chief Constable which was presumably flushed down the usual channels. Meanwhile the hunt violence continued.

Though the heavies continued to accompany the hunt, so did sabs, and on 29 August sabs from **North Dorset, Bath** and **Thames Valley** along with new South West group **Swindon** had a completely successful sab on the Ytene. **Swindon** sabs are now also out against foxhunts.

THAMES VALLEY

Oxford and **Chilterns** groups have been active against the Ytene MH all summer at some considerable cost to themselves. Their van was rammed on Bank Holiday Monday by a tractor which shunted it into two other vehicles (one of which was the **Bournemouth** sab van) and then pushed the lot along the road; Oxford van written off. Police investigated and considered the possibility of charging two sabs with obstruction!

Despite all this sabs kept on getting out by whatever means possible (including British Rail) and had a number of successes. The best of these saw them finishing a hunt in time to watch the FA Cup Final, followed by a hit on an evening meet with only 16 sabs to deal with the hunt which included a dig out.

Violence increased but sabbing continued regardless and on 29 August a mere 8 sabs from the **Oxford** and **South West** groups took the hounds for long enough to cause an internal hunt squabble which finished the meet.

With cubbing a start was made on the Vale of White Horse FH with a particularly successful sab. Against the Bicester & Whaddon Chase FH on 12 September a sab saved a cub right in front of the hunt. Afterwards, at Bicester, over 100 people took part in a march against hunting organised by **Oxfordshire Anti-Death Sports Society**.

EAST MIDLANDS

Nottingham sabs got the season off to a good start with a hit on the Blankney FH in Lincolnshire, where one of the riders told sabs never to set foot in Lincolnshire again! **Lincoln** sabs started early with a demonstration at the nearby Blankney Lurcher & Terrier Show.

Shires Week followed *(see report on page 13)* and since then Notts sabs have been concentrating on the Cottesmore FH (along with sabs from **Melton Mowbray** and **Leicester**) and the Quorn FH, assisted by sabs from **Loughborough**.

Sabs from **Nottingham** and **Mansfield** have also been active at less-prestigious hunts including the Blankney FH, Grove & Rufford FH and Burton FH.

The region's sabs are currently going out at least twice a week, and on Saturdays they have enough sabs to visit two different hunts on the same day. The only kills witnessed so far have been in root crops.

The Nottingham group have sorted out their transport problems - the new improved "Turkey 3000" sabmobile is finally on the road. Notts sabs are also making an early attempt at the 1992 "most sabs arrested" record: at a mid-week hit on the Grove & Rufford FH near Worksop, the entire group of nine sabs, including driver, were arrested for standing on a road, locked up for the day, and charged with Section 5. Over-zealous Nottinghamshire Police will have some explaining to do in the unlikely event of this nonsense ever coming to court - watch this space...

MAKE SURE YOUR GROUP IS MENTIONED IN *HOWL*

If your local Hunt Saboteurs group hasn't been mentioned in this issue's *Group News* it's because we didn't receive any information from you in time for publication.

Make sure this doesn't happen next time by sending in your hit reports, news items, photographs and local newsletters as early as possible. As well as providing your group with some free publicity, through *Group News* other sabs can learn from your successes and failures in the field.

All items for inclusion in *Howl 51* should be sent to the PO Box address on page 2 to arrive by 14 December 1992.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ARRESTED DURING AGM

This year's AGM was held in Leeds on 25 July starting, as tradition demands, a little later than planned.

After the Chair's opening remarks, committee members gave their reports and then answered questions from the floor. Unfortunately the Treasurer's report had to be read out in his absence as at the time he was unavoidably detained, having been arrested by West Yorks Police earlier in the day for possession of a dog (and it wasn't even a dangerous one!)

Even given the propensity of Committee Members for getting themselves arrested in the field, this was felt to be a fine effort and possibly a first (if anyone else knows of HSA officers being arrested *actually during a committee meeting* we'd be glad to hear of the tale.) Happily he was released without charge before the end of the AGM and so was able to answer questions on the HSA's finances.

Following the officers' reports the results of the election for the 1992/93 Committee were announced and the raffle drawn. As there were no constitutional motions on the agenda, the afternoon was spent discussing the future of the HSA and sabbing as a whole. This wide-ranging discussion took in the many aspects of the ongoing debate about how the HSA should best help sabs in the field and in the fight against bloodsports in general.

The day closed with a discussion of the role regions have to play in the overall set-up of the HSA. Finally, thanks were given to the minute-taker and to Leeds sabs for organising both the AGM and the party afterwards.

HELP US TO FIGHT BLOODSPORTS - JOIN THE HSA NOW!

We know that the HSA's membership figures are not an accurate reflection of the number of people who go sabbing or read *Howl*. Many sabs aren't members of the HSA but read someone else's copy of *Howl* instead.

With the fight against hunting now at a crucial stage we are appealing to *all* sabs to support the HSA by joining now. The bigger and better-off we are, the more we can do to oppose bloodsports. As well as producing *Howl*, the HSA provides practical help and advice to local sab groups and deals with hundreds of enquiries every week from the public and the media. We need money to fund grants for local groups, printing and postage costs and events like our highly successful Sabbing Skills Days.

As you probably know, unlike many other groups the HSA has no paid workers, meaning that no membership money is wasted on salaries or business lunches.

The HSA desperately needs your help - if you are not already a member please use the membership form on this page to join today. If you *are* a HSA member, please pass on the form to someone else.

As ever, donations are also very welcome!

All cheques and PO's should be made payable to HSA.

HSA: DIRECT ACTION AGAINST ALL BLOODSPORTS

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association *(*delete one).*

I enclose my membership subscription of:

- ❑ £5 per year unwaged
- ❑ £8 per year waged
- ❑ £70 life membership

I enclose a donation of £ _____

Name: *(Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr)* _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

_____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Cheques / Postal Orders should be made payable to HSA.

❑ I wish to pay by Visa / Mastercard:

Card No: ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return to HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY

THE NEW COMMITTEE

After the 1992 AGM in Leeds and the subsequent Committee Meeting in August, the HSA committee now consists of the following people who have taken on the indicated responsibilities:

Helen Carter (Marketing), Miles Cooper (Artists for Animals), Paul Davis (Campaigns), Cameron Evans (Secretary & Tactics Officer), Kim Evans (Sabbing Skills Day Co-ordinator), Jamie Hepburn (Legal), Anne Llewellyn (Fox Cubs), Don McKnight (Research), Helen Pearson (Group Liaison), Ben Ponton (Press), Eric Staples (New Groups/Fundraising).

Co-opted onto the committee (without voting rights) at the August Committee Meeting were Karen Edmondson (Fundraising/Salesgoods), Paul Gammon (Chairperson) and Tim "Posh" Layton (Student Liaison).

In associated posts, Aubrey Thomas continues as Treasurer, and Gareth Gee and Stuart Lord have been appointed *Howl* Editor and Assistant Editor respectively.

HSA members who know any of the above people will realise the "active" nature of this Committee - virtually all are out sabbing at least once a week.

For those that don't know any of the Committee members, a good way of seeing what goes on is to attend a Committee Meeting. If you have something to discuss or if you would like to sit in on a meeting you are very welcome, but it would be helpful if you could contact the chairperson via the HSA office for details of the venue and the number of people it can reasonably hold.

Paul Gammon
Chairperson

HSA SALESGOODS AND FUNDRAISING

In the past there have been problems with salesgoods but hopefully this area of the HSA's activities has now been improved.

In the future a much larger variety of merchandise incorporating new designs will be available. It will be advertised in an attractive catalogue, and there will be special lines for Christmas.

New designs and ideas for improvements are always welcome - remember that the success of HSA salesgoods depends on feedback from you.

On the fundraising front, many improvements have been suggested. Not least of these is the adoption by the HSA of a more professional approach to marketing merchandise on a local level. Hopefully there will soon be a big increase in income from stalls, gigs, sponsored events and the publication of a new fundraising guide.

Karen Edmondson
Salesgoods & Fundraising

HSA CAMPAIGNS

This season the HSA has launched a new strategy of campaigning, to compliment our primary role of direct action. The emphasis is on reaching out to the public to tell them about the HSA and expose some of the horrors behind hunting.

Obviously we do not wish to simply duplicate the excellent work of groups like the League Against Cruel Sports. Equally, it is vital that our direct approach is emphasised and that funds are not diverted from hitting bloodsports where it hurts - in the field. (Other suggestions on a postcard, please).

For these reasons campaigns are geared to have the broadest possible impact with the public at the least possible cost. The first campaign was against cubhunting and this serves as a good example of the strategy. .

First, a mailout was sent to Animal Rights groups explaining what cubhunting was about and asking for moral and practical support. Some AR groups have taken up on the campaign to launch their own campaigns and demonstrations against foxhunts' cubhunting programmes. This has enabled sabs to concentrate on saving lives in the field whilst still ensuring that cubhunting receives wide publicity.

Next, letters were sent to the Readers' Letters columns of all the major local papers in the country. This letter explained what cubhunting involves and exposed the hunts' practice of killing young foxcubs in order to train hounds.

The letter also gave hope - far too many AR campaigns focus on the horror of the issue without explaining what the public can do to help. This can lead to a feeling of helplessness; often people retreat from seemingly overwhelming cruelty. Instead we ended the letter on an optimistic note: although foxhunts would be setting out to slaughter young foxcubs on a massive scale, saboteurs would be there to save the cubs from the hounds.

People who are outraged when they learn about issues such as cubhunting will often follow up by contacting the HSA for more information.

Those who wrote in as a result of the Cubhunting Campaign received an eight-page Information Pack which gave a more detailed account of the subject. The pack also included details about the local sab group and a copy of the HSA cubhunting leaflet.

We hope that by providing the facts in a professional way we will win the confidence of those who haven't previously been involved in sabbing. If the HSA responds to these people well, then they will take up on the campaign instead of giving up in desperation.

So far the response to the Cubhunting Campaign has been good. The letter has appeared in a number of newspapers, and many people have contacted the HSA as a result. All these people, whether or not they were against bloodsports before reading the letter, say that their eyes have been opened by the letter. Most people want to join, others just want information. The response from the public shows that there is a great deal of support for sabbing amongst people from all around the country regardless of age and social class.

Reactions include: "After reading your letter we feel that we cannot sit back any longer..."; "I never knew that cubhunting took place and I'm totally disgusted by what man will do in the name of sport..."; "Thank you again for really bringing this shocking 'sport' to the public's attention..."

The response from Animal Rights groups has also been very encouraging. The day of action against cubhunting in Bicester, Buckinghamshire, is one example of the sort of success that can be achieved. There, Thames Valley sabs had a highly successful regional hit on the Bicester & Whaddon Chase FH cubbing meet. Later on the same day, over 100 local people marched from the town centre to the hunt kennels. There was widespread media coverage of both cubhunting and hunt sabotage, bringing the whole issue to a large audience - the hit on the Bicester hunt was mentioned on local TV news three nights on the run!

The Cubhunting Campaign is still running and the HSA Harehunting Campaign, timed to coincide with most harehunts' opening meets, is just starting. You can support these campaigns by writing to the press yourself, organising demonstrations and petitions, and, most important of all, by getting out and sabbing the hunts!

Paul Davies
Campaigns Officer

Copies of the literature for the cubhunting and harehunting campaigns are available from the HSA office - please send an A5 SAE.

*Huntsman*Balls

"There is no evidence that badger digging is on the increase. Indeed it is the complete opposite ... there are so few offences these days, a handful of incidents..."
Mr N Bevan, Chairman of the Swansea & District Working Terrier Club, responding to news that 200 badger-related offences now occur each week. Fifty of the 100+ terriermen so far convicted of crimes against badgers are from Wales.

"The Quorn Hunt has an exemplary track record of good conduct which it will continue to uphold along with its outstanding record on conservation."
Mr R Thomas, the Quorn's "public relations" officer, shortly before the Quorn's kennelman and former terrierman were convicted of offences against the Firearms Act.

"They seem to have regained their impetus and are moving on the back of the fox hunting debate which attracts the same kind of people, loony student types."
Kevin Stephenson of the National Association of Specialist Anglers on the anti-angling week organised by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling.

"We are the guardians of the spirit of British Law in the face of arrogance, intolerance and fascist-type action by a certain type of predominantly young person."
Robin Tucker (Ytene MH Master) responding to press reports that saboteurs had again been attacked by the hunt's heavies.

"It is hypocritical to use children like this - it smacks of the Hitler Youth. They should not be used for political ends."
Charnwood (Leics) Tory Councillor Wendy Greene, after a party of local parents and children went to London to support the MacNamara anti-hunting Bill. The children produced a petition which called for the "banning of foxhunting at Quorn and all over the place."

"It is not an issue at the moment."
Bridlington's Conservative MP John Townsend explaining why he refuses to discuss bloodsports. In February he voted against the MacNamara Bill.

"Country people are patient, polite and peace-loving on the whole. Now there is a new spirit abroad: we are going to fight back and start using our knees to better effect - metaphorically speaking, of course."
R W F Poole in the pro-hunting Weekend Telegraph, *discussing the "kneeing in the groin" of those opposed to bloodsports, a tactic apparently considered appropriate by the Campaign for Hunting.*

"Antis to lose Labour One Million Votes."
Headline in Shooting News *shortly before the General Election in which the Labour Party won a million more votes than they did in 1987.*

"If hunting were banned foxes would hunt in packs."
Shooting News *again, providing its readers with some imaginative ideas about wildlife.*

"There is no truth in your blanket assertion that 'hunt saboteurs do not receive payment of any kind'. There is one local example of students at a college of higher education being paid a *per diem* fee to work as saboteurs."
Charles Wardle MP falling for the BFSS's favourite joke in a letter to one of his constituents in East Sussex. Elsewhere in the letter Mr Wardle describes how he used to kill African wildlife. He also expressly denies being "an ignorant bigot".

*Policeman*Balls

"I can only explain that the officers were entitled to take a refreshment break at some stage, and as some of the officers had arrived for duty unprepared for such an extensive attendance, they accepted the kind offer of a cold drink on the land of the farmhouse. The officers concerned now see that this was unwise and could be taken to indicate that they favoured one side more than the other."
Chief Superintendent J R Read of Wiltshire Police, explaining why his officers "accepted the hospitality" of the Ytene Minkhunt.

TEACHERS WHO NEED A GOOD LECTURE

FOX CUBS EDUCATION PACK



Animal Rights has been introduced into schools and it is here to stay. But the problem is that teachers and youth leaders often don't know enough about animal rights issues to discuss them with young people in the classroom.

The Fox Cubs Education Pack was designed with this in mind. It has been produced for teachers, scout/guide leaders or anyone who is talking to young people in a group. It explains the basics about hunting with hounds, circuses, vivisection, the role of the school pet and more!

Of course, the main part of the pack deals with bloodsports, but it also gives details about many animal groups and what they are trying to achieve. Addresses are listed so that young readers can send off for more information.

We all know that children will only learn what they are taught, and it is up to us to make sure that they are given the facts. The age of a group of children determines what you can discuss with them, but we shouldn't use this an excuse for keeping things from them. We need to teach young people to love animals and be kind to them, and give them the respect which they deserve. When they learn about the cruelty and violence which is inflicted on animals, young people must wonder why adults let such things happen.

Have teachers ever asked children "do you think one goldfish in a bowl would feel lonely?" This is what the Education Pack sets out to achieve - we want to make young people aware of the physical and mental suffering endured by animals.

For more information or a copy of the Pack, write to Anne Llewellyn, Fox Cubs, c/o HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

QUIDS IN! RAFFLE WINNERS

Thanks to everyone who helped to sell tickets for the HSA's 1992 Annual Draw. The winners are as follows:

1st Prize (£500): P Harris of Gravesend, Kent.

2nd Prize (£250): A Turner of Exmouth, Devon.

3rd Prize (£100): A Oneness of Salford, Greater Manchester

A further ten people won £10 each: **Mr Baumberg** of Kent, **D Howard** of South Yorkshire, **P West** of Hampshire, **D Tozer** of Surrey, **Mrs Pickard** of Blackheath, **L Shutt** of South Yorkshire, **A Ross** of Essex, **M Ansah** of London, **J Kilpatrick** of Suffolk and **Mr Peploe** of Northern Ireland.

HSA CLUB DRAW WINNERS

May 1992:	***1st***: D Grimbley, ***2nd***: C King, ***3rd***: N Poor
June 1992:	***1st***: K Hayhoe, ***2nd***: J Hepburn, ***3rd***: E Wellman
July 1992:	***1st***: A Turner, ***2nd***: E Webber, ***3rd***: A Kelly
August 1992:	***1st***: S Davis, ***2nd***: A Turner, ***3rd***: F Ford

Why not join these lucky winners? The Club Draw is a great way of helping the HSA and winning some cash. Details from the HSA office.

Sabotage



Where can you read all about the antics of superheroes *the Gnarley Crusty Sabs (from Hades)*? Only in *SABOTAGE* - a new comic/zine all about the fine art of sabbing produced by Vale & Valleys sabs. It's a joint venture with Pavement Comics that brings you 16 pages of excellent strips plus 14 pages of informative articles about tactics, fishing, badger baiting and more. Copies are £1 each (including postage) from Peter Pavement, c/o 5 Park Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BT. All money raised goes to the Vale & Valleys sab group.

Wildlife First-Aid Handbook

The St Tiggywinkles Wildcare Handbook is now on sale. Written by Les Stocker (author of *The Complete Hedgehog*), the handbook is a "much-needed book of wildlife first aid for everyone who cares about the well-being of wild birds and animals". As the publishers point out, 95% of "wildlife casualties" result from encounters with man and the unnatural world. The handbook aims to redress the balance, with practical advice on everything from basic first-aid to long-term care and diet for injured animals. *The St Tiggywinkles Wildcare Handbook* is published by Random Century at £9.99 and is available from bookshops.

HSA Legal Appeal

Jamie Hepburn, HSA Legal Officer, makes the following appeal:

Many of you will have seen the recent article in *Howl 49* and the Group Mailout entitled *What Now and Where Next?*

Since no one has come up with any radical complaints or alternative suggestions, we are now starting to move in the direction outlined in that article.

Consequently this is a request for help! The HSA needs about 15 regional Legal Officers. You don't need to know anything about the law (after all, I don't) although a passing interest might be useful. What you do need is dedication and enthusiasm. As a rough guide, regional Legal Officers would:

1) Keep in regular contact with all local groups in order to maintain a record of current arrests, court cases, etc,

2) Help organise sabbing skills days and legal talks in the region, and

3) Keep the national Legal Officer informed of the region's legal affairs.

We hope to have the full shadow structure set up by Christmas, and we will be organising a meeting for all regional legal officers around that time. Anyone who is interested should contact me via the HSA office. All enquiries will be treated in total confidence, so don't be shy!

Angling Video

Angling: The Neglected Bloodsport is a new 20 minute video from the Campiagn for the Abolition of Angling which is ideal for local groups.

It costs £6 to hire (£5 returnable deposit) or £6 to buy from CAA, PO Box 130, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NR.

New Petition

A new petition was started recently by the Isle of Wight Animal Preservation & Action Group, aimed at getting all hunting banned on the Isle. Copies are available from the group at Little Spinney, Solent Road, Cranmore, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight PO41 0XY.

Arkangel



Arkangel, the magazine for animal liberation, is appealing for donations as well as items for publication. The magazine's editors say that *Arkangel* "aims to inform people about what is going on in the animal rights movement, and to allow free and open debate on matters of interest to animal rights activists."

The magazine now costs £1.80 per issue and is available from *Arkangel*, BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX. Donations, news items and articles should be sent to the same address.

Living Without Cruelty

The 1993 *Living Without Cruelty Diary* is now on sale and is billed by the publishers as the ideal Xmas gift. It includes features on ending hunting, the Fox Project, circuses and vivisection, and there are also vegan and vegetarian recipes, information on current campaigns and a directory of Animal Rights/Green organisations.

The Diary is printed on recycled paper and is available priced £4.50 from bookshops or £5.10 (includes post) from Green Print, 2 Home Farm Cottages, Sandy Lane, St Pauls Cray, Kent BR5 3HZ.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE VIVISECTORS

Bromley Animal Defence Group (BADG) will be holding a vigil outside the offices of vivisectors Wellcome Laboratories in Beckenham, Kent, on Christmas Eve 1992. There will be hot food available. Please come along, even if you can only stay for a short while. For more information, including directions, telephone Eleanor on 081 464 6035.

There is also an ongoing campaign against Boots the Vivisectors which is being co-ordinated by the Animal Rights Confederation in Nottingham, home of Boots' animal testing labs. For more information contact the ARC on (0602) 585666.

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