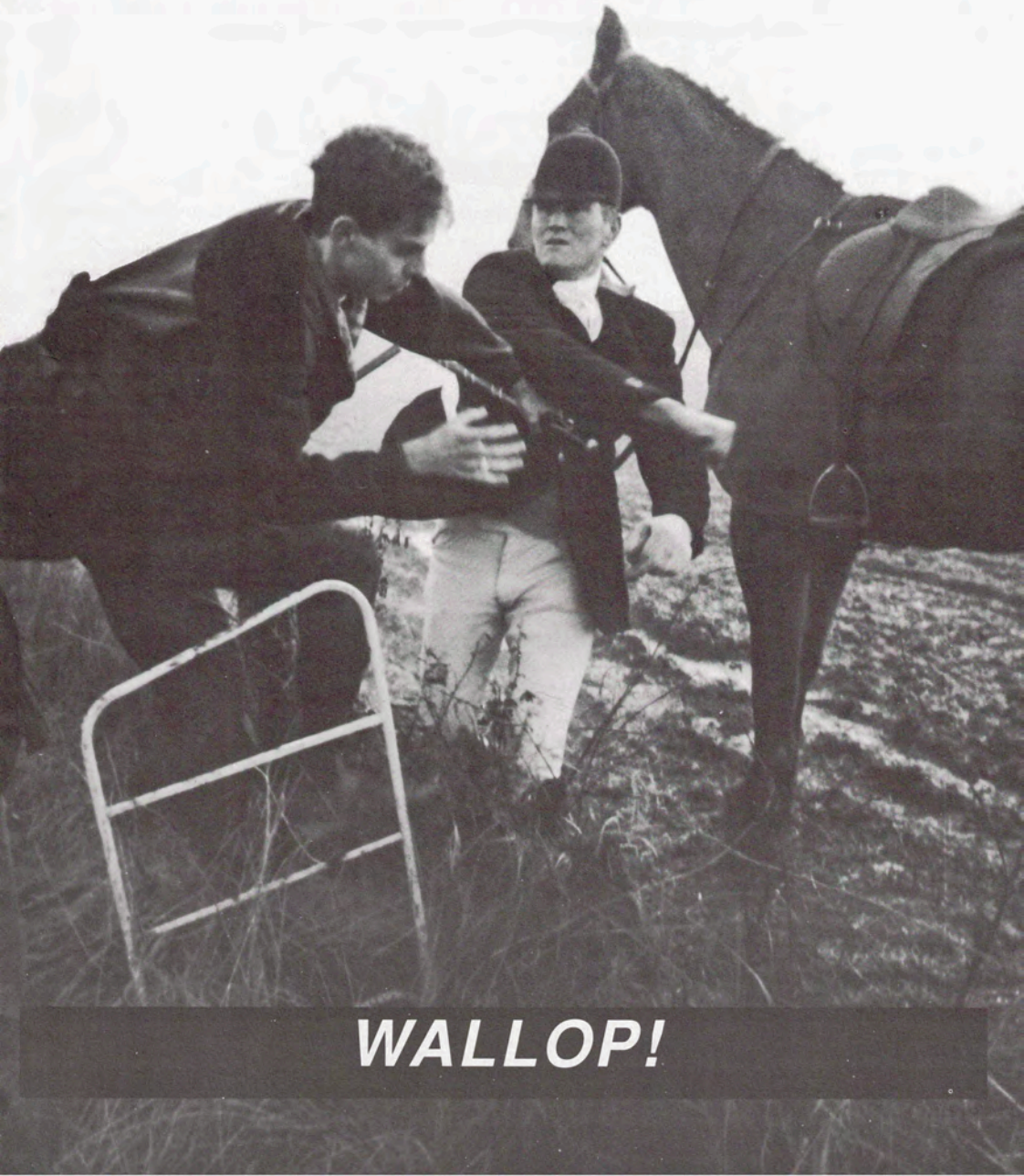
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the
Hunt Saboteurs
Association
Spring 1993
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WALLOP!

HOWL 51

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EDITORIAL

It is now two years since hunt saboteur Mike Hill was killed whilst trying to save wildlife from the Cheshire Beagles. As our front cover shows, little has changed since then - saboteurs continue to be the victims of violence at hunts up and down the country.

Recently a Buckinghamshire sab was deliberately thrown into the path of a moving vehicle by one of the Bicester Hunt's heavies. Luckily the sab escaped with bruising, and on this occasion the incident was videoed - a prosecution will hopefully follow.

The use by some hunts of "official security" and "stewards" adds to the problem of hunt violence, and as Ben Ponton suggests in his article on page 13, this innovation means we can expect to face more attacks in the future as the hunts fight for their survival. Already it is clear that most "stewards" are in fact just the usual thugs and terrier lads masquerading as hunt officials.

The use of private security at hunts is something the HSA will be monitoring very closely - please help with the Security Survey (page 15) and send information and details of any incidents to Ben at the HSA address.

Thanks to everyone who contributed articles, photos and letters for this issue. Lack of space means that some have been held over for *Howl 52*. Keep writing - the official deadline for the next issue is the end of March, but please continue to send in items after this date.

Gareth, Editor

Cover Photo

Happy New Year! Allan Wynn, soon-to-retire Joint Master of the Vale of Aylesbury FH, carefully explains his point of view to an unfortunate Oxford sab, New Year's Day 1993
(Photo: Thames Valley Sabs)

Letters

Howl 50 Reviewed

Dear *Howl*,

Howl 50 was generally excellent with however a couple of poor points. Firstly, *Group News* had little relevance to what has actually been going on countrywide - but that's hardly surprising considering no effort was made to either inform sabs of the *Howl* deadline or to contact groups to find out what they'd actually been up to. For instance, the coverage of the Ytene MH campaign gave little indication of just how much pressure this hunt was put under all summer by groups in the Southwest which resulted in the Ytene being sabbed on more occasions in one season than any minkhunt has to date (24 times in all). Despite the impression given that it was all violence and police harassment many lives were saved and it was certainly a summer the Ytene won't forget in a hurry - despite the often apalling lack of sab numbers - where were you all?

Mentioning the police leads me onto the originally (!) titled *All Coppers Are Bastards* article - what a load of irrelevant twaddle! Whilst I've had my fair share of bad experiences with the police I do recognise that they have a job to do and while bloodsports remain legal, activities such as ours will unavoidably come into conflict with the police's job of maintaining public order. Having said that, more often than not I am very happy to see the police whilst sabbing in the Southwest - certainly last summer when their presence prevented sabs receiving very serious injuries at the hands of the Ytene's neanderthal thug followers. In short, we need fair policing not no policing!

As for class struggle, I can only assume that "ACAB" has failed to notice that the hunting fraternity come from all levels of society and that the average terrierman or foot follower, the average minkhunter or the farmers' packs in Wales and the Pennines are essentially working class - which proves that cruelty, sadism and callous disregard for animal suffering are present at all levels of society.

Class attitudes are irrelevant to hunt sabotage and can only damage the campaign against hunting - too many people already believe that we're motivated by class hatred rather than compassion, and ill-considered and stupid articles like ACAB's only make matters worse. When I go out sabbing, talk to the press, etc, I leave my politics and prejudices at home - one of the great things about hunt sabotage is that it attracts people of all political persuasions in the common cause of saving lives. Being against bloodsports has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with compassion.

Whilst "ACAB" is entitled to his/her opinions they have no place in the hunt saboteurs movement and no place in *Howl* and unlike "ACAB" I'm not going to hide behind a childish pseudonym.

Mark Freeman
Bath, Avon

Pet Rights

Dear *Howl*,

In *Howl 50* Miss Harrigan said that I was being patronising by telling members that a certain chain of hotels are happy to accept pets.

Miss Harrigan goes on to say that as HSA members we should not promote the acceptance of "pets", as domestic animals lose their rights by being suppressed and manipulated by human beings.

I assure Miss Harrigan that having freedom and rights means nothing when you are cold, hungry and homeless - I've been there. Last month I came across a stray dog about to be put to sleep. It was old, with cataracts on both eyes, no teeth and a murmur of the heart.

Like many other animals rescued by Animal Rights supporters and the ALF, this little dog is now enjoying life as a *family pet*, and is no longer hungry and homeless. Trying to fend for himself got this little dog nowhere.

Mary Steel
Northamptonshire

Sabs and Tabs: The Ethics of Smoking

Dear *Howl*,

It seems strange to me that so many sabs smoke. I am an ex-smoker myself, but have come to recognise that it is a habit that is simply not compatible with vegan ideals.

The fascist tobacco companies ruthlessly manipulate humans and animals to maximise their profits. They torture animals, exploit workers in the developing world, and aim their advertising at children so as to ensure a never-ending supply of addicts. We boycott the multinationals - so why not the tobacco companies?

On a more practical level, hunters are generally very fit themselves (beaglers, fell hunters) or they ride very fit horses (foxhunters). What hope have we of acting effectively against them if we are left coughing and wheezing after a few hundred yards?

If sabs can't reject smoking for moral reasons then they should for the sake of their effectiveness in the field.

Marcus McTurk, Leeds

A Touch of Class

Dear *Howl*,

The *Forum* article about the police (*Howl 50*) was excellent.

It's true that sabbing is mainly about stopping cruelty, but it's also true that sabbing is tied in with class politics as well. As "ACAB" puts it, *"we are already directly involved in class struggle, whether our motives for sabbing include this or not."*

To realise the truth of this, all we have to do is look at our opposition. Who are they? Hunt staff and supporters, the police and the courts, and, importantly, *Tory landowners* - subsidised fat cats *who make hunting possible*.

What else but class divisions can account for the survival of hunting? Virtually all *ordinary* people want to see hunting banned, after all! Whether we like it or not, sabbing is about challenging the political set-up that keeps hunting alive.

I also agree with "ACAB" that we've got nothing to lose by pointing out class issues. If we show the public that we're just ordinary people, the same as them (which we are), we will get *more* people on our side. But if we ignore political realities, we risk alienating people and becoming an elite of middle class liberals, unable to see beyond the single-issue campaign.

Stewart Hallam
Colne, Lancashire

No Class War

Dear *Howl*,

I am a hunt saboteur because I care about animals and want to stop them being killed - end of story. This applies to every other sab I know and hopefully applies throughout the sab world as a whole. Therefore I was saddened to see the *Forum* article in *Howl 50* by "ACAB" who seems to feel we are fighting the Class War against the police.

Whatever people's political views they have no place in the field - we are there to save animals' lives not to pursue some hidden agenda dictated by a "class perspective", whatever that may be.

I'm no great fan of the police, having myself fallen victim to some of their excesses, but lining up against them can only do us harm. The police are going to be at most hunts as long as sabs are around and we have to face that and work with it. Sometimes they *will* be over the top and treat us badly; on other occasions (yes, it does happen) they can be pretty fair.

Whatever their approach, if we treat the police as some sort of enemy in a Class War we will suffer as a result. A bit of common sense, firmness and a grown-up attitude will be far more helpful so that we can forget about the police and get on with the job of saving lives. This, and only this, must remain our first priority. I firmly believe that the overwhelming majority of sabs are also out there to save lives and don't want to be hijacked by politicos of whatever shade.

"SSAP" *(Some Sabs Are Pillocks)*
aka Paul Davis, Oxford Sabs

Write to save badgers

Dear *Howl*,

Over the last 12 years HSA members have written many letters at our request to the Ministry of Agriculture calling for a halt to the cruel official slaughter of badgers by Ministry employees. The Government has listened and, largely because of this universal condemnation, badger killing by the Ministry has been cut back by 70%.

But the killing of badgers still goes on and every weekday morning these attractive animals - the symbol of the British countryside - continue to be trapped, snared and shot.

Recent evidence has shown that Bovine Tuberculosis is not given to cattle by badgers. Even the Ministry scientists have been unable to prove how this transmission can occur under field conditions - their own figures show that eight out of ten badgers killed were perfectly healthy. It is estimated that 5% of cattle do not react to the standard TB Cattle Test and the subsequent movement of these cows could easily account for the small remaining pockets of TB in cattle herds.

Over the next five years the Ministry is planning to spend £5 million of taxpayers' money killing mostly healthy badgers. We would suggest that this money could be better spent elsewhere - for example, giving 100% compensation to farmers who lose a cow to TB.

May we therefore ask your readers to write to Agriculture Minister the Rt Hon Mr John Gummer MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA calling for the immediate end of the badger culling programme. If they would also write along similar lines to their own MP at the above address we - and Britain's badgers - would be very grateful.

John Bainbridge
Chairman & Press Officer
Dartmoor Badgers Protection League

The DBPL was formed "to prevent the unjust slaughter of badgers". For more information about their work write to Riverside Cottage, Poundsgate, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7NV.

Sabbing Skills Day was a Success

Dear HSA Sabbing Skills Group,

Thanks for coming along on 8 November and giving us some inspiration. The Legal Workshop was really thought provoking, the rest was great as well.

The Sabbing Skills Day seems to have sparked more interest and activity within our group. We are going to do small Skills Workshops for our other sabs who didn't make it along and hopefully help Waveney sabs do the same.

Keep up the good work - the Skills Days are definitely the best thing the HSA has done for ages.

Tim
Norwich & Norfolk Anti-Bloodsports Group

● *If you think your local sab group could benefit from a Sabbing Skills Day please contact Kim at the HSA office on (0602) 590357.*

Correct Address Please!

Please send all correspondence for the HSA to our *Nottingham* address.

Unfortunately, some mail is still being sent to our old address which means it is often delayed for several weeks.

Local sab groups: Please do not distribute out-of-date leaflets which show the HSA's old address!

POOR TURNOUT AT CFH MEETING

Whilst the HSA and other anti-bloodsports groups continue to attract wide-ranging public support, the opposition is having trouble attracting interest.

Hunt supporters in Banbury, Oxfordshire, were said to be "disappointed" at the poor turnout for a recent public meeting organised by the Campaign for Hunting. Only a handful of people were there to hear CFH Chairman Bill Andrews lecture on the need to defend bloodsports.

Joint Master of the nearby Heythrop FH, Peter Stoddart, later described the meeting as "extremely embarrassing".

GUNS IN DECLINE

Official figures show that each day around *two hundred* shooters are giving up their shotgun licences and leaving the "sport".

There are now fewer shotgun certificates than at any time since official records began over 20 years ago. Gun manufacturers are said to be very worried by the continuing decline of shooting.

BEWARE OF CIRCUS THUGS

After many years of campaigning by Animal Rights groups, animal circuses are now being forced out of business. However, violence from thugs employed by circuses is on the increase.

Recently campaigners in West Yorkshire were attacked whilst protesting against Chipperfield's Circus in Bradford. This led to a mass demonstration by activists from throughout the region, with the thugs nowhere to be seen.

As the Animal Rights Coalition reports, the last few remaining circuses are turning more violent as they try desperately to survive. Local AR groups are advised not to demonstrate against circuses in small numbers, and to let the police know when a demo is going ahead, even if this "goes against the grain".

LEGAL ACTION OVER HORSE SHOW

The League Against Cruel Sports is considering taking legal action following the death of a horse at the 1992 Horse of the Year Show.

The course at last October's Wembley show included a dangerously steep artificial bank which was designed to add "excitement and spectacle" to the event. The horse, *Sir Arkay*, ridden by Jung Friedi of Switzerland, slid down the bank breaking a hind leg in the fall. The horse was later destroyed. The show's organisers may now face prosecution under the Protection of Animals Act on a charge of "causing unnecessary suffering". A spokesman for the LACS said they were determined that someone would pay for the show's cruelty.

"We've seen a horse killed at the Grand National, another winched away upside down at the Olympic Games and three horses killed at Badminton," he said. "There have been enough warnings."

● In a surprise move, Michael Bates, Chairman of the Horse of the Year Show, recently resigned after just one year in the post. He will be succeeded by the show's Director, John Blakeway.

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FALCONER IN NEWSPAPER PLEA FOR MORE "SPORT"

A Welshman whose favourite pastime is using wild birds to kill rabbits has been shamelessly plugging his activities in his local newspaper.

So desperate is falconer **John Davies** to locate some new "sport" that he has allowed his full address to appear in the *Western Mail* in the hope that this will attract interest from farmers who want to make use of his "pest control service".

As usual, farmers everywhere are claiming that they are being plagued by rabbits, in much the same way that they insist that fox populations are too high, mink are destroying wildlife, etc.

However, Mr Davies admitted to reporters that he has seen *no evidence* of large numbers of rabbits on local farmland.

"I haven't found a farm yet where you can simply walk and find rabbits," he said. "You have to go looking for them."

The real problem for Mr Davies, of "The Twyn", Fleur-de-Llys, Blackwood, Gwent NP2 1UL, is that having wiped out the few rabbits near his home he is now forced to travel further afield to indulge in his bloodthirsty fetish.

Last summer Davies set up the Gwent Hawk, Owl & Falcon Association of which he is now vice president.

His phone number - (0443) 839793 - has also appeared in the local press.

MFHA FORCED TO ADOPT NEW RULES

What a knock on effect last year's Quorn expose has had on the hunting industry. Following the Quorn's run-in with the law (see *Howl 50*) the Master of Foxhounds Association realised that they had to clean up their act and so decided to get barrister Timothy Preston QC to help out.

What they came up with is a little green booklet detailing a few minor changes to the way hunts are to conduct their "business" from now on. The main change concerns the bolting of foxes. Previously foxes were bolted from their earths and chased, but now the first of the MFHA's "three golden rules" states:

Foxhunting as a sport is the hunting of the fox in his wild and natural state with a pack of hounds. Nothing must be done which in any way compromises this rule. The MFHA have laid down detailed rules for Masters of Foxhounds to observe, the most important of which are:

(i) *If, when a fox is run to ground, the decision is that the fox be killed, it must be humanely destroyed;*

(ii) *When a hunted fox is run to ground there shall be no digging other than for the purpose of humanely destroying the fox;*

(iii) *A fox which has to be handled by a terrierman or his assistant must either be freed or humanely destroyed immediately; under no circumstances may it be hunted.*

There are two further rule changes but the above is the one of most concern to sabs. What it means is that a fox which runs to ground in a *natural earth* must not be bolted by the hunt. Instead it must be killed as soon is practicable.

So you may think that there will be no more bolting of foxes. Sadly this is not the case. Foxes can still be bolted if they run into any *man-made* structures, such as drains, stickheaps, straw bales, rocks and other places where digging is impossible.

In their booklet the MFHA don't make any mention of "artificial earths" - probably because hunts don't admit to having them. However, the shooting press has no such qualms. For example, the December 1992/January 1993 edition of *The Shooting Gazette* states, in an article on the making of artificial earths at shoots, that *"the fox-hunting fraternity has many of these earths within the terrain worked, using them primarily as breeding chambers. These man-made earths and indeed the natural scratched out earths too are often stopped (blocked) for the duration of the fox-hunting season."*

So, despite the new MFHA guidelines, it is clear that hunts will continue to have plenty of opportunities to bolt and kill foxes from unnatural earths. The rules also say that the pack of hounds must be taken away from where the fox will be bolted and that the fox must be given a fair and sporting chance. Other rules concern the mounted field and car support but most of it is to do with etiquette. The MFHA are trying to clean up their act but it's largely a cosmetic exercise. The previous set of rules were broken, and it's only a matter of time before they are caught out again!

HOUNDS RUN RIOT THROUGH VILLAGE

The latest victims of countryside vandals are the residents of Plaistow, a small West Sussex village, where hounds from the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH caused havoc on 2 November 1992.

Joint Master Jeremy Whaley lost control of his pack and the hounds ran off into the village where they rampaged through private gardens and attacked and killed ducks and chickens.

Police received numerous distress calls from shocked residents as the pack roamed free through the centre of the village. However, no arrests were made and despite a wealth of evidence it is unlikely that the hunt will face charges over the incident.

Mr Whaley didn't seem very apologetic when speaking to reporters.

"The villagers were very sympathetic and helpful and helped me get the pack together. If we could have avoided it, we would have done," he said.

Obviously not a regular *Howl* reader, Whaley added: "It is extremely rare that this happens."

SEARCH FOR SOMERSET STAG KILLERS

A group of concerned Somerset villagers who dared to protest against the proposed slaughtering of deer near their homes have become the victims of a sick hate campaign organised by deer shooters.

The residents of Limington, near Yeovil, were appalled when they woke one morning to find stags' heads dumped on their gardens and driveways.

The sinister vendetta began after residents opposed plans to allow deer shooting on local farmland. One resident had to shield the eyes of his two young sons from the grisly sight of a severed stag's head which was dumped near his home.

"I was really shocked that anyone could do this," he said. "It seems very coincidental for this to happen after the question of deer shooting came up in the village."

Those responsible for the carnage have not yet been traced, but police say they will face charges if caught.

NO FUTURE FOR THE MUSEUM OF HUNTING

by Cameron Evans, HSA Secretary

Many *Howl* readers will have heard about the Museum of Hunting which the bloodsports fraternity are trying to get off the ground. The project began way back in August 1988 when the trustees boldly announced that they were seeking £250,000 to extend the present museum at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, which already has a small section dedicated to hunting.

In 1991 the trustees were: **Michael Clayton** *(who rides with the Shire packs and is Editor of* Horse and Hound, *in which he writes under the pen name* Foxford*)*; **Mr A C Davenport** *(a Leicestershire Conservative councillor)*; **Mr G Y C Green** *(a Conservative councillor in Melton Borough)*; **The Hon Lady Hastings** *(Joint Master with the Fitzwilliam FH and wife of the former Chairman of the BFSS)*; **The Hon Diana Holland-Hibbert** *(also a hunter)*; **Mr T G Howart** *(a former Labour councillor)*; **Lord Kimball** *(Vice President of the BFSS who rides with the Shire packs)* and **Mr O D Lucas** *(a pro-hunting Liberal councillor).*

I won't go into the reasons why they are looking to set up the museum in Melton Mowbray, suffice to say that the town is the world centre of hunting.

The local council have agreed to provide funds for the project, but curiously enough they won't say how much public cash will be involved. The council *have* said that the charity (since the museum is registered with the Charities Commission) has to raise *some* of the money itself!

However, despite many appeals for financial help (including a promotion at the *Horse & Hound* Dinner & Ball) it looks like it will be a few years yet before we can go and see for ourselves the splendid delights of hunting's history and culture. After nearly two years the project has still only raised a pitiful £60,000.

It seems obvious that even amongst the hunters there is little support for the museum - which begs the question, why is the local council so keen to help out the project with taxpayers money?

FURTHER QUORN GUN CONVICTION

The discredited Quorn FH seem completely unable to stick to the rules. After breaking MFHA regulations in 1991 and subsequently picking up two convictions under the Firearms Act (see *Howl 50*), the hunt have again been in trouble with the law.

On 27 October 1992 hunt employee Timothy Taylor was found guilty of possessing an unlicensed shotgun and fined £100 with £37 costs. Magistrates at Melton Mowbray heard that police officers had visited Taylor at the Kennels, Gaddesby Lane, Kirby Bellars, Leics, and found that his shotgun licence had expired two years previously. The hunt have made no comment on the matter.

● The start of the foxhunting season saw more bad publicity for the Quorn. Journalists who accompanied sabs for the opening meet were shouted and sworn at by the hunt's abusive followers.

Reporter Lucy Broadbent wrote in *Today*: "I discovered spit on my lapel and had abuse hurled at me by supporters of the hunt and I was cursed by the hunters."

"We were spat on, sworn at and manhandled, but victory at the end of the day was ours," she added.

PUBLIC OPPOSE ROYAL HUNTING

A new Gallup opinion poll shows that public opposition to the Royal Family's involvement in cruel sports has increased in the last twelve years.

The survey, commissioned by the League Against Cruel Sports, found that 78 per cent of those questioned disapproved of the Royal Family's foxhunting antics - up from 66 per cent in 1980.

● Over the years members of the Royal Family have been responsible for the cruel and pointless deaths of hundreds of wild animals.

Prince Charles, a notorious foxhunter, has also killed hares, deer, birds and even wild boar.

Charles' estranged wife **Diana** has tried to distance herself from bloodsports in recent years, yet she takes her children on shoots and has herself shot deer and worked as a beater.

The Queen has supported fox and otter hunting, and has killed many deer. With Prince Philip she has even hunted now-endangered species, including African rhino and Indian tigers.

The Queen Mother, now in her nineties, is an ardent supporter of bloodsports. She often went fishing and foxhunting, and still attends pheasant shoots.

SHOOTING SHAME OF OXFORD FIRM

An electronics company has been shamed into silence after its involvement with bloodsports was exposed by Oxfordshire Hunt Sabs.

The otherwise reputable firm, Oxford Instruments Ltd, recently tried to stage a so-called "vermin drive" in a wood on company-owned land near Abingdon. However, sabs arrived in time to pre-beat the area, temporarily flushing out the resident wildlife which includes several species of bird along with deer, squirrels and foxes.

As expected, a gang of shooters arrived for the drive, but on learning of the pre-beat they decided not to go ahead and left the area, known as Tubney Wood, without making any kills. The action of the sabs clearly saved the lives of dozens of wild animals.

In the face of a campaign by local animal rights groups, Oxford Instruments are refusing to discuss the matter in public. Interested reporters receive a frosty "No Comment" from the company's PR people.

Oxfordshire Hunt Sabs are petitioning the firm, asking that the wildlife in the wood be allowed to live in peace. For more information about the campaign - and copies of the petition - send a SAE to *Wild For Life*, OXADSS, Box S, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

● *Howl* readers can let the company know what they think of "vermin drives" by contacting Miss Della Mabey, Secretary to the Pension Fund Trustees, Oxford Instruments Ltd, Old Station Way, Witney, Eynsham, Oxfordshire OX8 1TL. The firm's phone number is (0865) 881437.

CRUEL FARMER JAILED AT LAST

After losing an appeal hearing Britain's cruellest farmer, **Colin French**, has at long last been imprisoned by the authorities - and not before time.

French, owner of Brook Farm at Winslow, Buckinghamshire, has *over 100* convictions for animal cruelty and neglect.

Buckingham magistrates sentenced French to three months imprisonment after hearing that he had been caught buying sheep at a market despite being banned from keeping animals. RSPCA inspectors had long hoped for a jail sentence against the farmer, but were frustrated in their efforts, ironically enough, by a court injunction which prevents them from inspecting French's farm.

Given French's disturbing criminal record the sentence imposed is exceedingly lenient. The fact that when sentenced French was in breach of an earlier six-month suspended sentence seems to have been overlooked by the authorities.

● Colin French (BT0910) is now spending his time at HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes MK4 4DA.

RONNIE FREE AFTER SIX YEARS

Ronnie Lee, the longest-serving animal rights prisoner and co-founder of *Arkangel* magazine, was released from prison last November after serving six years and eight months of a ten year sentence. Despite being described as a "model prisoner", Ronnie was given no parole during his time in jail.

In an open letter thanking the thousands of people who have kept in touch with him over the years, Ronnie said that he thought a positive attitude was vital for the future of the animal rights movement.

"There is of course still a long way to go, but we are gradually winning the war against animal persecution and I am convinced that many more victories lie ahead," he said.

Ronnie now hopes to help animal rights groups in other countries - whilst in prison he passed A levels in Italian, Spanish, German and French. He also intends to help expand *Arkangel* into a number of projects to provide a service to the animal rights movement in Britain.

● Ronnie Lee can now be contacted at the *Arkangel* address - see back page of this *Howl*.

● News about other animal rights prisoners can be found in the Support Animal Rights Prisoners newsletter. The magazine also provides information about current court cases and "space for people in the movement to have their say." For more information send a SAE to SARP, PO Box 96, Northampton NN5 5JT.

BLOODSPORTS GROUPS ORGANISE TO SAVE HUNTING

With the BFSS, NHC, CFH and others now working more closely together, now is not the time for complacency.
By HSA Secretary Cameron Evans

Some time ago, feeling that the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) lacked sufficient campaigning power, hunt enthusiasts started up a new campaign group. At first it was called the National Hunting Subscribers and Supporters Club (NHSSC). This was quite a mouthful for the hunters, so last summer they renamed it the National Hunting Club (NHC).

The aim of the club is basically to campaign for the continuation of hunting by lobbying Parliament. The NHC have also produced a leaflet for public distribution entitled *SOS - Save Our Sport*.

NHC life membership costs just £5.00 Members' names are put on a hunting register which the club hopes will help to convince politicians that hunting has a large public following. According to the NHC the list now contains 65,000 names - hardly a sizeable proportion of the electorate.

Interestingly, in their second bulletin a few months ago the NHC reported the "real facts" about opinion polls on hunting. The polls mentioned were from such informed sources as the *Northants Evening Telegraph*, *Evesham Journal*, *Worcester Evening News*, Wyvern Radio and the *Lifestyle* satellite channel, all of which are fairly minor media outlets, to say the least. It's well known, of course, that hunt supporters phone or write many times in order to register more than one vote in these opinion polls.

However, the NHC is proof that the hunting fraternity are trying to get properly organised after all these years. They seem to be working together - the NHC and BFSS have now joined forces, which means the pro-hunt lobbyists will have access to more money and will be able to reach a much wider public.

The new alliance is also working closely with the Masters of Fox Hounds Association (MFHA) and the Association Of Masters Of Harriers and Beagles (AMHB). The NHC's former Chairman, Fred Vinton (Master of Cambridgeshire's Puckridge & Thurlow FH) also chairs the MFHA. Vinton is also a farmer and Chief Operating Officer at the merchant bank N M Rothschild & Sons.

The new NHC Chairman is Captain Brian Fanshaw, formerly huntsman with the Cottesmore FH, who also has a lot of influence. Other officials are Diana Scott (Joint Master, Devon and Somerset Staghounds); David Grayling (Master and Huntsman of the Bleasdale beagles in Cumbria where he also runs a hunting bookshop); Mike Mallard (who hunts with the Ludlow FH); Ian Coghill (former Master of the Three Counties MH); Bill Andrews (Ludlow Master, Vice Chair of the BFSS and Chairman of the Campaign for Hunting); Michael Sagar (Editor of *Hounds* magazine); Robin Page (Author and self-styled "Countryman"); Geoff Brooks (Quorn Hunt member and pal of Prince Charles) and Tony Jackson (writer with *Horse and Hound*). It is vital that we recognise that these people have a great deal of knowledge and influence - they can get the backing they need and all they want now is the money.

They need cash for their planned campaign work and this will come from various sources, including the BFSS.

This is where the Campaign for Hunting comes into the picture. Based at 59 Kennington Road, London SE1 7PZ, this organisation is hoping to raise money from the hunts themselves, their target being £2.25 million in three years. The foxhunts are expected to find £350,000 each year and the hare hunting packs have to find a further £50,000. Each hunt has to pay a certain amount depending on how well-off they are and how many subscribers and supporters they have. For example the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdrey FH are asked to contribute £5,000.

The CFH are also working closely with the BFSS, and it is clear that the hunting set can and will raise a lot of money to save their sport. So, faced with this challenge, what do we do?

Complacency is a real problem for the anti-hunting movement. Most people seem to be convinced that hunting will be banned by the end of the century. However, bloodsports won't ban themselves, and the hunt lobbyists have realised this and are fighting back with a structured campaign. They have realised that they have to go on the offensive to save their bloodsports, which means that instead of being complacent, we have to attack hunting much more than we ever have done before.

The tendency is to say, "it's alright, Parliament will ban hunting soon." But without constant pressure from us they *won't*. This doesn't mean that we should pack in sabbing and join the League Against Cruel Sports (far from it) but there are people reading this who are against hunting (surprisingly!) who don't do *anything*.

I'm sure many have good reasons not to go sabbing but this is not the time for complacency. As the phrase goes, for evil to triumph all it takes is for good people to do nothing. If you can't go out sabbing then why not get in touch with your local sab group (details from the HSA office on 0602 590357) and see what you can do to help.

Often HSA sympathisers say they are "too old" or "too busy" to get involved. Nonsense! Everyone can do something - if you can't actively sab, why not offer to raise money, or gather information on local hunts?

This leads to another problem - fundraising. Sadly the Labour Party don't give us any money and we've not heard from Linda and Paul! Again, you can best help by contacting your local sab group. Just think what *we* could do with just a fraction of £2.25 million - we would be able to completely close down hunts and shoots by sustaining a *proper campaign*.

Realistically, though, perhaps the HSA should give more money to local groups to help with transport costs. And as for campaigning in the media, it's important that we start responding to the hunters' lies in newspaper letters pages - another way that "non-active sabs" can help.

Basically, what we have to do is everything the opposition is doing and more. Instead of waiting for the Labour Party to come along and ban bloodsports, we need to put pressure on the hunts more than ever before, making sure they are spending money all the time and feeling the strain every time they hunt.

After hoping for years that we'd just go away, the bloodsporters have realised the danger they are in and are joining forces to make up for lost time. To meet the challenge Hunt Saboteurs and other anti-bloodsports campaigners have to do a lot more than at present. Everyone who is opposed to hunting must act now to end it.

Footnote: *I wrote this piece because, for a number of selfish reasons, I don't want to go out sabbing anymore. However, as far as I can see, I* ***will*** *be sabbing and helping to save lives for a long time to come!*

It's in your hands!

■ *See our membership appeal on page 22*

ANIMAL RIGHTS EXTREMISM

If we look at the ingredients of the opposition to country sports, we find some strange bed-fellows. To most people in the countryside, the hunt saboteur means the pallid urban rent-a-mob piling out of the rented van, swept up from the fringes of student protest for pocket money. Their origins are plain to see, the dusty relics of class warfare with no knowledge of nor interest in the countryside.

An extract from the Campaign for Hunting's latest glossy propaganda brochure

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

Compiled by Karen Goodman

NOTTS BADGER BAITERS CONVICTED

A three-day court case in January 1993 saw the conviction of three Nottinghamshire men on badger charges. At Louth Magistrates Court **Wayne Thomas Coupe** (26 Kirlington Road, Rainworth NG21 0JR), **Gary Arthur Tucker** (Wharmby Avenue, Mansfield) and **Stephen Cyril Tucker** (44 Lyndhurst Avenue, Blidworth NG21 0RJ) had all originally pleaded not guilty to charges of interfering with a badger sett and trying to kill, injure or take a badger in the Lincolnshire area.

However, as the trial progressed the men decided to change their pleas to guilty. Gary & Stephen Tucker were each fined £300 with £200 costs. Each immediately handed over £500 in cash there and then. Coupe was fined £50 with £50 costs.

A fourth defendant, 27-year-old **Andrew Terrence West** (17 Abbots Crescent, Farnsfield, Notts) will shortly reappear at Louth Magistrates accused of possessing five dead badgers (apparently kept in a freezer) and digging with intent to kill, injure or take a badger.

HUNT SUPPORTER GUILTY OF DOG CRUELTY

Animal Welfare campaigners in South Wales are concerned that magistrates decided not to jail a ghoulish bloodsports enthusiast and DIY taxidermist who was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a terrier. **Stephen David Harcombe** was also convicted on separate charges of possessing dead wild animals.

The court in Pontypridd heard that a gruesome collection of wildlife remains were discovered in Harcombe's home. Amongst these were two stuffed badger heads, numerous dead birds and animals stored in a freezer, and boxes of animal skulls including two from badgers.

Harcombe, of "Maes-y-Coed", Llantrisant Road, Llanharan, Mid Glamorgan CF7 9NH, was fined £850 with £490 costs after RSPCA officers told the court that a terrier found at his home had a gaping gash on its nose which exposed the bone. A vet said that the dog had suffered acute pain.

Sentencing Harcombe, the magistrates warned him that he had narrowly avoided a prison sentence.

PSYCHOPATH SACRIFICED CHICKENS IN "TEMPLE"

In September 1992 Chichester Magistrates were sickened to learn of **Ivan Pope**'s bizarre religious crimes. RSPCA inspectors discovered Pope, aged 29, sacrificing chickens in a bloodstained "temple" at his home in St Pancras, Chichester.

The court heard that Pope had been caught in the act of worshipping an obscure South American deity, surrounded by the remains of chickens and rats. Animal blood had been used to daub the walls of the house with strange religious symbols. Pope admitted tying a noose around a chicken's neck before beating the bird to death with a mallet.

The court found Pope guilty of cruelly terrifying the chicken and he was given a three-year conditional discharge, banned from keeping animals for three years and ordered to pay £250 costs.

A NATION OF ANIMAL LOVERS (No 1)

"I thought everyone should have a hobby, why not going to the hunt's meeting? I only wish they would hunt cats as well as they are all vermin."

Elizabeth Yardley of Oaktree Close, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire, in a letter to her local paper,* Banbury Cake, *3 December 1992

GUILTY: LONDON DOGFIGHT SADISTS

The RSPCA say that the conviction of three thugs on dogfighting charges has wrecked one of Britain's most elusive illegal bloodsports syndicates.

On 4 November 1992 Wells Street Magistrates in Central London found the three guilty of procuring a dogfight and of causing unnecessary suffering. **Brian Longshaw** (33) of Leyton, East London, **Andrew Potts** (25) of Witham, Essex and **Ronald Killick** (37) of Scrooby Street, Catford had all denied the charges.

Although the RSPCA had long suspected that the men were leading members of an underground dogfighting club known as the College Boys, they had previously been unable to secure a conviction. The case only came about by chance - when police stopped and searched Killick's car after he had driven through a red light in October 1991 they found the bloodstained corpse of a pit bull terrier and assorted dogfighting equipment in the boot.

A vet's report said that the dog had suffered wounds to its head and legs and had died after being involved in an organised dogfight.

At Longshaw's home police discovered a mass of perverse dogfighting material, including photos, prints, paintings and Breeders' Registry forms. The court heard that Longshaw in particular "seemed obsessed by the subject."

College Boys dogfights used to be chronicled, in obsessive detail, in the now-defunct publication *Pit Bull News*. One extract described a fight between two dogs, Monty and Badger:

"Monty is sportingly picked up at 57 and gives a very game courtesy scratch. Badger runs his scratch. Both parties were friendly and sporting."

What this actually means is that after an hour of savage fighting Badger was declared the winner and the other dog just survived.

Sentencing on the men was adjourned and all three were remanded on bail.

JAILED: GANG WHO TORTURED AND MUTILATED CAT

In one of the most horrific animal cruelty cases ever to be heard in a British court, three thugs from South Wales were sent to prison in August 1992.

The three men - together with two unnamed juveniles - tortured and burnt a pet cat in a field near Caerphilly. RSPCA inspectors discovered to their horror that the cat's back legs and tail had been cut off before it died.

The men, **Gwyn Daniel Richards** (21) of Longfellow Gardens, Graig-y-Rhacca, Caerphilly, **Darren Keith Chapman** (18) also of Longfellow Gardens, and **Adam Richards** (18) of Milton Place, Graig-y-Rhacca denied causing unnecessary cruelty. All three were convicted and imprisoned for five months. *They have now completed their sentences and are out of prison.*

Ironically, the gang was convicted on the evidence of a man who was out shooting nearby.

He saw the incident through his rifle's telescopic sight, and told the court that the thugs laughed and jeered as they mutilated the cat and threw it onto a bonfire.

The three youths are now said to be "worried about their safety."

NO MORE HUNT DEMOS!

WHY BANNER PROTESTS ARE A WASTE OF TIME



A typical hunt protest: are such events of any real value? *(Photo: N Ward)*

The following piece, written by an active saboteur, appears courtesy of the SARP newsletter where it first appeared in November 1992.

This is a rant against the anti-hunting demo which took place on 17 October 1992 in Bedford. Over that weekend, Mike Hill would have been celebrating his 20th birthday if is wasn't for hunting.

I find it disgusting that this demo took place on a Saturday, the busiest day for hunting sadists. Anyone who attended this demo should have been out sabbing and giving the hunt hell. I've never seen a hunt in Bedford or any other major town or city centre and I'm never likely to, so what's the point of hundreds of people aimlessly walking around town centres, protesting against hunting and handing out leaflets which will probably only be read by people who are opposed to hunting already and aren't likely to do much about it anyway? Calling for a ban on hunting and asking people to vote Labour to do it is pointless, what's done can be undone and besides, it hasn't stopped cockfighting, dog fighting, badger baiting and the like.

The demo was futile at best, but unfortunately the worst is that the demo was counter-productive. Especially at a time of year when cub hunting means early starts which puts off enough sabs as it is without taking more away for this pointless exercise. We need action not distractions, because while these people are parading themselves around Bedford in a pathetic spectacle of tokenist reformism, with the hope of perhaps persuading a few more people to oppose bloodsports, you can guarantee that thousands upon thousands of wild and sometimes domesticated animals are being shot, trapped, poisoned, clubbed to death, choked, ripped apart or hooked and drowned.

To anyone considering going to a march or demo taking place in future, I say stuff national demos - get out and sab the bastards!

Liverpool Sab

• All the items which appear in *HSA Forum* are written by individual HSA members and hunt saboteurs. As such these articles express the opinions of their authors, opinions which are not necessarily shared by *Howl*'s editors or HSA Committee members. *Views expressed on these pages do not reflect HSA policy.*
Contributions to *Forum* are always welcome - see page 2 for our address. Well-argued pieces that are short and to the point stand the best chance of publication.

KEEP POLITICS OUT OF SABBING

A RESPONSE TO "ACAB" (1)

The HSA is a voluntary organisation with the aim of ending all bloodsports. If we were to link this *moral aim* with any *political aim* we would create unnecessary opponents to our cause; effectively we would have committed suicide for this cause. "ACAB", who wrote *All Coppers Are Bastards* (*Howl 50*), supported this kind of move. As a result of that careless and regressive article we have lost the support of many "rich" people, one of whom was about to donate £1000 to a group. This does nothing to help us realise our goal; if anything it makes it harder. What must be realised is that all "rich" people, all "conservatives" and all people in power do not necessarily support bloodsports. The basic rights of any animal have nothing to do with politics. They are absolute and cannot be changed.

To take an example of a human rights movement let us look at Amnesty International. They deal with governments of all persuasions; fascist (Argentina), Democratic (USA) and Communist (USSR). Many of their campaigns have reached success. These campaigns would have failed if they had been politically motivated. If AI was a socialist movement do you believe that fascists would listen to them? I think not.

Just like the human rights movement the animal rights movement *must* be politically neutral. Our campaign is not political. Our campaign is to end all bloodsports. If we want to do so then we have to campaign in a way that is accessible to as many as possible. Just because we're going to win in the UK does not mean it will be over - we live on a tiny island and outside is a big world where the rights of animals are violated daily. I hope you see my argument; let's get down to anti-hunt campaigning and leave politics to politicians.

Robbie Bow
Buckinghamshire

DE-PRESSING CONCERNS

The following item is particularly relevant in the light of events in Essex on 23/1/93, when many sabs were photographed, arrested, and had their own cameras confiscated. Serious charges followed.

One would have thought, after the convictions from the poll tax riots and the events at Dodleston, that people would have learned some serious lessons, especially as these resulted in prison sentences for some of our friends. Alas not.

Recently I was appalled to see, on the front of a local newspaper, photographs which appeared to show a "fieldsports enthusiast" being attacked by a number of "anti-hunt protesters". Had these photos been confiscated by the police? No - the police wouldn't bother, they would just use them for a conviction. Had they been sent in by a fieldsports enthusiast as an example of "vicious sab attacks"? No. In fact the photos were given to the press by a HSA Committee Member.

Had the people shown on the photos given their consent for them to be published? Despite clear police interest in this incident, it seems the opinions of those "incriminated" by the photos doesn't matter. This whole action showed a blatant disregard for the safety of friends and an incompetent abuse of the trust placed in that individual. It scares me to think that this person could take part in Sabbing Skills Days and is possibly passing on this kind of advice and example to others.

Is "naivety" a strong enough word to describe this ludicrous and dangerous misuse of the press? Have we not seen enough of our friends lose their liberty to realise that the press are no friends of ours? Exhibits from the press make up a *huge* proportion of the evidence to be used against other animal rights campaigners in upcoming trials - it's the same press, the same vested interests and prejudices.

The way the press treated the whole issue regarding Mike Hill's death two years ago and the subsequent events should have made things clear. Again though, it appears not, judging by recent criticism in SARP's magazine of another HSA Committee Member's remarks regarding the sentences of those convicted at Dodleston as "fair".

Like the police, the press are dangerous. The current stupidity and naivety regarding the press has to stop. Where I live, the regional paper (for a city and a county) is owned by members of the local hunting fraternity. The chances of an article along the fictional lines suggested by Helen Carter (*Howl 50*) being published are about as likely as the *Sun* calling for a general strike. This article, despite making a few good suggestions about rural support, was however on the whole ageist, puerile and embarrassing, and it asked too much from institutions with whom we are in direct conflict.

Whilst cameras can and have been useful at times, extreme caution and discretion should be used. I would advise:

1) Never photographing fights. Blatant attacks by hunters have so often resulted in Public Order prosecutions against sabs. Why should ammunition be available to a CPS that is making concerted efforts to prosecute *every* animal rights arrest?

2) Be prepared to expose film (therefore destroying it) if arrests seem imminent or people could be endangered by what has been "snapped" - *even if potentially good photos might exist on the film.*

3) Never publish or reveal existence of photographs that could be used in a prosecution or defence until necessary and even then be aware that what is "on film" is useless in a case if the same film contains "incriminating" photos of sabs.

4) Be aware of who owns the press, both locally and nationally. In general all journalists are only in it for the money, have no editorial control and can't be trusted as far as you can spit.

5) Remember the advice given after the demonstrations about the poll tax that all cameras, all journalists, all photographers are legitimate targets.

Amanda Stone, North Yorkshire



NOT JUST A FEW BAD APPLES

A RESPONSE TO "ACAB" (2)



ACAB's article (*Howl 50*) seems to have caused a bit of a storm. Those sabs I've heard criticise the item make several points:

1) The police are just individuals doing their job;
2) Hunting isn't a class thing;
3) Sabbing is about saving lives, not politics.

Dealing with these points in order, I would say:

1) What *is* the police's job, exactly? As sabs we should know by now that it's not just to "serve and protect". The police aren't there to ensure "fair play" but to *keep us away from the hunts*. Whatever the laws may say, *that's* their real job.

And what sort of "individuals" are they? They're the ones who turn a blind eye whilst sabs are beaten up by hunt thugs. They're the ones who illegally arrest sabs just for being near a hunt. They're not "individuals" - they're just *cops*, carrying out their orders.

2) If hunting isn't a class thing, what's happened to all the "working-class" bloodsports? The rich and powerful have hung on to their bloodsports because they *are* rich and powerful.

It's true of course that cruelty isn't a class thing in itself, but it's also true that only a privileged few can choose to take part in the *legalised* cruelty of hunting.

3) Both hunt sabotage and campaigning against hunting are *overtly political acts* - hence all the police attention in the first place!

And how come we're prepared to campaign against unjust laws, yet we're scared to say anything against the people who *voluntarily* uphold those laws?

More importantly, as "ACAB" asks, how many animals have died over the years simply because sabs have been removed from the scene by the police? Doesn't *this* make sabbing political?

Things aren't as simple as some within our ranks would like them. Get real! Soon we'll be told once again that the police are okay "apart from one or two bad apples"...

Chris Knight, North Humberside

BREACH OF THE PEACE

A practical guide to the powers of the magistrates by Barrister J D Lynn

Remarkable though it may seem, scarcely a month goes by without a sab being arrested and charged with some act of unspeakable hooliganism at a hunt. When you are charged with assault the matter may involve few legal complications - the issue is likely to be one of fact, ie: did that nice young man or woman in the dock really strike that burly terrier man? When the charge is under Section 4 or 5 of the Public Order Act, matters may get more complicated, because questions of intention and reasonableness come into play. But it is when you descend to the very substream of the legal process, when what you have done is so trivial that no police officer would dare describe it as a criminal offence, that the going really gets tough. That is when "you are under arrest for a breach of the peace!"

Before considering what exactly constitutes a breach of the peace, and what powers the police and courts have to arrest and punish you, it may be some solace to you, as you languish in a police station cell, to know that the arresting officer has invoked legislation dating back to the reign of Edward III - an Act designed to deal with soldiers returning from France after the Treaty of Calais in 1360. The Justice of the Peace Act 1361 was specifically intended to deal with the alarming prospect of several thousand troops, fresh from looting and pillaging in France, returning to England and applying their well-practiced skills here. So the magistrates were given the power to "take of all of them that be not of good fame, where they shall be found, sufficient surety and mainprise of their good behaviour towards the King and his people ... to the intent that the peace be not blemished."

"No matter how madly irritating it may be to a huntsman to see a spray being used by a sab, that cannot in itself justify an arrest..."

To this day the police still have the power to arrest you if you have committed a breach of the peace in the presence of the officer, or where the officer reasonably believes that such a breach would soon be committed (even though none has yet been committed), or where a breach has been committed and the officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the breach will be renewed. Note that in the latter case the officer must establish not just that he had an honest (although possibly mistaken) belief that a breach of the peace was imminent, but also that there were reasonable grounds for him having that belief.



The expression "breach of the peace" is defined in the case or R v Howell (1981), where the Court of Appeal said that there could not be a breach of the peace unless *an act was done or threatened to be done which either actually harmed a person or, in his presence, his property, or was likely to cause such harm or which put someone in fear of such harm being done.*

This definition is of particular value in cases where the alleged breach of the peace is blowing a horn or spraying a harmless scent destroyer: you should be able to establish that no harm was being done to any person, or his property, and that, assuming you have not just driven the hounds onto the M25, there is no likelihood of any harm being done. Some police witnesses will claim that they believed that the spray was some noxious fluid better suited to blinding bank clerks, but most officers of experience should concede that their "pre-match" briefing, if not their own first-hand observation, told them that the spray was harmless.

One question that often vexes the courts is whether it is proper for a police officer to arrest someone whose own behaviour is lawful, but is likely to provoke an unlawful response in others. A typical scenario would be where the hunt has picked up the scent of a fox. A sab produces a bottle of antimate and begins spraying. The sab is then arrested by a police officer who claims that he feared that the sight of this spraying sab would provoke a violent reaction amongst the hunt.

In a recent appeal at Guildford (*R v Evans & Frampton*, 18 December 1992), the judge held that such an arrest was not proper and that the logic employed by the arresting officer might just as well have caused him to arrest the whole of the hunt - on the grounds that their activity might provoke angry protest amongst the saboteurs! Earl Ferrers, the Home Office Minister of State, was also recently quoted as saying that no matter how madly irritating it may be to a huntsman to see a spray being used by a sab, that cannot itself justify an arrest.

If you have been arrested for a breach of the peace, you may be brought before a magistrates' court to be bound over to keep the peace and/or be of good behaviour. If you are bound over, say for 12 months in the sum of £100, should you be convicted of any offence within that year, you would be liable to forfeit all or part of the £100.

In court the procedure will be that the arresting officer will give his evidence first (and call any witnesses that support him) with a view to establishing that there are grounds upon which you can be bound over. You will have the opportunity to give evidence yourself and call any witnesses of your own. Magistrates tend to distribute bind overs as freely as confetti at a wedding, but even if you fail to establish that you are innocent of the act alleged by the police, the court can only bind you over if it has heard evidence that justifies the conclusion that further breaches will occur unless action is taken to prevent them. If you have never been in trouble before (or are about to emigrate) you may be able to persuade the court that there are no justifiable grounds for believing that further breaches are likely. Note that before the magistrates bind you over they must tell you that they intend to do so and give you the opportunity to make representations as to why they should not (see *R v South Molton Justices*, 1988).

"You can, of course, refuse to be bound over, whereupon matters get more interesting - the court has the power to commit you to prison..."

The court must also obtain your consent to being bound over - you actually have to be asked for your consent, and most courts will require you to sign a document to that effect. You can, of course, refuse to be bound over,

continued on page 12

BREACH OF THE PEACE

whereupon matters get more interesting, as the court then has the power to commit you to prison. If you are a person of firm principle and have no pressing engagements in the immediate future, you can always test the mettle of the bench by refusing to give your consent. But don't count on the court's bark being worse than its bite: in July 1992 a Twyford Down protester was sent down for six months after she refused to be bound over (the court having determined, somewhat questionably, that her refusal to leave the site amounted to a breach of the peace).

Before the court decides the amount of your recognisance, it must hear evidence of your means. The magistrates cannot pick the sort of sum that will deter you from ever leaving the safety of your own bed, without first satisfying themselves that you would have the ability to pay it, should you ever be in breach of the bind over.

Magistrates also have a common law power to bind over persons who are "before the court". Typically this would be where you are a defendant charged with a criminal offence such as assault or threatening behaviour. The court (having satisfied itself that a bind over is necessary) may bind you over as an alternative to proceeding against you for the offence, or as an alternative or in addition to any other penalty that you may have attracted for the offence.

The situation commonly occurs that the prosecutor asks you if you are willing to be bound over, in exchange for the case against you being dropped. If you are anxious to avoid a criminal conviction at all costs, a bind over (which is *not* a conviction) may be an attractive proposition. Before agreeing to being bound over, you should consider whether the case against you is a strong one - if you are confident of being acquitted, there is little point in agreeing to a bind over. You might also check with the prosecutor whether all his witnesses are at court - it is not unknown for a prosecutor, faced with the imminent collapse of his case, to try to salvage something from the wreckage by getting you to agree to a bind over.

Witnesses can also be bound over by the court, but this is rare, and normally only occurs in disputes between neighbours, where the court thinks it wise to bind over both parties to the dispute. Again a court could only bind over a witness if it had heard evidence that justified the belief that that person would cause a breach of the peace in the future, were he not bound over.

If you feel that the court's decision to prefer the police officer's evidence to your own (it has been known) was totally unfair, or if the court failed to follow the procedure outlined above, you could appeal to the Crown Court under the Magistrates Courts (Appeals from Binding Over Orders) Act 1956. Although you will almost certainly have been refused legal aid in the magistrates' court, you will quite likely get it in the Crown Court. In the magistrates court it is important that you keep a note, not just of the prosecution evidence, but also of any comments that the bench may have made as to how they reached their final decision.

"In Scotland a breach of the peace is a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment..."

Finally, a cautionary note to those who carry out their activities north of the border. In Scotland a breach of the peace is a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment. The test there is whether your conduct might reasonably be expected to provoke a disturbance of the peace, or cause any person to be alarmed, upset or annoyed. Having paid £100 for a day's grouse shooting, the appearance of a grinning sab in your line of fire is bound to cause some annoyance.

A brief survey of some recent Scottish cases shows that the courts take an all-embracing view of what amounts to a breach of the peace: a man walking into a shop and stating that he had AIDS, a peeping Tom looking through a hole in a lavatory partition, and a man who spent two hours peering through a shop window whilst wearing reflective sunglasses, were all found to have committed an offence.

LEGAL NEWS

COTTESMORE CASE COLLAPSES

Three East Midlands sabs who had been charged with Violent Disorder now intend to sue Lincolnshire Police following the CPS decision to drop the case against them.

At Lincoln Crown Court in December 1992 the Prosecution offered no evidence and the three sabs - originally charged in March 1992 - were set free. A prosecution attempt to have the three bound over was dismissed as "inappropriate" by the judge.

The CPS lawyer admitted that there had been "omissions" in the original police evidence which meant that the case could not go ahead. Instead, the CPS is proceeding with cases against Captain Brian Fanshawe (former Cottesmore Huntsman) and farmer Alex Blanchard, both of whom were charged some time after the alleged incidents which resulted in three sabs being hospitalised.

HUNTSMAN GUILTY OF ASSAULT AND DAMAGE

John Stride, Huntsman with the New Forest Buckhounds, was recently found guilty of assaulting a saboteur. He was also convicted on a related charge of Criminal Damage.

Magistrates at Lymington, Hampshire, heard that Stride, of 4 Pound Road, Lymington, struck the sab with his whip. They fined him £25 for the assault with a further £25 for damaging a map.

SABBING *IS* LEGAL: OFFICIAL

As predicted in *Howl 50*, eight Notts sabs who were arrested for simply being near the Grove & Rufford foxhunt had the case against them dismissed by the court when the matter came to trial in January.

The stipendiary magistrate at Worksop heard that the sabs had used voice and horn calls to distract the hounds from hunting through sugar beet. An angry hunt member had responded by telling the sabs that they would all be arrested. A few minutes later a Sergeant Cockson gave the sabs a simple choice - go home or be arrested. At the time the sabs were leaving a field by a public footpath.

The Prosecution tried to show that the sabs were guilty of breaking Section Five of the Public Order Act because they were disrupting a foxhunt. It was alleged that five sabs who had walking sticks had caused the hunt's 40 riders and 30 car followers to feel harassment, alarm or distress.

Before either side could sum up, the magistrate informed the court that there was no case to answer and that all the defendants were free to go. The driver of the sabs' minibus had been released at an earlier hearing and all nine sabs now intend to sue for compensation.

After the hearing one of the defendants said that there was much to be gained from refusing to be bullied by the police.

"Sabbing is a legal form of protest and it is not enough that the case was dismissed. It should never have been brought in the first place," he said.

"Justice will only be done when all nine saboteurs receive full financial redress for the way they were treated at the hands of Nottinghamshire Police," he added.

Legal Questions

Any queries about the legal aspects of sabbing should be sent to the Legal Officer at the HSA office, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.
Please send details (including newspaper cuttings) of hunting-related court cases to *Howl* at the same address.

Hired Heavies

Hunting's latest response to increasingly successful sabotage is examined by the HSA's Ben Ponton

Private Security, marshals, stewards - if you haven't experienced them at first hand, as is the case with most sab groups, then you surely will have read or heard about them. Since August last year, when a private security firm called Estate Management Services was first hired to reinforce the privacy of grouse moors in North Yorkshire, the hunting press and the *Daily Telegraph* have heralded the dawn of a new age of sab-free killing. This has not so much been a case of economy with the truth, as exaggeration of the lies. The HSA Committee, who have all experienced this new development at first hand, have been keeping a watchful eye on its progress. I have taken on the job of monitoring and researching hunt security and a reasonably clear picture is emerging of what's going on and who's doing it...



The real rent-a-mob: the Essex Foxhunt's private police force on parade, January 1993 *(Photo: Simon Wild)*

On 24 August 1992, as part of their widespread campaign of action against grouse shooting, Yorkshire sabs went to Dallowgill Moor Estate in North Yorkshire. They were greeted by ten or so men who set about violently attempting to eject them. They had been employed by the Estate owners, through a firm called Olympic International, to act as "agents of the landowner" empowered to remove trespassers. Faced with massive financial loss (the successful sabotage of a day's grouse shooting can cost the owners £10,000 upwards) the Estate had chosen to protect their interests with mercenary brute force. At first, this appeared to be a one-off, a desperate attempt at intimidation to counter the publicly-stated intention of Yorkshire sabs to bring more shooting to a standstill than ever before.

Four weeks later, more was revealed at the annual week of action against the Northumberland Beagling Festival. The Festival was on its last legs and the organisers, The Newcastle & District Beagles, knew as we did that 1992 was going to be the decisive year.

It is probable that the idea of hiring security was suggested to the NDB by the BFSS. To some degree it wasn't a new idea - they had been deputising whips and supporters as agents of the landowner in previous years, even to the extent of dressing them with yellow armbands emblazoned with the word *Agent*. However, beaglers generally being people called Henry with a tendency to say "Hooray!", their deterrent effect had been negligible. It was also clear to them that the police, despite a substantial presence, were unwilling to enforce laws that don't exist: trespass is a matter for dispute in civil law, unenforcable by police powers, and hunt sabotage is inherently legal. The only tactic left to them was hired thuggery, made more palatable by a veneer of professionalism.

This came in the shape of Estate Management Services (EMS) who provided a team of ten intellectually-challenged flesh-mountains[1] issued with orders to catch sabs and drag them back to the road. Of course, away from the eyes of the police[2], they became a lot more vicious, especially when they were aided and abetted by local farm workers who came to join in the fun.

The *Daily Telegraph*, quickly followed by all the hunting press, trumpeted the operation as an unqualified success: *"Screaming protesters dragged away"* was the *Telegraph*'s headline, under which were claims that the security force were made up of former Marines, Paras and SAS men - if this is true, then Saddam Hussein has little to fear from the British Army: their stamina and skill showed *no* sign of crack military training. All the press coverage of the work of EMS in Northumberland has been a fog of misinformation and propaganda, particularly about the organisation and location of Estate Management Services itself.

The hunting world lapped up the news with glee. Their attitude can be summed up by the response of one hunt supporter: *"At last we're fighting back!"*

Nick Herbert, the new wonder boy from the BFSS, went on the offensive, promoting the concept of hired security as the answer the hunting world had desperately been seeking to the problem of hunt sabotage and announcing that *"from now on we are going to start hunting the saboteurs!"*

Herbert is a smart man and it seems he anticipated a media backlash, with the possibility of charges being levelled (as they were by the HSA, and which many police forces privately accepted as true) of vigilantism and the organisation of private armies. In order to justify the hunting of saboteurs he launched an intense campaign in the press at the start of the season, portraying us as violent terrorists. So much mud was thrown at us in October 1992 that even the League Against Cruel Sports felt obliged to reel off a counter-blast in the shape of a full-page article on hunt violence in their journal *Wildlife Guardian*.

With the blessing of the BFSS, foxhunts in particular have seized upon the opportunity to give their habitual use of violence and intimidation a formal and "professional"

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Notes

1) Ironically, these beasts were transported to and from each day's meet in a cattle truck.

2) The NDB lost a considerable amount of credibility with Northumbria Police by failing to inform them in advance of their plan to bring in a private security firm. Initially, the police were as surprised as the sabs by this new feature of the festival.

3) The Essex FH have implemented a "stewards share" scheme. More about this on page 14.

structure by cloaking it in the guise of legally contracted protection.

Hired Security: Where it is and how it is being implemented

While most hunts were holding their opening meets, Brian Toon of the MFHA announced: *"Of the 193 packs recognised by our association, seven or eight have said they are training their own marshals - or stewards - or are intending to do so. I am not prepared to name them but they are in the counties of Gloucestershire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire and Dorset. More may follow suit."*

Unlike most of the published statements about hunt security, this has proved to be fairly accurate. So far, since the Beagling Festival, seven foxhunts have contracted private security firms: The Bicester with Whaddon Chase; the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray; the Essex[3], the Hampshire, the Hursley Hambledon, the Surrey Union and the Warwickshire. By strange coincidence these are seven of the most violent hunts in the country and between them have put several sabs in hospital this season. I know of four other foxhunts that are considering hired security: the Albrighton, the Duke of Beaufort, the Tynedale and the Quorn.

It is important to recognise the distinction between the hiring, on a contractual basis, of professional security firms, as is the case with the hunts listed above, and the drafting-in of the local psychos, terriermen and other humanoids to form sab-bashing squads.

Sab-bashing squads are as old an idea as organised hunt sabotage. But by decorating them with armbands, baseball caps and other bizarre items of dress, and deputising them as agents of the landowner, many hunts are trying to give them an official status and provide an excuse (trespass) for the unwarranted use of intimidation and aggression. With the novelty and excitement generated by the use of professional security, this form of organised violence has shown a marked increase this season.

The hired security firms have been offering two services: the provision of their employees to act as marshals or stewards for removing sabs from private land, and/or the training of local hunt supporters and other miscellaneous bumpkins to do the same job. The former is very expensive: I've been told that it can cost £150 per man per day, plus extras (the use of radios, cameras for intelligence-gathering, etc); the security operation at the Beagling Festival is generally reckoned to have cost £15,000 for a five-day job.[4]

Most hunts have opted for the latter, contracting the professionals for two or three days' work, including training, and subsequently using local people to act as stewards. The principal concept that is being implemented with this strategy is the deployment of a force (the "stewards" or "marshals") solely dedicated to "controlling" saboteurs where necessary - probably for £20-30 cash in hand (and a packed lunch?!)



At the command of hunt officials, a camouflaged "voluntary steward" removes a saboteur from a wood at the Chiddingfold. *(Photo: D Friend)*

In all the cases where security firms have been hired, the use of still and video cameras has been a big feature. This has been for gathering intelligence on sabs and it is also regarded as a psychological deterrent - it obviously has rather sinister overtones. EMS in particular are very keen on identifying and researching individuals. They seem to have formed the impression that all the organised sabbing in the country is conducted by a hard core of sixty or so people who have been at Dallowgill, the Beagling Festival and the Surrey Union - the three locations where EMS have been employed.

Some hunts have talked to security firms about more illicit surveillance - bugging, phone-tapping and so on - but the costs of such services are astronomical. I'm fairly certain, so far, that no hunts or hunting organisations have recruited for this purpose.

The most controversial situation involving the use of security is in Essex. The four Essex foxhunts under the supervision of a hired security firm have combined resources to form a mobile squad of stewards able to confront sabs at whichever of the hunts they go to. This has been compounded by the involvement of the notorious firm of solicitors Cripps, Harries Hall, who have advised the hunt and local police of legal precedents prohibiting the use of footpaths for any purpose other than as a means of passage. This is being challenged at legal and political levels with the League also getting involved in the issue. Typically, though, the hunts have been doing themselves no favours: in the last four weeks the stewards have been responsible for breaking one sab's thumb and for knocking another unconscious in their attempts to obstruct the use of footpaths. However, it is a situation that is being watched carefully by other hunts and, doubtlessly, the BFSS[6].

The Security Firms

So far, I know of only three firms that have actually been involved in the provision of security services to hunts. Remember that there has been a great deal of deliberate mis-information in the media both to exaggerate the

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Notes

4) After the beagling festival, the NBD quietly issued a plea for donations towards the cost of the security. It seems that the BFSS, despite their recent £600K legacy, aren't prepared to put their money where their mouth is.

5) Of course, the use of such techniques by the police can never be discounted, nor does it discount the purchasing and use of equipment by hunt personnel themselves.

6) The Jan 1993 issue of *The Field* claims that the BFSS are organising the training of stewards. There's also a rumour that there is a training camp for hunt security in Essex, which has been visited by the police.

abilities of these organisations and to disguise their names and locations. Those that have tested positive to objective research are Estate Management Services, Olympic, and a third in the West Midlands whose name I have yet to discover.

Estate Management Services is the only name to have appeared publicly in connection with actually working for hunts. They have certainly created a niche market for their business, which suggests that they have direct hunting connections and may well have developed the concept of hunt security as we have come to know it. They have gone as far as advertising themselves in the *Shooting Gazette* and *Hounds* magazine as a solution to the problem of hunt saboteurs.

EMS is based just outside Barnsley, South Yorkshire, although their registered office is in Chelmsford, Essex. The principal person running their activities is **Brian J Pursglove**, 41 years old, who claims experience as a consultant in the prevention of poaching and trespass in Britain and Africa. He is assisted by **Mark Trevor Pendlebury**.

Pursglove is also involved in an organisation called Olympic International, whose HQ is at the same Barnsley location and whose name has appeared in connection with the Dallowgill and Beagling Festival operations. There is some confusion about Olympic as there is a firm based in Woodford Green, Essex, called Olympic Security Services Ltd, and it is still unclear whether or not this is one and the same as Pursglove's Olympic International. It is probable that the EMS/Olympic set-up is very small in size, hiring personnel on an ad-hoc basis as and when they're needed. Pursglove seems to have a personal obsession with saboteur deterrence which, along with his previous experience, suggests an active interest in hunting.

The third firm is far more discrete about itself. So far very little is known, other than that a highly professional security firm based in the West Midlands has been contracted by several foxhunts. It is fairly certain that *this* is the outfit with the ex-Marines, etc, rather than EMS.

The Warwickshire FH have said they're using the services of a company called Countrywatch, run by **David Dunn**. Men from this outfit have also been seen at hunts in the South; curiously enough they have been using vehicles hired from Budget Van Hire in Mansfield, Notts.

A Norwich-based firm called Milton Security have been mentioned in *Shooting Times* as offering a service to shooters which includes the deployment of a light aircraft! I've yet to hear of anyone taking them up on this.

There has also been some information that a hunt in the Peterborough area has been recruiting miners as stewards. The location would suggest that this is the Fitzwilliam FH.

Outwitting Security

As the problem of organised stewards is relatively new and sporadic, the tactics for dealing with them are largely arising from the week-to-week experiences of those groups who have had the the joy of encountering them.

One major factor to bear in mind is the expense that the hunts are facing in hiring security, whether they come from a professional firm or are a bunch of "loyal supporters" (as Nick Herbert put it). It's significant that it is the richer hunts who have taken this step; ultimately, it's large sums of money down the drain. Although, in the short term, some degree of success might be achieved in preventing persistent sabbing of specific hunts, can they really be prepared to maintain such an investment? In this context, economic sabotage is an obvious strategy - help them waste their money on unnecessary use of security.

Change your pattern of sabbing: if you find stewards at one hunt, go to another, or go to a shoot. Or even better, contrive a situation where the hunt is convinced it is going to be sabbed, provoking the employment of stewards, then don't turn up. Surprise and unpredictability are two of the biggest advantages we will always have over hunts.

Make sure that your alternative target for the day understands they're having to suffer your presence because of the actions of the hunt with stewards. At a recent meet of the Surrey Union, the hunt brought in thirty psychos in addition to their regular contingent of stewards. Local sabs didn't bother going to the hunt, though a police inspector *did*; now the hunt masters have been invited to explain to the police what their intentions were.

The inherent tendency towards violence of hired protection is already starting to prove the downfall of several hunts. A number have successfully alienated police forces who had previously been prepared to suffer their usual arrogance. In Northumberland, local police have been so concerned by what they perceive as a recipe for violence, that they have been seeking ways of developing a co-operative role with sabs in order to diffuse the threat made by one hunt to bring in stewards.

There are other signs that the new wonder-solution is turning sour: two weeks after boasting in the local press that he had the sabs under control, Jeremy Whaley, Master of the Chiddingfold, was having to explain why the West Sussex Badger Patrol Group were forced to hire their *own* uniformed security guards to protect them from the hunt's stewards. At the Bicester recently, security consultants who had been hired to train local stewards found themselves protecting sabs from a vicious attack by a member of the hunt.

If you're sabbing with a large group, then use part of the group to keep the stewards occupied while the others get on with the sabbing. This worked well at the Beagling Festival, where the stewards spent all their time dragging people to the road only to find they'd run back into the fields ten minutes later. This always left enough people in a position to sab the hunt. Increased mobility and sabbing on a rapid hit-and-run basis will also make it considerably more difficult for you to be contained; maximise the use of your vehicles and stay in front of the hunt as much as possible.

It seems that stewards like to pick out recognisable individuals and concentrate upon them, persistently photographing and harassing them. This is part of a deliberate strategy of psychological intimidation. Try to reduce any characteristic aspects of your appearance to avoid this. Use nicknames. Be careful when using CBs - the use of scanners and signal jamming is on the increase. At the same time, these are weaknesses of equal potential in their own organisation. As with other aspects of sabotage, learn how the opposition works and adapt the techniques to your own advantage.

Finally, be a real bastard, er *responsible citizen*, and invite the DSS and Inland Revenue to check the legitimacy of the steward's employment. There's a good chance that there's some undeclared income being earned by these people.

One last encouraging word: one hunter has been heard to declare recently that the use of stewards has been a complete waste of time and money.

● *More detailed information on this subject is available from the HSA Press Office.*

HSA HUNT SECURITY SURVEY

If you or your local sab group have encountered any form of organised security at hunts this season, please provide as much information as possible, on a separate sheet of paper, on each of the following points. The list should also serve as a guide to what you should be finding out about if you haven't already done so.

Everything we have discovered so far has been pieced together from fragments of information, so your help in enlarging our knowledge will be to everybody's benefit.

Send all information to Ben Ponton at the HSA office - see page 2 for the address.

- Names of hunts using stewards
- Where and when?
- What form did the security take?
- Which hunt officials organise the stewards?
- Details of firm(s) employed
- Details of involvement of hunt organisations (eg, BFSS)
- Attitude of police
- Details of any violent incidents
- Details of individuals (photos are especially useful)
- Copies of any relevant press coverage
- How it has affected sabbing
- How it has affected hunting

BRUSHING UP THE IMAGE OF URBAN WILDLIFE

The Fox Project

Foxes living in Britain's towns and cities may be safe from foxhunts, but they face other dangers: angry residents, misinformed officials, bloodthirsty terriermen, as well as busy traffic.

Trevor Williams explains how *The Fox Project* has been helping to protect the urban fox for over a decade.



Mushka the foxcub in the safe hands of Trevor Williams. The cub is one of many rescued and rehabilitated by The Fox Project

Another fox organisation? Why do we need another fox group? There's the HSA, IFAW, LACS, RSPCA, Earthkind and more besides. So what makes The Fox Project different?

The answer lies in emphasis. Fox welfare usually revolves around the highly charged question of bloodsports. It's emotive, controversial and, naturally, it has a high profile. But it amounts to little more than the tip of the iceberg when it comes to fox mortality.

Thousands more foxes are killed by snaring, shooting and a variety of illegal means carried out by gamekeepers, farmers and "sportsmen". Traffic, too, is a major killer. Disease and injury account for the majority of cubs before they reach maturity. And hidden quietly and unseen amongst this carnage is *urban* fox destruction.

Urban destruction is as bogus a system of "control" as hunting and shooting and one which, ten years ago, was estimated as being responsible for the death of as many foxes as all the hunts in the country combined.

When urban householders complain about fox damage and nuisance, it is usually to the local authority. In the days when councils were better funded, most operated a policy of fox destruction. There was never any statutory requirement for them to do so, as the law demands only that they respond to complaints about animals, birds or insects which are on the Ministry of Agriculture's "pest" or "vermin" list. The fox is *not* vermin and is not even regarded by the Ministry as a significant agricultural pest.

The seeds of The Fox Project were sown during the late 1970s, when it first became apparent that so many urban foxes were dying at the hands of council pest controllers. During the early years we targeted several South London councils, finally persuading them to abandon destruction on the grounds that it achieved nothing and was a waste of resources.

Predators cannot be controlled by piecemeal culling, and the fox is not and has never been controlled by man. Like predators worldwide, its numbers depend on food resources and suitable territory. Just as prey species are controlled by predators, so predator numbers naturally depend on availability of prey.

Tight control on council spending means that many local authorities have now dropped fox destruction on the grounds of cost. Others have done so for ethical reasons. Today, two years after our first national campaign, 110 councils refer complainants to The Fox Project. But problems still exist!

Some local authorities continue to refer complainants to private pest control companies who use lethal methods to deal with the urban fox. Many of these people are "cowboys", the worst among them being hunt terriermen who are prepared to deal with the offending foxes without charge. How kind! If one did not know their true motivation!

Our job is to encourage *all* local authorities to abandon fox destruction and to use our "Adviceline", which recommends non-toxic or low-toxic chemical deterrence. Our system attacks the territory rather than the animal, rendering the affected area unattractive to the fox on several bases; our false "scentmarking" suggests a rival animal has taken over the territory; the fox's scenting ability is temporarily impaired by persistent chemical smell; its own scentmarking produces the wrong result.

The fox may be baffled and disorientated, but it will suffer neither death, hurt, nor the stress of capture and handling. These factors please most householders, who may not wish to share their premises with foxes, but who also prefer a humane solution to their problem.

So what else does The Fox Project do?

Remarkably - for a "pest control" company - we take in abandoned and orphaned foxcubs, bringing them on to weaning age, then, through wildlife hospitals around the country, setting them on their way to rehabilitation back to the wild at the end of summer/start of autumn.

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The Fox Project

Last spring we took in over 30 cubs, and, during 1992, were directly involved with rescuing a similar number of adult foxes. Where distance or time prevents direct involvement, we can usually put callers in touch with other, closer-to-hand rescuers from our extensive contact list.

The Fox Project's main long term objective is in positive education about the fox. Only when the silly myths and legends, perpetuated largely by the hunting fraternity, are challenged and exposed, will the fox ever be completely accepted by the public.

It's not impossible. Only two decades ago, farmers and hunters were telling us that badgers and otters were "vermin" and needed to be controlled. Everyone knows what nonsense that was, and, today, both animals are protected by law.

The Fox Project has set itself a diverse role in the care of foxes, a role which seeks to reach the parts that other organisations, with their differing priorities, can't always reach.



• Trevor Williams is Director of The Fox Project.

• The organisation relies on donations to continue its invaluable work. If you would like to help, send a cheque or PO (payable to *The Fox Project*) to The Fox Project Rescue Scheme, PO Box 56, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1XY.

• A newsletter, merchandise form and information leaflets are also available from the above address; please send a large SAE.

• The Project's *Adviceline* number is (0732) 365340.

GROUP NEWS

HIT REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

NORTHERN IRELAND

After hitting the North Down Harriers (who hunt mainly fox) during cubhunting, Northern Ireland sabs started on their main season hunts on 29 October.

At the North Down control is barely exercised by the huntsman under normal conditions, needless to say that when sabs intervene hounds are quickly won over.

The local papers have taken up an incident where a sheep was worried to death on 14 November - the Harriers' only known kill. The Ulster Farmers Union has received numerous anti-hunt letters and sabs are in touch with anti-hunt farmers in the area.

A string of good days was marred when a sab was beaten up on 7 December. Worse still, most of the day was taken up with registering a complaint with the RUC. Fortunately, on their return sabs found that the hunt had used up its breathing space in an area they had pre-beaten.

The North Down Harriers have started switching over to voice calls after a number of good hits. When sabs returned to the Iveagh Harriers they found that this hunt, well-sabbed last season, do not now use the horn for control but use whistles instead - a compliment of sorts to local sabs.

• *Please note the NI group's new address:* Northern Ireland HSA, c/o 54 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JR.

NORTH EAST

The area's sab groups are better organised this year as transport has improved at **Tyneside**, with **Sunderland** too looking for their own group van.

New group **Cleveland HSA** attended some sabs with established groups and hope to be out more regularly soon.

After the beagling festival sabs hit more shoots. One small shoot was stopped after sabs arrived two weeks running. As they had already killed some birds and hares they proudly displayed these in a lay-by. A clumsy Geordie driver accidentally ran over these hitting them in the pocket too.

Through late cubbing the Tynedale FH suffered most and resorted to moving hunt days. Sabs stayed with them through the main season with support falling away. After the opening meet the Morpeth FH have been sabbed most Saturdays with some mid-week hits. Local pheasant shoots too have had sabs led to them by the foxhunt.

The region's sabs will be seeing more local hunts in the New Year and have already found the secretive Newcastle & District Beagles on two consecutive weeks.

The North East's sabs have also supported regional hits in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, and some sabs in the area have visited fishing matches.

WEST MIDLANDS

Coventry and Nuneaton sabs have reformed and have sabbed every Saturday and some mid-week days this season. They have, with **Birmingham University** and **Wolverhampton** sabs, been to the Albrighton FH and Warwickshire FH.

The Albrighton has been sabbed since cubbing and is becoming shambolic. Early in the season, with just one whipper-in, the hunt lost control of the hounds on a busy road. Sabs have seen only two kills in numerous visits including cubbing meets. Hounds respond well to tactics. *(Albrighton photo - page 19)*

The use of security men from a Walsall firm has caused some problems; one sab was dragged along the ground by his jacket and others have been threatened with violence. Riders have also been trying to ride down sabs.

On 5 December they didn't hunt at all after a local landowner banned them from his land.

On another ocassion sabs were held up by a vacuous complaint about trespass on Crown Land. The hunt intended to make a getaway. Eventually, after negotiations, sabs were transported back to the fray in a police riot van and police car.

Sabs from Birmingham and Wolverhampton visited the DNS Beagles where, despite mud and rain, it proved easy to keep the hounds off the scent. Along with Coventry and **Walsall** sabs they also stopped a pheasant shoot in early December, and the South Shropshire FH were sabbed by Wolves sabs in January.

The Warwickshire FH have proved to be better organised and are another of the hunts employing security staff. West Midlands sabs promise this hunt that they will persevere.

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YORKSHIRE

In the south of the region **Sheffield** sabs have been active all season, having a great deal of success at the Badsworth and other foxhunts. Trouble flared at the Grove & Rufford FH, and the HSA contact has been the victim of a police policy whereby he is singled out at every meet and accused of various offences, then released without charge after being detained for a couple of hours by Notts Constabulary. Civil actions are now being pursued against the police for some of the arrests.

A new campaign is being organised to undermine the Grove & Rufford to make them as inefficient as the Badsworth, where no kills have been recorded recently. Now that a new group has been formed near the Badsworth kennels, this hunt are again being paid a lot of attention.

Further north **Leeds** sabs have been very active - out up to four times a week, concentrating on the Bramham Moor, Middleton and York & Ainsty North foxhunts, and also visiting the Catterick Beagles. The demoralised Bramham Moor are now said to be "on their last legs" and the Middleton are "still paranoid".

Violent Bramham followers have been involved in assaults on sabs. In the company of the hunt's terrierman, one psycho supporter, armed with a scythe, went berserk and was arrested by police. It is hoped that he and his colleagues, including his haggard partner and a pickaxe-wielding thug, will shortly face serious charges.

At the York & Ainsty North's Kilburn meet in early February, the appearance of nine hired security men failed to prevent some excellent sabbing from taking place. Armed with a video camera and a map, sabs were able to show the hired heavies that they *were* on public footpaths - the heavies were thus unable to do much, and contented themselves with assaulting a female sab. The police were notified, but those responsible quickly disappeared.

In December Northallerton Police decided to arrest fifteen sabs for walking along a road - surprisingly enough, no charges have yet been brought.



Grim Reaper: Crazed Bramham Moor FH follower threatens sabs with a scythe, 9 January 1993 ***(Photo: Helen)***

Leeds sabs have also been showing new group **Bradford HSA** the ropes after organising a Sabbing Skills Day in the area.

York sabs have been regularly hitting the York & Ainsty South, Middleton, Bramham Moor, Derwent and other local foxhunts, regularly assisted by sabs from **Pickering**, **Pocklington**, **Scarborough** and **Malton**.

Huddersfield sabs had their van windows punched in by supporters of the notorious Pennine FH, one of whom was arrested. One particularly large hunt follower put a question to sabs: *"What are you doing here? We're mad bastards, we are."* A regional hit on this hunt in December was attended by sabs from throughout Yorkshire and the North West.

Huddesfield sabs have also sabotaged meets of the Rockwood Harriers, Colne Valley Beagles, Bramham Moor FH and York & Ainsty North FH.

Hull sabs report that, after several years of constant attention, the Holderness FH are now "so crap they're boring." At a November meet hounds were led away from *six* different foxes and the hunt fled to a nearby shoot before packing up early. Sabs stayed with the guns all day ensuring no kills.

Several hunts in the Yorkshire area are making use of a hired security "flying squad" similar to the one in operation in Essex, but this has posed no problems for sabbing, except an increased risk of violence.

● *Howl* is pleased to announce that security firm Olympic International of Barnsley have been forced to sack their employee, Mongo, for of his repeated harassment of women saboteurs.

SOUTH

Weymouth HSA targeted the Cattistock FH throughout cubbing. Besides Saturdays, mid-week hits with as few as three sabs were successful.

With the start of the main season came hired security guards at a rumoured cost of £4000. These have not been too effective here. For good measure the hunt can call on its posse of twenty heavies. The same heavies have been on call for the South Dorset FH when sabs have visited them. On a mid-week hit a lone sab managed to deter a Cattistock dig-out.

In addition to regular targets the group joined a regional hit on the Portman FH on 14 November. They also held a demo to curb trade at the South Dorset's Christmas Bazaar and have helped publicise the blocking of badger setts in areas not a million miles from the Cattistock kennels.

Isle of Wight HSA hosted a joint hit on the IOW FH with sabs from **Thames Valley** and **Chilterns**. Police delayed the hunt for some time until their reinforcements arrived. Once off the hunt ran from covert to covert but sabs kept up, regularly pulling hounds off the scent. The hunt's heavies were reduced to making inconsequential threats.

The IOW hunt *did* kill a rabbit - see left. Worth remembering when some prat starts talking about "a quick nip to the back of the neck" - in this case the neck is one of the animal's few remaining parts.





Above: **Isle of Wight Police are given their orders for the day by Michael Poland, IOW FH Joint Master.** ***Left:*** **The rabbit they killed**

NORTH WEST

North West HSA have targetted the Holcombe Harriers in Lancashire and the Cheshire Forest and Cheshire FH in the south of the region.

The Holcombe have been sabbed nearly every meet so far, usually by new group **Wigan** along with **Darwen HSA**. Wigan have started to notch up a number of arrests to correspond with their turnout rate. By the end of early hunting the hunt had managed only a few chopped hares and foxes.

The Cheshire hunts are beginning to feel the pressure. Sabbing has been going well with few kills, even during cubhunting. On top of this, local information on unpublished meets has been reaching sabs and local anti-hunt feeling is evident. With success for sabs, hunt support, instead of building up through cubhunting, fell away.

In the north of the region, sabs from **Lancaster**, **Workington**, **Penrith**, **Ulverston** and **Carlisle** have been out against the Cumberland, Cumberland Farmers and the North Lonsdale foxhunts, the Vale of Lune Harriers, and have sabbed pheasant shooting too. The North Lonsdale were unsabbed until last Fell Week - good research has ensured that they've now well and truly joined the ranks of the sabbed.

Cumbrian sabs have also returned to the Cumberland FH who last season ensured that Parliamentary questions were asked after a hammer assault on a local female journalist. Undaunted, 14 sabs set out over fields at the location of the assault and soon took the whole pack.

At a pheasant shoot south of Carlisle a woman sab was hospitalised with a broken wrist after being repeatedly knocked down by a shooter. After this police arrived, took notes, announced that shooting would restart, and left. Shooting *did* restart, but with the shoot on the run and only two birds shot in the next four hours.

WALES

Sabs from **Haverfordwest**, **Lampeter**, **Cardiff** and **Aberystwyth** have sabbed both the Llangeinor FH and the Vale of Clettwr FH, and they've also found the secretive Emlyn Beagles.

The Emlyn are, by any standards, a bad pack, and sabs did enough by sticking close to the pack all day.

The Vale of Clettwr have proved to be a handful and on 14 November last year sabs were attacked and had their van tyres slashed on arrival at the meet. They carried on anyway, even though Aberystwyth sabs had previously been badly beaten up by the same hunt.

Sabs followed the hunt up into the hills; the heavies didn't, and the sabs were able to keep up with the hunt throughout the day. No kills.

SOUTH WEST

Cornwall HSA have hit the Four Burrow FH and the Cury FH and have enjoyed a high success rate against both with only a small number of sabs. Despite low numbers sabs have stopped dig-outs too. In late cubbing both these hunts were hit once a week.

Cury FH meets have grown progressively violent. Colourful Hunt Master Geoff Thomas has recent convictions for forgery and fraud (see *Howl 50* for more dirt on this sleazy hunt).

At one early meet sabs arrived to find ten trucks full of waiting heavies. On another ocassion the advertised meet had no riders at all. But how can you trust hunters with records like these? Sabs *did* find that the track to the "meet" blocked while men in balaclavas tried to drag sabs from their vehicles. These men escaped thanks to a milk truck which held back pursuing vehicles while they got away.

The Four Burrow need no heavies other than the ones in blue uniforms who are quick to turn out for this pack. They are especially keen to point out that playing hound tapes through megaphones is definitely an arrestable activity - so you can be sure that this tactic has been working well in Cornwall.

Devon groups **Torquay**, **Plymouth** and **Exeter** have seen their numbers increase. They too have used new technology to good effect and South Poole and Dart Vale FH lost several hours hunting in a single day. Older technology - obtaining unpublished meets - has led the East Devon FH to withdraw cubbing meets even from followers, with resulting poor support.

These groups too have seen over-keen policing from Devon Police. One constable defined breach of the peace as "anything which annoys the hunt." So now you know.

In the Cotswolds sabs from **Worcester**, **Cheltenham**, **Pershore** and **Ross-on-Wye** sabbed six foxhound packs during cubbing. More recently they have concentrated upon the North Herefordshire FH and the two Ledbury packs. They have managed a number of mid-week hits despite low numbers. In early October the North Ledbury FH pack was split in half by a lone sab who was driving past by chance.

These groups have also hit the Ross Harriers and Dummer Beagles of Gloucestershire. On one occasion both these packs were sabbed in a day with the help of **Bath** sabs.

Recently the North Ledbury response has become violent and on two successive weeks sabs were beaten up. The hunt was sabbed anyway.

Bath sabs, along with groups from **Swindon** and **Bristol** have concentrated on the Duke of Beaufort's FH since August last year. Late sabbing was extremely successful; the hunt have managed the odd kill but these are rare. One was at the start in thick fog. On another day they killed at the first covert.

With a field of 140 and other support on 3 October a covert was, not surprisingly, well held up by the hunt. Whether the hounds killed or whether the fox died from suffocation is unsure. However, that meet was successfully sabbed from there on.

Bath and Bristol sabs also visited the Vale of White Horse FH during cubbing and held a demonstration outside the cub-hunting ball of the Avon Vale FH.

The region's sabs have found "gizmo technology" (tapes of hounds in cry) very useful when deployed at the right moment, which is the general emerging picture. The hunts have noticed this and at least one rider has been moved to crop a loudspeaker.

These sab groups have grown stronger whilst hunt support has not held up well. At the Berkeley FH opening meet only 80 riders attended. A demo there was supported by nearly as many locals as sabs, about 100 protesters in all. BBC TV West and HTV cameras were present. That day a fox marked to ground was left - perhaps the farmer did not want any digging; maybe the hunts have now realised that dig-outs make bad TV. During the day hounds were taken off a total of 6 foxes. Eventually the hunt hid in the middle of Berkeley marshes and refused to come out to play.

Violence has flared at the Portman FH with Bath, Bristol and Weymouth sabs suffering attacks by riders, security guards and supporters, one of which broke a car windscreen.

Bristol HSA also took on the Mendip Farmers FH on 5 December. Finding a huntsman barely in control of his hounds, the sabs decided to help him a bit by vigorous use of voice calls, until, suitably embarrassed, he hid in Chewton Wood where he stayed before packing up two hours early.

■ The sabotaging of a Wiltshire fishing match by South West sabs received wide press coverage. As the *Daily Mail* reporteed on 18 January, "*All seemed calm as anglers prepared to cast their lines ... but the tranquillity was shattered as frogmen emerged from the River Avon...*" Other saboteurs were waiting nearby, and they brought the contest to a standstill.

Police arrived at the match at Sutton Benger on the Avon, but no arrests were made. The anglers went home empty-handed.

continued on page 20

THAMES VALLEY

Before the start of the main foxhunting season **Oxford** and **North Bucks** groups sabbed the Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Old Berkshire, Vale of Aylesbury and Vale of White Horse foxhunts. Both Stowe School and Christchurch beagle packs were also sabbed, along with a vermin drive organised by a local electronics firm - see news item on page 6.

North Bucks sabs continued to visit the Bicester and the Grafton FH, and have been joined by **Swindon** sabs at the Old Berkshire, where a demo was held outside the Cubhunting Ball. The Heythrop FH have also been hit.

Oxford sabs were there for the opening meets of both the Vale of Aylesbury and the Old Berkshire, again joined by Swindon sabs. There was a double hit on the Bicester when the hunt split for the day into its two constituent packs, the Bicester and the Whaddon Chase. North Bucks sabs also had a double hit when the Old Berkshire FH and Old Berkeley Beagles were sabbed on the same day.

Hired security men confronted North Bucks sabs for the first time on 7 November at the Bicester. This provoked a regional hit on the hunt the following Saturday, when the hunt were "taken apart". Unfortunately two sabs were beaten up, but this didn't deter sabs from returning again the week after. The use of paid stewards had no effect on sabbing, but it reputedly cost the hunt £3000-£4000 for the first three weeks alone. The result has been that the Bicester has born the brunt of sab activity ever since. The region's sabs also travelled to the Isle of Wight FH for a regional hit.



Howl cover star Alan Wynn of the Vale of Aylesbury FH pushes a Chiltern sab into barbed wire. *(Photo: Thames Valley Sabs)*

EAST ANGLIA

Sabs from Essex and Suffolk groups **Colchester**, **Chelmsford**, **Mid Essex**, **Sudbury**, **Halstead** and **Harlow** started the cub-hunting season out against the Essex FH with progressively good results. They also sabbed the Essex Farmers & Union FH and Suffolk FH.

On 3 October they arrived at the Essex FH to find an unusual number of cameras in the hands of both police and hunt members. Special Investigations officers were there and a police helicopter appeared.

Two weeks later the hunt's hired security - hired from the same firms employed at last year's Northumberland Beagling Festival - appeared on the scene. (See *Hired Heavies* article, page 13). They have been out in Essex ever since, usually about 15-20 in number with a regular core of half a dozen. Essex Police have apparently visited the "training school" and have done nothing to curb their excesses. Behaviour has worsened, predictably, in face of police indifference.

Against this, what the Essex hunts are getting for their money is less clear as kills have decreased throughout the season. A feature of the Essex FH is the early kill, often with a terrier van not a million miles from the draw.

The security situation worsened in December when hunt solicitors dredged up an old legal precedent which claims the authority of landowners to close public rights of way. To date two sabs have been injured contesting this point. Unconcerned, the police have watched all this and claim it is a civil matter. On the other hand any retaliation has brought threats of immediate arrest. This one will run and run.

Cambridge Anti-Bloodsports concentrated on the Cambridge FH during cubbing. Kennels were watched up to five times a week. Ten cubbing meets were hit and the hunt was reduced to cubbing in the afternoon, sometimes at midday.

During the main season the group has been out twice a week. They have also visited the Oakley FH and the Trinity Foot Beagles. Violence has been the knee-jerk response but sabbing continues and the group even hopes to begin some prosecutions.

Norwich & Norfolk Anti-Bloodsports Group started early and visited puppy-walking at the West Norfolk FH. They stuck with the hunt throughout cubbing. The West Norfolk has suffered a loss of support and, unusually, they advertised cub-hunting meets to attract followers.

Persistent sabbing has left the pack's discipline in tatters: in September three sabs on foot managed to completely split the pack on several occasions. Whilst doing so they discovered an illegally blocked badger sett which was reported to the police.

The following month, assisted by new student members, the group saw three foxes escape from a covert before bringing the pack to a complete standstill.

Violence from the hunt's supporters has been a problem on Saturday meets, but not during the week.

A lot of pressure on the early cubbing meets has meant that this has been a good season for Norfolk sabs - the huntsman has been afraid of letting his hounds stray too far in case he loses them.

The area's sabs have also been busy at the speedy North Norfolk Harriers who spend most of their time running away from sabs.

In November a tip-off led to a large driven pheasant shoot being sabbed. The party of ten guns and twenty beaters delayed their start and later one drive was stopped when sabs stood next to the guns.

A Sabbing Skills Day in November helped to recruit new members as well as giving older sabs a bit of inspiration. As a result there has been a renewal of interest and larger numbers of sabs have been out recently.

■ In court there was a different kind of success - four sabs charged with affray were acquitted by the jury in double quick time after hunt supporters contradicted each other and witnesses (including reporters) suggested that it was hunt members who had caused the trouble.

In another case charges against a saboteur were dismissed by Thetford Magistrates after the Crown Prosecution Service's solicitor failed to show up in court.

SOUTH EAST

South London groups **Brixton**, **Goldsmiths**, **Lewisham**, **Orpington** and **Queen Mary's** totalled some forty-five outings to mid-December, sabbing five foxhunts throughout the South East.

The brunt of this fell on the Surrey Union even though they have not had a Saturday meet in two years. Their Master and Huntsman John Fennell is to leave at the end of this season. By the second week of the main season he packed up in despair at 12.15 pm; riders were heard to demand refunds. On top of everything else it was the first day the hunt had deployed its security guards. These groups have been fending off security and keeping up sabbing ever since.

South London groups have combined with sabs from **Brighton**, **Eastbourne**, **West London** and **Guildford** to keep up the pressure on the Surrey Union on Tuesdays and Fridays and the Old Surrey and Burstow on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The latter are the better pack but even their kills are in single figures including cubbing. This also includes suspicious early kills.

These groups attribute success to thorough sabbing in cub-hunting and can feel confident that the packs are still riotous even when they cannot be there.

West Kent HSA are a new group who started the season at Surrey Union hits. As the main season approached they moved over to the Ashford Valley and the West Street Tickham hunts with **Ashford** and other East Kent sabs.

The response of local people has been notably positive, with repeated invitations to come for a drink after the hunt. The press reception has also been good, with TVS cameras out too. The hunt even offered a drink at their first Ashford Valley hit - an offer which has not been repeated. This hunt's tactic has been to move fast, but sabs have kept up and met trouble only when they crossed a local shoot on one occasion. One shooter was proud to declare that he was a policeman, and two sabs ended up in Maidstone police station. The remaining sabs carried on and there were no kills. The following week TV cameras were out again as sabs with improved horn-blowing took the hunt apart at every covert.

Ashford sabs bitterly regretted not having a camera with them when East Kent Foxhounds ripped a sheep apart in fields near Elham early in the season. Other successful hits by East Kent sabs included the East Kent's joint meets in December with both the West Street Tickham and the East Sussex & Romney Marsh FH.

SCOTLAND

Fife, **Stirling** and **Aberdeen** sabs have been to the Fife Foxhounds every Saturday and no kills have been seen yet. Britain's northernmost pack, the Grampian FH, has been checked out and is in fact one man, his friend and their dogs who can be relied upon to pack up if sabs appear.

At a November meet of the Fife, sabs kept taking control of the hounds so the hunt decided to run for it up a hill. Unfortunately for the hunt a second group of sabs were ready and waiting. Within minutes the entire pack rioted, and the field were left with a wonderful hill-top view of the huntsman and whipper-in riding off into the distance to collect the hounds.

In the courts a case against a horn-blowing Stirling sab was thrown out by the Sheriff as soon as the first witness - the Fife huntsman -had given evidence. Despite this victory, sabs have since been arrested again for blowing horns.

Ayshire sabs and new group **Dumfries** have been out regularly at the Kilmarnock-based Eglinton FH .

In the Borders the demise of the Linlithgow has had far-reaching effects. The Duke of Buccleuch's FH were sabbed extensively last season. This has been followed up this season and they have gone totally underground. No Scottish pack now advertises meets except the England-based Border FH when in Scotland.

While the Buccleuch has lost support, sabs have still found them occasionally and have gone on to hit the Jedforest and Berwickshire packs who never got scent of a sab before (the Berwickshire was sabbed for the first time in early November).

While out against the Jedforest FH, **Edinburgh** and **Borders** sabs also found time to drive around a hill and call off the nearby Border FH pack for good measure. Edinburgh sabs continue to have an arrest-free time of things, though they have encountered some pretty fierce attacks from hunt followers. On one ocassion eight thugs tried to batter their way into a sab's car and another sab had an alsation dog set on him.

The Buccleuch also lost one of its lead hounds to a supporter who ran it over in late November. The driver, a clergyman, was most apologetic and his name, we kid you not, is the *Reverend Fox*.

EAST MIDLANDS

Peterborough sabs have been busy this season. After they repeatedly called hounds out of coverts at an Oakley FH cubbing meet the hunt went home early without killing. Unfortunately, a fox was killed at the opening meet of the Pytchley FH before sabs, including some from **Kettering** and **Huntingdon**, arrived.

Peterborough sabs were also present at the Cottesmore FH in November when police filmed the hunt trespassing on a BR main line - legal action may follow. At another meet the Cottesmore were foiled when inmates of **Ashwell Prison** joined sabs in a barrage of halloas to prevent the hunt drawing in a covert close to the jail - nice one lads!

At the Fitzwilliam FH on 5 December Peterborough were again joined by sabs from Huntingdon and Kettering and also **North Hertfordshire**. Police threatened to arrest them under the Prevention of Terrorism Act when they ventured onto land owned by the Duke of Gloucester. The following week the hunt kept well hidden and the riders and followers all went home at lunchtime.

Nottingham and **Mansfield** sabs have been out twice a week since cubhunting. Hunts visited include the Westerby Bassets and Oakley Foot Beagles, and foxhunts the South Notts, Belvoir, Barlow, and, of course, the beleagured Quorn. At both harehunts the huntsmen kept the packs very close, ensuring that no kills were made.

A Barlow FH weekday meet in December proved to be Notts' sabs best day of the season, with sabs in control of the hounds for 90% of the day. In the end sabs were running out of places to take the pack. Policing by Derbyshire coppers (the most demoralised force in the country) was decidely unprofessional - one officer ordered sabs to "leave the area" without explaining what offence had been committed, and when sabs refused he blocked the road with his Landrover, opened the bonnet, and childishly pretended that it had broken down.

Notts and **Loughborough** sabs have sabbed the Quorn every Saturday bar one since the season started. There have been very few kills and support continues to dwindle - one day only six riders were left by 2.30pm at a hunt which used to attract 80+ riders who stayed all day. When sabs are there, huntsman Michael Farrin draws coverts too quickly, so that hounds are unable to properly search for foxes.

Derby sabs have also been to the Quorn, as well as the Grove & Rufford FH and the Oakley Foot Beagles.

GET A MENTION IN *HOWL*

Make sure your group gets a mention in next issue's *Group News* section - send in your hit reports, summaries, photos, news cuttings and local newsletters as early as possible. All items should cover the period from Xmas '92 onwards and should be sent to *Howl*, HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY. The official deadline for *Howl 52* is the end of March, but please keep sending in hit reports and news after this date as "stop press" information can often be included in *Howl*.

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 93/94



Yes, everyone, it's that time of year again - well, it is for those of you who have been paid-up members of the HSA for a year or more, anyway!

The HSA is inviting members who wish to stand for the Committee Year starting this summer to submit their CVs now. To be eligible, you must have been a HSA member for a year or more on 31 March 1993 and you have to be proposed and seconded by two other members also of one year's standing. Members are only permitted to propose or second one candidate.

When submitting your CV you should mention how long you've been a member, your sabbing experience, what group you work with (if you are active), your age and whether you are vegan/vegetarian. You should also say what Committee post you wish to stand for and mention any experience relevant to that task. In addition you should say what you think the HSA should be doing in the next year and beyond. CVs (maximum 250 words) should be sent to the HSA office.

In recent years elections have been unnecessary due to the number of nominations being equivalent to, or below, the number of available posts (currently twelve). It would be best for the democratic nature of the HSA if we could have a fully-run election this year, and I would encourage members to stand if they think they can contribute to the smooth running of the organisation. The work can be pretty time consuming, but it is not unmanageable. We are looking for people committed to the positive, direct approach that characterises the HSA - you would be joining the Committee at a time when the HSA is proving to be a real threat to bloodsports.

Please don't be put off standing for election because someone else has held a post in which you are interested for a long time. The elections are to decide on committee membership, not individual posts. Anyway, a little competition can be healthy!

All posts are unpaid, but most out-of-pocket expenses are met. You are required to attend monthly meetings (on Sundays) which are rotated around the country to be fair to everyone.

CVs and AGM details will be sent out in the next mailout to members; the actual election will be conducted by an independent body and the results announced at the AGM and in *Howl*.

Paul Gammon, HSA Chair

LATEST CLUB DRAW WINNERS

As part of its fundraising activities the HSA operates a Club Draw. The idea is simple - those who wish to enter pay a stake of just £2 per month. Half the money raised each month goes directly to the HSA to fund our work. The remaining half is divided up as follows: *First Prize Winner*: 50%, *Second Prize Winner*: 30%, *Third Prize Winner*: 20%. More details from the HSA office - address below.

The latest winners of the Club Draw are:

September 1992:	*1st*: J R Mate, *2nd*: J Cole, *3rd*: M White
October 1992:	*1st*: E Webber, *2nd*: R Horsfield, *3rd*: L Giddings
November 1992:	*1st*: S Dooley, *2nd*: C King, *3rd*: P Cammins

HELP END BLOODSPORTS-

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs *your* support if we are to defeat bloodsports. Our opponents in the Campaign for Hunting are hoping to raise *over £2 million* to help defend their cruel pastimes. Meanwhile, as usual, we're **skint**.

There *is* some good news. The BFSS and CFH have already discovered to their cost that many people are disgusted to learn of the real extent of hunting in Britain. After reading the CFH propaganda, many people become more likely to join *our* side, not theirs!

And of course, having **no paid workers** and **very low overheads** means that *all* the HSA's money is put to good use - whether it's spent on publicity, Sabbing Skills Days, grants to local sab groups or responding to enquiries from the press and public.

Please help us at this crucial stage in the fight against hunting - if you are not already a member, use the form below to join now. If you *are* a member, please pass on the form to someone else - you must know someone who would like to join. Either way, you can also use the form to send us a **donation** which will be used to fund our vital work. If you think you can help in any other way - for example, if you would like to help your local sab group - write or phone and we'll put you in touch.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to HSA.

HSA Membership / Donation Form

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

I enclose my membership subscription of: *(tick one)*

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

❑ I enclose a donation of £_____ to help fund the HSA's work

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

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone Number: _____

❑ I wish to pay by Visa / Mastercard

Card No: ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return to Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.
For further information telephone (0602) 590357.

- JOIN THE HSA NOW!

HELP IS AT HAND FOR NEW SAB GROUPS

In recent months several new sab groups have started up around the country and are now out saving lives every week. Here the HSA's New Groups Officer offers some words of encouragement to those interested in forming an active sab group.

I've written this for three reasons: to explain the need for new groups, to encourage the formation of new groups and to thank those who have assisted the new groups so far.

Imagine a Friday night when you know that every hunt in your area is going to be sabotaged the next day! Idealism? I don't think so - just as most major towns have links with a local hunt, so should they have a sab group!

As the HSA looks to forming a stronger regional network, these regions must look to having more active groups to disrupt more hunts and ultimately save more lives.

My present role is to encourage individuals to get new groups up and running. So if you live somewhere without a sab group, think about forming one, contact me, and soon another group will be active against bloodsports.

The HSA will do everything to support and help you as will other local groups. This will include putting you in touch with potential recruits, providing information on hunts local to you and assisting you physically in the field.

There are just under 300 registered foxhunts in this country and 150 sab groups - let's redress the balance!

Eric Staples
New Groups Officer

Huntsman Balls

"It is unfortunate that many members of the public are often misled into thinking that these saboteurs of our legal sports are quite simply volunteers, when in fact they are well paid for their illegal activities."
Mr P Newton, Chairman & Secretary of the North West Terrier & Lurcher Club, bordering on the libellous in an inspired letter to his local paper.

"People have been fed distorted stories and many believe that the hooligans who interfere with our sport are good people. Hooligans they are, and sometimes they are the same louts who bring disgrace to British football."
Mr William Tyrwhitt-Drake, Chairman of Hampshire County Sportsman's Day, bringing a refreshing touch of hysteria to the foxhunting debate in a statement to the press.

"They really are a dirty and smelly bunch. They don't wash. Apparently most are students paid £35 a day and given a lunch by the League Against Cruel Sports."
Barbara Rich, of the Quorn FH, providing reporters with a highly original description of saboteurs. See Today *newspaper, 2 November 1992.*

"There are people who do not like hunting and who would like it banned. There are also paid thugs who are engaged to disrupt and damage people, animals and property. Their weapons are the brick, the aerosol and the bottle of acid."
Hot-headed Chiddingfold FH supporter Anthony Heller, of Crypt Farm, Cocking, West Sussex, in a letter to his local paper which appeared three days after the hunt's hounds ran riot in a nearby village, killing ducks and chickens (see news item on page 5).

"TROJAN HORSE": INVESTIGATING "FRINGE" BLOODSPORTS



The Past

Throughout its existence the HSA has always had a Fringe Bloodsports Investigations (FBI) unit of sorts. In the past it was run by only one person whose job entailed collating information and a bit of detective work.

The biggest problem was that if information was received concerning, say, a dog fighting ring in Devon, and the officer lived in Lincolnshire, there wasn't a great deal he or she could do.

Also, unlike the RSPCA's Special Investigations Unit, the Animal Cruelty Investigation Group and UK Animal Watch, the FBI has not successfully publicised itself. (By using the media, the League Against Cruel Sports was reputed to have gained 2000 new members in the week following the conviction of the Builth Wells badger baiters - equivalent to half the HSA's membership!)

The Present

With the current changes taking place set to maximise the professionalism of the HSA it was felt necessary to renew and review the FBI's position. There are now two HSA FBI Officers, covering the North and the South of Britain. The intention is to have in every county (or group of hunt countries) a regional FBI Officer to collate local information, liaise with the HSA/Badger Groups/Animal Aid Groups, etc, and to organise localised infiltration.

This will leave us free to work on national awareness of the FBI and its activities and also to create comprehensive files on known or suspected participants in illegal bloodsports.

The Future

To start off the campaign, we will be printing Badger Baiting Awareness posters for use in libraries, colleges, pubs, shops and so on. These, we hope, will bring in information, interest in infiltration, and new members.

When a reasonable number of counties have been covered by the FBI we can start presenting talks to Animal Rights groups and colleges, again providing us with information and new members.

Finally, within the next year or so we would very much like to see a conviction arise from the investigations that are currently under way. This will lead to awareness and sympathy from the public.

HSA Fringe Bloodsports Officers

If you would like to help in investigation work, write to FBI c/o the HSA (address on page 2) - we can provide a great deal of help.

If you are already investigating or infiltrating please let us know what is going on so we can prevent the duplication of work and so increase the effectiveness of infiltration.

Noticeboard

Events

North West Protests

Advance notification of two North West events: Demonstrate against the Grand National at Aintree, Liverpool. March on the 2 April 1993, followed by overnight vigil, then a demo on the 3rd. There's also a Meat Free March in Manchester, 3 July 1993. More details about both events from the ARC on 061 953 4039.

Flamingoland Demo

The Flamingoland Dolphin Campaign National Demonstration will take place on 4 April 1993. Meet at Eastergate Car Park, Pickering, North Yorkshire at 12 noon. More details on 061 223 1839.

Fur Trade March & Rally

A national march against the Fur Trade will take place in London on 6 March 1993. Meet at 12 noon at Reformers Tree, Hyde Park. More details: 081 348 9911.

Lab Animals Week

17 - 24 April is World Laboratory Animal Week. There will be a major exhibition at Westminster Central Halls, London SW1, chronicling the world of animal experimentation - a world that the public were never meant to see.

On Saturday 24 April there will be a march from Hyde Park ending in a rally in Trafalgar Square at 4 pm to mark World Day for Laboratory Animals. Further information from the National Anti-Vivisection Society on 081 846 9777.

Campaigns

Seafaring Sabs

A new Direct Action group has been set up to combat whaling. Cetacea Defence was founded in response to the decision of Norway, Japan and Iceland to overturn a ban imposed in 1986 and renew whaling.

There are now so few of the larger whales left alive that hunting them is considered unprofitable. Hunters are expected to start killing smaller Minke Whales instead, which are found in the Antarctic and North Atlantic.

Cetacea Defence hope to staff a ship to confront the whaling vessels on the oceans. They will also run publicity campaigns and organise consumer boycotts of companies involved in whaling, as well as working to free sea animals from amusement parks.

The group urgently needs donations to get started. Please send what you can to: Cetacea Defence, PO Box 11, South East PDO, Manchester M18 8GU.

Anti-Hunting Petition

The National Anti-Hunting Petition has been established to increase pressure on Parliament to reflect public opinion and introduce legislation banning hunting. A huge public demonstration is also planned for 1994. The organisers, HARC, hope the petition will be "truly massive". Petition forms, leaflets and more info from HARC, PO Box 66, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 6LU - please send a SAE.

Publications

Arkangel Magazine



Issue 9 of *Arkangel*, the magazine for animal liberation, is now available from *Arkangel*, BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX.

Copies cost £1.80 each, or four for £7.20 (UB40 £6.00). 10 or more copies cost just £1.30 each; all prices include postage.

New Vegan Leaflet

The Vegan Society has produced a new A5 full colour general campaigning leaflet which is ideal for use by local Animal Rights groups. It's designed to have wide appeal and is suitable for mass distribution. Prices (including postage) are: 100 leaflets for £1.75; 500 for £5.95; 1000 for £10.50. Send orders to the Vegan Society, 7 Battle Road, St Leonards-on-Sea TN37 7AA.

AR Action Book

A new comprehensive book on animal rights has been published by Virago Press. *The Young Person's Action Guide to Animal Rights* contains a "What can you do?" section which suggests practical ways of alleviating animal suffering. Every subject is covered, from "free-range" products to veganism. There are also sections on reptiles, insects, etc, which many books often overlook in favour of "cute" animals.

Although the book is designed for young people who are just becoming aware of animal rights issues, it is also of interest to those who have been involved in the movement for many years.

The Young Person's Action Guide to Animal Rights (ISBN 1853814695) costs £3.99 from bookshops or £4.50 (includes post) from Animal Concern, 62 Old Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G3 8RE.

Appeals

Freshfields Centre

The Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, where Mike Hill worked until his death two years ago, needs your help.

The Centre desperately needs donations to continue their work looking after sick and abandoned animals. Also, people are needed to help care for the many animals living at the Centre.

Please send cheques and POs to Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA. Telephone 051 931 1604.

Sanctuary Needs Help

The newly-opened Chris Bowen Animal Sanctuary in Essex is looking for a voluntary worker to carry out general duties and some rescue work. The sanctuary can provide free caravan accommodation on their 1/2 acre site at Bradwell-on-Sea.

At present it is home to eight dogs and 20-30 cats; there's also an aviary housing budgies, finches and a pigeon. Anyone interested must have a lot of patience as most of the dogs are beagles and are, apparently, little buggers.

Further information from Mia Peterson or John Hegley on 081 367 9690 or 0621 778127.

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