Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the
Hunt Saboteurs
Association
Summer 1993
No 52 £1



The Threatened Badger

COUNTRYSIDE HAVOC CONTINUES

Hunts continue to bring chaos to Britain's rural communities. A Derbyshire sheep farmer, a Suffolk playgroup, Yorkshire villagers and an ancient abbey are among the most recent victims of hopeless huntsmen and their out-of-control hounds...

Farmer calls for hunting ban after foxhounds attack sheep

The South Notts Foxhounds recently rioted through fields owned by anti-hunting farmer Charles Salt. Mr Salt, of Belper, Derbyshire, alleges that around 35 heavily pregnant ewes were forced to scatter in terror as the hunt's hounds ran through their enclosure. Two of the sheep later lost their offspring.

Mr Salt told reporters: "Two of my sheep have aborted their lambs and I think the hounds caused the upset."

He added: "I believe it is time fox hunting was banned altogether. I think it is cruel."

Mr Salt claims that the attack, which caused a total of four lambs to be aborted, has cost him over £200.

In typically sympathetic style, the hunt's secretary Anne Jepson said she hadn't heard of any complaints from other residents but promised to "investigate".

The South Notts are no newcomers to controversy. In January this year a saboteur needed hospital treatment after being hit by one of the hunt's riders.

Fox savaged to death in front of playgroup

Elsewhere, the Thurlow & Puckeridge Hunt were hard pressed to explain why their hounds savaged a fox to death just yards from a playgroup on land belonging to High Point Prison in West Suffolk.

The killing took place on a grassy play area outside a school building where fifteen pre-school age children were being looked after.

One staff member commented: "It was disgusting. I was horrified. It is quite barbaric."

As the prison's deputy governor made clear afterwards, hunts are not allowed on Crown Property, but as usual it is unlikely that the incident will be followed up in the courts. Oddly enough no one from the hunt was available to comment.

Horrified residents see pet cat torn apart in private wood

At Denby Dale, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, villagers watched in horror as the Rockwood Harriers brought havoc to a popular area of privately-owned woodland on 26 February this year.

As the local paper put it, "hounds ripped apart a villager's cat and horses cut a swathe of destruction through a private wood ... now mothers are afraid for the safety of their children."

The hunt, including 25 riders, ploughed through Withy Wood which is owned by local resident Maureen Tyas, who specifically banned the hunt from the land over eight years ago. Although there is no public access to the wood, Mrs Tyas allows villagers to use it providing that they treat it with respect.

The black cat killed by the hounds belonged to Denby Dale resident Maureen Preston. She said: "I'm disgusted. I can't understand why they could not pull the hounds off. They just cannot have been under control."

All that Rockwood Joint Master Robert Mc Creadie would say about the matter was: "if it was Mrs Preston's cat it is a very unfortunate incident."

Hunt vehicle crashes into 12th century abbey

Not content with destroying wildlife, the Sinnington Hunt have recently taken to wrecking ancient monuments. On 13 March the hunt's horsebox ran into an 800-year-old arch-gateway at Byland Abbey near Coxwold in North Yorkshire. The hunt vehicle was undamaged and the driver unhurt, but the archway, built by French monks in 1177 AD, partially collapsed and police were called in to close off nearby roads.

The abbey is owned by English Heritage, who are not expected to press charges against the hunt (what a surprise). It was estimated that repairs to the monument would cost several thousand pounds.

• *Two more recent incidents:* a blind cat was chased out of its retirement home when a hunt rampaged through an animal sanctuary near Chard, Somerset. Officials at the nearby Cotley Harriers denied any involvement. The site's owner had previously banned the hunt from her land.

A hunt supporter had to rescue his 13-month-old daughter from rampaging hounds when the Cheshire Forest FH invaded his garden in February. He later wrote to his local paper, expressing disgust at the "shambolic behaviour" of his friends in the hunt.

MUSEUM OF FOXHUNTING: UPDATE

Last issue we reported that the bloodsports lobby are hoping to open a Museum of Foxhunting in Leicestershire.

Since then Leicestershire County Council have made a site available in Melton Mowbray, widely regarded as the birthplace of foxhunting. The Council's Arts, Libraries and Museums committee gave the go ahead for the project at a meeting in January, and if the plan goes ahead the hunting museum will be built adjacent to the existing Carnergie Museum in Thorpe End, Melton. The committee also decided that the Council would maintain and operate the museum.

The Museum of Hunting Trust – the project's backers – hope to have the "attraction" open for the start of the 1994 foxhunting season – despite having raised only a fraction of the quarter of a million pounds needed for the project. In recent months the Trust have been putting out leaflets asking for donations to be sent to them at PO Box 268, Leicester LE1 9QF. They have also applied for a grant from the Museums & Galleries Commission.

Recently the Trust's Chairman, Lord Kimball, had the audacity to tell the press that "the activities of the hunt saboteurs will be fairly treated and the section dealing with it will faithfully record their activities and views."

However, bearing in mind the influential and entirely pro-bloodsports nature of the Trust's committee (see *Howl 51*, page 5), it seems highly unlikely that hunt sabotage will receive "fair treatment" from the museum.

Lord Kimball, who also just happens to be Vice-Chairman of the BFSS and a member of the Leicestershire-based Cottesmore Foxhounds, went on to say that the Trust were not expecting to encounter any opposition. "We do not anticipate any protests," he told reporters.

The local elections in May this year left Leicestershire (and many other counties) with far fewer pro-hunting Tory councillors. Leicestershire County Council may well ban hunting from council-owned land in the near future, and it may even be possible to have the decision concerning the hunting museum reversed.

Howl readers can prove Lord Kimball wrong by sending polite letters of complaint about the museum to:

The Chairman, Arts Libraries & Museums Committee, c/o Mrs Jeffrey, County Secretaries Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RP.

SWANS & GEESE WIPED OUT BY SHOOTERS

The unscrupulous antics of "sportsmen" continue to cause the deaths of many rare birds. Recently around a dozen dead whooper swans were found in the Forvie Nature Reserve in Grampian, Scotland. Autopsies confirmed that the birds had died after swallowing lead shot left by shooters.

Reserve Warden Bob Davis explained that the discarded pellets cause a lingering death.

"The lead paralyses the birds' nervous systems and damages their ability to digest. The result is gradual deterioration and a slow starvation over possibly two to three weeks," he said.

"One cartridge could literally kill 40 or 50 swans," he added.

Whilst shooters maintain that they are actually helping to conserve rare bird habitats, the number of whooper swans continues to fall.

Elsewhere in Scotland, Italian shooting parties are being blamed for the destruction of flocks of geese.

Police were called in to investigate a suspected illegal trade in dead geese after residents of Longforgan, near Dundee, became concerned at the "regular slaughter" of geese at a nearby farm.

A reporter discovered that the dead birds – illegally shot with semi-automatic weapons – were being packed into refrigerated lorries and shipped to Italy. In Britain it is an offence to buy, sell or barter dead wild geese.

Several recent power cuts in the area were also blamed on the gangs of shooters. According to the Hydro-Electric company, many geese, scared by the noise of the guns, had flown straight into power lines as they tried to escape.

BASC spokesman Andrew Brown admitted that groups of Italian shooters were known to be coming to Britain and killing large numbers of birds. He insisted that local shooters were not involved.

HUNTSMAN DIES

The thrill of the chase led to a number of serious accidents for foxhunters last season.

The case of Lady Blandford, who was put into à coma by a serious fall whilst hunting with the Heythrop FH, was widely reported.

And in Lincolnshire, Martin Ollard, Joint Master of the Southwold FH, died following a similar riding accident.

Whilst hunting, Mr Ollard was thrown from his horse onto a main road. He suffered a fractured skull and died from his injuries in hospital two weeks later.

WILDLIFE CHARITY REAPPOINTS SHOOTING PRINCE AS PRESIDENT

The Worldwide Fund for Nature recently provoked outrage by again allowing Prince Philip to stay on as the charity's president.

To say that the prince is fond of killing wildlife would be an understatement. John Bryant, of the League Against Cruel Sports, reckons that in the last 30 years Prince Philip has shot dead two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, six mountain sheep, thousands of rabbits, hares, deer, ducks, snipe, teal and woodcock, and over 30,000 partridges, pigeons and pheasants.

The prince has also killed an Indian tiger – a recognised endangered species.

The Fund's astonishing announcement that Prince Philip will stay on as president for a further three years came just hours before he hosted a mammoth end-of-season pheasant shoot consisting of 50 guns.

Hundreds more birds were added to the prince's long list of pointless kills.

The prince has defended his sick obsession by claiming that he is "culling rather than killing."

• A *Gallup* opinion poll recently showed that 78% of the British public are opposed to the Royal Family's involvement with cruel sports.

Against this background the Worldwide Fund for Nature can expect to lose a great deal of public support by allowing an ageing bloodthirsty pervert to act as their president.

FAMILIES TERRIFIED AS NATURE RESERVE IS INVADED

A nature reserve was invaded by the York & Ainsty South FH in March this year, leaving visitors and employees shaken and angry.

The hunt's pack of hounds ran through the Moorlands Nature Reserve at Skelton, near York, on a Saturday afternoon when many families were out walking there. There is a total ban on hunting at the reserve, which is owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Mrs Anne Chrystal of Haxby, North Yorkshire, witnessed the incident. She told reporters that her two young children, aged four and six, were petrified when the hounds rampaged through the woods.

"I was frightened they were going to knock the children over, or that they would catch a fox and the children would witness the kill," she said.

As is usual following these incidents, hunt staff were "unavailable to comment".

The reserve's management committee described the invasion as "alarming" and said they would make a formal complaint to the hunt.

◆ ***See also "Countryside Havoc Continues" on page 5.***

POLICE OVERSEE STEWARD TRAINING

In *Howl 51* we mentioned the rumours concerning a secret BFSS training camp for hunt stewards which has apparently been sanctioned by the police.

The rumours were recently confirmed in *Police Review*, of all places. Inspector Martin Reed of Essex Police told the force journal that "a comprehensive training course for the stewards, run by a representative of the British Field Sports Association, was held recently under police supervision."

The article, entitled *Unhappy Hunting Ground*, said of the course: "It dealt with civil law as well as the police input, public order and the responsibilities of stewards."

Inspector Reed was very positive about the scheme. "I can't fault it," he said.

However, he admitted that there was no way of knowing whether those stewards attending hunts were the ones who had been enlightened by the BFSS course.

At one meet of the Surrey Union foxhunt last season, the police searched around fifty "stewards" for weapons, made several arrests, and confiscated a sackful of bludgeons and catapults. As yet it is unclear whether this kind of equipment plays any part in the officially-endorsed training schemes.

■ Police support for steward training may not be as sinister as it seems – perhaps it is just a money-saving exercise.

Officially the police say they support the use of hired heavies "if properly trained and briefed." As all sabs know, in recent years the police's own training and briefing has been somewhat less than "proper" – in fact their over-zealous policing of hunt meets has resulted in substantial payments being made to saboteurs who have sued for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.

Latest figures show that of 85 saboteurs who have sued the police, 81 have won damage claims or received out-of-court settlements – the total payout being an impressive £80,150, with a further £250,000 in police legal fees.

Maybe *this* is why the police have no objections to handing over their duties at hunts to the bouncers employed by the private security firms.

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

Compiled by Ergot Caught

DEER KILLER LOSES APPEAL

Self-appointed mercy killer **Peter Reeves** shot a deer and, under cover of darkness, skinned and beheaded it. He admitted to police that he had found the decapitated carcass on his land and that he had shot the deer. At Exeter Crown Court he lost his appeal against conviction.

Reeves, of Higher Aston Farm, Holden Cross, near Chudleigh, Devon, had earlier been found guilty by Cullompton Magistrates of taking a deer at night, and killing it with a twelve-bore shotgun. Yeah, right Pete! The sicko was fined £250 and ordered to pay a further £650 in costs.

GANG SET DOGS ONTO DEER

A gang of evil-minded thugs from South Yorkshire set a pack of four lurchers onto a Chinese Water Deer at Woburn Abbey. Mark Sheard (22), Wayne Mosley (22), both from Barnsley, and Dean Cooper (23) from Rotheram, admitted a charge of intentionally killing the deer when they appeared before Leighton Buzzard Magistrates.

The three scumbags, who used knives to rip open the deer's stomach, borrowed the dogs from George Guest of Barnsley without proper permission. Guest pleaded with the court not to sign the death warrant on his dogs, saying that although he had lent them to Cooper to go foxing he would never have lent them out if he'd known the quarry was deer. I'm sure.

The three were ordered to pay kennel fees of £248 each plus £15 costs, and were each given a conditional discharge.

POACHERS CONVICTED ON FIVE CHARGES

David Guy (22) of Howitt Crescent, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire and his sidekick **Michael Dutton** (20) of Grange Road, Uttoxeter were both found guilty of poaching a deer, possessing ammunition without a certificate, taking a deer in the dark during closed season, possessing a prohibited firearm and theft of a carcass.

The two denied the charges, claiming that they had found the deer dead by the side of the road. As you do - nice one lads! The case was adjourned, for why I don't know. It seems to me the only thing to be decided is the length of the sentence these sickos should get.

HUNT STAFF ON HORSE CRUELTY CHARGES

Joint Master **Alan Wynn** of the Vale of Aylesbury Foxhounds was featured on the cover of *Howl 51*. Since then the hunt have continued to show their profound respect for life – you don't have to be a fox or a sab to suffer at their hands.

Wynn's colleague **Alan Hill** (32) and hunt rider **Gordon Middleton** (43) were found guilty at Amersham Magistrates of ill-treating and frightening a horse which got stuck on a gate.

Apparently Middleton was whipping the horse's rear while Hill held it's head. An eyewitness said that Middleton was whipping the horse with some relish. Well that would be a change – sexual frustration, maybe? The men were given a conditional discharge with costs of £750.

A NATION OF ANIMAL LOVERS (No 2)

"One night when the moon fills the sky like a great pizza pie, I shall sneak quietly up the stream to my cover and lift the sitting hen off her scrambled eggs with a well directed load of something heavy. It really would be too humiliating to have crows hatching in my back garden."

'Petrel' writing in* Shooting Times *(issue 4750), the official weekly journal of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation

REWARD OFFERED AFTER ATTACK BY BADGER BAITERS

The League Against Cruel Sports is offering a £2000 reward for information leading to the conviction of three men who assaulted a woman who suspected them of badger baiting. Trainee nurse Nicky Abrams, 22, is still suffering shock after her ordeal.

Ms Abrams, a member of *Brock* (the Cornwall badger protection group) and a RSPCA volunteer, discovered a parked Land Rover containing badger baiting equipment in the Derricombe plantation between the A38 and A390 between Liskeard and Bodmin.

One man hit her in the stomach and grabbed the pad she had used to note down the vehicle's registration number. Two shots were fired over her head and she was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked.

A LACS spokesman urged witnesses to contact Liskeard CID on (0579) 342351.

WILD DEER ARE VICTIMS OF POACHING PLAGUE

As the above stories show, a deer-poaching plague is sweeping Britain.

And according to wildlife experts, those thugs so far convicted are just the "tip of the iceberg". Many animals are being slaughtered under cover of darkness in night-time raids.

The gruesome evidence is only discovered after the hunters have long gone.

In Keighley, West Yorkshire, eyewitnesses report having seen gangs of men, armed with shotguns and dogs, illegally stalking wild deer. The remains of deer, foxes and badgers are discovered regularly by residents out walking in the countryside.

Senior countryside warden Peter Britton told reporters: "There has been a worrying wave of incidents around Keighley of shotguns being used on deer, which is illegal, and of dogs being sent after the animals."

Dorset is now said to be the country's worst affected county after an entire family of deer was massacred over three weekends.

The thugs responsible were secretly watched by a North Dorset deer watcher who did not want to be named for fear of reprisals.

He said: "It was the same people on each of the three weekends. One night I walked down the field and all of a sudden an engine was turned on and the sky lit up. It was a specially equipped pick-up with dozens of lamps and a huge bar for hitting deer."

The next morning two mutilated deer were found dead, and four badger cubs were missing.

The following weekend, two more deer were killed and a further four badgers were taken from the area.

A week later the only remaining member of the roe family – a 15-month-old doe – was forced to run down a 150-foot-high sheer slope. A young woman out walking her dogs found the animal, barely alive, at the bottom of the drop.

"When she had fallen, both her front shoulders were driven out through the skin of her back. Her pelvis was smashed," she said.

"She had dragged herself across the road and she lay in terror gasping and with her eyes rolling," she added.

The deer was later humanely destroyed.

Deer carcasses fetch up to £30 each on the black market, and badger cubs are sold for around £100 each.

SABBING AND THE POLICE *(Continued)*

"I am a hunt saboteur because I care about animals and want to stop them being killed." (see Letters, *Howl 51*, page 3).

The first day I ever went out sabbing, a hare was murdered. The sabs I was with had been unable to stop this death because a policeman prevented them getting near enough. I decided to go out again – hunts were killing and that needed stopping. On virtually every single occasion since, where hunts have killed in my presence, the police have been responsible for that through denying us the means of sabotaging the hunt.

Maybe I *am* fighting the class war when I'm out sabbing. So what? Only the privileged don't see their own enemy in the form of landowners and the police. And yes, I'm there to stop animals getting killed. Thing is, the reason that this is hard is because some filth is getting in the way. *They* are acting from *their* job's political agenda. Now I'm not advocating Politics of any shade, other than realising the politics (that is, the feelings and ideas) that come from our own experiences and our particular situation as sabs. I'm talking about more than "a bit of common sense, firmness and a grown-up attitude" (see *Howl 51*) because those things don't apply to the social inadequates who joined the boys in blue. I'm not talking about "hijacking", I'm talking about refusing to take bullshit from a uniformed robot about public footpaths, blowing horns, etc. I'm also on about why the cops give us this. Why? Why do they behave the way they do? It's worth thinking about, eh?

I'm not on about party politics either – I'll leave that to the League Against Cruel Sports and all those who voted Labour for their "ban on hunting". I'm on about reality, not pie-in-the-sky legislation. Our experience is this: That there is a powerful opposition that is opposing our attempts to banish (yes, *banish*, not ban) hunting to the history books. If you are of the opinion that "the basic rights of any animal have nothing to do with politics", then take a look at the events outside Liverpool Magistrates earlier this year over the death of a 2-year-old boy, and compare this with the events at the Cheshire Beagles kennels in 1991 regarding the death of an 18-year-old man. Look at the charges, the bail, the nationwide hunt, the house searches, the prison sentences. We can't be liberal and squirm "no politics please, we're sabs" when our own have done time.

The events of Essex show how tense the situation really is. They are trying to criminalise sabbing by prosecuting *us* for violence, by arresting *us* for "alarm", by bringing in the riot squad when we fight back against organised hunt violence. Just as they criminalised the people convicted for the Dodleston events, they will want to criminalise those arrested in Essex. It is surely up to us to redefine crime and decriminalise ourselves. Crime makes up most news – we're not criminals even if we do "break the law". It's *them* that are the murdering criminals, as are the coppers who cushion their crimes.

"ACAB"
(anonymity destroys celebrities)

CLASS ISSUES ARE A DISTRACTION

Well done Stewart Hallam (*Howl 51*, page 3). You are obviously quite happy and willing to dance to the pro-hunt distractions by declaring your fight against class through the HSA.

I'm not fighting against hunting because I'm anti-rich people, police, etc, but because I want to help stop the cruelty, not "mainly" stop it.

I happen to know a lot of wealthy and successful people, many involved with horses, of which the majority are opposed to hunting. I also know a lot of "ordinary" working class people who support hunting with great passion who are helping to keep hunting alive.

The BFSS constantly use the distraction that sabs are anti-class, saying that this is the sole reason for our concentration on hunting. This is simply not true, as they are probably aware, but people like Stewart are taking peoples' attention away from the real issues which is exactly what the pro-hunting fraternity want.

The real fight isn't against class or wealth, it's against ignorance, and immature fanatics like Stewart Hallam are only keeping the hunting defence standing by playing right into their hands.

Lisa Colquhoun
Galashiels



• 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, but all items may be edited for clarity or space.

SAVE LIVES BY SABBING PUPPY WALKING

It will soon be scum time again, when kennels start to get busy with the fresh intake of new hounds, the start of basic training for the new hunting season's campaign.

I feel that it is time to up the stakes in our efforts to sabotage these murdering bastards. By sabbing puppy walks more effectively we will make life easier for ourselves, seeing as their new tactic is to try to keep us as far from the hunt as possible with their would-be bully boys.

Sabbing them at this early stage will annoy them immensely, and make the job of saving lives a lot easier for us.

We'll see who's laughing next season...

Wayne
Nottingham Sabs

DEMOS KEEP HUNT ISSUES IN THE PUBLIC EYE

In response to the item *No More Hunt Demos (Howl 51)* I would like to comment on the writer's apparent ignorance regarding the significance of anti-hunt demos.

I agree that all possible time and energy should be geared towards actively sabbing, especially during busy seasons, but we should not forget the importance of constant protesting and demonstrating, which as well as gaining many new supporters to our cause and keeping it in the public eye, if accompanied by fundraising activities, can raise badly- needed funds so that active sabs can continue to be of duty to our endangered wildlife.

It is far from being a pointless exercise. And, Liverpool sab, what right have you got to call other sabs who do this "pathetic"? Do you consider yourself superior?

Your attitude seems to suggest that we in fact have a class system within the HSA. I wonder what class the Liverpool sab would consider him/herself to be in – do you qualify to be "upper class" if you are active in the field as opposed to "aimlessly walking around town centres, protesting against hunting and handing out leaflets"?

We are all equal (or should be) and I suggest the Liverpool sab and other elitists buck up their ideas otherwise we run the risk of alienating our supporters and the valuable work they do.

North East Sab

HUNT THUGS NEEDN'T BE A PROBLEM

I write in response to your article *Hired Heavies (Howl 51)*.

Here in Yorkshire we have been dealing with paid, organised "stewards" for some months, even before EMS appeared at the beagling festival, particularly at the Sinnington and Middleton FHs. With these two hunts (and certain others) in mind, it seems to follow that the previously more violent hunts and supporters are the ones getting more organised.

However, it would also seem that after initial trepidation by sabs, we can now get on with sabbing, with little or no extra hindrance from these stewards.

I accept that violence has increased and that the most problems we get come from threatened or actual violence, though in the light of the McNamara Bill I believe that this is also due to the hunts' fear of an imminent foxhunting ban. However, I also believe that much of the worry many sabs have of stewards is unnecessary and is obstructing our purpose.

I have observed both the "professional" security of EMS and Olympic and hired hunt thugs, and I feel that they can be almost completely neutralised on four fronts:

- First: camcorders are an excellent deterrent, though note must be taken of the warnings in *Howl 51* on taking pictures of violence, and sabs being prosecuted. But remember a camera doesn't have to be switched on (or even work if a group's funds are low) for the deterrent to take effect.

- Second: stewards are mostly very unfit – being too fat or old for serious exercise – and it is easy to keep ahead of them. So, a little fitness training for sabs wouldn't go amiss.

- Third: capitalise on the fact that stewards are present and inform the police. Complain constantly about them. The police tend not to be happy about policing hunts if they are not informed about what they are policing. I wouldn't expect anything much but it can't do any harm.

- Fourth: a person acting with complete confidence with a map in hand can often get away with placing a right of access anywhere they want. Conversely, someone acting as a complete idiot can waste a lot of time on a map.

To end with a note about the current fortunes of EMS. In Yorkshire we quite often enjoy the company of **Mark Pendlebury** and **Brian Purseglove** – with a few, occasional hired ex-servicemen. With more hunts employing their own homegrown stewards, these professionals are getting hired less and less often. In fact, at one recent meet of the Middleton FH, the hunt's own heavies threatened stewards who turned up to do some intelligence gathering!

All good news perhaps – but these people take their intelligence work very seriously, and even the smallest scrap of information can be used by them. They have stated on more than one occasion that any information they do have is for sale.

All in all this new development of security should not be a problem – perhaps an inconvenience at times – but well worth putting up with when you consider the cost to the hunts, both in terms of propaganda for us and financial loss for them.

Dave, Leeds

NEWSPAPERS & NAZIS – SOME LESSONS FOR US ALL

On 4 April, on reading in one of the Sunday papers about the tragic death of Tom Worby at the Cambridgeshire FH, my first reaction was one of revulsion, as I'm sure it was for most people. When I later found out that Tom was only 15 and that this was the first time he had been to a hunt, it seemed so much worse, and my reaction turned to anger – anger at the sheer waste of the life of someone so young.

I then began to think that perhaps this time a fox hunt had gone too far in defending its interests; that surely no one could justify or explain away what had happened. The facts were simple enough – a schoolboy had been killed and it couldn't possibly matter what the BFSS, Brian Toon or anyone else could say. Finally, after years of abusing sabs and usually getting away with it, this action would be seen as too horrific, too callous, for people to accept. There could be no excuse for what occurred on Saturday 3 April.

Alas not. What the press decided to make of the incident concerned everything other than what really mattered (surely, "who killed Tom Worby?").

First the media tried to blacken Tom Worby's name, trying to make out that he was some kind of "wild child", bent on self-destruction, with their stories of drug taking, etc.

Then they blamed his death on the sabs who had been with him at the hunt. To back up this disgusting idea the papers supplemented their wild fantasies with comments from Tom's stricken family – "Saboteurs killed my boy" was the headline in the *Sun*. I know my family support my actions as a sab, but I also know that if anything as tragic as this happened to me it might well be my mother's first reaction to say, "If only he hadn't got mixed up with those sabs". This was Tom's first sab. It has taken my family a long time to get used to me attending hunts. Tom Worby's family never had a chance to do this.

We must remember and make sure that everyone knows that the guilty party on that day was the Cambridgeshire FH, not hunt saboteurs.

Coincidently, in *Howl 51* Amanda Stone argued that the press are no friends of the animal rights movement. After this latest incident, can this be in any doubt?

If anyone still believes in the integrity of the press they should think again. The media clearly showed that when it comes to the crunch they will side with the establishment – if the richer sections of society decide to kill someone then obviously the blame lies with the poor for bothering them in the first place.

My sympathies go out to the family of Tom Worby, and I only hope he is the last person to die protesting against bloodsports.

Another aspect of the media backlash surrounding the death of Tom Worby concerned Margaret Flynn and her alleged connections with the far Right. It is here that sabs must take responsibility for their own actions or inaction. I do not seek to justify or excuse the *Today* newspaper for what was a nasty and irrelevant article.

But it must be said that the HSA distanced itself from Mrs Flynn because she married her Nazi husband when she was in her 30s (not an impressionable 16). When her connection with the Right was exposed she was never prevented from sabbing with her local group. She didn't go away for a while and then come back a reformed character, and people were happy to go out sabbing with her.

Presumably, the logic behind this is that her Nazi connections didn't matter because she was a "good sab".

This spineless, single-issue fixation can only succeed in damaging everything we stand for. It is well known that the far Right would like to infiltrate animal rights groups, and I have seen articles on animal rights in *Final Conflict* (the 'zine reproduced in the *Daily Telegraph*) and in another Nazi publication, *The Last Chance*. Having the wife or ex-wife of the leader of a fascist outfit like November 9th in a sab group is hardly likely to discourage such infiltration.

What has to be most important of all is our own personal integrity. Nazis are the worst possible scum. As the saying goes, "the only good fascist is a dead one".

Everyone in Margaret Flynn's region who went sabbing with her, knowing who she was, must share the blame for allowing a known Nazi organiser's partner to be involved in the animal rights movement, and for the ruinous publicity this brought us.

We must realise that some things are more important than sabbing. We can't live our lives trapped inside a single-issue cocoon. The liberals who tolerated Margaret Flynn should reconsider their position. Let us make sure that no Nazi is ever allowed to come out sabbing with us or be involved with us in any way. It would seem to me to be the very least we can do.

OB, Nottinghamshire

CLASS-BASED HUNT DISSENT

I'm almost at a loss for words at the arrogance of Mark Freeman's pet theory on the relationship between class and hunting (*Howl 51*, page 2). Worded in such an authoritative manner, his letter would be comic if it wasn't so tragic.

The bulk of the working class who are aware of hunting oppose it not because of reason 'X' or reason 'Y', but for a multitude of reasons, and whether Mssrs Freeman, Bow or Davies like it or not, class struggle is a major contributor to this dissent.

I agree with Paul Davies' sentiment (*Howl 51*, page 3) that politics and class should play no part in the field – there is a job to be done and it's clearly a case of us and them. However, an understanding of why the police force exists and its attitude to class is essential before penning liberal reaction. Failing to encompass class consciousness with sabbing can, and does, confine activists to the cul-de-sac of right-onners, students and politicos. Sabbing *should* be class-based; this way it can expand beyond the mass of sympathetic signatures. "Class-based" does *not* exempt members of differing classes.

By claiming that there is no room in the hunt sab movement for Mr Freeman's idea of "undesirables", he can only be advocating the vetting of new members and the weeding-out of the class conscious. True, we don't need members of political parties using the HSA as a means of recruitment, but because the general consensus is a non-political approach, that does not mean it can't be class conscious. A donation of £1000 means nothing compared to ten new working class activists.

Unlike Freeman, Bow and Davis, I'm not saying I know the right policy for the movement. Regardless, the opinions of the hunt sab movement carry little weight when it comes to the un-publicised policy of moderation in order to continue receiving donations.

As for pseudonyms, there's certainly *something* that some people are hiding behind.

Richard, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

THE REAL DEPRESSING CONCERN

Depressing concerns (*Howl 51*, page 10) made valid and worthwhile points on the use of cameras and the press. It was a shame, however that the author, whilst making these points, chose to undermine several members of the HSA Committee. In particular there were several allegations made against me which I felt were unfair and uninformed.

Throughout my time as a sab and a committee member, my commitment to preventing the persecution of animals and, when the situation arises, to protecting my fellow saboteurs, has never faltered.

I therefore resent the implication that I showed "a blatant disregard for the safety of friends". This is wholly untrue, as were several other remarks made in the article. Perhaps the author should have spoken to me directly, rather than listening to second, third and fourth hand accounts.

I do admit I made a mistake in my treatment of the press, but that does not mean I am "incompetent", "naive" or "dangerous", or that I am failing in my role as a Committee member. It simply means that I am human.

From the *Forum* article it is clear that some people are unhappy with some members of the present committee. All I can say is stand for committee. Don't just sit back and criticise those with the enthusiasm and dedication to get up and do something – do something yourselves.

Many of you will know about the smear campaign against us since Tom Worby's death. We have also come through one of the most difficult and violent seasons ever. In the face of this I find the depressing concern is not that some members of the HSA committee are not infallible, but that whilst some people are out there putting a lot of time and energy into helping the fight for animal liberation, then there will always be those who will sit at home and attack them. Well intentioned criticism is welcome – differences of opinion are inevitable – but personal attacks we can do without.

Helen Pearson, HSA Group Liaison Officer

RESULTS OF THE HSA MARKET RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Many of you will remember the questionnaires that were sent out with *Howl* in 1992. Thanks to everyone who returned them. This is the HSA's first membership survey – the first time we have taken a close look at our membership. The results will help us in our future marketing, and they make interesting reading...

Membership

Of this sample, the biggest group were those who had been in the HSA for five years or more – very encouraging! And the smallest group were those who had been members for a year or less.

Only a quarter of the respondents said they were active members. Of the others, many mentioned the reasons – such as looking after children – which prevented them from being more active. In other cases, members wanted to be active but didn't know of a local group. (If there's no group in your area, why not start one yourself? Contact Eric Staples, our New Groups Officer, at the address on page 2).

In a couple of cases, people had tried to contact their local group, but had not received a reply (tut tut!) The responsibility has to be on local groups to follow up enquiries – please do it.

Of the active members, the vast majority (over 50%) said they went out once or more a week, which is excellent news!

Demographic Trends

These results were a real eye-opener – age trends showed that the biggest single membership group were the 25 – 34-year-olds (29%). In addition, 8% were over 65, another 8% were between 55 and 64, 10% were between 45 and 54 and 12% were between 35 and 44. I didn't expect the HSA to attract so many older members but I'm very pleased that it does. We have young members as well, of course – in second place came the 19 – 24-year- olds (25%) and the under 19s made up 8%. What I would call a healthy cross section!

The HSA has slightly more female members (55%) than male ones (45%).

In the employment stakes, 51% of respondents are in full-time work, though the hunting fraternity would like to believe that the majority of us are unemployed. In fact, only 15% of the sample were unemployed, which reflects the national average.

A very brainy 12% are studying at college or university, 11% are retired, 1% are at school and 9% put "other" – eg, "housewife".

As regards politics, there are supporters of all parties within the HSA, with Labour and the Green Party coming pretty high. Surprisingly there *were* Conservative voters, along with supporters of the Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Party. Many other people, however, chose to leave this question blank.

On hearing about the HSA

29% of respondents – the biggest group – heard about the HSA by word-of-mouth. 28% learned of the HSA's existence from leaflets, followed by 20% who found out about us from the media. Others heard about the HSA from adverts (only 12%, but then we don't do much advertising) and posters (only 3%) – incidentally the HSA has just reprinted its set of posters (hint, hint!)

Other channels were exhibitions and stalls (3%) and universities and colleges (4%).

Media survey

It was difficult to analyse such a wide range of publications – almost everything from *Cosmopolitan* to *Golfers Weekly*, and even *Horse & Hound* scored a mighty 4%!

Of the national newspapers, the *Guardian* came top with 25% of the sample saying they read it.

Among the most popular magazines were animal welfare ones, with the *Vegetarian* coming first. Political papers such as *Private Eye* and *New Statesman* appeared frequently in the results, as did *NME* and *Melody Maker*. *Ethical Consumer* also rated highly.

Conclusion

The survey was very worthwhile and the results have given us lots of new ideas for marketing and advertising.

Once again, a big thank you to all who took part!

Helen Carter,
HSA Marketing Officer

HUNT THUG GUILTY OF WOUNDING

38-year-old Kenneth Mansbridge, a supporter of the Hursley Hambledon Foxhunt, was convicted earlier this year of unlawfully wounding Green Party researcher Jason Fazackarley.

Mr Fazackarley needed hospital treatment for serious head wounds after being kicked and beaten by a group of hunt followers in March 1991. In court Mansbridge, of Battery Hill, Winchester, admitted that he had kicked Mr Fazackarley in the groin and punched him to the ground. He was sentenced to 140 hours community service and ordered to pay costs of £150.

Of seven other hunt supporters who were facing related charges, six were released on the first day of the trial by direction of the judge. The remaining one, Kevin Coker, was released a day later after the judge questioned the validity of identification evidence.

POLICE WRITER ADMITS BIAS AGAINST HUNT PROTESTERS

A police law expert recently described how he witnessed police favouritism at a hunt meet.

Writing in an April 1993 edition of the force journal *Police Review*, legal editor Ken Sloan confirmed what sabs have known for years: that police attention is often focussed on the lawful actions of saboteurs whilst hunt members' infringements of the Road Traffic Acts and other laws are frequently overlooked.

In response to a query from an officer about policing hunts, Mr Sloan wrote:

"My views are coloured by an incident that happened a few months ago when my progress was obstructed by a hunt. The road was entirely blocked for about half an hour by the huntsmen's Land Rovers, horse boxes and men and women riding up and down as if they owned the road. The police officers present ignored this obstruction completely and concentrated on keeping other persons back (presumably anti-hunt observers or perhaps merely spectators). I can only say that I was disgusted by the partiality displayed to the huntsmen by the police and got the impression that persons wearing hunting pink can do no wrong."



No Comment: A law-abiding saboteur is questioned by the police

NO RETHINK DESPITE £16,000 PAYOUT

Sussex police have confirmed that they will not be rethinking their policy on policing hunts despite an out-of-court settlement in which they paid out £16,200 to 28 sabs who were claiming damages for unlawful arrest following incidents at a series of meets involving the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH.

Chief Superintendent Frank Hooper said the large pay out would not lead to a specific policy review.

Officers insisted that they had not accepted liability or admitted the allegations.

A saboteur said: "Whatever they might say, the police *have* changed their policy – they are now being much more cautious about arresting saboteurs at hunt meets."

Any Questions?

Any queries about the legal aspects of hunt sabotage 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.

McKenzie Friends & O'Toole's Advocates

The HSA's Legal Officer would like to know whether any saboteurs have used either of the above organisations for representation in court, either successfully or otherwise. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please write with details to the above address.

NEW HUNT CLUB BOSS ON ABH CHARGE

At a recent meeting in Corbridge, Tyneside, the National Hunting Club officially announced the appointment of Captain Brian Fanshawe as their new director.

The NHC pointed out that the Captain "has gained fame in the hunting world with a career spanning over 26 years as a Master and Huntsman, lately with the Cottesmore Hunt in Leicestershire."

The NHC *didn't* mention that over the years Fanshawe has also earned quite a reputation with saboteurs. Just recently the Captain has been quietly dealing with some unfinished business in Leicestershire, where he is being prosecuted by the CPS on an Assault charge. Other related cases are also in the pipeline, including one in which a female sab will allege that in December 1991 she was punched in the face.

HUNT RIDER GUILTY OF DRINK DRIVE OFFENCE

In February hunt supporter Lord Aspley was found guilty of a drink-driving offence and narrowly escaped a jail sentence.

Magistrates at Cirencester heard that whilst out foxhunting Aspley had drunk throughout the day "to keep warm". Afterwards he was caught driving nearly four times above the legal alcohol limit.

At a previous hearing Aspley had been warned that he could go to jail, but in the end he was given just 18 months' probation and ordered to pay £30 costs. He was also banned from driving for three years.

POLITICIAN SAYS SORRY

An out-of-court settlement saved the skin of a leading Tory politician who had allegedly slandered a well-known anti-bloodsports campaigner. Councillor John Daniel, leader of Cornwall County Council, sent a written apology and a cheque for £2000 to LACS member Kevin Saunders after Mr Saunders had lodged a writ for slander with the High court. During a hunting debate in 1991, Daniel had referred to a communist called Saunders who had made remarks in a newspaper article about what he would like to see happen to the ruling class.

It was later revealed that the Kevin Saunders present at the debate was not related to the man featured in the article.

The Threatened Badger

Although badger baiting was made illegal 160 years ago, the badger is still persecuted. The Government's TB policy kills 800 badgers a year, thousands more are baited and tortured, and terrier groups continue to press for the badger to be reinstated as legal quarry...



Badger Facts

The Badger has been resident in the British Isles for many thousands of years. Archaeological finds date it back to the Neolithic period.

Generally nocturnal, the badger emerges from its sett about half an hour after sunset, although warm summer evenings will bring it out in good light. It does not hibernate, so is afoot throughout the winter except in the harshest of conditions.

The badger prefers to make its sett – a labyrinth of holes, tunnels and chambers – in woodland on a hillside or bank where it can burrow easily, discarding vast amounts of soil. Old quarries, sandpits and other banked structures, such as canal and railway banks, are often used.

There are usually elder and hawthorn bushes on the sett with ground cover of nettle, bracken, rosebay and dogs mercury. In areas where the more favoured habitat is not available, setts may be found in open treeless localities, under buildings and in culverts. Urban badgers are quite common.

The badger weighs an average of 25 lbs and measures about three feet in length including a five to six inch tail. It stands ten or eleven inches at the shoulder. Brock (one of many nick-names) is a chunky wedge-shaped animal with powerful legs and bite. A shy, secretive creature, it is well camouflaged with its striped head, greyish fur and black underparts and legs.

The badger's preferred diet is earthworms, along with insects, grubs, slugs and snails. Young rodents and rabbits are dug from the nest and eaten. Blackberries, bulbs, roots and, occasionally, grass are also eaten.

The badger finds its food by foraging. It does not chase, hunt or stalk prey. Food is eaten where it is found and is not taken back to the sett.

Badgers are occasionally accused of lamb killing but there is no firm evidence of this. Dung analysis and stomach content analysis at post mortem has shown no sign of lamb remains, even in areas where these incidents are alleged to have taken place.

Badgers live within a tight social group structure. The size of a group's territory depends on food availability, but will usually contain five or six setts varying in size from one or two holes to as many as 30 or more. The setts may be up to a quarter of a mile apart and will be in permanent or periodic use for many years. There are many records of setts, still in use, well over 100 years old.

Badgers mate any time between February and September. Due to delayed implantation the cubs are all born at the same time between late January and early March.

Cubs are about five inches long at birth with short silvery fur. The facial markings are not very apparent. The cubs develop quickly and first come above ground at the age of seven to eight weeks. Badgers live up to twelve years in the wild.

The Government's TB myths

In 1971 badgers in Gloucestershire were discovered to be carrying Bovine Tuberculosis. The Ministry of Agriculture, in an effort to eradicate the disease, gassed many thousands of badgers in that part of the country. In recent years badgers have been trapped and shot in the name of research. Around 800 badgers a year are currently being killed, a high percentage of which are free of any TB infection. There is grave doubt as to whether the badger is responsible for the spread of TB.

It is believed that over 40,000 badgers are killed annually in road traffic accidents. The Ministry of Agriculture used to collect a wide spread selection of these badgers for post mortem in connection with the TB problem. This was discontinued in 1989. The MAFF Bovine/Badger TB policy is being vigorously contested by conservationists. The problem is confined, with a very few exceptions, to the South West counties.

Symbol of the British countryside, the badger is one of our most loved and most studied animals. Unfortunately, along with the fox, it is also one of the most persecuted.

Badger baiting

Due to its tenacity of spirit the badger has always made a worthwhile foe for those who wish to torment it. References to badger baiting go back to the 13th century. The term "to badger", meaning to tease, cajole or persecute, derived from badger baiting.

The animal was captured and taken to some

Continued on page 14

place where it was tethered in a pit or barrel whereupon dogs were enticed to drag the badger from its refuge. Money was wagered, dogs were mauled and killed, but the badger was kept for another day, and another ... until finally, after it became too wretched, exhausted and injured to offer resistance, it was killed.

Badger baiting was made illegal in 1835 and few cases come before the courts nowadays. However, badger digging still goes on all over the British Isles.

Badgers and the law

The badger was made a protected animal in 1973 and the Badger Act 1992 consolidates all the 'bits and pieces' of legislation passed since the 1973 Act.

In brief, it is unlawful to kill, injure or take a badger, or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger. This part of the act is quite unique as the onus is placed on the accused. If there is evidence to show that at the time the accused was attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, he or she shall be presumed to have been attempting to do so unless the contrary is shown.

Legislation passed in 1991 and contained in the 1992 Act makes it an offence to:

- damage a badger sett or any part of it;
- destroy a badger sett;
- obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a sett;
- cause a dog to enter a badger sett;
- disturb a badger when it is occupying a badger sett.

There are exceptions: hunts are permitted under the Act to obstruct sett entrances, providing that the person doing this is acting on the authority of the owner of the land, is working for a recognised hunt, and takes no action other than obstructing such entrances. This person must not dig into the tops or sides of the entrances and only materials specified in the Act can be used.

Sett entrances can be obstructed with untainted straw or hay, leaf litter, bracken or loose soil. These materials must not be packed hard into the entrances and can only be placed in the entrances on the day of hunting or after midday on the preceding day. These materials do not have to be removed afterwards.

Setts may also be obstructed with heavier materials, such as bundles of sticks, which must be removed on the same day.

Additionally, each recognised hunt must keep a register of people authorised to obstruct the entrances.

The Badger Act 1992 is clear and precise, and anyone with a basic knowledge of the countryside should have no difficulty in recognising a badger sett. There are many indicators: shape and size of holes, soil heaps (often with discarded bedding material), small scrapes containing dung, defined pathways, scratching trees, pad marks, badger hair, and so on. Some, if not all, of these features will be present.

The presence of fox faeces on a badger sett does not indicate that it is not a badger sett or



that it is not in use by badgers. Foxes will use parts of a badger sett – such as perimeter holes – to lie up or to nurse cubs.

Badger digging

The practice of badger digging usually consists of two or more men with a number of small terrier-type dogs. Borders, Patterdales, Lakelands and Jack Russells are favoured but crosses are widely used. A lurcher is often in attendance. Long narrow spades are used and nets are often placed across holes, partly to catch or delay a bolting badger (which it seldom does), and as a defence if the men are caught – they will claiming that they were foxing.

Electronic locators are often used. A transmitter is attached to the dog's collar and the dog is sent to ground to find a badger and attract its attention. Barking and challenging will prevent the badger from digging in. An experienced dog does not get into physical contact with the badger at this stage. The dogs position is located from above, by the electronic receiver, and a hole is dug down to the dog and badger. Holes up to eight feet deep are not unusual.

The badger is then set upon by several dogs to fight for its life. It may be 'tailed' from the hole to fight on the surface. The badger is worried by one or more dogs from the moment the first dog is entered into the sett. The nearer the diggers get to the badger, the more excited the dog becomes and the more distressed the badger becomes. When the diggers break through to the badger the dogs attack the badger. Thus 'badger digging' is simply baiting under another name, the only difference being that the badger is not carried away to be persecuted – it is done on the spot.

There are 20 to 30 successful badger-related prosecutions each year. Almost without exception a plea of foxing is made.

In very many cases those accused of badger crimes claim to belong to recognised terrier clubs. The terrier clubs have close connections with the BFSS who appear to make no effort to disassociate themselves from the clubs or their members. The terrier fraternity and the terrier press strongly opposed the Badger Act and have equally strongly emphasised their desire to have the badger reinstated as legal quarry.

Badgers are not the only victims of badger crimes. Dreadful injuries are sustained by the dogs forced into conflict with badgers. Each year hundreds of terriers are lost or killed below ground in badger setts and fox earths.

Year after year reports appear in the terrier press of vain attempts to rescue trapped and injured dogs from holes and caves. Doting canine lovers would be appalled to read these sickening articles.

Hunts claim that they and badgers have lived harmoniously side by side for generations, but this is not the case. Fox hunting history is littered with badger persecution, from earliest times until the introduction of the 1973 Badger Act. More recently hunt personnel have been convicted of badger-related crimes.

Snaring

Snaring is common. The free running snare is legal but just as lethal as the self-locking type. The badger is almost always caught round the waist, which cuts into the flesh causing intolerable suffering and a slow death. Those caught around the neck and limbs fare no better. Again, foxing is the excuse.

Snares should, by law, be inspected regularly, but it is not unusual to find a long since dead and decomposing snared animal.

Badgers under threat

Badgers are not on the verge of extinction, being present in every area of the British Isles. However, they are nevertheless under considerable pressure. Hundreds of setts are being lost to road development and increased traffic accounts for thousands of additional badger deaths. Housing and industrial development is responsible for the loss of many badger territories, causing the animals to be squeezed into smaller and smaller parcels of land where they often become the subject of complaint from residents and landowners.

As more and more people become aware of the badger's presence the chances of persecution increase. The future of the badger, along with that of most of our wildlife, is under threat.



ANTI-ANGLING ADVICE

LATEST TACTICS ON SABOTAGING FISHING FROM THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF ANGLING

- ***These tactics are primarily designed for coarse fishing, though many of them would work equally well for sea or game fishing.***

- ***The CAA would like to hear about any other ideas you have on sabbing coarse, game or sea fishing. If you can help, or if you want more information on angling, write to CAA, PO Box 130, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NR.***

Match angling

To find out about matches, read the angling press, especially the *Angler's Mail* and *Angling Times*. Also, visit fishing tackle shops – they may have posters/noticeboards and lists of local club fixtures, usually given out on request. Some local newspapers and radio stations have features on angling.

What happens at a match

The section of bankside to be fished is divided into 'pegs', at least 15 yards apart. Some waters have permanent pegs, others are marked out and numbered the night before or the morning of the match.

The anglers arrive 1-2 hours before the match to draw for peg numbers. They then go to their allocated peg to set up.

The match is started and ended by a signal, usually a whistle. The anglers fish for 3-5 hours to catch the highest weight of fish which are retained in a keepnet. At the end of the match the fish are weighed then released. The winner receives a prize – money and possibly a trophy.

Sabotage - before the match

- Ring up the organiser (see above for how to get the phone number) and book a peg. You could ask for directions to the venue or, to sound more convincing, ask about bait bans (eg, bloodworm, joker, wasp grub).
- Removing or changing around the peg numbers on the morning or the night before the match will cause confusion and maybe confrontation amongst the anglers.
- Wire up access gates to the water.
- Talk to local anglers on the same water or in tackle shops to find out the best day, weather conditions and stretch of water to fish from so you will know when and where to concentrate your sabbing.

Sabbing - during the match

- Blow the whistle 10-15 minutes before the start of the match is due to begin. Some anglers may start fishing and be disqualified. Blow a whistle again near the end of the match. Some anglers may pack up early.
- Row up and down the river in a canoe or boat to prevent the anglers from casting or make them reel in. Go near to the line/float and disturb the surface of the water with the paddle to scare fish away.
- Swim, wade or splash your feet in the water (wetsuits, waders and wellies are advisable, depending on weather conditions!) to stop anglers casting and to scare away the fish. If you can, remove line from water, but be very careful not to break it or damage any other tackle.
- Make noise in the water by submerging metal objects (eg dustbin lid and spanner) and banging them together to scare away fish. Make noise above the water with whistles, shouting, airhorns, hunting horns, etc. This has the added bonus of annoying the angler and detracting from the enjoyment of the "sport".
- Talking to anglers may disturb their concentration. Get factsheets from CAA to be able to argue against them. (Not difficult!)
- Standing behind anglers may make casting more difficult and your shadow on the water will scare away the fish, especially when the water is clear and still.
- Use poles (eg, long bamboo canes) to disturb the float and/or line. Try to lift the float and/or line out of the water but again be careful not to break the line or damage the float.
- Throw twigs at the float or line so that the angler does not know when to 'strike' (ie, pull back in the rod) and the fish may take the bait but not be caught on the hook. Avoid throwing large objects as these could damage the fish. Avoid throwing small heavy objects (eg, gravel) as the fish may confuse this for food and be attracted to the area.
- Empty keepnets, ideally with two people in the water. Some keepnets have removable bottoms held on with clips. Others have only one way in or out – at the top. Ensure that the fish will exit the net downstream. Keep the net submerged at all times and do not touch the fish. Move the keepnet in such a way as to encourage the fish to swim out without touching the mesh. If in doubt, do not attempt it, as keepnets can do a great deal of damage to fish.

- *Also:* Clean up any litter and discarded fishing tackle. If left, this could injure or kill fish, birds and animals. We are the conservationists not the anglers who leave all this mess behind them.

- *Also:* Take a camera with you to get pictures of dead fish, poor handling of fish, tackle victims, discarded tackle in the river, poor emptying of keepnets, and so on. Send any photos to CAA at the above address. They could be good evidence to be used in a campaign to get a local ban or restriction.

Pleasure Angling

Pleasure anglers are easier to sab. They are more likely to pack up, as they are out for relaxation, peace and quiet. Use the tactics outlined above, plus:

- Erect "No Fishing – Contaminated Water" signs or similar. Make them look as professional as possible.

Other possible tactics

These tactics have not been used as much as those above and are therefore in the trial stage. We would appreciate comments on their effectiveness – write to the above address.

- Stretch a rope over the river, then, with a person on either bank, move it along the surface to create a wake, so disturbing the float/line. Move the rope up and down to hit the water and scare away the fish.

- Put a groundsheet (or waterproof sheet) with a string or rope on each corner onto the water surface with a person on either bank holding the ropes. The groundsheet is moved about to prevent the anglers casting where they want. The sight of the sheet above them scares the fish away.

- Water can be scooped up in a bucket and thrown at the float or line to disturb the water and scare away the fish.

WARNING! Some important points to remember:

DO NOT take dogs/pets to the bankside – they are in danger from hooks, line and discarded tackle.

DO NOT pre-feed. Putting food in the water attracts fish, and any food not eaten would rot and pollute the water.

DO NOT throw tackle in the water. It is a danger to fish, birds and animals. Maggots will drown in the water.

DO NOT break fishing line for the same reasons.

UNDERCOVER SABOTAGE

The HSA's practical guide to infiltrating bloodsports

This article is designed to give saboteurs some ideas on infiltrating hunts, as it is the best way of collecting information for sabotage purposes.

It must be stressed that there is no 'one way' of going about infiltration, as people find their own methods, but there are some basic ideas which can be used by both experienced and beginner 'infiltrators'.

Before going undercover to a hunt or shoot, there are several points the infiltrator must consider...

• What's your name?
Have you got your 'background' sorted out? You must learn your new identity – eg; name, work status, safe address and phone number.

This is crucial: most people involved in bloodsports are very suspicious of new people, and if you are a bit cagey about your name or address they will immediately cast doubts on your credibility.

• What will you eat?
This may sound a little silly, but if you decide to fraternise with these people, the time will come when meat food products are going to be offered to you – you can't say that you're not hungry all the time!

• Will you join in?
The only real way to become a 'trusted' member of a hunt or shoot is to participate.

Once your face becomes familiar you may be asked to give the terriermen a hand to dig out (normally males) or if you are 'picking up' on a shoot an injured bird will have to have its neck broken to put it out of its misery.

Could you do this without showing signs of disgust and repulsion when blood and feathers are sticking to your hands?

You may be asking yourself "how can a saboteur do these things?" The answer is simple: ***the information which undercover sabs obtain is extremely valuable, and can literally destroy a hunt or a shoot.***

Mike Huskisson's work in the mid-1980s, and more recently with the Quorn Foxhounds, illustrates this point. Mike's book *Outfoxed* caused an outcry in the hunting world, while his Quorn video blew apart the reputation of a prestigious hunt and reopened the foxhunting debate in the national media.

The Quorn video also drove some hunts more underground than ever, which means that in some areas the only way to find out what is going on with a hunt is for undercover work to be carried out (that is, if the usual methods of ringing kennels and road-watching are unsuccessful).

When working undercover some people like to go alone, while others go out as 'married couples', etc. Whatever you do, always dress appropriately: good jacket, flat cap, boots or wellies. Be wary of wearing lots of hunt supporters' club badges from different areas – genuine supporters from other areas may spot a badge from their hunt and ask you awkward questions. If you know about their hunt, great – but if not you're in serious trouble!

It's a good idea to contact the Hunt's supporters club secretary to arrange to go to the meet. When you arrive, ask for the Hunt Supporters Secretary. It's also usually a good idea to start chatting to older hunt members as they think they know everything about the hunt (they sometimes do). They will introduce you to other hunt members, and after the meet it's good form to buy them a drink in the pub.

Once you've become friendly with some of the hunt, make sure they know your name, because when you join the supporters club the Hunt Secretary may ask other members if they know of you. If people only remember your first name or surname suspicion about you will almost certainly be reduced. To further reduce suspicion, try to remember *their* names, so you can do a little name-dropping when talking to the Secretary.

Other points to remember:

• If you are a well known sab, don't infiltrate in your local area, as many hunt members will have a day out with neighbouring hunts – you may be spotted.

• Always play down your knowledge of hunting. Pretend that you are naive and uneducated about fieldsports, so that everyone will try teaching you what they know. It's good fun watching hunt supporters arguing with each other about 'scent and hounds' and other subjects when you ask 'innocent' questions.

• If you are asked why you've decided to watch hounds, say that you used to participate in other sports (eg, fishing and shooting), that you wanted to support fieldsports such as hunting, and that you thought it would be good to come along and show solidarity – or words to that effect!

The above should give you some ideas on undercover work. Obviously there is more that can be said, but it would be unwise to publish everything for our opponents to read. Comments and ideas would be appreciated, and should be sent to the address on page 2.

SABBING REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

• If your group or region isn't mentioned here, blame your HSA Group Contact for failing to send in hit reports, summaries, photos, newsletters, etc. Don't go unmentioned next time — write now!

Wales

In West Wales Lampeter HSA and Harverfordwest WAPS are hard pressed in a region where every hunt is potentially violent and can quickly call extra support if sabs appear.

At the Tivyside Foxhounds in January, nine sabs called over the hounds early in the hunt. Although only 18 supporters had been at the meet shortly before, this number doubled in minutes – these men armed with sticks.

The sab van was blocked in and all the sabs were beaten. A thug prevented someone phoning for help, and film of the attack was destroyed.

This is a standard reaction rather than an exception.

In spite of this the groups have kept going out and have also visited the Vale of Clettwr, Golden Valley and North Ledbury Foxhounds.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland HSA regularly sabbed the Iveagh Harriers until February. Unfortunately, the hound van and buildings surrounding the hunt kennels of were burned down at the end of January – the group decided against further visits.

A change to the Mid-Antrim Harriers saw confrontation with support who chased sabs off repeatedly – only to meet up with them at the next draw. Hounds were taken at each covert as, unlike some Irish packs, these hounds are used to horn calls and the hunt was taken apart.

Four sabs encountered the County Down Staghounds while searching for a harrier pack. This is the only pack still advertising in Northern Ireland – thanks to the actions of local sabs. It hunts carted, pre-caught stags. The stag gives a strong scent from the outset and hounds can stay hard on the drag. Low numbers of sabs were up against around 130 supporters, so calling of the hounds was almost impossible. Dodging a car load of youths they had to leave the field.

North West

Sabs from Workington, Carlisle, Lancaster and Ulverston have sabbed the Cumberland Foxhounds, the Blencathra, Ullswater and the Vale of Lune Harriers, as well as supporting groups in surrounding regions and organising Fell Week.

In January seven sabs found the Ullswater Foxhounds on Place Fell above Ullswater Lake. Sabs pulled hounds off a fox and took the whole pack towards the next valley – unfortunately support gathered and they were forced to leave.

February saw hits against the Vale of Lune Harriers. At one meet there was a threatened shooting and at another a sab was arrested for being assaulted by a police officer.

Cheshire HSA has been successfully fund-raising and attracting new members to see through the season.

Cheshire police maintain their reputation. On Boxing Day sabs who had been assaulted went to Crewe police station to make statements, only to be arrested for violent disorder and held for four hours. Merry Christmas.

On another day a sab walking along a road empty of any supporters was arrested without prior warning under Section 5 of the Public Order Act. Needless to say, on previous occasions this police force has overlooked the violence inflicted by hunt security and their habit of closing public rights of way.

Sabs from Liverpool and Manchester have been out in Cheshire most of the season. On Boxing Day the Cheshire Beagles were sabbed – provoking a very violent reaction, One sab was airlifted to hospital. Sabs returned again on New Years' Day and faced more hunt violence and this set the mood for the rest of the season.

At the Cheshire Foxhounds on 30 January a sab got a fractured jaw, and police refused to arrest the positively identified offender. A sab van was also bricked at the closing meet of the hunt.

The region staged a week of action on the anniversary of Mike Hill's death which was attended by 200 sabs. The Cheshire Beagles and the Royal Rock Beagles did not venture out of the kennels all that week. Hunts sabbed included the Cheshire Foxhounds, Cheshire Forest, North Shropshire, South Shropshire and Sir William Wynn's.

Hunt heavies appeared in November and sabs got some favourable press and radio cover. Later, Manchester sabs had the dubious privilege of being joined by an undercover *Disguises* reporter from Granada TV. One valid point made by the programme was that sabs are definitely not paid, despite hunt supporters' insistence that we are. This enlightenment was obviously lost on Cheshire Police who published a report to their police committee saying saboteurs are paid. They then had to withdraw the allegation.

Merseyside HSA have regularly sabbed the Royal Rock Beagles this season. Wigan and Bolton sabs have continued hits on the Holcombe Harriers and have joined with sabs from Preston and Lancaster at the Vale of Lune Harriers. The region also supported Fell Week and other national hits.

There were two notable days. One was a hit on the Pennine Foxhunt at Rivington Pike, when 50 sabs managed some sabbing before they were met with a hail of bricks, block-ins and the police – a somewhat predictable outcome. The other was at the Holcombe when the hound van was unable to move due to it being padlocked to a tub of concrete and the hunt was delayed for nearly two hours.

Sabs in the region are now concentrating on disrupting angling.

Fell Week 1993: Success for saboteurs as hunts are delayed and cancelled, and only one kill is made

Cumbrian hunts received a shock during the last week of March when saboteurs from the length and breadth of the UK visited the Lake District to take part in what is known as Fell Week.

The arrival of saboteurs in the picturesque village of Patterdale on Monday 22 March signified the start of the week.

We split into different groups, each covering a part of the fells where the hunt were expected to be that day. Our presence meant the Ullswater did not hunt that day, preferring to stay in kennels.

Tuesday saw the Melbreak Foxhounds repeating last year's trick of giving sabs the slip by moving off early.

Unfortunately for the huntsman this cunning plan failed to work, with sabs finding the pack hunting a large conifer plantation. A combination of voice and horn calls resulted in the loss of most of his hounds. The obviously unhappy huntsman then vanished and wasn't found again that day.

We then moved off to the Blencathra Foxhounds meet in the Newlands valley. The Huntsman Barry Todhunter gave us a welcoming smile – which soon disappeared as we spilt his pack far and wide, leaving him little option but to gather his hounds and head for home.

Wednesday was the low point of the week. Despite the efforts of a determined group of sabs the Blencathra managed to kill the only fox of the week.

Police and supporters then held us up, allowing them to begin hunting another valley. We eventually caught up, and had the pleasure of watching them pack up.

Thursday saw the Melbreak Foxhounds staying in their kennels, allowing sabs to relax and enjoy themselves.

On Friday sabs were once again at a meet of the Blencathra. Supporters and local farmers tried to block in our vehicles with tractors, in order to let the hound van escape.

Sabs, however, had different ideas, and using a transit van and bodies blockaded the entrance from the pub, delaying the start considerably.

Unfortunately the road had to be cleared to allow police through to investigate an armed robbery in nearby Keswick.

Saturday 27 March saw us move out of Cumbria. The hunt we had intended to sab had cancelled, so we headed back to try and locate the Melbreak, who were not at their scheduled meet. A move was then made to the Newlands valley for the Blencathra meet.

Although we found the large convoy of hunt supporters, the pack was not seen to the end of the day.

Later that night sources confirmed that the Coniston Foxhounds and the Melbreak had cancelled, and the Ullswater had gone out at 6 am to avoid being sabbed.

The final day of Fell Week saw us at the Wensleydale Foxhounds, who wisely chose to stay at home.

Considering the treacherous terrain and the violent reputation of some of the fell packs, it is a great pleasure to know that during the whole week only one pack succeeded in murdering a wild animal.

• ***Thanks to sabs from Bolton, Carlisle, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, New Forest, Nottingham, Peterborough, the West Midlands and elsewhere who attended and who helped to make the week a success.***

Yorkshire & Humberside

Sheffield HSA have attended regional and national hits in the later part of the season. The bulk of their efforts have been directed at the Grove and Rufford Foxhunt in north Nottinghamshire. Some regional hits were called here due to escalating hunt violence and over-zealous policing – one sab was arrested for criminal damage to a grass verge and hedgerow. The week after sabs from Sheffield HSA were beaten up – two needing hospital treatment.

On a regional hit following this EMS security were present, at the request of the hunt, to monitor "prominent" sabs.

Hull sabs have concentrated on the Holderness Foxhunt for most of the season and have seen no kills after cubbing (and only one on cubbing hits).

One of the best days came at Beswick when sabs had the pack split for half the day, the hounds rioting repeatedly. Sabs also managed to hit a shoot, and another good day was had in the same area when sabs managed to pull hounds off six different foxes.

They have been joined by sabs from Beverley, Bridlington and other parts of the region. Together they have also hit the York & Ainsty South, Sinnington, Bramham Moor, Derwent and Brocklesby foxhunts and some shoots.

West Yorkshire sabs ended the season at the York & Ainsty North and Holderness foxhunts, visiting all the final meets. The Middleton FH's last meet proved to be an interesting day - see North east news on page 19

Leeds and Bradford sabs also had a couple of successful days with the Ampleforth College Beagles, a boys' public school hunt who hadn't been sabbed before and were extremely upset. They packed up straight away.

These groups also found the Bilsdale FH in North Yorkshire who hadn't seen saboteurs for five years. Excellent sabbing meant no kills were made. Yorks sabs also travelled south and helped save wildlife from the hands of the Grove & Rufford and Blankney foxhunts.

South & South West

Bristol and Bath sabs have felt the widely-reported increase in hunt violence in recent months. This culminated in the ambush of the Bath van at the final Hursley Hambledon meet, a joint hit with various SABS area (and other) groups.

Incidents started long before that. On 30 January, sabs returning to a delayed Mendip Farmers FH meet found a fox held up by support on all sides and torn up without a chance. Sabs replied by calling hounds away, and were soon whipped by riders. The Bath group's van was rammed. A visit to the Vale of White Horse FH saw trouble with vans being blocked in. At one point the Bristol van had to force its way out and speed off with attackers chasing.

The Duke of Beaufort's FH now have four or five vehicles to follow sabs around and intimidate them. A video recording of an attack on the Bath van resulted in no action at all from the police – this is part of a change of atmosphere this season.

The worst attack came at the Hursley meet. The Bath van was at the end of a line of sab vehicles leaving after the hunt finished early. It was cut off and attackers hurled fence posts through windows at the occupants. Other thugs broke in to assault sabs. Several sabs were injured and the van was put out of action. Sabs responded by hitting a Duke of Beaufort's meet near Bath the following week.

A week later Bristol sabs took part in the SABS region organised National Hit on the New Forest FH – some of the Bath group's attackers are said to live in that area. 300 sabs attended from the South, South East, Thames Valley and Liverpool. The hunt finished at 1.25 pm and sabs went on to stop the New Forest Beagles, Surrey Union and Wilton FH too.

Visits to the Tedworth, Vine & Craven and Mendip Farmers foxhunts, and the Royal Agricultural College Beagles, all saw the hunts running away from sabs whom called the hounds off the scent throughout the season. Bath and Bristol sabs also travelled to join South Eastern groups at the Garth & South Berks FH.

• Totnes Anti-Bloodsports has been launched as a new group and anyone who can help in any way should contact them at PO Box 76, Torquay, South Devon TQ2 7AZ. Besides active sabs they also need people to help raise funds and to campaign to ban hunting on council-owned land in the area.







Top: **Two victims of the violent attack on saboteurs at the Hursley Hambledon on 13 May.** ***Above:*** **The smashed windscreen of the Bath minibus.** ***Below:*** **Hundreds of saboteurs attended the National Hit on the New Forest Foxhounds on 20 May**







Left: A police officer smashes the window of a sab van at the Essex FH in January. *Above:* Dave Fox addresses the rally in Cambridge following the death of Tom Worby

East Anglia

Essex sabs from Colchester, Harlow, mid-Essex, Chelmsford, Halstead, Sudbury and Southend continued the struggle with the Essex FH and Essex Farmers' & Union FH – and their stewards. This reached a climax with the National Hit on 23 January.

Stewards had decided to claim the right to close public footpaths to sabs. This obviously led to confrontation, and some sabs were seriously hurt trying to defend their rights. 230 sabs from around the country attended the national hit to show their support.

After the hit police still asserted the hunt's right to close public footpaths to sabs and threatened to back this up with arrests. Stewards, however, were more restrained. By 27 March sabs were amazed to find the Essex Farmers' and Union resorting to making a run for it behind a cordon of police.

Sabs have persevered and continued attending these hunts (despite the violence) and have been rewarded by seeing no kills.

The East Essex, Essex & Suffolk, Puckeridge, Thurlow, and Suffolk foxhunts have also been visited. The Puckeridge respond well to horns and sabs also saw the terriermen off a dig-out. On another visit the hunt just ran for it while a police helicopter flew overhead and plain clothes police drove around aimlessly.

Cambridgeshire Anti-Bloodsports have concentrated on the soon-to-close Cambridgeshire Foxhounds. They visited 15 cubbing meets and sabbed them twice a week in the main season, and made a few visits to the Trinity Foot Beagles and the Oakley Foxhounds.

The Cambridgeshire Foxhounds had not been an outstandingly violent hunt, so the death of Thomas Worby in April was all the more a shock, coming on the last meet of an otherwise successful season.

In a dignified response the group organised a gathering of sabs and animal rights supporters at Parker's Piece in Cambridge. The gathering was well attended, quiet and restrained – and completely ignored by the media.

North East

New group Cleveland HSA have completed their first season's sabbing. To date they have sabbed the Tynedale, Zetland, York & Ainsty North, Middleton and Wensleydale foxhunts, and the Newcastle & District Beagles, in the company of either Yorkshire or Tyneside sabs.

They have seen a fair selection of hunts, from the Wensleydale (who wouldn't come out when faced with sabs from Fell Week) to the belligerent Middleton, where the hunt gathered three vans full of stewards and "lads" for the final meet. Forewarned sabs arrived in numbers and TV cameras were there to see stewards do an excellent PR job as they threw sabs and cameramen alike off public rights of way. Three stewards were arrested; so were two sabs, but they were released without charge. The fracas was widely screened in the North.

The Cleveland group is well-organised and produces a newsletter. They are hoping to take action against angling throughout the summer and would like to hear from new members in the area who could help out in active or supporting roles.

Tyneside and Sunderland sabs hit traditional targets the Tynedale FH and Newcastle & District Beagles on Boxing Day, taking the beagles for miles in thick mist. By New Year, with a hard frost preventing hunting, the Morpeth FH paraded in front of even numbers of demonstrators and supporters. Sabs then left for a large shoot in Tynedale.

The frost held for many days and sabs concentrated on shooting while still checking that the hill-billy packs in the area were not out on foot. They weren't, but sabs found the usually more traditional Tynedale FH out on a fox-drive, which low numbers could hold up for only a short time.

After the thaw sabs went to a wide selection of hunts; five in Northumberland, two in Yorkshire, and the Jedforest in Scotland. The region also supported Cheshire Week, Fell Week, and hits on the Middleton and Brocklesby foxhunts.

For novelty sabs hit the first recorded boar hunt since mediaeval times. An escapee from a wild-boar farming operation in County Durham was hunted by the local pheasant shoot backed up by a farmer and rifle. No wild boar was seen but sabs finished the pheasant shoot in front of a fine turn-out of national press photographers before proceeding to the Zetland Hunt with Cleveland and Cumbria sabs.

• *A bad year for people we never liked:* **Ian Weir** (ex-Newcastle & District whip) retired after twice failing in legal cases against sabs who called him a prat; **Andrew Hickman** (also ex N&D) emigrated to South Africa after a short career of media appearances as a "victim of sab violence"; **Pat Langrish** (Tynedale Huntsman) retired after spending his last few outings shouting at bungling whips from a car following a riding accident; and (finally) **Colonel L Y Gibson** (former N&D Master and founder of the Northumberland Beagling Festival) has gone to earth for good.

Ill for many years, it is rumoured that the now-deceased colonel never fully recovered from giving sabs the meet card for the first hit on the Festival in 1987, since when it has declined steadily. Whilst the Festival looks set to go ahead next year, rumour has it that the will to go on comes not from local determination but from BFSS pride.



A hound from the Vale of Aylesbury FH makes friends with a sab

South East

Ashford HSA and West Kent HSA have had an outstanding first season directed mainly at the Ashford Valley FH, picking up some good publicity on the way. Their sabbing has resulted in a total bag for this hunt of three foxes and one squirrel.

Beyond this there are deeper repercussions. The hunt had not been sabbed for eight years, and the shock of regular hits led to disputes within the hunt, the usual loss of support, and eventually the sacking of long-serving huntsman Clive Knott over Hunt Master Mr R Pemble's ineffective response to sabs.

This internal wrangling added to the hunt's problems – the pack were not handled properly at all, and the hunt spent the rest of the season in the company of other foxhunts, including the West Street Tickham and the Surrey Union. Even then Mr Pemble found no respite, as sabs moved on in pursuit of those packs too.

West Sussex Wildlife Protection, like many South Eastern groups, has had its problems with hired security. Sabbing has continued with the security men sometimes overrun with sabs and two early finishes were forced at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray FH.

The Chiddingfold is said to have spent some £8,000 on security. Sabs have responded with more mid-week hits, costs the same!

The group have also sabbed the Southdown & Eridge, the Old Surrey & Burstow and the Surrey Union FHs. They were also at the Surrey Union Hunt Ball and got 100+ sabs to the Eastbourne Hunt Ball, where a lively night led to twelve arrests.

• Brighton HSA sent *Howl* pictures of their vehicle at the Essex National Hit in January. Along with other minibuses it was entrapped in the farmyard at Stagden Cross. As sabs began to leave after some time there the engine was switched on for the heater and switched off at police request. This did not satisfy one officer who decided to smash the window *(see photo on page 19)*. Any suggestion that the sabs intended to move off at risk to police officers is ludicrous; there were clearly sabs on the van's roof who would themselves have been endangered. As it happened it was the driver who was injured by flying glass.

Scotland

Clydeside HSA have kept up steady pressure on the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH. Only one (chopped) kill has been noted, at the Commore meet. Against this the hunt has had to abort the couple of dig-outs they did try while sabs were out.

The police provide more opposition than the hunt at times, with sabs being stopped on numerous occasions while following the hound van. Doing this is apparently "putting the huntsman in a state of fear and alarm, constituting a breach of the peace." Sabs reporting damage to a vehicle were arrested and charged with a breach of the peace for horn-blowing.

Clydeside sabs have also helped out at the Dumfrieshire, Eglington, Fife, Duke of Buccleuch's and Border foxhunts. With the season over they hope to target game fairs and fishing matches.

Ayshire sabs had a frustrating early season as their friends the Eglington FH switched days to avoid them. However, later the hunt made no use of the pack's initial discipline, and under pressure from sabs the huntsman will leave in mid-cast to make off with the rest.

On one occasion a sheep was attacked as hounds followed a scent through the flock. Sabs have film footage of the distressed animal trying to walk with injured rear legs.

The Eglington brought in "agents of the landowner" who targeted known sabs and followed them to push them off "private" land and some rights of way. Familiar elsewhere, this was a sign of increasing desperation here. Other sabs take note: the policy of hiring "stewards" ended after a successful publicity campaign!

For good measure the Hunt Master slipped up by saying in a newspaper article that sabs lured hounds onto busy roads – legal discussions are ongoing.

The hunt's regular heavies have remained a problem and recently came near to smashing the group's camcorder.

Edinburgh and Borders sabs have concentrated mainly on the Duke of Buccleuch's FH but have also been to the Dumfrieshire, Berwickshire, Jedforest and Cumberland foxhunts. Some sabs also went to the week of action in Cheshire.

The New Year started with leafletting at the Duke of Buccleuch's meet in Selkirk, followed by a horn-blowing exhibition as sabs took control in full view of field and support. The rest of the month was harder in the upland meets near the English border. Sabs stayed in touch and still no kills were made. The rest of the hunt's meets were easier going with no kills when sabs were there.

February and March saw sabbing spread further afield in the Borders and elsewhere. These groups have had considerable support from local people in the area and would like to record their appreciation of that support and for donations received.

Stirling, Aberdeen and Fife sabs have followed the Fife FH. This is a fairly able pack and when sab numbers are low the huntsman Michael King uses mobility to get away from sabs and press foxes hard. At times sabs have had to work hard; on one day twelve foxes were put up, but none were caught. Still the hunt has been sabbed throughout the season and with sab numbers up the hunt have lost control of the pack for long periods. They have resorted to getting the police in to press charges for horn-blowing, etc.

Thames Valley

Since the New Year Chiltern HSA have grown in confidence and ability, regularly sabbing the Vale of Aylesbury and Bicester foxhunts.

Sabs out with the Vale of Aylesbury on 16 January were treated to the company of Andrew Whitlock and co (of New Forest fame) and despite being outnumbered they managed to keep up with the hunt and ensure there were no kills.

A hastily-arranged kennel blockade at the same hunt took place on 6 March. This ensured that hounds were a good hour late for the meet. Some energetic woodland hunting/sabbing ensued, the result being a widely-scattered Vale pack which huntsman Graham Wing took some considerable time to gather together.

Pressure on the Vale continued up until the end of the season, with sabs present at the Hampden, Milton Common and Wendover meets amongst others.

Undoubtedly the best day was at Hampden on 11 March. Two foxes were saved and a potential dig prevented despite constant intimidation from hunt support and staff.

The hunt were kept moving all day and by 3 pm the field had been reduced to an impressive three. Wisely, "home" was blown.

Chiltern HSA attended the National Hit on the New Forest on 20 March and are now engaged in the annual "fun" of dealing with the notorious Ytene Minkhounds.

Oxford sabs have also been busy. The start of February saw an excellent day's sabotage at the Bicester FH at their Chesterton Stud Farm meet. Sabs split into two groups and constantly out-manoeuvred the hunt, splitting the pack and taking the hounds for a run.

Towards the end of the day the Bicester gave their usual response to this kind of success – extreme violence. In the instance it was more serious than usual as a hunt steward and terrierman combined to run over a sab – both have now been jailed for 2 months – (full report to follow in *Howl 53*).

Apparently unconcerned by their lunatic employees trying to kill sabs, the hunt carried on, albeit pointlessly, as sabs made sure the fox got well away.

Two weeks later the Old Berkshire FH's Pony Club meet was sabbed. The assembled kiddies were treated to the edifying sight of the hunt running in circles as they tried to shake off sabs. They packed up at 2.30 pm with no kills.

The following week an all-women sab group hit the Bicester whilst other sabs visited the Grafton FH. A fine day's work which apparently reduced the huntsman to intellectual jelly as he screamed abuse at "the Tooting Popular Front".

Thames Valley sabs were joined by groups from Swindon, Bath and Bristol, and by a Swiss TV crew, for another hit on the Vale of White Horse FH. The TV crew, fresh from Bosnia, got to see some classic sabbing as the hunt was taken apart. The hounds were no sooner in a covert before sabs were running off with them.

The main competition of the day was not between hunt and sabs but between the different sab groups. Oxford sabs reckon they won as they also sorted out some ferreters as well!

The Bicester's final meet saw huntsman Ian McKie in furious mood, complaining to the police that sabs had stolen his hounds and were hiding them in the van. A police Inspector saw through this nonsense, and his "search" of the vehicle consisted of poking his head through the window and saying "Here, doggy, doggy. Come on Fido. Nope, doesn't look like they're in here."

The hunt resorted to underhand tactics with some suspicious happenings – the terrier van was seen in the middle of coverts and foxes appeared out of nowhere. Fortunately, these were saved as well and the hunt went home bloodless.

Midlands

Peterborough sabs started the year at the Belvoir Foxhounds, along with groups from Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. Despite the fact that aggressive hunt supporters had toned down their behaviour, leaving more time for sabbing, the hunt made a late kill.

It looks like the Belvoir are trying to smarten up their image by getting rid of their more violent elements – perhaps they're trying to become Prince Charles' new post-Quorn darlings...?

Nottingham sabs have been active at the Quorn and also at the Belvoir, where they obtained video footage and photos of a particularly sickening kill. The pictures clearly show the fox being ripped apart by the hounds – hopefully these pictures will be used in future campaigns against hunting.

Notts sabs have also noticed that the Quorn's Joss Hanbury, who left in disgrace after the Quorn video scandal a couple of years ago, is slowly making his way back to the top. He was recently allowed back as a hunt member, which is seen as the first step towards his eventual re-appointment as a master.

Thankfully, because of the determination of East Midlands sabs, the once-prestigious Quorn is not what it used to be. The number of hunt followers attending this year has on several occasions been pitiful, and hunting has been reduced to running away from sabs.

The region's sabs have also visited minkhunts, with the Border, Dove Valley and Northamptonshire being targeted. The hunts located so far have packed up as soon as sabs arrive.

• Success in the courts has led to more cases against sabs, brought by Leicestershire Police, being dropped by the CPS – will they ever learn?

Right: A North Bucks sab receives medical help after being thrown in front of a moving vehicle by hunt thugs. *Below:* The agonising death of a fox, ripped apart by the Belvoir FH's hounds, is captured on film by Notts sabs





HELP END BLOODSPORTS -

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs *your* support if we are to defeat bloodsports.

Hunt violence is increasing. In April this year Thomas Worby was killed at the Cambridgeshire Foxhunt, the second saboteur to die whilst combatting hunting.

Sabs are frequently hospitalised, and sab vehicles and equipment are constantly coming under attack.

Meanwhile, the BFSS are pressing for legislation to outlaw hunt sabotage.

The Campaign for Hunting are trying to raise over £2 million to fund a propaganda campaign to defend their cruelty.

To fight back, we need your help, especially financial help. We need money to produce *Howl* and our other literature. We also need donations to run our Sabbing Skills Days, provide grants to local sab groups and to keep in touch with the press and public.

Please help us at this crucial stage in the fight against bloodsports – 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 who would like to join.

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.

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: _____

Cheques should be made payable to "HSA". Return to Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY. For more information phone (0602) 590357.

- JOIN THE HSA NOW!

GROUP 4 BUYS STAKE IN ECOVER

***Stop Press News from* Earth First:** 'Ecover' products are no longer as sound as they seem!

Group 4 Securitas recently acquired a 50% interest in Ecover, manufacturers of environmentally-friendly household products.

In recent months the security firm has gained a high profile thanks to their disastrous operation of prisoner transport services under contract to the Government. (Rumour has it that Group 4 will even be running next year's Grand National – to make sure all the horses get away...)

Group 4 are also the company the Department of Transport have been paying since last December to 'neutralise' protest against the M3 extension through Twyford Down.

Earth First and other groups are encouraging a boycott of Ecover products as a protest against this private army. Already a significant portion of Ecover's business is said to have disappeared.

HSA LAUNCHES NEW PUBLICITY PACK

As we mentioned in *Howl 51*, the Campaign for Hunting have launched a glossy publicity brochure – but the good news is, so have we!

After much deliberation, it was decided that the HSA should produce some form of publicity pack. We spent some months designing a brochure and, ironically, it was printed about the same time as the CFH launched theirs.

The brochure's twelve pages cover every aspect of the HSA, from its philosophy as a caring organisation, to a break down of tactics, along with examples of how we have suffered abuse at the hands of the hunting fraternity, the law and the press, with real life examples.

The brochure is designed to set the record straight and dispel the lies about the HSA put out by our opposition. The brochure will hopefully form a link between the HSA, the public and those in authority – already the brochures are being sent to contacts such as sponsors, the press, solicitors and the police.

The brochure is also designed to put the boot in where hunting is concerned – with details of the cruelty involved and an exposure of the propaganda and flimsy arguments used to justify hunting.

The packs are for use by anyone who wishes to present the true, respectable face of the HSA – whether in a talk with the police or press, or at a presentation or lecture. Members are asked to use them wisely, not wastefully. The packs will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, so think of the most valuable way you can use them.

If you would like a copy, send a large SAE (34p stamp) to me at the address on page 2. Please also send a donation – each brochure costs £2.00 to produce. Please let me know how you intend to use the brochure so that distribution can be monitored.

Helen Carter, HSA Marketing Officer

SUs CAN HELP SABS

This is something to think about over the summer if you don't already do it. Hunt sabotage, as well as being boring and stressful, is expensive. So where can you find lots of money?

Apart from your usual fundraising, get your finger in the Student Union pie. Unions at universities and colleges will provide funding and transport effortlessly to affiliated groups. If you want to know how to do it then contact the HSA or simply go to your local Union Exec and ask! You'll be amazed at how co-operative they are.

If you've had no prior contact with your local students union then meet the student animal rights group and get them to set up an independent sab group. Any queries? Contact me at the HSA office.

Tim Layton, HSA Student Liaison Officer



BUG THE HUNT!

NEW SALESGOODS FROM THE HSA

"Fluffy Bugs" are one of the newest additions to the current range of HSA salesgoods. The bugs are available in assorted bright colours, with "HUNT SABOTEURS SAVE LIVES" printed on each ribbon. Price: 50p each.

Another new item is the HSA real pewter brooch, available in three detailed designs. Choose from the running fox, frolicking hare or majestic stag's head. These beautiful brooches make ideal gifts and are just £3.00 each.

Also available now are the HSA's special edition black close-knit ski hats embroidered with red circular HSA fox logo. Ideal for cold cubbing mornings! There are a limited number only, priced at £7.00 each.

Plus – *Bite Back* sew-on patches in unbleached cotton, based on the original "Bite Back" design. They are printed in red & black and measure 8cm by 12cm approx. Price: £1.00 each.

The HSA is also introducing books to its list of merchandise. Two are available now:

The One World children's book *Who Cares About Animal Rights* gets to the core of the issues which concern even the youngest children. Brilliantly illustrated, 32 pages, hard cover. Price: £3.95 per copy.

Penny Little's booklet *The Song of the Fox* is packed with sabbing related poems and quotes, including *Saint Saboteur* and *Revenge*. Price: £2.00 per copy.

To order any of these items, write the details (item and quantity required, your name, address and phone number) on a plain piece of paper, enclose a cheque or postal order (payable to "HSA") for the total amount **plus 10% for postage** (minimum 50p) and send to HSA Merchandise, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Huntsman Balls

"It is not cruel or bloodthirsty and the saboteurs will not destroy our tradition. The foxes are not frightened when they are being hunted. They just trot along. They never move into top gear. The foxes die in a second or two when the hounds catch them. They break their necks. They do not rip them apart."
72-year-old BFSS Cleveland Secretary George Brown in an interview with the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette, *3 March 1993*

"Frequently protesters are recruited with the promise of a day's anarchy, a packed lunch and a bounty of some £20. One must ask: if the funds were to be withdrawn, how many supporters would show? The antis are predominantly urban students for whom a bit of beer money is quite tempting."
Only £20? Hunt supporter Nicholas Kester of Westlands Farm, Marden, Kent, in a particularly tiresome letter to his local paper following the defeat of the hunting fraternity in Meridian TV's bloodsports debate.

"It's difficult to think of a subject which has been more painted than hunting. And I have no doubt that townies like me would rather it didn't end, because of the association we have with it and art. It's violent detractors would deprive us of a splendid sight if they had their way."
A "countryside correspondent" calls for bloodsports to be tolerated on aesthetic grounds in the rivetting Grimsby Evening Telegraph, *18 February 1993.*

Q: What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
A: Compassion.

Q: How do you relax?
A: Hunting.

Q: How would you like to die?
A: Suddenly, over a jump, with hounds in full cry.
Pretentious right-wing philosopher Roger Scruton in an interview with the Guardian Weekend. *The same interview, in which Scruton says his favourite smell is the French Literature section of the London Library, earned him a place in Pseud's Corner in* Private Eye.

"It could be a pervert, a psychopath, an animal hater, a hunt saboteur or someone with a grudge."
An anonymous "police spokesman", on the wave of assaults on horses, as reported in the pro-hunt Daily Telegraph.

"Mink have become the scapegoat for many of the ills which afflict our waterways, but it is a misconception that numbers are out of control. It is man not mink who is doing the harm. The suggestion that minkhunting controls mink is laughable. The number killed by hounds is insignificant. Besides being ineffective as a means of control, minkhunting is another form of human entertainment which disturbs our fragile wetlands in the summer months when wildlife is breeding."
English Nature scientist John Birks going against the grain in the pro-hunting magazine Country Life.

IDEAL GIFTS: NEW ANIMAL VIDEOS

Two videos have been produced to raise funds for International Animal Rescue (based in the West Country) and Animal Line. The IAR recently purchased a microlight aircraft to follow deerhunting in their area, and they need funds to continue with this project.

• *Carla: Roots & Passions* contains sixty minutes of Carla Lane's thoughts on Animal Rights, explaining how her conscience has moulded her lifestyle. The video includes a tour of the animal sanctuary she owns, along with some stunning wildlife photography, particularly of foxes, dolphins and seals. There is also an interview with John Hicks of IAR, who mentions his work campaigning against staghunting and the fur trade.

• *Elkie: West Country Life* is 45 minutes long, and if you are a fan of Elkie Brooks, this is for you! The singer's home, family and career are interspersed with "some of the finest music Elkie has yet recorded." There is also a great deal of film footage of the local fallow deer herds and an enchanting family of foxes.

Both videos would make ideal gifts, and for each one sold a donation is made to the HSA.

Each tape costs £12.99, which includes postage and packing.

Clearly-written orders (including your name & address and a cheque or postal order) should be sent direct to: International Animal Rescue/HSA, Animal Tracks, Ash Mill, South Molton, Devon EX36 4QW.

Noticeboard

Events

Vegetarian Week

27 September to 3 October this year is National Vegetarian Week. The Week is designed to introduce new people to a meat-free diet and provide a focus for animal rights groups. More details: Vegetarian Society – 081 928 0793.

McDonalds Day of Action

16 October 1993 is Worldwide Day of Action Against McDonalds. Contact your local animal rights group for details of events, or organsie your own.

More information from London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Animal Festival

The first ever Great Northern Animal Festival will take place on 28 August 1993 at the Royal Baths, Crescent Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

The event starts at 10.30 am with 20 exhibitions from different animal rights groups displaying their work, giving out information and selling promotional goods. Vegan food will be available throughout the day.

In the evening two bands will play a benefit concert at Harrogate Leisure Centre in aid of animal welfare. There will be a late bar and vegan food, and tickets for the concert – available by post – cost £3.00 each (£3.50 on the door).

More details and tickets from GNAF, PO Box 8, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 2RY (Phone 0677 422974). Cheques/POs payable to *Great Northern Animal Festival.*

Campaigns

New Student Network

The Student Campaign for Animal Rights (SCAR) has been relaunched and hopes to set up a network of affiliated groups at colleges and universities throughout the country.

SCAR can also help students wanting to set up animal rights groups and will provide backing for students wishing to opt out of vivisection classes. Contact SCAR, PO Box 155, Manchester M60 1FT.

Neutering & Spaying

Support the National Neutering & Spaying Scheme's campaign to remove the misery and suffering of all unwanted animals.

To find out more about how you can help, contact the NNSS at PO Box 170, Northampton, NN2 8AB.

Appeals

Freshfields Centre

Hunt saboteur Mike Hill worked at the Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre before he was killed at the Cheshire Beagles Hunt in February 1991.

The Centre relies on donations and needs your support to continue to look after sick and abandoned animals. New volunteers are always welcome.

Donations (cheques or POs) and offers of help can be sent to: Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA.

Publications

Animals Campaigner

Animals Campaigner is a new animal rights magazine published by Liverpool's Animal Rescue group. For further details write to Animal Rescue, PO Box 233, Liverpool L69 7LF.

Arkangel Magazine

Arkangel magazine aims to unify the animal liberation movement by providing a forum for debate and exchange of ideas and information about pro-animal actions at all levels.

Arkangel is produced four times a year by a small group of volunteers and costs £7.20 for a four-issue subscription. Cheques or postal orders, payable to "Arkangel", should sent to Arkangel, BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX. Articles for publication should be sent to the same address.

• The editor apologises to the ALF Support Group whose logo was mistakenly used in *Howl 51* in an ad for Arkangel. The two groups are entirely separate and should not be confused with each other.

Travel

Cruelty Free USA

Vegans and vegetarians travelling in the United States can now contact the Environmental Travel Agency for details of suitable low-cost places to stay and visit.

The new group also aims to put visiting animal rights and environment campaigners in touch with like-minded groups in the US, and provide advice on cruelty-free services available to visitors.

From the UK call Jed on 0101 718 648 0864 or in the States call freephone 1 800 929 3005.

Catering

VEGGIES

Catering Campaign (Nottingham)

180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham
NG1 3HW. Telephone (0602) 585666

Vegan Catering at Demos, Fairs and Meetings - why not yours?

Veggies Catering Campaign was formed in 1984 to provide catering services using no animal products whatsoever, and to provide financial and other support to the animal rights movement.

Foxcubs

The organiser of *Foxcubs*, the HSA's junior branch, recently stepped down after several years. This means that the HSA is now looking for a new Organiser to take over this demanding, unpaid post. Duties include the production and distribution of *Foxcubs* leaflets and other literature, organising talks in schools, and replying to enquiries. If you think you could do the job, please write to the HSA Secretary at the address on page 2 to find out more.

Printing by Calvert's Press (TU) Workers' Co-operative • 071-739 1474