Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF 'COUNTRY PURSUITS'

HOWL 53

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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EDITORIAL

First of all, my apologies to all HSA members for the late arrival of this issue. Hopefully the next one will be on time.

As we go to press the Home Secretary has just announced his plans to make 'interfering with a country sport' a criminal offence. Again we are faced with an attempt to legitimise perverse bloodsports whilst citing hunt saboteurs as the 'problem'.

The real problem of course is the cost to the authorities of legal hunt sabotage, which is becoming both unbearable and embarrassing. Hunts cost a fortune to police anyway, and paying off sabs who have been falsely arrested is an equally expensive and increasingly common business.

Sabs are also getting on the nerves of some very powerful people, as well as drawing attention to a moral issue on which the politicians are too spineless to legislate.

The government's solution? Criminalise our peaceful (and highly effective) tactics, and let the perverts get on with their 'country pursuits'.

The simple and sensible solution – and the one which just about everyone wants – would be to outlaw hunting with hounds altogether.

But, ignoring the views of the majority, Michael Howard has decided that hunt saboteurs are to become the government's latest scapegoats, along with one parent families, new age travellers and squatters, and for us there is little consolation in the knowledge that the proposed legislation is a direct reflection of our continuing success against the huntsmen.

The details of the proposed law have yet to be made clear, but, whatever happens, these proposals will have no effect on our determination to save the lives of hunted animals, nor will they prevent the inevitable disappearance of 'field sports'.

Gareth, editor

Cover Photo
Following its first appearance in *Howl 52*, this photo of a fox being ripped apart by the Belvoir Foxhounds is here reprinted for the benefit of Home Secretary Michael Howard

Letters

Demonstrations bring in new members for the HSA

Dear *Howl*,

As a new member of the HSA I felt I just had to write after reading the letter about Hunt Demos being a waste of time (*Howl 51*).

I strongly disagree. For ages I have wanted to become involved with the fight against hunting but didn't have any contacts.

Whilst out shopping in Plymouth with my two young children I came across a fox, a badger and a stag – hunt sabs holding a demo. My kids loved giving loose change to their favourite wild animals and I picked up all the literature I needed to send off my subscription.

That particular demonstration gained the HSA another member; surely that is the whole point.

Keep up the good work in the field and at demonstrations. Let's work together to save these beautiful animals.

Karyn,
Devon

The continuing debate about sabbing and politics

Dear *Howl*,

I apologise for continuing this debate, but Richard from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (*Howl 52*, page 9) seems to have a sadly overactive imagination. I do not regard the "class conscious" as "undesirables", nor do I advocate the "weeding out" of anyone on the basis of their political views (with the obvious exception of fascists). Nor do I have any pet theories on class and hunting; in my letter in *Howl 51* I was merely dispelling one commonly-held myth. The hunt saboteurs' movement is politically diverse and I hope that it remains so.

My objection to ACAB's original article (and the resultant letters which used *Howl* as a soapbox for individuals' political views) was based on the fact that ACAB's article, given such prominence, could only damage the HSA, which it undoubtedly has. The BFSS have lapped up this debate and happily quoted parts of it in their recently published glossy pamphlet, *Unacceptable Face of Protest*.

I hope that ACAB and co are happy that they've provided our opposition with yet more mud to sling in our direction.

A M Johnson (*Howl 52*, page 2) seems to think that *Howl* is an "internal bulletin". It's not. It is the published face of the hunt saboteurs' movement, and as such it is read not only by hunt saboteurs and our supporters but also by politicians, the press and police, and the hunt scum. Debate and healthy criticism should of course be encouraged but not to the detriment of the HSA. I'm not advocating censorship; rather, an effective 'internal bulletin' for such issues exists already in the form of the group mailout. If any active sabs have failed to see a copy, blame your group contact.

In conclusion, if the Hunt Saboteurs' movement continues to shoot itself in the foot in failing to realise that we are fighting a propaganda and PR battle as much as a struggle to prevent suffering, then there soon won't be a movement to speak of which can only mean the continuation of bloodsports unopposed.

Mark Freeman, Bath

Editor's Reply:

Perhaps Howl *is* ***both*** *an internal bulletin (as it is read mainly by HSA members)* ***and*** *our public face? The group mailout* ***is*** *useful, but* Howl *reaches all HSA members, some of whom aren't involved in their local group.*

Serious debate within any "democratic" organisation is always criticised from opposition groups run on more dictatorial lines. But does this mean we shouldn't conduct an open debate? Do we have anything to hide?

I would be grateful for opinions on this matter from other readers, for inclusion in future issues.

Some ideas for Howl

Dear *Howl*,

Some Suggestions:

- Bring back the regular item detailing briefly the more important ALF actions (since ALF actions are widely supported by HSA members);
- Have a Tactics Suggestions page (it seems bizarre that the HSA's own magazine devotes so little space to spreading the word about new tactics or ideas);
- Spread the word that "gizmos" can be used for other Animal Rights campaigns; eg, anti-meat industry campaigns could use them to relay the sounds of so-called "humane" slaughter to the public.

Liz Crocker, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Editor's reply:

Although ALF actions are not as widely-reported in the media as they used to be, any actions we do hear about will be mentioned in future issues, along with other more general news items, under the Animal Rights News *heading.*

Tactics suggestions are always welcome, and appear on the Letters *pages or, if fairly wordy, as separate Tactics features. If there is a shortage of tactics suggestions, it's because we haven't received any – so get writing.*

• Regular readers will notice that the usual *Group News* features are missing from this edition. This is because of pressure of space, a lack of hit reports from some groups, and the fact that the HSA doesn't have a Contacts Officer at present.

Make sure your local group is mentioned next time – send in reports and photos covering the current season to arrive by 20 January 1994.

Confession of a hunt rider: We hate killing foxes

Dear *Howl*,

I am writing this letter to help foxes, so please do not disregard it.

I care about animals, and I am a vegetarian and a keen rider, but I have a confession to make – I have been foxhunting. You are probably asking, "How could you do that?" Well, the answer is, it was very easy. I fell into the trap of believing it was helping me, my horse and the fox. I know this sounds like rubbish, but please read on.

As a competitive rider, I am very keen to improve my own and my horse's performance across country and one of the best ways to learn is out hunting. You are probably asking, "What about draghunting?" I would love to go draghunting, but unfortunately there are no local draghunts where I live. If there was one nearby I would definitely go, and so would many of my friends who hate killing foxes but who block it out of their minds in order to enjoy the ride.

***H Riley** (address supplied)*

Always been green?

Dear *Howl*,

It's about time our opponents' green claims were dealt with. In recent years hunt supporters have tried to suggest that they have some kind of special countryside knowledge and are in the forefront of environmental campaigning. The BASC even adopted the slogan "Always Been Green".

What nonsense. Hunts, their supporters in agriculture, and well-off rural people in general have presided over the destruction of the British countryside which has taken place over the last 50 years.

The farmers who say that foxes are vermin are the same ones who have ripped up our forests and hedgerows and poured millions of gallons of poison onto the land. Thanks to these profit-motivated morons, wildlife of all kinds has been butchered, and the environment made lethally toxic. Those who follow hunts around in their cars simply add tons more pollutants to the air every year.

I think we should remember these points and use them to better advantage in our future campaigns.

M J Curtis, Northamptonshire

Not a class issue

Dear *Howl*,

I am constantly amazed at the naivety displayed by some sabs who are motivated by so-called class motives. I have seen the violence meted out by the Ytene thickos and I would reiterate Mark Freeman's point that bloodsports are not a class issue. If you were to call the Ytene working class it would be a compliment, never mind all the deranged wierdos from such places as the Forest, Cheshire, Cambridgeshire and so on.

As for the police, if they hadn't been at the Ytene we would have got a right kicking. I have a good friend who is a policewoman and it may surprise some to realise that many police are at least sympathetic to our views. There are of course rumours of links with free masonry connected to promotion, and this shouldn't be discounted. What about all the stewards? Make no mistake, if the police weren't there at all the situation would probably be far worse.

I also have friends who are considered to be upper class who hate hunting just as much as I do – hunting is not, and never will be, a class issue!

A second concern of mine – we need people out on the street talking to the public and putting our case forward. This has never been so important as it is now, especially when a major issue is the violence coming from the hunts. We need to tell the ordinary public what is really going on and dispel the certain media filth slung against us. Just because a sab decides to run a stall one Saturday instead of going out doesn't mean he/she isn't doing a good job!

Robin Whitlock, Devon

Faults in the arguments on both sides of hunting

Dear *Howl*,

I am writing as a relative newcomer to sabbing, last season being my first full one. However, I have been against animal cruelty for as long as I can remember.

What strikes me about pro-hunting arguments is how often they change direction. Tradition, necessity, employment and conservation have all been tried, and with public opinion still at 80% against hunting, these arguments can be said to have failed.

The hunt supporters' argument has been reduced to two points: that hunting is legal, and that those involved in direct action against it are "terrorists".

When I read the article in *Howl 50* by ACAB I nearly died. *Shooting News* had a field day and I would think all other pro-killing campaigners did too.

Our sab group consists of three people and we are surrounded by hunts. The Derwent, Sinnington, Middleton, Farndale, Bedale, Saltersgate and Staintondale hunts all have meets within 15 miles of Pickering. However, the Pickering police have been as good as they can be without showing signs of bias. One of them, a vegetarian, was responsible for securing the conviction of a Derwent steward who assaulted our female sab.

We have given the police no reason to think we are violent and we report to them every threat we receive. I would have to agree that some of the police are arrogant sods, but a sweeping statement like "all coppers are bastards" can only turn them against us and give ammunition to the hunt lobbyists. Such a statement is similar to racist slogans, which would be condemned by saboteurs.

T Woodward, North Yorkshire

Thanks

Special thanks are due to the following for all their help with this issue: Jane, Kate & Justin (typing) Justine (proof-reading), Wayne (news stories), Paul Gammon (AGM report), Paul Paine (book review).



Animal Rights News

▪ Bernard Matthews plc, one of the UK's biggest meat companies, was ordered to pay out £21,000 in compensation to six workers who suffered repetitive strain injury (RSI) whilst 'processing' turkeys.

During a three-week trial in the summer, Norwich County Court heard that one woman had been lifting the equivalent of 150 tons of dead birds a day.

Earlier this year the company reported a 63% fall in profits, blamed on a dwindling demand for turkey-meat products.

▪ Environmental groups are continuing their boycott campaign against Ecover following the purchase by Group 4 Securitas of a 50% stake in the company.

Group 4 provide prisoner transport services to the Government and operate a "private army" at Twyford Down. The firm have also been employed by Shamrock Farms in Sussex – importers of monkeys used in animal experiments.

Group 4's freephone number (office hours only) is 0800 440000.

▪ The Automobile Association, long-standing friend of the roads lobby, has taken to supporting junk food as well – new AA members have been receiving money-off vouchers for use at McDonalds.

▪ The 1993 annual meeting of the Boots Company was disrupted by campaigners angry at the company's continued involvement with animal experiments.

Boots chairman Sir Christopher Benson faced a barrage of questions over the use of animals in the testing of Manoplax, a drug withdrawn from sale by the company amid accusations that, despite extensive animal testing, the drug had "cured to death" a number of patients.

One protester said that Sir Benson had "blood on his hands" and was directly responsible for the premature deaths of patients who had been prescribed Manoplax as a treatment for heart failure.

Sir Benson responded by asking police to remove the protesters from the meeting, which took place at the QE2 conference centre in London on 22 July.

An in-depth booklet entitled *Boots -- the High Street Vivisectors* is available from Nottingham ARC – see back page for details.

POLICE INVESTIGATE MEAT SCANDAL

The Vale of Lune Harriers became the subject of a police investigation recently, following allegations that an illegal slaughtering racket was being run from the hunt's kennels in Deer Park Lane, Hornby, Lancashire.

The authorities were called in after complaints were made that meat intended for the hounds had found its way into butchers' shops. The scandal first came to light in the *Lancaster Guardian* on 11 June 1993.

Roger Booth, Chief Environmental Health Officer with Lancaster City Council, said: "a number of complaints from various sources have been made to the police and to me about allegations of illicit slaughtering at the Vale of Lune hunt kennels. These complaints are now being investigated."

It was alleged that dead animals collected from farms in the hunt's country were taken to the kennels and, instead of being used as food for the hounds, were sold on to butchers in Greater Manchester by an un-named man in the meat trade. This man had apparently been given free access to the kennels.

It is understood that council officials and police officers mounted a surveillance operation at the kennels in order to investigate the complaints.

Meat from so-called "fallen stock" is considered a serious risk to human health and is classed as unfit for human consumption. It is an offence to pass on meat of this kind to the general public as there is a danger of spreading infection and disease, including food poisoning, BSE and tapeworm. It is also against the law to operate an unlicensed abbatoir.

However, because of the low costs involved, passing off fallen stock as standard-grade meat would be a highly profitable business for anyone involved.

A HSA member with knowledge of the area said: "In the case of the Vale of Lune hunt, tracing the origins of fallen stock would be almost impossible because of the large number of farms in the hunt's country."

The pack hunts hares and foxes over a large tract of land between Lancaster and Kendal.

It is known that huntsman **Claude Harris** immediately resigned from the hunt and moved away from the area when the allegations were made. Earlier in the year he had been re-appointed by the hunt committee to continue as huntsman for another full season.

"He resigned because he hadn't been doing his job properly," said one senior hunt member.

He added: "It is fair to say that Mr Harris ignored what was going on at the kennels. Matters came to light which were wholly inconsistent with his duties as huntsman."

Mr Harris is believed to have moved to Northamptonshire. Meanwhile the investigation continues.

▪ In 1992 the Vale of Lune's hounds went out of control whilst hunting and savaged a young roe deer, one of a family of four, on a private smallholding. The distressed animal then had its throat cut by a hunt follower. Two masters of the hunt later resigned.

PEACHEY FACES BANKRUPTCY CASE

Regular *Howl* readers may remember *Shooting News* Legal Officer and hunt supporter Barry Peachey (aka 'A G Fox') who was featured in *Howl 50* after losing a libel case against the League Against Cruel Sports.

In July this year the LACS launched an action against Peachey in the Bankruptcy Court to recover over £140,000 in outstanding legal fees.



Strapped for cash: Barry Peachey

Peachey, who often appears as a defence witness in badger-related court cases, failed to respond to a statutory demand to pay the League's legal costs. Rumour has it that Peachey has been forced to put his house up for sale to help pay off the huge debt, but a buyer has yet to be found.

Howl recently discovered that Peachey also works as a Whipper-in with the Hampshire-based Clinkard Beagles.

Peachey is now advertising his "consulting service" which provides help for those involved with "dogs, horses, badgers, foxes, deer, firearms, wildlife and shooting management". The address for enquiries is A G Fox, PO Box 23, Brigg, Lincolnshire DN20 8TN; the telephone number is (0472) 852832.

▪ With hunting facing a future legal ban, the BFSS has stooped to new depths by placing membership advertisements in *Shooting News*. Alongside ads for Peachey's legal service, fox-snaring videos and complete lamping kits, the shameless BFSS urges readers to sign up to protect their sport before it becomes "extinct".

The magazine, recently renamed the *Countryman's Weekly*, has attracted attention in the past by advertising bloodsports books such as *Hunting the Badger*.

HUNT ATTACKED US, CLAIMS FAMILY

A grieving pensioner and his daughter were attacked in their own garden by hunt supporters, a court in Dorset heard recently.

70-year-old David Glover and eight members of his family had gathered to mourn the death the day before of Mrs Glover. Totton Magistrates heard that the distraught family asked hunt followers to leave them alone and were promptly attacked by terriermen Jeffrey Colbert and Keith Colbert.

Mr Glover's wife had died of cancer and the family had met at the couple's home in Woodgreen. Mr Glover's 26-year-old daughter Michelle told the court:

"We heard the hunting horns and found hounds running wild in the garden. We told the hunt to go and blow their horns somewhere else. I shut the gate, but this hunt follower opened it and marched into our garden."

Another family member explained how he then saw Michelle punched in the mouth and Mr Glover kicked in the groin by the two brothers who were "behaving like madmen".

The two men appeared on charges of assault and affray. Jeffrey Colbert lives at Blackbird Close, Poole; his brother Keith lives at Verity Crescent, Canford Heath, both Dorset.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNT CONTINUES

Hunt supporters in Cambridgeshire are claiming a victory after reversing their local hunt's decision to close down.

Members of the Cambridgeshire FH's staff are expected to resign after their plans to wind up the hunt after 166 years were thrown out at the hunt's annual meeting in July.

After the meeting staff still insisted that the original closure proposals had nothing to do with the hunt's precarious finances or the killing of saboteur Tom Worby in April.

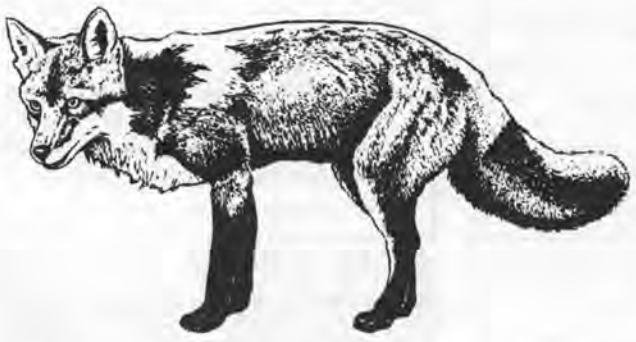
Tony Ball, driver of the 7-ton truck which killed Tom, is thought to have left the area.

The MFHA's Brian Toon said: "It is almost certain that some of the existing masters will resign. They were backing the recommendation that the hunt should close down."

Saboteurs have already said that they will continue to prevent the hunt from killing foxes. Cambridge HSA's Dave Fox said: "If the hunt does continue, it will be weaker and less frequent than it has been in the last three years."

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS: PRO-HUNT?

The HSA has received a number of letters concerning travel company Shearings Holidays who have been helping to promote foxhunting by including Boxing Day hunt meets in their Christmas excursions.



The company's brochure includes the meets as part of the itinary of Festive Breaks in Cambridge, Lynton, Oxfordshire and elsewhere.

In particularly bad taste is the trip to the Cambridgeshire hunt's meet. Saboteur Tom Worby was crushed to death under the hunt's lorry in April 1993.

Letters of complaint should be addressed to: The Managing Director, Shearings Holidays Ltd, Miry Lane, Wigan WN3 4AG.

The telephone number is (0942) 44246.

BFSS APPOINTS 'JUNK MAIL' COMPANY

The BFSS has appointed a public relations company to take control of the organisation's membership campaign and propaganda drive.

The lucky company charged with selling foxhunting to the public is the Birmingham-based Direct Marketing Organisation (DMO), which specialises in "direct response press ads and direct mail". The BFSS has yet to explain how it squares its supposed "green" credentials with the employment of a junk mail company.

The partnership came about during research for a BBC Radio 4 programme in which PR agencies were paired with "controversial clients". Also involved in the programme was the bizarre anti-feminist campaign *Concern for Family & Womanhood*.

Bosses from DMO were taken on foxhunting trips in order to help "revise their opinions".

▪ *Howl* readers can express *their* opinions on this subject direct to DMO's managing director, Andy Owen, on 021 – 233 9553.

▪ The BFSS have also set up a new "hotline" for anglers and shooters which will explain how to deal with saboteurs. The number is (0374) 236101.

Hunts cost Cheshire £120,000

A meeting of Cheshire County Council heard how hunts with a "cavalier attitude to private property" are costing the local police authority almost £120,000 a year. Councillor Tony Shaw told the meeting in June about the distress caused to one woman when hunt staff invaded her property in search of a fox.

"She had the hunt trespassing on her land and a fox was killed under her nose, despite her protests. The situation is quite unacceptable," he said.

Cheshire's Chief Constable estimated that in the 1992-93 season 8,800 hours were spent policing hunts at a cost to local ratepayers of £119, 850.

Councillor Shaw added, "the hunts should be made to contribute to policing costs. It would force them to take a more responsible attitude."

Hunt bans follow elections

Following heavy defeats for the Conservatives in last May's local elections, several more county councils have succeeded in banning hunts from their land, winning wide support from the public and attracting abuse from bloodsports maniacs.

Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Suffolk and Hereford & Worcester are among the latest counties to bring in hunting bans. Although they only affect council-owned (not private) land, the bans are expected to have a drastic effect on the hunts concerned. Many foxes, hares and deer will undoubtedly be saved.

Somerset's Quantock Staghounds have had their hunting country "torn in half' by a council ban in their area. A 140-acre strip of land is owned by the Liberal Democrat controlled Somerset County Council, and the Quantock's removal from this area will, say hunt staff, "make hunting extremely difficult."

Leicestershire's numerous hunts are expected to feel the effects of the ban now in place there, with the Cottesmore, Fernie and Quorn foxhunts all losing public woodland from their hunting countries.

More local authorities are expected to impose similar bans in coming months.

▪ *Howl* readers are urged to report any breaches of hunting bans to the relevant departments of the councils concerned. Evidence (including

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

Compiled by Ergot Caught



THUGS ADMIT BADGER DIGGING CHARGES

Teeside Magistrates recently heard how two particularly disturbed young men set out to terrorise some wildlife, armed with spade and terrier, but were chased off by a member of the public.

Peter Christon (21) of Runswick Avenue, Acklan, Middlesbrough, admitted digging for a badger, and **Neil Elwine** (21) of Clive Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, admitted to recklessly damaging a badger sett. The magistrates refused a defence request that their addresses should not be published because the defendants "feared threats to their families".

Elwine admitted not knowing much about badgers, but accepted that he should not have gone to the sett and dug it up. Let's hope he knows how to economise – he was fined £300 with £196 costs. Christon was fined £1,000 with £600 costs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR COUNTRY GENT

Meanwhile, Colchester Magistrates must have been in tears when court jester **Michael Taylor** submitted in his defence that he had a great regard for the countryside, was not engaged in the wholesale destruction of animals and is a caring member of the countryside community.

Drug addict Taylor (42) of Buckstead Road, Colchester, and his friend **Anthony Delaney** (28) of Walthamstow, both admitted interfering with a badger sett.

Delaney hoped to convince the court that he was out with his conscientious mate hunting for rabbits and foxes. But this failed and he was ordered to complete 150 hours community service and to pay £300 costs. Meanwhile Taylor was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for his part in the event and was banned from keeping dogs for 3 years.

SWANS SHOT BY SICK YOUTH

A pair of breeding mute swans came under attack from sick scum **Alfred Dines** (20) of Millbatch Mere near Glastonbury and a 'friend' he refused to name. Dines and his anonymous accomplice shot the swans 21 times with an air rifle on the Stroudwater Canal in Gloucestershire.

A vet told Dursley magistrates that the swans suffered a lingering, painful death and immense cruelty. Sentencing was adjourned as Dines is already serving 30 months' youth detention for armed robbery.

IN COURT: HUMBERSIDE DOG-FIGHTING GANG

Gamekeeper **George Woodbridge** (44) and his wife **Sonia** (33) thought they were on to a winner of an idea — holding dog fights in the grounds of Burton Constable Hall, a stately home in North Humberside.

The twisted couple organised a fight between two pit bull terriers belonging to **Stephen Brown** (28) of Church Street, Preston, Lancashire and **Victor Wilson** (28) of Oak Road, Shafton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Both admitted causing the dogs to fight, permitting unnecessary suffering and watching the fight.

John Corrigan (24) of the Mariners Arms, Keadby, Scunthorpe and **Victor Forbes** (28) of Church Street, Preston both denied being spectators along with the Woodbridge couple.

As Sproatly Magistrates heard; **Andrew Farnham** (25) of West Acres, Amcotts, Scunthorpe, is also accused of spectating. Brown was sentenced to four months' imprisonment and was banned from keeping dogs for life. The other cases were adjourned.

Information (including newspaper cuttings) suitable for inclusion on this page should be sent to Vermin Patrol, HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

SACKED OVER SHOOTING

Bus driver **Tony Dimmack** was axed by his Exeter depot following his April Fools Day slaughter spree. Dimmack offered to get rid of the pigeons from the washing and refuelling section of the bus depot, but bosses insisted that the birds be trapped humanely and then released. Dimmack and his sad brother **Clive** duly agreed, then went on a drinking binge and returned to the depot armed with an air rifle.

In a scene reminiscent of Reg Varney meets the Terminator, the brothers Dim proceeded to shoot the birds dead. Tony was instantly dismissed.

NO REMORSE FROM TOFF

Rich, bored aristocrat Jamie Benton-Jones (20-year-old son of the Baronet, magistrate and former High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Sir Simon Benton-Jones) laughed and joked as he smashed in a mallard's head with a heavy-duty torch.

Unrepentant Benton-Jones Junior said, "I don't regret it one bit. I'm just a bit worried about what my father will say about all the publicity." He added, "It's just a duck."

Some justification: unfortunately the RSPCA were unable to prosecute as the incident was filmed in New Zealand.

Benton-Jones Senior said, "I am sure wild birds are killed all over the world all the time. I know the law about birds because I'm a JP."

FARMER SETS UP HUNT

And finally, perverse farmer **Jeremy Gibbs** returned from a hunt and decided to set up his own.

After chasing a roe deer single-handedly for two hours he caught the wounded and bleeding animal and decided to sit on it until a friend arrived with a Land Rover some 15 minutes later. The deer, terrified and exhausted, was bundled into the vehicle to be put out of its inflicted misery. This act of savagery was captured on video by a horrified Animal Sanctuary warden.

A NATION OF ANIMAL LOVERS (No 3)

"To those who in the past were able to work their terriers to badger, it is hard to come to terms with the fact that we have lost the highest level of terrier work by which to judge our dogs. Those who never experienced a properly conducted badger dig probably don't understand why we should go on about it."

Bob Lawrence writing in the 27 August 1993 issue of Shooting News *(now renamed* The Countryman's Weekly*)*

IT'S TIME TO WISE UP: THE PROBLEM OF "ANIMAL RIGHTS NAIVETY"

Helen Pearson says *(Howl 52)* that she is not naive or stupid, yet she admits that she "made a mistake" in handing over incriminating photographs to the press.

I've heard of one sab who delights in videoing other sabs (without asking their permission) whenever there's a scuffle. When sabs have asked him *not* to film them, he carries on, saying that the police won't get hold of his tapes. This sab recently sent one of these tapes *through the post* to another sab. Included on the tape was footage of him and his friends stealing things. Naive? Stupid?

Elsewhere there's a sab who thinks it's okay to phone up unconnected parties to explain that she's been arrested and charged with 'ALF' offences. Unaware that it is *stupid* to admit involvement over the telephone, she risks dragging others into her conspiracy, just so she can show off.

Some defendants in Animal Rights cases still think its cool and 'punk' to attend court wearing ALF t-shirts, filling the public gallery with noisy well-wishers and scorning everything said in court. Listen up! You can't help the animals from a prison cell, and the only way to *beat* the system once you've been arrested is to *play* the system. Dress smartly, keep your friends out of the courtroom (they'll only provoke unwanted interest from the police) and *think* about your defence case.

It seems that despite trials such as Unilever, Dodleston and Manchester, despite dozens of us having done time, some of us still won't *wise up*. Animal Rights Stupidity is rife.

What can be done to end this naivety once and for all? Well, the best we can hope for is that our colleagues will one day listen to the warnings; "Assume this phone is tapped", "Don't trust the press", "Answer all police questions with No Comment", "Keep your camera out of my face", etc.

In the meantime, for the rest of us (who work for the *animals*, not our *egos*) the message we need to burn into our brains is, sadly, "Assume those around you are morons".

A M Johnson, Peterborough

LET PEOPLE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

I have just finished reading the *HSA Forum* article *Newspapers & Nazis* (*Howl 52*) and I feel a very mixed response.

I was there on the day that Tom Worby was killed and his death was the most upsetting and disturbing incident of my life. I could not have described my feelings and reactions concerning the event more accurately than those expressed in the article, that is, until I reached the section on Margaret Flynn and the press treatment of her.

Of course, I agree fully that the newspapers' muck-raking was inexcusable and extremely painful for all involved, but OB (the article's author) seems to have overlooked one important fact: Margaret Flynn is *not* a nazi!

I feel I will be saying this for years until it finally breaches people's thick skulls. I do not excuse her past, and she would be the first to agree that her fascist actions were both disgraceful and evil, but people must be given the opportunity to escape their mistakes.

If people will not be prepared to let this happen then they should not be involved in actively trying to stop anything. How would sabs react if a known hunt member renounced their 'sport' and actively helped the fight against it? It would be a battle won, and the person would be accepted (albeit cautiously, and naturally so).

The vast majority of sabs are vegetarian or vegan but I'm sure a great many of them ate meat in their past. Does this mean they are murdering scum? I think not.

More to the point, an individual's past shouldn't incriminate everyone who knows that person. This sounds stupid, but this was the sentiment expressed in *Newspapers & Nazis*.

The writer has obviously never met Chiltern HSA. Within our group there are at least ten sabs actively involved with Anti-Fascist Action and there are a handful of Anti-Nazi League members too. There are many more like-minded sabs in the rest of the Thames Valley region. Do you honestly think we would continue sabbing with someone who we knew or felt was a fascist?

The only fascist attitude I have ever encountered as a hunt saboteur is the prejudice currently being expressed by some sabs towards Thames Valley region, to the extent that some refused to be seen with us at a national hit (therefore endangering animals).

I object strongly to being called a 'liberal' as the article states and I object even more strongly to being labelled a nazi, which is what is insinuated in the article.

By not letting people have a chance to alter their viewpoint (for the better) you may be forcing them back and perpetuating the problem.

Human and animal rights must be defended side by side, not in conflict with one another.

Alan
Chiltern HSA

THE DANGERS OF SABBING "HOUND EXERCISE"

Your item *Save lives by sabbing puppy walking* (*Howl 52*, page 9) perpetuated misconceptions concerning hunting's pre-season routine as well as being tactically questionable.

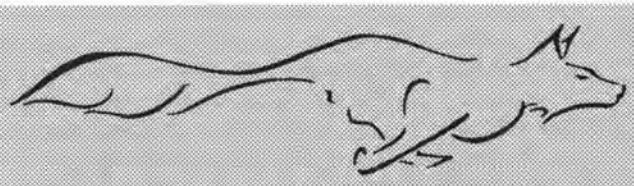
In the first place, the process referred to is termed "hound exercise". "Puppy-walking" is when puppies are put out to walk with individual hunt supporters and their families for the hound's first nine months to a year, when the hound's playfulness can be given free reign.

Hound exercise itself has two purposes: the first is to ensure that hounds are fit to hunt; the second is to bring pack discipline to that year's new entry. This discipline, while essential to the operation of the pack as a hunting tool, is also essential to the hounds' survival in the hunting field. In a world of increasing road traffic the danger to hounds from cars is a very real one and hound exercise equips the new hounds with a greater ability to survive in such a world. Interference with this basic training can only lead to an ill-disciplined pack that is a danger to itself and other road users. I see too many stray hounds on hunts already (thanks to incompetent hunt staff). Making the situation worse helps no one.

Of course we want to see an easily-biddable pack that we can pull off foxes and away from danger, but the time to achieve this is in the earliest days of cubhunting when the real training begins and more foxes are killed. Effective sabotage of early cubbing meets should result in a pack that is safe on the roads but equally less effective at killing foxes.

I regard "sabbing" hound exercise as irresponsible and I urge all sabs to concentrate on saving lives where they can be saved – in the hunting field.

Mark Freeman, Bath



▪ 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.

TIME FOR UNITY!

by Cameron Evans, Nottingham HSA member and former HSA Secretary

The intention behind this collection of words is to prevent in-fighting and bring us closer together, but the words need action from us all!

At the moment there seems to be a lot of bad feeling within the animal rights movement which is directed towards certain groups and individuals by other groups around the country. I am particularly concerned by the bad feeling present in the hunt sab movement.

First of all, some people have a problem with me. What am I seen as? The HSA Committee, an ex-Committee member, a member of Nottingham Sabs, a sab, or an individual? Well, I hope I am only really known for being the last two of these, because I was never 'the HSA Committee'. I was just one person who thought he had something to give the HSA and sabs in the fight against bloodsports.

After being on the committee for a while I realised that everything I did would be seen as the actions of a committee member and not of an individual sab. So, if I made a mistake or did something that someone didn't like, nobody said anything directly to me about it. Instead they moaned about the committee. Well, I suppose it's trendy to do that, but those people should only think about this.

I hope I never gave the impression that I was 'the Committee' – it was never my intention to do so. I know that some committee members do give that impression, but on the whole it is other sabs who put the committee up there on a pedestal in the first place. Why?

Like all of us, committee members are volunteers. They work for the HSA (which in one way or another hopefully does help to save animals' lives) without getting paid. Now I'm not saying that committee members should get a reward, or even a thanks (although when something does go right it would be nice to hear it). But slagging off committee members just for its own sake only causes unnecessary friction between ourselves, friction we cannot afford. Division is the way backwards, not forwards.

"What is needed is action, not rhetoric. The HSA's problems would be better tackled by more people taking an interest in what's going on"

At the HSA's recent Annual General Meeting questions were asked about sabbing angling. The issue was the relatively low number of fishing matches which sabs disrupt. A sab, who is not a committee member, put forward the view that it might have something to do with the fact that a lot of sabs used to go fishing themselves. The next day there was a rumour going round that one of the committee members goes fishing!

What the hell is going on? Either those who spread these rumours were police infiltrators trying to split us up, or they are very stupid. (the words 'police' and 'stupid' are often closely linked) So why was the rumour started?

If you don't like something that's happening in the HSA, why not phone the office (0602 590357) and express your opinion? Better still, why not write in, or come to our meetings, or even take on a committee post yourself? This would be better, surely, than hiding away, moaning on about the committee and spreading gossip.

This is an important point, and I speak from experience. There were many things I didn't like about the HSA's old committee years ago, when Ralph Cook and co. were running things. I've been in disagreement with more recent HSA committees, too. However, rather than criticising and doing nothing, my response has always been to express my views and try to change things for the better.

Hopefully, the people on the HSA committee are not going to bring the HSA down, or turn it into another League Against Cruel Sports, but we can all make sure it doesn't happen by getting involved in the HSA.

Of course, criticising can be a good thing, but only if it is relevant and justified. However, recently some people have been slagging off committee members simply because of personal differences. It's true, perhaps, that certain committee members have annoyed people with their attitude. But that is the fault of the individuals concerned, and is not the fault of the whole committee, which consists of twelve people. Not all committee members are alike, but, for some reason, they all get treated the same.

What is needed is action, not rhetoric. The HSA's problems would be better tackled by more people taking an interest in what's going on, and by sabs becoming active in the decision-making process. What's stopping you?

On a related subject, I was recently out sabbing with some other groups, when one group came over to ours and suggested an action that we could all take part in. For various reasons, sabs from Nottingham were not keen on the idea. Individual, personal experience convinced me and others that the idea wasn't a sensible one.

At this point members of the other group started slagging us off and trying to 'guilt-trip' us, saying that the animals were dying now, and so on. They also made the more general point that we 'never do anything'.

I won't go into all the arguments here because they are lengthy, but the question must be asked: Who the hell do these people think they are, telling another group of individuals that they are worse than useless, just because they wouldn't do what they were told? If there were any new sabs out that day, I'm sure it would have been their last.

"We have the hunts, shooters, fishermen, BFSS, security, police, courts, MPs, civil servants, House of Lords and many other organisations against us"

Nottingham sabs were also accused of only ever doing what what I say! If that was the case, we would have been sabbing the Cottesmore four times a week for the last few years. The sab who made this accusation later said that they had been told this by someone else.

It is this sort of attitude we do not need. Everyone does what they can and to the best of their ability. Sabs don't need a sermon on what they should or shouldn't do, nor should they be subjected to a load of attitude which is similar to that of the police. It only annoys them and makes them think twice about sabbing with that group. There are plenty of other people to argue with, rather than fellow sabs. We should respect the decisions of those who don't want to be involved in actions which they believe carry unacceptable risks.

I'll try and finish on a positive note. It's about time we started to work together. Use the HSA, don't abuse it. Communicate with each other, within the groups, within the regions and within the country. We have the hunts, shooters, fishermen, BFSS, security, police, courts, MPs, civil servants, House of Lords and many other organisations against us. Instead of fighting each other, we should fight these organisations.

Let's start now. We are winning, but, as we all know, it's an uphill struggle. There are hundreds of good sabs out there, so let's start to work together. I know it might be difficult, but we've got to put our differences aside to save more lives. Use this space to put your ideas over and communicate. There's nothing wrong with criticism, as long as it is constructive.

And if you want to slag me off, do it to my face, and remember that it's got nothing to do with the HSA Committee or the other sabs in the Nottingham group!

■ ***This item first appeared in the HSA's mailout to local groups in Autumn 1993***

NO MORE GUILT TRIPS

Almost exactly a year ago some friends of mine attempted to sabotage a shoot in the Derbyshire Peak District. There should have been three groups involved, making about thirty sabs in total. Unfortunately, all the groups were under strength that day and the grand total of sabs was eleven.

Despite these low numbers the sabs decided to go and look at the shoot to see how big it was. When they got there it was obvious that they were hopelessly outnumbered. A couple of the sabs present thought that it would be dangerous to attempt any sabbing that day and that everyone should leave immediately while they still could.

The problem was that the two sabs who wanted to leave were not particularly confident or forceful in getting their point of view across. The opposite was true of the people who wanted to sab the shoot, who said that the shoot had to be sabbed and everyone there would be needed for it to work.

The two who did not want to continue felt emotionally pressurised into following along with the group consensus. They did not feel confident enough to stay back at the van, even though that is what they wanted to do. Not surprisingly, after they attempted to start sabbing, the shooting party became very violent and attacked the group of sabs.

Whilst the sabs at the shoot can only really be criticised for not listening to quiet, 'unimportant' members of the group, I was recently in a similar situation, where my views were not only ignored but scorned as well.

This time it did not involve a shoot but a trout farm, where for about a pound you could be virtually guaranteed to catch a fish. The place, like many other places of animal abuse, was very unpleasant. Some of the sabs present wanted to go into the farm and try and stop the fishing. For a variety of reasons I and about five friends decided that we did not feel happy with what had been proposed. We said that if people wanted to go into the farm that was fine, but we did not want to be involved.

I assumed that this would be the end of the matter – however, it was only the beginning! Those who had suggested we should go into the farm immediately started to try and blackmail us into changing our minds. They tried to 'guilt trip' us by telling us that fish were dying while we just sat there. We were accused of being apathetic and they even told us we did not care about fish because they do not have big bushy tails and warm blood. To say we felt insulted and patronised is an understatement.

Only because a few of us held the same view did we had the strength to resist the 'guilt trip' onslaught. If I had been alone I would probably have felt obliged to do something I did not want to – that would have been both wrong and dangerous.

For me this issue is a very straightforward one. It is to do with having simple respect for each other's values and opinions. If someone has come to the conclusion that they do not want to do something then their decision should be respected. It is no one's right to try and bully people into compliance.

I also think that we should look a bit more closely at their main line of argument, the one designed to make even the 'soundest' person feel guilty: 'The animals are dying, you must do more'.

This is a weak line of argument, designed to make people feel so guilty they will do anything they are told to. Let's face it, animals are dying all the time, all around us, and they are not being killed by people who choose to forego certain actions because they do not consider them safe or sensible.

Certain people need to remember that at a shoot birds are killed by those who shoot them, that at a foxhunt the fox is killed by the huntsman and his supporters, and that at the fish farm in question it was certainly not my friends and I who were killing the fish. Yet we were the ones being made to feel guilty about it.

We can never succeed in building a strong movement if we lay the foundations with guilt. We have to accept that there are different people with different opinions. When we go sabbing or go on any other animal rights action, what we do while we are there is an individual choice based on our own personalities and values. It is a choice which should be respected by the other people on the action. As far as I am concerned our enemies are those who benefit from animal abuse, not those who are able to make decisions for themselves and decide what they want to do with their own bodies.

I urge everyone not to take part in actions they don't feel comfortable with. We should stand up to the right-on bullies amongst us – they don't always know best.

OB, Nottinghamshire

LEGAL NEWS

▪ A Portsmouth saboteur was cleared by magistrates after explaining to that the assault with which he had been charged had never actually taken place.

The sab had been accused of attacking **Amanda Freemantle** of the Hursley Hambledon FH in December 1992. The prosecution alleged that he had pulled Miss Freemantle's hair three times, but the man denied the charge and was found not guilty.

▪ **William Howells**, a Forestry Commission worker and supporter of the New Forest Buckhounds, was found guilty in July 1993 of damaging a video camera belonging to a local animal rights campaigner.

Howells, of Main Road, East Boldre, had tried to stop members of the New Forest Animal Protection Group from filming events at a Buckhounds meet on New Years Day 1993. Lyminton magistrates heard that he had taken hold of the video camera and twisted it until the casing snapped. Howells tried to explain his action by saying that he thought the protesters had been spraying false scent for the hounds.

The group members told the court that they started filming Howells for possible identification purposes.

He was ordered to pay £443 in compensation and given a 12-month conditional discharge.

▪ In *Howl 52* we gave the wrong name of the man thought to be the first paid hunt steward to be found guilty of assaulting a saboteur.

He is in fact **Christopher R G Nichol**, aged 30, of Pasture Cottage, Wilton, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7LE.

Nichol admitted assaulting the young woman, a member of Pickering Hunt Sabs, who was left with cuts and bruises. He was fined £370 after telling the court that he had "lost his temper".

NEWS

Don't Shoot!

Fun with guns in the sunshine ended in the particularly gruesome death of a fox killer, accidentally shot dead by his best friend.

Mick Stubbs, of Swayfield, Lincolnshire, was shot in the stomach with a 12-bore shotgun wielded by his gamekeeper pal Walter Smith as the two men lay in wait for foxes.

The accident happened in July on the Grimsthorpe Estate at Witham-on-the-hill near Bourne in Lincolnshire.

Mr Stubbs was rushed to hospital for an emergency operation, but died three hours later.

Police launched an investigation into the incident. It is understood that the shotgun was brand new and had not been used before.

Teenagers oppose hunting

Young people are becoming increasingly opposed to animal cruelty, according to a recent newspaper poll.

The Gallop survey showed that 79 per cent of British teenagers object to foxhunting, and 90 per cent are against killing animals for their fur.

The survey also showed that more than a quarter of all UK teenagers are, or intend to become, vegetarians.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 1 NOTTINGHAM NG4 2JY
TEL: 0602 590357 (general enquiries); 091 273 9206 (press office)

Dear HSA Member,

You may already have heard about the governement's proposals to introduce legislation to criminalise trespass by hunt saboteurs as part of the reforms to the Criminal Justice Act. The 80% of the British public who oppose hunting will doubtless be surprised to find that rather than acting against bloodsports, the government are instead trying to outlaw those compassionate enough to try to save animals, not kill them. This cynical stitch-up is the result of shoddy backroom deals with the small but powerful hunting lobby. It is backed up with years of anti-sab propaganda and media manipulation by the same people with vested interests and frightening influence in "the right circles".

The hunters are already boasting that this will finish off hunt saboteurs, just as they did about the Public Order Act in 1986. That failed to stop us and so will this new move. The hunt always fail to reckon with the enormous strength of compassion that is on our side - as long as there are bloodsports there will be people who care enough to try and save animals.

However, we cannot afford to be complacent. We are determined to fight this attack on hunt saboteurs with every means at our disposal. Therefore we are appealing for extra funds to enable us to launch a defence campaign without using money better spent on our core activitity of enabling and encouraging direct action against bloodsports.

I realise that many HSA members will probably already donate substantial amounts they can ill-afford both to the HSA and many other worthy causes and I apologise for having to ask you to dig still deeper. However, I firmly believe that the HSA and hunt saboteurs are worth fighting for and that the HSA has a duty to fight any attacks that may limit our capacity to save animals' lives. Don't let the power of the few deprive our hunted wildlife of the protection we can offer them - please send us a donation and also lobby your own MP to show them the strength of support for those who care.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Davis,
HSA Campaigns Officer.

✂- -

☐ I would like to help the HSA campaign against anti-sab legislation and enclose:

☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other

☐ I will write to ask my MP to lobby for laws against bloodsports not hunt saboteurs.
(Please send us copies of any reply from MPs)

NOT TO HURT OUR HUMBLE BRETHEREN IS OUR FIRST DUTY TO THEM, BUT TO STOP THERE IS NOT ENOUGH. WE HAVE A HIGHER MISSION - TO BE OF SERVICE TO THEM WHENEVER THEY REQUIRE IT.
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION LIMITED registered in Wales No 2557724 VAT No 531388350

"GET ORF MOI LAAAAAND!"

What happens when they really mean it? Injunctions, the huntsman's latest legal ruse, are explained by HSA Legal Secretary Elliot Vernon

The hunting fraternity's use of injunctions as a way of preventing sabs from saving lives is a recent development. The idea is to try to stop sabs from carrying out direct action. If hunts are successful in obtaining injunctions it could have an alarming effect on our ability to defend wildlife and the environment.

On a more positive note, it is worth remembering that injunctions are a complicated area of civil law, and involve a long and laborious legal process to complete, so hunt saboteurs stand a good chance of successfully fighting such actions in the courts (and consequently costing the hunt concerned a large sum of money).

However, as individual sabs, we need to be clued up on the legal situation and have a 'ground plan' to prevent injunctions from becoming a problem.

The recent attempts by various eco-defence groups (Twyford Down Action, Earth First!, etc) to protect Twyford Down has led to injunctions being served on sixty-four activists by the Department of Transport. The injunction was to stop the individuals from trespassing on Department land (Twyford Down) and consequently has led to some fairly serious problems for those individuals involved in their attempts to defend the environment.

What is worse, the High Court has made every person under an injunction liable for the actions of everybody else. The case against the Twyford Down individuals represents an example of how extreme and draconian an injunction can be when used by a landowner (in this case the Department of Transport) to protect their environmentally destructive practices.

Closer to home, as you may have read in the hunting press, various sabs (for various reasons) have accepted court injunctions against them, therefore limiting their ability to sabotage hunts. On a slightly more positive note, four East Anglian sabs are being sued, with the intention of gaining an injunction, by a hunt, under the dubious legal tort of 'trespass to property' (running with hounds). If the hunt win this case it will mean that the sabs in question will not be able to sabotage the hunt again. However, the saboteurs have had the sense to fight the case and this has meant that it has dragged on for over three years, at great expense and confusion to the hunt!

The main reason a hunt or a pro-hunt land owner is going to attempt to gain an injunction over a sab is to restrain a sab from trespassing on his/her property; to do this they have to prove, in a civil case, that the saboteur(s) in question was actually and continually trespassing on the property and that this trespass was likely to need the seriousness of an injunction to stop it (and not just damages or some other legal remedy).

Injunctions come in two types: the first, a 'perpetual injunction', is, as the name suggests, an injunction that is perpetually binding to an individual. A perpetual injunction is a remedy given to a plaintiff (the person bringing the civil action - in our case a huntsman or a pro-hunt land owner) after a civil case has been won and the court agrees that the wrong done to the plaintiff needs an injunction to protect him/her. At this point it is worth mentioning that injunctions are considered by courts to be a very serious remedy and that they will grant them only if the case is serious enough to demand it.

The second type of injunction is an 'interlocutory injunction'. This is an interim measure granted by a court while a case is on-going. Obviously, this is the worst sort of injunction as it stops a saboteur from acting on a particular hunt or piece of land without a definite legal decision. In some cases this sort of injunction is granted by a court immediately as proceedings commence (granted 'ex parte', in legal jargon). This sort of injunction is very serious and would be granted by a court only if it was satisfied that a saboteur's actions "would or might entail irreparable or serious mischief" (*see Bean 1991, page 62*).

If a member of the hunting fraternity was to attempt to gain an injunction over you what would you do? The first thing is to avoid, by all possible means, accepting the initial writ that has to be served in order for the proceedings to take place; this is primarily a time wasting exercise as it forces the hunter to obtain an affidavit (costing them solicitor's fees and taking up their time). The next step is to contact a trusted and supporting solicitor, as well as the HSA. This is because a case leading to an injunction is very complicated, and, from the point of view of your ability to sab hunts, very important. As with all legal action that the hunt throw at us it is vital to fight the charges against you. If your solicitor tells you that you have no chance of winning and you believe you do then change solicitor!

If the worst scenario happens and the hunt manage to succeed in obtaining an injunction against you; my advice would be to accept it, as well as possibly appealing against the decision. The reason for provisionally accepting an injunction, especially an interlocutory injunction while a case is going on, is that an injunction is a serious legal remedy; if you break it you are very seriously in contempt of court and could face jail, a large fine and the other oppressive measures cooked up by that the English legal system. If an injunction is taken out against you, move onto a different hunt.

An injunction can be a frightening measure and one that is potentially damaging to those hunts arrogant enough to try them. There is also no guarantee of success for the hunts. If a hunt tries to bring an injunction against you, don't panic. Contact a sympathetic solicitor and, most importantly, fight it.

"If a hunt tries to bring an injunction against you, don't panic!"

Further reading

For those interested in reading up on the subject, the main book – although very expensive and full of legal jargon – is:

D Bean, *Injunctions* (Fifth Edition), Longman Press, London 1991.



A Roe for the Killing

Last year saw the reappearance of roe deer hunting after 200 years' absence. Ian Pedler examines hunting's latest perversity



Last year a relatively unreported situation arose that could have far-reaching implications for bloodsports in particular and animal rights in general. I refer to a request by two newly formed and unrecognised roe deer hunts for affiliation to the Masters of Deerhounds Association. This is the governing body which 'polices the rules' of red and fallow deer hunting in much the same way that the Masters of Foxhounds are supposed to govern their so-called sport. Outright membership was refused, but both hunts were given probationary status.

The two hunts concerned are the Cheldon Buckhounds, hunted by Mr. David Ford, and Mr Lawrence Clark's Hounds. The Cheldon, who follow mounted, have one couple of foxhounds and some beagle and basset hounds. Mr Clark's Hounds are a foot pack and appear to have some 12 couple of beagles and basset hounds. Both packs are based near Tiverton in Devon, and initially plan to hunt one day a week.

Problems for the hunting fraternity started to arise when the Cheldon Buckhounds caused an incident which resulted in a roe deer being held captive for something approaching fifteen minutes, prior to having its throat slit. This caused the Masters of Deerhounds Association to suspend the Cheldon and to order an investigation into the incident. The subsequent inquiry exonerated the hunt, lifted the suspension, and restored them to the status of probationary membership.

Apparently still concerned at the possibility of public outrage over the creation of an entirely new bloodsport, the MDHA decided to set up a working party to examine the future implications of roe deer hunting in the West Country, with a remit to report by March 1995.

Public opinion was also uppermost in the minds of the Masters of Foxhounds Association when they swiftly ordered an embargo on the drafting of foxhounds to be used by roe deer packs, fearing that the reputation of foxhunting could be tarnished by too close an association with this new venture.

Countryweek Hunting magazine summed up the feelings of many bloodsport enthusiasts in an editorial on the subject:

"The 197 packs of foxhounds, 22 of harriers and 75 of beagles, would fall under suspicion in the public mind of complicity by association in an activity from which the public would surely recoil ... that the hunting of some former quarries no longer stands up to the criteria of what now constitutes sport is already accepted by pro-hunting opinion."

The editorial then proceeded to extol the virtues of former otter hunters for bringing this species back from the brink of extinction and emphasised that the public would not tolerate a resumption of the hunting of this animal. It concluded by saying that:

"roe deer are seen just as much as public martyrs now as otters were then. The Bambi complex and revulsion against the freebooters who course roe deer with oversize lurchers in southern England are examples of that. The reaction to pursuit of roe deer take them, in modern motorised Britain, out of the sporting agenda. It would be impossible to condone such a practice, and difficult to limit the damage it would do to the repute of hunting as a whole."

What all this means in simple language is that most foxhunters find it extremely difficult to justify the brutalities inherent in staghunting, and wish that the controversial subject would disappear. However, they also realise that abolition would be the 'thin edge of the wedge' for their sport, and find the possibility of being publicly allied to a new type of deer hunting simply terrifying.

Recognition of roe hunting by deerhunting's governing body would be the official legitimatisation of the 'sport' which would put back the abolitionist cause by decades. For, having failed to outlaw one single blood sport, we would find ourselves confronted with the reality of a whole range of new atrocities to contend with.

We should be clear on this point. If the hunting of roe deer were to become widely accepted, there would be nothing to stop any would-be sportsman from starting his own roe deer pack. It's also worth remembering that it wouldn't remain a West Country problem, for the roe, unlike red deer, can be found in most counties of Britain.

What is certain is that roe deer hunting will be a typically savage and callous affair. Most acknowledged deer experts agree that roe deer are not satisfactory animals to hunt, as they tend to double about their own woods, seldom give good runs and are pulled down very quickly.

Of the few recorded instances of long runs we read such edifying statements as:

"the deer ran before hounds for almost two hours before jumping the iron gate into Melbury Park, where seeing the distressed state of the deer, the master stopped hounds. Thus ended a splendid run of at least 18 miles."

Or, how about the following:

"roused a buck in Odstock Copse on the outskirts of Salisbury, and ran it into Blandford where it was killed in a garden, a distance of nearly twenty miles."

There has been no organised roe hunting for nearly two hundred years, and all 'necessary control' of these animals is carried out by professional marksmen working on behalf of such bodies as the Forestry Commission. It is therefore clear that the intention to resume hunting roe with hounds cannot be justified on the grounds of 'wildlife control'. It is nothing more than a sick bloodsport.

Bearing in mind the grave apprehensions already shown by the bloodsports lobby, it is essential that every effort is made to draw public attention to the fact that the horrors of Exmoor and the Quantocks are about to be visited nationwide.

The following suggestions may help to start the ball rolling:

- Write to your local newspapers, warning of the proposals and explaining the consequences.
- Saboteurs – Watch out for roe deer hunting, especially in the West Country, and act accordingly.
- Write to your local county council, pointing out the arguments against roe deer hunting and asking if they are willing to allow such practices in their area.
- Last, but not least, you could even write to the Masters of Deerhounds Association at Abbots Park, Molland, South Molton, North Devon to let them know of your views.

It is vital that no compromise is made on this issue. The proponents of roe deer hunting must be pursued and pilloried, and the whole insidious undertaking stopped in its tracks.

TRAPS & SNARES: SECRET SABOTAGE

A Howl reader provides some useful tips on visiting shooting estates

A great deal is said about the sabotaging of hunts and organised shoots, and more people are now becoming involved in sabotaging angling, but I read very little about the sabotage of actual shooting estates.

Many *Howl* readers will be well aware of the mass extermination of wildlife by gamekeepers. As a recent edition of the League Against Cruel Sports' *Wildlife Guardian* mentions, each year in Britain around five million wild animals are killed with traps, snares, guns and poisons. Most of it goes unseen, unlike hunting, and therefore it never reaches the media. Often traps and snares are left unchecked for long periods of time, and hence animals and birds suffer slow and agonising deaths.

Sabbing hunts is usually done *en masse*, but estates are best checked by individuals or groups of just two people – confrontation is to be avoided, since the immobilising of traps and snares cannot be carried out if the gamekeeper knows you are there. Also, the same area should be regularly re-visited and checked for "reinfestation" of the offensive implements. (On one occasion I discovered fresh snares on one fence "run" three times in four weeks. Thankfully, since the last time no more snares have been in evidence. A small success, but one that has saved lives.)

Snares and traps can be placed in most countryside areas, but two of the most common locations are:

- *Around release pens* – snares are set around the perimeter and attached to the fence. Traps are usually found under box-like tunnels, staked to the ground, again around the perimeter fencing.

- *Along wire fencing* – either deer fencing or stock fencing. Usually mammals will use regular pathways, leading to a gap under the fence – the pathways are easy to spot and the snares and traps are normally set in the gaps. Sometimes, if there are no gaps under the fence, pathways will run along the edge. These can also be snared, especially in areas where the undergrowth forces the animal into a small gap. This can also occur in dense woodland away from both release pens and fencing (I remember once falling flat on my face having stepped into a snare along a pathway!)

The actual release pen can be a problem, especially if it is occupied. You are faced with a dilemma – knowing full well what will happen to these young birds in the near future. However, at this point I would not advise damaging the pen in any way, or releasing the occupants, since if they are still confined they are not mature enough to be able to escape from predators and since they are semi-tame, and food is normally available, they will remain in that area. Releasing them only plays into the hands of the gamekeeper, who will label you irresponsible – unfortunately I would agree with him.

Satisfy yourself with being able to sabotage the actual shoots when they occur. What you do with an *empty* release pen is obviously up to you, but they are quite costly to erect, the wire being the most expensive component.

Once you know what you are looking for it becomes easier, though beware – it can become addictive!

Shooting estates are easy to spot – if you are out walking you may notice food bins amongst the woods; usually they are full of corn to keep the pheasants in the area. You may even notice an area with an obvious over-abundance of pheasants.

Be aware of the law – most sabs know all about trespass (ie, that it isn't a criminal offence) but far more difficult is the law concerning the demobilising of snares, an action which *could* be regarded as criminal damage, carried out with what *could* be regarded as an offensive weapon. The best rule is not to get caught, as much for your sake as the animals'.

Anyone can be involved in this form of wildlife protection, whether you are an active sab out in the country to visit a hunt, or just someone out walking. It's something you can do even if you are unable to regularly sabotage hunts.

To conclude, might I suggest that local sab groups keep records of release pens in their area? This would allow people to help save at least some of the *five million* animals' lives lost each year at the hands of gamekeepers and farmers.





Above: **A fenn trap - capable of breaking a dog's leg - left illegally by a public footpath.** ***Left:*** **Foxes found hanging on a shooting estate**

Some other points to remember when visiting shooting estates:

- Always carry a haversack to carry traps in – it also makes you look like a rambler.
- A pair of binoculars and a birdwatching book in your pocket can be invaluable as an excuse for being on keepered land.
- Keep an Ordnance Survey map with you.
- If at all possible avoid confrontation, but if you are seen *don't* run away – approach the person and make out that you are lost and need guidance to get back on the right path. Be courteous and apologetic – remember that you may need to revisit the same area on another day.
- Finally, remember that it's not just shooting estates that put out snares and traps. Farmers use them as well, so if you are out walking the dog why not check along the bottom of stock fences? You never know what you might find...

Minkhunt's heavy brigade fails to stop saboteurs

Bath HSA's Mark Freeman tells the tale from the riverbank

"We're not worried about you lot this year, we've got the muscle to see you off"
unidentified Ytene supporter

With Summer fast approaching, Rose Whitcomb (Joint Master, Kennel Huntsman and media celebrity) publicly announced her intention to carry a shotgun this season (so what's new?) With claims like this, and bearing in mind comments such as the one above, hunt saboteurs in the South West were viewing the forthcoming months of action with some trepidation.

The Summer 1992 campaign against the Ytene Minkhounds was an undoubted success, limited only by a lack of sab numbers on most occasions. That year local sabs had taken the decision to do every meet possible. The Ytene saw sabs on 24 occasions, including virtually every Saturday, and as a result they started to undertake counteractions. The number of large and aggressive young hunt followers steadily increased throughout the summer, meets were switched, and aggressive 'agent of the landowner' tactics were employed to keep sabs away from the hunt. Despite all this, sabs persevered and continued to save lives.

By this summer the situation had clearly reached the point where all our previous successes had pushed the Ytene to the point of desperation and our tactics had to change. Hitting every meet we got was no longer an option if it was going to result in serious injuries to sabs and the hunt continuing to kill unhindered.



Above: Minkhounds taken off the scent by sabs, 24 July 1993
Top right: Ytene meatheads take offence at their dig-out becoming a sit-in, 22 May 1993 *(Photos by Simon Wild & Mark Hogben)*

As it turned out, meets were far harder to obtain this year, but we had enough time to organise the required number of sabs to prevent any kills. Things kicked off on Saturday 8 May 1993 at the Bremhill Dumb Post. With over fifty sabs in attendance, the hunt was initially prevented from leaving the meet until the police arrived. When hunting finally did commence, sabs were there to prevent any kills and home was soon blown, but not before three car loads of lads had arrived, obviously called in to deal with us but to no avail. The day was ours !

Seventy sabs returned on the 22nd for the meet at Langham Farm, Rode. The Somerset Frome was today's river and sabs were soon in action, taking hounds off all the mink and stepping in to prevent a riverside dig-out. The spade brigade took offence to this and unfortunately lost their spades in the river. No spades, no dig, no kills!

Our next day with the Ytene was the 19 June at Dunkerton Church, just three miles south of Bath. Bath HSA actually made it to this one having just got their van back on the road after repairing £2,500 worth of damage caused by supporters of the Hursley Hambledon foxhunt. The first supporter we saw at the Ytene was one of those responsible!

With hounds vanned on four miles down-stream to Midford, sabs followed in hot pursuit and into the fields. Once again the cacophony of halloas, whistles, screams and horns made hunting impossible. The hunt tried to do a runner once they got to the village of Combe Hay, but the hound van was blocked in down a bridleway. Once Rose had been persuaded not to try to run sabs down, a picnic atmosphere ensued during which time it was discovered that the hunt was present without the landowner's permission.

Eventually the arrival of the Solstice police taskforce saw the Ytene allowed out to play once more, but their frustration was showing. One whipper-in was arrested for trying to take a sabs head off with his whip and a supporter detained after threatening sabs once too often.

Unfortunately, three sabs were also arrested by the over-zealous forces of Avon & Somerset Constabulary, who were obviously upset by the local travellers not staying put for the Solstice weekend. With no hippies to harass we got them instead! The sab made the front page of the local press, with an obviously frustrated Ytene inventing stories about sabs with anaesthetic sprays and unconscious supporters. You've got to admire their imagination!

The next two visitations were at midweek meets, the first being the next Tuesday evening just north of Gillingham in Dorset. The 35 sabs initially present set to work preventing any kills but the threat of violence was ever present. The



sight of Thames Valley, Bolton and Liverpool sabs streaming across the fields seemed like the cavalry arriving on cue, and a disheartened (and by now outnumbered) Ytene soon headed for home. The hound van was again prevented from leaving to killing fields anew until the darkness brought a welcome conclusion. Dorset police, in an attempt not to be outdone by their Avon cousins, arrested an Oxford sab for parking his van on the side of the road.

The Ytene took the sensible option on Tuesday 6 July and went straight home at the sight of the assembled 50 sabs at Organford, South Dorset. The local police were obviously in a good mood and allowed sabs to tail the hound van back to the kennels but not without pulling one van for a Department of Transport inspection (obviously still in 'hassle a hippy' mode).

The final hit (at the time of writing) on the Ytene was again just outside Bath on 24 July at Lower Twinhoe, hunting the Wellow brook. Security had obviously lapsed as the police, at least, were expecting us, and had blocked all access roads. Undeterred, sabs found a footpath and were soon back in action with all the usual stuff.

As usual for this river, mink were in plentiful supply and sabs stepped in to prevent three (is this a record?) digouts and eventually, with hounds tearing around in circles hunting nothing, Tony Smart and Co. called it a day.

The aforementioned police, obviously a mite miffed that we'd got past them, turned one riverbank into a no-go zone and happily arrested a Chiltern sab for the serious crime of stepping on the wrong river bank. Oh dear!

The Ytene have seen regular sab intervention over the last five summers, and although last summer won't go down in the annals of sab history as the most-often-sabbed, it equals any in terms of our effectiveness. The hunt are a shadow of what they were in the early and mid eighties, with support half of what it was and ever greater reliance placed upon the 'working terrier' sickos to bolster their support and, on some occasions, the following limited to the sad and sadistic few.

■ *Summer 1993 would not have been the unqualified sucess it was without the support of so many sab groups, too many to list, but special mention must be made of the North West crew who travelled half the country to be there. We thank you all – let's do it again next year!*

'The Glorious 12th'

Yorkshire sabs report on their latest efforts against the grouse shooters and their minders



The start of the grouse shooting season once again saw many sabs out on the moors to face the guns.

In Yorkshire and Humberside, events were characterised by the heavy-handed tactics of stewards working in close unison with the police.

On the 'glorious' 12th August, sabs found a shoot near Hurst, Swaledale, in time to stop it in the middle of the second drive. The shooting party quickly retired to the lodge for an early lunch, and awaited the arrival of North Yorkshire Constabulary's infamous 'taskforce'.

Closely followed by the police, sabs went on to disrupt two drives of another shoot on nearby Askrigg Moor. A dozen arrests were made there, the police being particularly tiresome.

The weekend was taken up with a thorough but fruitless search for shoots throughout the region. Surprisingly, with the season just a couple of days old, no shooting parties were found.

Press coverage at the time emphasised that a poor breeding season meant that there were fewer grouse around, hence fewer shoots. However, it became clear that many part-time shooters had been discouraged from their traditional shoot-em-up by media stories about saboteurs and stewards. In particular, estates were mourning the loss of many visiting subscribers from overseas, put off by recollections of 1992's grouse shooting chaos.

On the following Monday (16 August) sabs located a shoot on Ramsgill Moor, Nidderdale, at around 11 am. The police also showed up and made two arrests, although the shoot was well and truly stopped.

Events on this day were witnessed by **Brian Purseglove** of Estate Management Services, who was thought to be touting for business.

Tuesday saw a shoot halted near Grinton, Swaledale, where sabs arrived at lunchtime and prevented any shooting from taking place for the rest of the day. No arrests were made.

Wednesday and Thursday were again spent looking for shoots, but none were found. The Yorkshire Dales were searched extensively, and some sabs even went south into the Peak District, but the shooters, if they were out, could not be found.

The police pulled out all the stops on Friday 20th, making twelve more arrests at a grouse shoot north of Askrigg, Swaledale. Three drives were halted before officers moved in, bundling sabs into their 7-ton mobile prison. Some sabs were arrested while simply standing on a public road – they were informed that their behaviour was likely to lead to a Breach of the Peace.

Brian Purseglove put in another appearance on Saturday 21st, to watch sabs halt three different shoots in one area near Kettlewell. At one point hired heavies threw sabs off a track, but this didn't prevent sabs from making sure that all three shoots packed up early. Later, a rabbit shoot was also stopped.

On Saturday 4 September, sabs returned to Hurst where another shoot, on a different estate than previously, was taking place. The shoot weren't expecting any sabs and they packed up in mid-drive. After lunch the police taskforce turned up, and one sab was arrested and detained overnight.

Although the media interest waned, sabs kept visiting shoots as the season continued. Stewards were particularly nasty on 17 September on Wheeldale Moor, land leased from the Duchy of Lancaster and scene of a mass arrest in August 1992. The moor is run by **William Baldwin**, who uses the estate services of 'Alpha One', aka **Simon Longworth,** who patrols several hunts in the area.

A couple of drives were stopped, but stewards became very violent; several sabs were thrown into a river. An insider later had this policy explained to him by a steward, who said *"the road was miles away, I couldn't be bothered to cart them back, so I threw them in the river instead – when they're wet they soon piss off."*

Later sabs went to Kildale Moor, where a late afternoon drive was stopped.

Saturday 9 October was a bumper day for Yorkshire and Humberside sabs: after visiting the York & Ainsty South foxhunt's cubbing meet in the morning, a partridge shoot was located nearby and packed up after just one drive which "produced about three shots and was crap."

Flushed with success, sabs then went on to the Hunsley Beacon Beagles whose meet was at the master's house near Howden, North Humberside. Unfortunately the hunt chopped one hare before packing up early.

Then, at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on the north bank of the Humber, all duck and geese shooting was prevented when shooters' vehicles were blocked in. After the police arrived the shooters left, but sabs followed them away from the area to make sure no further attempts at shooting were made. (A couple of weeks later this incident was reported in the *Shooting Times* under the headline 'Wildfowlers attacked by antis on rampage'.)

To end the day, two young rat shooters were also sent packing by the same group of 25 sabs. Bearing in mind the fact that the West Yorks group had sabbed some fishermen during the morning on their way to the cubhunt and the shoots, this was a memorable day!

■ A worrying trend of the shooting season so far has been the closer liaison between hired security and the police. On some occasions the two groups have arrived together at shoots, and police and stewards are often ferried around in each others' vehicles *(see photo, left)*.

One inspector was asked if the police were passing information to the stewards. He said that they weren't, and added that if the stewards were listening in to police radio broadcasts on scanning equipment this was not against the law unless the information was used for illegal purposes.



Top: A shooter tries to confiscate a saboteur's banner (used to prevent shooting) near Askrigg on 20 August 1993
Left: A police inspector goes for a drive with Brian Purseglove of Estate Management Services, 21 August 1993.

Week of action by saboteurs ruins showpiece harehunting event

1993 saw the continued decline of the once-prestigious Northumberland Beagling Festival

In 1993 sabs hit the ex-largest beagling festival for the seventh year running, and once again the organisers reduced the number of meets to a more easily-defended one meet per day, with increased numbers of stewards on call to do the defending.

The opening meet was the BFSS showpiece event. Supporters were gathered to form a crowd of between 150 and 200 and the media were invited to record the throng. Around 80 stewards were bussed in from the Borders and Humberside.

During the week known supporters of the Pennine Foxhounds and Welsh packs were identified amongst the stewards; others were from Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. Some were volunteers, some full-time security, others were soldiers.

The BFSS advertised the festival as having "strong local support" – the previous Friday they had even brought in a PR firm to arrange a photo-session to show just how local it was.

As is usual with the BFSS's attempts at publicity, they used this opportunity to shoot themselves in the foot. With the television cameras present, stewards held off sabs and the huntsman chopped his first hare right by the meet, close to the crowd, all according to plan. But the BFSS hadn't reckoned with the effect this would have on Tyne Tees viewers who were treated to a replay of the kill as they ate their evening meal.

However, this was still a bad day for sabs. The meet was large with no rights of access. There were about 30 sabs who had to contend with 80 stewards mounted on ATV bikes, backed up to the hilt by 30 police officers including SPG and mounted section officers. (Security was co-ordinated by the BFSS's Nick Herbert, who wisely kept a car-load with him for most of the week).

Poor visibility added to sabs' problems, and as a result two hares were unfortunately killed.

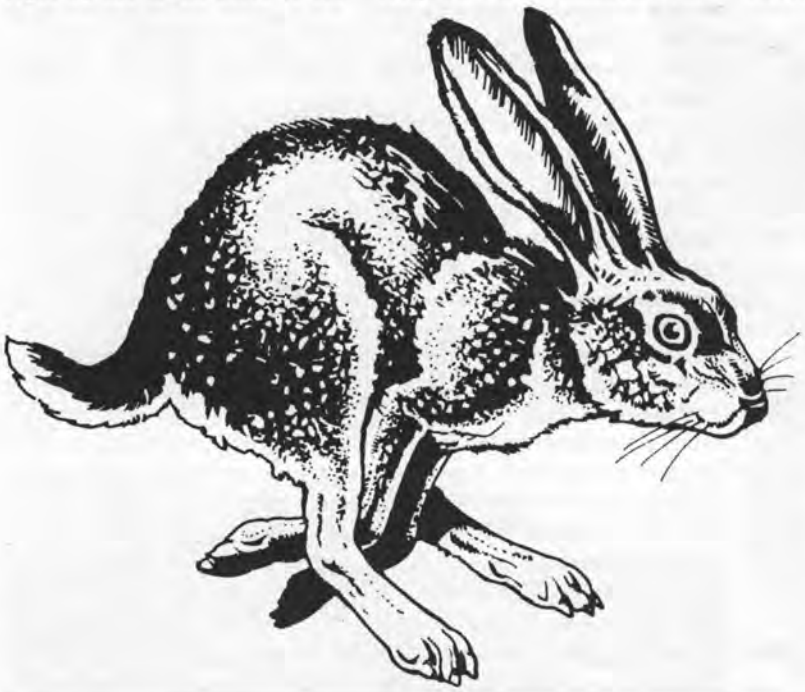
A new feature of the festival this year was the closure of rights of way to sabs (and anyone else the stewards didn't like the look of) as seen in Essex and elsewhere. This tactic was first used here on the Monday, though only patchily on that day.

On Tuesday a system of paths and areas of access land would have given sabs a full view of the meet at Wark Forest. Forestry Commission – sorry, *Forest Enterprise* – staff were on hand to block the meet track, and sabs trying to walk down public footpaths were manhandled back to the road. Police were quick to arrest one very large Tyneside sab who was too big for stewards to turn back.

That day enough sabs got near enough to stop hounds on their one good scent. The support was a quarter of the previous day's, and there were only half the number of stewards who had fewer radios. The visiting pack, the Colne Valley, must have realised that only the local Newcastle & District Beagles get the really inaccessible meets.

The hunt returned to the meet short of hounds and having made no kill. Sabs who until then had done enough will regret the sucker-punch they took when they left the hounds at the meet and accepted the word of Northumbria's finest that hunting was over for the day. The hunt resumed after sabs left and they killed once. You can't trust these bastards! Read and learn: this can happen anywhere.

On Wednesday local hunting folk were even less in evidence at local cub hunts. The Braes of Derwent, Duke of Buccleuch's and Tynedale were all hit, in some cases hard. The Holme Valley could not raise a scent all day and sabs called the hounds over once for practice's sake. This time we stayed until they had left the area.



On the Thursday, sabs were able to intervene from roads and with brief run-ins. The Newmarket Beagles were unable to stay with their hare. Unfortunately the animal was *running short* (a 'sitter' in tactics book terms). It evaded the hunt by running a heel line, but stayed on the slope below the support, remaining, amazingly, unseen by them.

However, as they gave up the search, hounds were walked away over the spot by chance, and chopped the hare within a hundred yards.

A London-based Japanese journalist recorded the day's killing and this will be used against British politicians who give Japan trouble over the whaling issue.

On Friday the Newcastle & District Beagles had a huge meet. All the King's horses and all the King's men, and they killed nothing as sabs called hounds from all sides and ruined their only decent hunt.

Finally, on the Saturday, the Newcastle & District Beagles singled out a meet devoid of footpaths and cover, and the fact that it was right alongside the busy A68 Edinburgh road did not deter these dog lovers.

Steward numbers were back up and the ground gave them short, straight boundaries to patrol.

Sabs could do little from roads and the hunt killed. This was at 1 pm, and the N & DB insisted on carrying on. This provoked mass run-ons by sabs with inevitable arrests by eager police. An ambulance was called for one sab as stewards laid in.

Sabs kept up the pressure and a third run-on was staged as hounds approached the A68. This time stewards were tired and moved slowly, which almost allowed sabs through before more stewards arrived. At this the hunt gave up and returned to the meet.

Sabs had a frustrating week – much of the time was spent working hard just to get a chance at sabbing the hunts. However, it is clear that the consistent pressure from sabs reduced the festival to six meets – a festival which not too long ago had eighteen or twenty meets in the week. Sabs helped to do this even before they got out of their vehicles.

Also, the hunts found that they needed their 'security staff' and they will continue to need them. For all the BFSS hype about local people being troubled by a rent-a-mob, it is apparent that the festival is being propped up by the BFSS and the AMHB who dare not let it go, even though it is a complete liability as a hunting event.

Report by Newcastle HSA

HSA Annual General Meeting 1993



Report by HSA Chair Paul Gammon

This year's AGM saw the largest turnout of members and active sabs for many seasons, taking place rather appropriately in the grand surroundings of the Lord Mayor's Parlour in Manchester Town Hall. This was the same location used in Channel Four's GBH series – and the atmosphere at the meeting was just as charged!

Apart from the chance for sabs to meet up with others from around the country, there were some important issues to be raised and discussion to be heard.

After hearing reports from the 1992/93 committee members, there was, as usual, time for questions from the floor about the HSA's activities in the previous year.

Five resolutions were discussed, the first three being dealt with before lunchtime.

Resolution 1 concerned the current boycott campaign against the 'big four' High Street banks, started as a protest at the banks' continued exploitation of developing countries. As the HSA currently banks with Midland, the proposal was to move the account elsewhere (the Ecology Building Society was the preferred option).

The results were: In favour 63; Against 5; Abstentions 4. The motion was carried.

Resolution 2 asked for the HSA to decide on a minimum recommended age (17 years was suggested) for active sabs.

The results were: In favour 45; Against 22; Abstentions 8. The vote was carried with a 2:1 majority and the recommendation became policy.

Resolution 3, which asked the HSA to re-affiliate to Liberty (formerly the NCCL), was uncontested. The consensus was that we should do more to inform Liberty of our struggles with the legal system and to get them more involved.

After lunch, as a prelude to the two final resolutions, HSA Press Officer Ben Ponton was able to give his report on what was our highest media profile ever – though not always for the right reasons!

Certainly not the most tactfully-worded title for a motion, **resolution 4** dealt with a subject where tact often falls upon deaf ears. Entitled "Fascists are Scum", it certainly warmed up the proceedings and, whilst there were some powerful and emotional speeches, they were all made from an anti-fascist angle. The resolution initiated debate and thought, and raised awareness of attempts by right-wing factions to infiltrate our movement and of the media's willingness to exploit any controversy.

The resolution included a mandate to affiliate to Anti-Fascist Action (AFA), and after some discussion this was amended to propose affiliation to one of the anti-fascist movement's regional groups, as it would have proven difficult to join them at a national level.

The results were: In favour 62; Against 4; Abstentions 8. The feeling of the meeting was overwhelmingly supportive of the anti-fascist organisation.

Resolution 5, entitled "Margaret Flynn Must Go", was an attempt to gain a decision from the HSA's members on the membership of Margaret Flynn, and also to stimulate further open debate about this serious matter. The lead up to this was contained in the letter accompanying *Howl 52*.

After a long and unavoidably personal discussion the results were: In favour 39; Against 24; Abstentions 8.

Although the vote went in favour of the resolution, the required 2:1 majority was not reached, and so the motion was not carried.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with introducing the incoming HSA Committee and the guidelines for the next committee year.

The HSA's stance against those bloodsports which don't involve hunting with hounds was reaffirmed, particularly with the creation this year of the new post of Shooting Officer.

Many thanks go to Mark and the other Manchester sabs for organising the splendid venue (it sounds like I've read too many hunting reports!) and to all those sabs who took the trouble to turn up. I look forward to next year when I hope as many will attend again. After all, the HSA is *your* organisation.

Sabs Under Attack!

We need your support now more than ever before. The Government's plans to outlaw hunt sabotage are an insult to us all, and an added threat to our wildlife.

Take another look at the front cover of this issue. We know we're always begging for money, and that you probably haven't got much spare cash yourself, but can you really afford not to help us – and the hunted animals – with a donation?

There are several ways you can help the HSA:

- **Get in touch with your local group (details from our office on 0602 590357) either to go sabbing yourself or to help in other ways (eg: fundraising)**
- **If you are not already a member, please join the HSA now using the form on the right – it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.**
- **If you *are* a HSA member, please pass on the form to someone else who would like to join us.**
- **Support us by buying HSA t-shirts and other goods – phone the HSA office if you don't already have a merchandise form.**
- **Let them know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and your MP to let them know your views on the Government's plans. Your MP's address is *House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA***

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 / Delta / Mastercard / Access

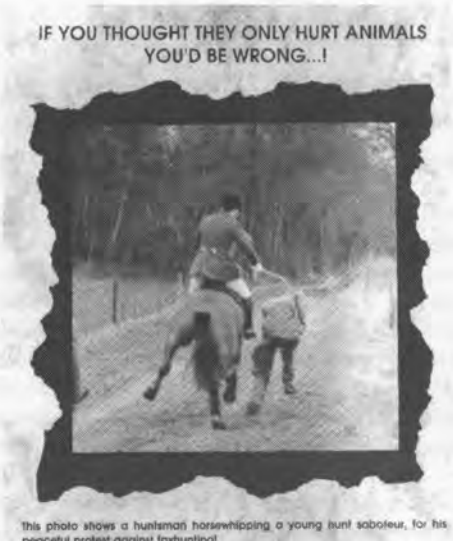
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Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

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









Keep up the pressure

continued from page 11

foul-ups were due to the inefficiency of local groups.

On a lighter note, my experience of moving, and joining a new group (Chichester & Bognor) was entirely different. I wrote to the address printed in *Howl* and received a reply inviting me to a meeting in the same week.

When I turned up, I was immediately made very welcome. This group is run very differently, and have their own professional-looking leaflets, stickers, posters and newsletter. These are distributed through regular outlets and stalls – all of which wins the group favourable support.

The group also holds regular meetings for new members with talks and video shows. Turnover is very low – and new people who join generally stay with the group.

■ Lesson 5: Sharpen your image

If you produce literature, do it well. Use clear graphics and well-written, interesting news. Remember that leaflets and newsletters are for ***everyone*** *to read – not just hardcore sabs. Don't include swearing or anything which could be interpreted as violent or threatening – it could work against you. Don't alienate the public, who would otherwise support you. Keep your novice members involved by including them and making them feel welcome.*

POSTERS

Recently revised and reprinted, the HSA's posters (pictured left) are now available.

The posters are large A2 size (42 x 60 cm), professional-looking, printed in colour, and are supplied rolled, not folded. The four different designs are ideal for public display and excellent for stalls and fairs, especially when laminated.

The posters cost £2 each (please add 10% for postage, minimum 50p) or buy all four, post-free, for just £7. Send clearly-written orders, with cheques or postal orders payable to 'HSA', to HSA Salesgoods, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

LEAFLETS

The HSA's colour leaflets (*Born to be free ... not hunted!* and *The truth behind cubhunting*) have also been reprinted and cost £2 (plus 10% for postage, minimum 50p) per pack of 50.

T-SHIRTS, etc

Our *Bite Back* and *For Fox Sake* design t-shirts have been updated and we are offering them as 'new and improved' salesgoods.

The popular *Bite Back* shirts, with HSA backprint, still cost just £9 each (plus 10% postage) and the royal blue *For Fox Sake* design are £8 each (plus 10% postage).

We are selling off the following items at knock-down bargain prices:

- *It's in your hands – fight bloodsports* white t-shirts, available in sizes M, L and XL. Sale price £4 each, postage free.
- HSA circular logo t-shirts, available in black or white, size SMALL ONLY. Sale price £4 each, postage free.
- White running vests, with HSA logo, available in sizes S, M, L and XL. Sale price £3 each, postage free.
- HSA circular logo fleecy navy sweatshirts, size SMALL ONLY. Sale price £6.50 each, postage free.

To order any of these special offers, please phone the HSA office to check availability. Stocks are limited, so please place your order as soon as possible. Special prices apply only to goods and sizes stated above.

SALESGOODS UPDATE

Since the last edition of *Howl*, the HSA has re-organised its salesgoods section, which has led to improvements in the service.

However, because of this change-over and a busy summer of sabbing, there have been some delays in sending out orders.

We would like to apologise to all our customers and assure everyone that all orders are now being processed as quickly as possible.

Please remember that your comments and advice are always appreciated. Enquiries can be made by phoning Karen on (0602) 590357.

FOX CUBS

JOIN THE HSA's JUNIOR GROUP

Fox Cubs, the junior group of the HSA, is aimed at the under 17s, though there are members of all ages.

Through Fox Cubs you can learn all about wild animals and their habitats, about the cruelties involved in bloodsports, and about other issues affecting animals, including factory farming, animal experiments, zoos and circuses.

Most importantly, you can find out what you can do to help stop cruelty to animals.

When you join you receive a new members' pack, badge and Fox Cubs magazine three times a year. The magazine is designed for young people and includes stories, competitions and puzzles.

To become a member of Fox Cubs, please fill in the form below and return it with a £4.00 cheque or postal order, made payable to *Fox Cubs*, to the new Fox Cubs address:

Fox Cubs, PO Box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4YN.

I would like to join Fox Cubs

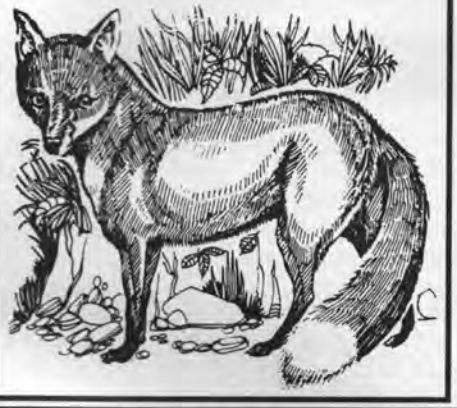
Name _____

Address _____

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_____ postcode _____



Huntsman Balls

"Contrary to popular belief amongst hunt saboteurs, the fox is not torn to pieces by the hounds at the kill. One hound will knock it over first, and either the same hound or the second then bites the back of the fox's neck."

An imaginative piece of writing from David Greenwood, Master of the Ampleforth College Beagles – but it doesn't explain the cover photo of this Howl, *does it David?*

"The huge majority of hunt saboteurs are urban dwellers and several appear not to have washed for quite a while."

David Greenwood again, addressing the real issues in the hunting debate. Both quotes from Grid, *Ampleforth College's magazine.*

"It is a perfectly well understood tradition here, as it is all over the country, that many like to see the hounds on Boxing Day, just as they enjoy the spectacle of a fun run or pram race ... you can rest assured that by inviting the Cattistock Hunt to Bridport on Boxing Day, you are not necessarily supporting foxhunting."

Sir Stephen Hammick, Chairman of the Cattistock FH in a letter to the Dorset Evening Echo, July 1993

"There is, I am sure, no more stress involved in the hunting of deer than in the movement and handling of the moorland sheep which are such a feature of much National Trust land."

Hunt supporter R Tucker in a letter to his local paper, May 1993.

"In those areas which can be regularly hunted, the fox is managed in a way which ensures a healthy balanced population and avoids extremes of suffering "

R Tucker again, July 1993.

Policeman Balls

"The inspector who allegedly pushed the driver has been interviewed. Whilst the officer agrees that there was some physical contact, his explanation of the incident is that the driver walked into his outstretched arm which he was holding rigid to prevent anyone from passing."

The 'independent' Police Complaints Authority's convincing explanation of an alleged assault on a saboteur. (Doesn't sound very likely, does it?)

Source: HSA archives.

"What causes me most pain are the prejudices of the nanny-protesters who would have us all living in cosy, rosy, toothless worlds like Noddy and Big Ears in the Magic Garden. This smoke, caffeine, cholesterol, nuclear, fur and foxhunting-free world is not worth living in. Some tension, danger, risk and pain is necessary to life itself. The best that we can ask is that such things are enjoyed and endured within reason..."

"I think that if the Tory candidate in the Christchurch by-election were to take his stand on foxhunting, he might even have a chance of working a miraculous victory for the party..."

"Medals should be awarded in the Honours List for foxhunters, as they should be awarded for smokers, fur coat wearers, eaters of bacon sandwiches and suet puddings, and lovers of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer."

All three of these gems come to us from Peter Mullen writing in the Yorkshire Evening Press *of 17 July 1993, showing us just what kind of people we're up against*

Book Review

The Animal Free Shopper

"Fun free" shopper and "the vegan's bible" are phrases often used to describe the *Animal Free Shopper*.

The latest edition has now arrived, packed with almost 200 pages of vegan products and information on everything from aftershave to yogurt. But just how useful is it?

If you shop at "right on" wholefood shops then a cursory glance may be all you need to confirm that the bread you purchase at 7pm on a Saturday night really is vegan. If, however, you do a lot of shopping at supermarkets or can't resist cravings for chocolate biscuits then the book has more to offer.

This edition is more user-friendly than the previous one, and the articles are generally better. One item deals with the implications for vegans of eating sugar – a subject often overlooked (or ignored).

There are a few annoying aspects to the book, such as the failure of Tesco to provide any information. Safeway Stores label their products to indicate whether they are vegetarian and/or dairy-free. Their plain chocolate biscuits are vegetarian and dairy-free but aren't in the *Shopper*, so it would be intriguing to know just what the dodgy ingredient is. It's unlikely to be free-range eggs (too expensive) and if an ingredient constitutes 5% or more of a product it should be listed anyway.

The company is to blame here, not the *Shopper*'s editors - which makes the task of compiling a book like this so difficult. It would be easier if all manufacturers were legally required to label products 'vegan', 'vegetarian' or 'contains animal ingredients', but as this is unlikely the *Animal Free Shopper* is the next best thing.

***Animal Free Shopper (2nd edition)* Published by The Vegan Society at £4.95.**
Review by Paul Paine.

Noticeboard

Publications

LWC Diary 1994

The 1994 *Living Without Cruelty Diary* is still on sale. Available from bookshops at £4.50, the diary contains articles on all aspects of animal rights and environmental campaigning. Features include *Sabotaging the Hunt, Wildlife and the Law* and *Saving the Whale*. There is also an address list of animal rights/green organisations.

New Boots Booklet

Nottingham Animal Rights have published a newly updated edition of their booklet *Boots – the High Street Vivisectors*.

It describes the animal experiments carried out by Boots, with a detailed criticism of the 'scientific' arguments used to justify vivisection. The booklet is designed to "expose Boots' cruelty-free image for the con that it is".

To get a copy, send your details, along with 50p and a first class stamp, to NAR, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW.

Appeals

New Animal Sanctuary

The Paul Ciani Animal Trust has been set up to raise cash for a new animal sanctuary in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Once established the sanctuary will be able to provide a retirement home for any sick or abandoned animals.

The trust – a registered charity – is desperate for funds. Contact Philip & Mary Griffin (trustees), 78 Charles Street, Newark NG24 1RL. Telephone (0636) 640702.

Animal Rescue Charity

1RL International Animal Rescue is a new charity with its base at 'Animal Tracks', a rescue centre for a wide range of animals. Already living there are donkeys, pigs, goats and a variety of birds rescued from around the world. IAR volunteers also use a microlight aircraft to keep a watchful eye on local deerhunts, preventing them from trespassing on the IAR wildlife refuge. New sponsors are always needed: contact IAR, Animal Tracks, Ash Mill, South Molton, Devon EX36 4QW. Telephone (0769) 550277.

Campaigns

UK Animal Watch

UK Animal Watch infiltrates gangs of badger baiters and dog fighters, exposes them in the national media, and helps to prosecute them.

Information about bloodsports thugs can be sent in confidence to the group at UK Animal Watch, PO Box 220, WR4 9UZ.

The group desperately needs financial help to continue this important work – if you can help out, please send a donation to the above address. All money donated is spent on investigations and new equipment. Write for more info.

Respect for Animals

Respect for Animals was set up earlier this year to continue the work of LYNX, the now-defunct anti-fur campaigning group which went into liquidation after losing a libel case brought by Swales Mink Farms.

More information: Respect for Animals, PO Box 500, Nottingham NG1 3AS. Telephone (0602) 525440.

Addresses

Along with the Hunt Saboteurs Association and your local sab group, these organisations will help you to take part in the fight against bloodsports and the campaign for Animal Rights:

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA) PO Box 130, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NR.

League Against Cruel Sports 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG

Fox Cubs *(The HSA's junior campaigning group)* PO Box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4YN. See page 23 of this issue for more details.

Earth First! *(Direct action in defence of the natural environment).* To contact your local group, send a stamped SAE to Oxford EF, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

Arkangel Magazine *(published four times a year, Arkangel provides a forum for debate and exchange of ideas about pro-animal actions at all levels – £7.20 for a year's subscription)* BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX.

Events

Anti-Angling Meeting

The CAA's national meeting will be held at the Nature Cure Clinic, 15 Oldbury Place, London W1 on 23 January 1994, 1 - 4 pm. More details on (0272) 441175.

World Day for Animals

The 1994 *World Day for Laboratory Animals* march and rally will take place in London on Saturday 23 April. Further details from NAVS on 081 846 9777

Catering

Angel Catering

- Mobile Caterers -

A variety of fast vegetarian and vegan snacks and meals including hot potatoes and burgers. If you would like to see us at your event, however large or small, please ring Rosalind Harrison on (0703) 323306

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 is a co-operative which 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.

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