Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
Spring 1995
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1995, CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT ...
AND STILL SAVING LIVES

HOWL 57

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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Letters

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Howl 57, the first issue of 1995. This issue of Howl is dedicated to the memory of Jill Phipps, who was tragically killed under the wheels of a lorry transporting live animals for slaughter. As an organisation we would like to express our sympathies and offer our support to her family and friends. Also at this time of year we must remember the two sabs, Mike Hill and Tom Worby who were both killed whilst trying to stop the slaughter of wild animals. We owe it to the memories of these people to keep up the fight against all forms of animal abuse - we *will* win one day.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in articles for this issue, special thanks to local sab groups for sending in an unprecedented amount of Group News and photos. If you have any comments on the magazine please send them in. The magazine should accurately represent the views of sabs and our supporters alike - let's make sure that this happens.

Liz, Editor.

Cover photo: Dorset sab with the Park Beagles, October 1994

Out of order

Dear *Howl*

Opposition to the Criminal Justice Act can be clearly justified in the light of the police brutality witnessed by many of us on Saturday 19th November at Good Easter, Essex. The Criminal Justice Act has allowed personal prejudices amongst the police to pervert the course of justice. The exercising of these powers to date has been completely arbitrary, and the amount of violence inflicted by the police causes us great concern. Video evidence exists to substantiate our claims.

Protesters were intimidated and taunted in answer to direct questions concerning the law. One officer in particular refused to give his number when asked, on two separate occasions. No single policeman present would tell us who was in charge, and very few would even answer our questions.

We were astonished by the amount of violence used by the police on peaceful protesters. For example, one young girl was beaten by a police officer with a large stick to the extent that paramedics had to rush her to hospital. If these are examples of how the Act will be implemented in the future, it is a matter of grave concern for all of us.

The cost of such exercises to the taxpayer are phenomenal - for example, the cost of a police helicopter as used by Essex police for the duration of Saturday is in excess of £300 per hour.

We suspect that armed officers were present - is this the way to address the right of a democratic society to protest?

Lee Morgan

On behalf of the Cambridge Coalition Against the Criminal Justice Act.

A letter from inside

Dear *Howl*

Thanks very much for the magazines you've sent me, which are not only informative but keep me in touch with what's happening out there. I was pleased to hear the '94 Northumberland Beagling Festival was abandoned - great news! It was good to hear the sabbing of the grouse shoots went well. Although it was upsetting, as ever, to read of the dirty things the hunt scum are doing to wildlife, it was good to read the Group News and all that is being done to stop the hunts, and also to read about the important increase in anti-angling activity.

Thanks for printing the details of those of us in prison; I have received many letters of support via your magazine, all of which I'm very grateful for. I'd like to take the chance to wish you all luck with the rest of this season. In the face of increasing violence and police harassment (and the constant struggle for funds, vehicles and active sabs) you're all inspirational.

On top of all the usual problems there is now the Criminal Justice Act, but I hope no-one is deterred from doing what we know is right: saving lives is important and it's worth taking risks for, and we must never forget two people have been killed whilst sabbing. The risks have always been there, an just because an action may be illegal is irrelevant. Laws haven't stopped people using direct action to take animals from factory farms and labs or causing economic loss or damage to animal abusers, including hunt folk.

The worst possible outcome of sabbing under the new Act is imprisonment, and it would be naive to ignore this possibility. I'd like to assure you that coming to prison (although I hope no-one else does!) isn't the worst ordeal in the world, there's plenty of support from the whole animal liberation movement, and you can come out stronger, and perhaps a little wiser!

I also think that, more than ever, we need to consider organising self-defence and fitness sessions for all sabs with the increase in violence. I'm currently training every day and it is well worth it.

Take special care, and despite the new laws, whatever action you're taking, good luck saving lives out there.

Max Watson

HMP Haverigg

STOP PRESS: Max has now been released - good luck for the future! Remember that all those imprisoned for animal rights related offences always need letters of support from the outside world - see list on page 7.

Letters are continued on page 11.

Please send all items for inclusion in Howl 58 to the PO Box no later than April 31st. As usual we need letters, photos, group news and any article you might feel like writing. The more stuff we get, the better the magazine is...

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or the HSA. Nothing in the magazine should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts ...

Above the law?

A gamekeeper has threatened to sue his local police force after they wrecked his shoot by scaring off hundreds of game birds.
The boys in blue appear to have inadvertently sabbed the shoot whilst on a training exercise in the force's new toy - a helicopter. The helicopter was said to be hovering about 15 / 20 feet above the woods and ponds, causing partridges, pheasants and ducks to scatter and settle on neighbouring land away from the shooting area. It also appears that the police did not have permission from any of the farmers over whose land they flew - surely not a case of aggravated trespass?! Maybe some affluent sab groups would like to try out this new tactic for sabbing shoots!

Muddy Waters: Green hunt gets the blues

The Quorn FH has been fined £4000 with £860 costs after the hunt chairman admitted twice polluting a brook at its kennels in Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire.
Mr Kenwyn Maddocks Wright, of Saxelbye Park, Melton appeared before Melton Mowbray magistrates in December 1994, where he admitted two cases of breaching terms of a consent to discharge sewage from the National Rivers Authority in December 1993 and March 1994. It appears that the partly treated sewage from the hounds was discharged into Rearsby Brook, causing the level of ammonia in the brook to be severely exceeded, resulting in seriously affecting its biological make-up.
Neil De Voil, representing the Quorn stated that there had been problems encountered with the sewage plant installed at the kennels, and that the Committee "came to the conclusion that the plant may not be capable of dealing with the sewage as anticipated". This is not, however much of a plausible excuse - the system was actually built in **1990** when the Hunt moved to its new kennels - or maybe it just went wrong all of a sudden?

Patron of Wildlife Trust badgered over traps

Samuel Whitbread, manufacturer of beers and also the Patron of Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust has been put in a tricky situation recently after snares were found on his estate.
Although the snares themselves were legal, Whitbread himself recently admitted to a local newspaper that some badgers on his estate had been accidentally snared, stating that "a large number of badgers" and even his own pet dog had been trapped in the past. A police investigation was subsequently launched into the use of traps on Whitbread's estate. In addition to this, one of the United Kingdom's rarest birds, a Red Kite was found poisoned on Whitbread's Southill Estate last year. Sounds familiar? (see stories of birds poisoned to save game). Interestingly, Whitbread lists one of his recreations in Who's Who as shooting - very much the same as Prince Charles being concerned about nature and conservation.

Hunt pay-out

The Braes of Derwent FH have paid a landowner £101 damages in an out-of-court settlement after entering land which is used as a wildlife sanctuary by the owner.
The landowner claimed that the hunt had repeatedly disturbed the wild animals on his land since he and his wife had moved there in 1985. A spokesman for the hunt said "We do our utmost to keep off but it is very difficult" - no excuse! Does this also apply to when hounds end up on busy roads, as they often do?

UPSETTING THE BALANCE OF NATURE

Two golden eagles have been poisoned in the Scottish Highlands through the use of a pesticide employed to protect root crops from worms and bugs.
The poison, a chemical called carbofuan has also been used in the United States to illegally kill wildlife; it is extremely toxic to wildlife, and could also threaten the safety of humans, cats and dogs if it got into their food. One eagle was killed in 1993, the other being found dead in May 1994. Although both incidents were investigated by the police, no evidence was found which could identify the culprit. An interesting point to note is that both birds were found dead on a sporting (i.e. shooting) estate, the owner of which is said to be horrified - maybe he should speak to his gamekeeper?

◆ In addition to the two eagles, three buzzards have also been found dead after eating a rabbit's carcass which was laced with poison used for controlling mice. Allegations that some gamekeepers in the Highlands use poisons from time to time against birds of prey have surfaced again - apparently some estate owners claim they have an adverse effect on their stocks of game birds, thus sparing their precious pheasants, partridges etc from those nasty predators ... only to be blasted away at by incompetent shooters.

◆ An increase in the numbers of rough-legged buzzards flocking to Britain has been noticed, as they attempt to escape the worsening weather in Russia and Northern Scandinavia. Most will stay for the winter, feeding off this country's rabbit population, unless they meet an untimely end by the hands of gamekeepers - although buzzards are a protected species, some are still shot to protect game birds.

May Fair Cancelled

Unfortunately, International Animal Rescue based in Devon have had to cancel their proposed May Fair which was due to take place this summer. This is because they have recently discovered hundreds of dogs and puppies suffering in a Maltese dog sanctuary, and had no option but to take immediate action. This has meant abandoning some of the work at Animal Tracks which would have been required for the fair; consequently it would be impossible to continue with the fair considering the circumstances.

SCOTT STILL SULKING

Maurice Scott, now infamous Master of the Devon & Somerset Staghounds has been attempting to worm his way back into the public's good books by attacking a poacher who snared a stag, leaving it to suffer for days before dying.

Mr Scott and his wife Diana appear to still be sulking about the ban imposed on them after it took them five minutes to "dispatch" (as the country sports lobby are so keen on saying) a stag during a day's hunting. This appears to be an attempt by Mr Scott to show that he is a caring and compassionate human being after all (what do you think?). Unfortunately for the Scotts, there are a great many people who view any kind of hunter as one and the same - sorry Mr Scott, there's no excusing what you do for a living.

WORLDWIDE

The War on Foxes

The Belgian Agriculture Ministry has recently appealed for as many foxes as possible to be shot after an increase in the number of reported cases of rabies in the country.

In addition, the Ministry is stepping up it's vaccination programme in an attempt to keep the disease under control, as only 54% of the fox population was vaccinated at the beginning of 1994. The Ministry was unable to explain the explosion in the fox population, but a spokesman for the Department of Shooting and Fishing (a lovely bunch of people, I should imagine) said that in general, foxes in Belgium had a much easier time than those in Britain because of the Belgian ban on hunting with hounds. However, a more unbiased source noted that the past three winters had been very mild, leading to a higher percentage of cubs surviving. If the Agriculture Ministry gets it's way, the fox population could very well be desecrated if "as many as possible" are shot at.

French farmer Vincent Caroggio became the victim of his own gun whilst out taking pot shots at rabbits one day.

After killing five rabbits, he decided to take a rest before starting to slaughter a few more. Unfortunately for him, he left the gun loaded - one intelligent rabbit saw a chance of revenge. By standing on the trigger of the shotgun, the rabbit managed to fire a shot which gave the farmer a taste of his own medicine - it killed him.

And they call us criminals!

An investigation has been launched by prison bosses after it was claimed that an inmate at Foston Hall jail in Derbyshire was allowed to go out hunting with the South Notts FH.

A national newspaper alleged that convicted fraudster Andrew Oakland, 28 had ridden with the hunt four times in four weeks while serving a fourteen month sentence. Oakland was jailed in June after being found guilty of handling £30,000 worth of stolen goods, and dangerous driving.

Oakland allegedly asked for a day out from Foston Hall, an open prison, to arrange his tax affairs. A spokesman from the jail said that the allegation against Oakland was being closely scrutinised, but added that "the simple fact that he was, unknown to the prison authorities, engaged in this activity, causes concern" ...not surprisingly, no-one from the hunt was available for comment on the matter.

Foxes shot at wildlife hospital

An innocent letter sent to a local newspaper stating that foxes are not vermin was the catalyst for a raid on a wildlife hospital, culminating in the shooting of two foxes recovering from illness.

The wildlife hospital in Haddenham, Cambridgeshire was mentioned in the letter written by one of the staff at the hospital, which included details of the work done by the hospital to treat injured foxes, badgers and other wild animals, before releasing them back into the wild. After the letter was published, the hospital received threatening phonecalls, including threats to break the writer's legs and smash his kneecaps. Soon after the phonecalls, raiders broke into the hospital and released ten foxes which were convalescing there. Two were found shot dead, and another was found killed by a car. Five of the remaining foxes were retrieved but there were still two missing, which the carers at the hospital were hoping to find. This sort of story shows what lengths some people will go to in attempting to justify their firmly held belief that foxes are the scum of the earth and do not deserve the valuable help given to them by such a hospital; it is just so unfortunate that these kind of people have every right to go round doing such things to innocent creatures.

Hunt havoc on the nation's railways

This season has seen a great many packs letting hounds stray onto working railway lines, causing the deaths of a number of animals.

In November, five hounds from the Old Berkeley Beagles died when they ran in front of a train after it was thought that they had rioted on the scent of a muntjac deer. after this incident, a Railtrack spokesman responsible for the line involved in the accident said that "there is no effective way of stopping dogs getting on the railway short of providing a concrete way or stopping hunting". Shortly after this incident in Buckinghamshire, there were two similar incidents in as many days in North Yorkshire. Two hounds from a North Yorkshire hunt were killed and several others injured as the pack strayed onto the East Coast Main Line, the hounds being struck by a train on the Glasgow to Kings Cross service. The following day, two trains were halted as hounds and riders from another hunt in the region trespassed onto the Northallerton to Teeside line. After the two incidents, a spokesman from British Transport Police reiterated the law for the huntsmen, stating that hunts have "no authority whatsoever" to be on railway property. More recently in January, a hound from the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale FH was killed as the pack ran onto a railway line in the South West, with the incident being videoed by sabs who were present at the time.

Just as *Howl* was going to press, news was received that the Cottesmore FH in Leicestershire have been banned from railway lines in the region after two of their hounds were killed whilst hunting in the middle of the week. Local sabs have witnessed this on many previous occasions

Beagle pack savages deer

The story printed below is an account of an incident which happened recently at the Cumbria Beagles, an unregistered pack in the North West. The account is published as received from an individual sab, and yet again proves that a number of the arguments put forward by the bloodsports fraternity are pure fiction. The idea that animals are killed by a quick, clean nip to the back of the neck, and that savagery like this does not happen because of guidelines set out by regulatory bodies are completely nullified by this disturbing account.

"On the 26th December 1994, myself and around seven other hunt saboteurs attended a meet of the Cumbria Beagles at the Howes, Troutbeck near Penrith, Cumbria. At around 2:15pm, five of us were in the fields in the vicinity of Westing Farm with the huntsman John Hume. A red deer which had been seen in the area throughout the day was spotted in front of the pack. At this point the hounds were unaware of the deer's presence. The deer ran off and disappeared from view. Approximately thirty seconds later the pack went into cry, following the exact line the deer had taken. I informed the huntsman that the pack was rioting after the deer. He shook his head and climbed into another field to our right. I ran after the pack and as I got close I could hear a high-pitched squealing. On heading over to where the sound was coming from, I witnessed a young deer struggling to get to its feet with a number of hounds savaging its rear end. I screamed at the pack to leave it alone which they did. Picking up the deer in my arms I shouted to the other sabs to assist me as the pack were still trying to attack the deer, which was by now squealing in pain. The area around the scene was a mass of fur and bits of flesh, one hound was eating the remains of the deer's tail.

"The deer was carried back towards the farm track in the hope of getting one of the hunt supporters to give me a lift down to the main road where our vehicles were parked (earlier on in the day the police had threatened to arrest the drivers if the vehicles were seen on the farm track). As we got near to the track the huntsman appeared with what looked to be the main body of the pack, and once more sabs had to physically stop the hounds from further attacks on the unfortunate animal. Throughout this the huntsman did nothing to help the sabs in controlling the pack. On reaching the farm track a white police van arrived and the huntsman headed over to have a word with him. The pack meanwhile was left to their own devices, and with no-one in control of them they went into cry once more. For the next hour or so only the attempts of hunt saboteurs stopped further animals being killed, the hunt staff making no attempts at all to round the pack up. After having heated words with the two police officers I finally managed to persuade them to give me a lift to the main road.

"The deer was taken to Penrith in the hope of locating a vet, but it died in my arms forty minutes later while waiting for the vet to arrive, this being over eighty minutes after first being attacked by the pack. On arriving seconds after the deer died, the vet confirmed the injuries were consistent with those caused by a number of dogs. He reckoned the deer to be this season's calf, and gave its age as approximately five months old. Examination of the carcass showed massive bruises and bite marks to the middle of the deer's back. A large chunk of flesh was missing from the deer's back where its tail used to be, exposing muscle and bone."



Quick nip to the back of the neck?

Leave Country Sports Alone

Leave Country Sports Alone surfaced last year, started by members and supporters of the Labour Party concerned that the Party's hostility to "country sports" was misguided and would cost the party vital support in rural areas (where have I heard that before?).

Supporters of LCSA are Baroness Mallalieu QC (chairman) and Penny Mortimer (secretary); founder members include Melvyn Bragg, Lord Donoghue, Sir Denis Forman, Jeremy Isaacs, Sam McCluskie, John Mortimer QC, David Puttnam, Lord Shackleton. Their adviser is none other than Richard Course, ex League Against Cruel Sports, now hunt scum with the best of them.

At their first meeting, it was reported that the room was "packed with trade unionists, delegates, Labour Party supporters and councillors, 95% of them supporting our campaign vociferously" - this was in a letter written by Penny Mortimer. However, according to a Labour councillor, the meeting was packed with "hunting supporters bussed in especially for the meeting" - which account do you believe? Although they appear to have access to the media and substantial funds, the group seems to be lacking in one vital area - support.

● Readers will no doubt be aware that there is to be a Second Reading of a new Bill aimed to effectively ban hunting with hounds, making it an offence to "cruelly kick, beat or torture" any wild mammal. The proposals in this Bill seem to have got the hunters in a bit of a state once again, with *Horse and Hound* trying desperately to show that they weren't that bothered about it, taking a "heard it all before" stance, but they also conceded that it was yet another serious threat to their dying sport.

New appeal for Museum of Hunting

A new appeal is being launched to raise the final £50,000 towards the building of a national Museum of Hunting in Melton Mowbray.

Regular readers of Howl may remember an article in Howl 51 entitled "No future for the Museum of Hunting", in which the writer stated that after two years of fundraising the project had only raised £60,000 towards setting up the museum. This was in 1993. Now, in 1995 it still doesn't look like the Museum will see the light of day for a good few years at least, even though work on the museum is scheduled to start soon.. The idea of a museum celebrating the world of hunting is not alone in controversy however - the secretary to the Committee responsible for the museum was recently starring in one of the national newspapers regarding allegations about his own private life!

(Un)licensed to kill

The shooting fraternity appears to have suffered something of a set-back recently, as it was revealed that Her Majesty's Stationary Office, the body responsible for supplying the Government with certain items, had run out of the correct paper to print shotgun licences. Robert Key, Tory MP for Salisbury was reported as fuming after hearing the news, mumbling on about how it would adversely affect the rural economy if visiting "sportsmen" would not be able to obtain a temporary shotgun licence, needed for visitors to the country to be able to blast away at wildlife. Wiltshire police and several other forces confirmed that they had run out of the special security paper, and HMSO conceded that it would be several weeks before the paper would be available. Robert Key meanwhile was reported as saying that "somebody should be shot" over the incident- a view shared by many of the birds who had been reprieved, I'm sure.

How the (North) West was won

Howl has received some interesting news regarding the state of sab/hunt/police legal relations in Cheshire and the surrounding area. For some years, sabs in Cheshire have had to contend with over-the-top policing and the use of stewards, but now it seems that things are finally going the sabs' way! October 1994 saw the astounding criminal expertise of the Lancashire Constabulary displayed for all to see when a North-West sab was acquitted of a GBH charge made against him whilst sabbing the Vale of Lune Harriers during the previous season, due to a basic disregard of PACE provisions by the police. This followed a jury finding another sab from the region not guilty of ABH on a Cheshire Foxhounds steward after the judge found the evidence of the arresting officer to be questionable at the very least. In addition to these two cases, a sab charged with section 2 of the Public Order Act after an incident on Cheshire Week has now found out that the charge has been dropped after a star witness for the hunt decided that he suddenly needed to go abroad for a holiday.

Although it is very rare that hunt followers are apprehended by the long arm of the law following incidents at hunts, two supporters of the Cheshire Foxhounds are currently on section 2 charges after a violent attack on the Liverpool sab van and its occupants during the 93-4 season. It remains to be seen what will come of the charges, but North West sabs are happy to keep their local bobbies on their toes, by keeping those good ole' civil claims rolling in! Total estimate of cases currently being pursued is around eighty, with an possible estimated payout for an incident encompassing just over thirty of these claims of £60,000... and with figures like that, who needs the National Lottery?! God bless the Cheshire Constabulary!



Vermin PATROL

cruelty cases in the courts

A kennelman from Sir Watkins Williams Wynn FH has been suspended from work after being found guilty of interfering with a badger sett.

Simon Bullock, 30 of **Kennel Cottage, Pen y Llan, Ruabon, Wreham** and **Robert Lee Hicks, 26** of **Manning Close, Catshill, Bromsgrove** were both found guilty of interfering with a badger sett and sending a dog down it during a day out in woods near Kidderminster. The pair claimed that they had gone hunting for foxes and rabbits when there was an "accidental incursion" into the active sett. Bullock's defence included the assertion that he was a "professional countryman" of previous good character. Unfortunately for the pair their activities have been curtailed for a while, owing to the fact that they were both sentenced to three months in jail for each of the two charges, with the sentences to run consecutively. They were also ordered to pay £100 costs, and their equipment including pegs, nets, a spade and an electronic animal locater were ordered to be destroyed.

A man has admitted interfering with a badger sett near Betley, Staffordshire after Newcastle Magistrates Court heard that he had sent his two terriers down the hole "out of curiosity".

Paul Sweeting, 31, a lorry driver from **Swinton, Manchester** had been spotted with two other men carrying spades and walking terrier-type dogs across farmland near the set. A villager called the police, who found Sweeting near to several holes which had been dug in the woods. The two other men had run off, but unfortunately for Sweeting his terriers were still down the hole. Amazingly, this was used in his defence, stating that he was a compassionate man who had stayed back because his dogs were stuck. He claimed to be out looking for foxes (don't they all?) when he had noticed the sett, and sent his dogs down out of curiosity.

Fortunately, the magistrate saw through this excuse, after it was revealed that a spade had been found discarded in a nearby stream. Sweeting was fined £1250 and banned from keeping dogs for three years.

Four men changed their pleas to "guilty" after hearing evidence against them in a case of badger digging in West Wales recently.

John Hill, 34 of **Glynneath Road, Neath, Andrew Mullahy, 25** of **Bridgend Road, Maesteg, Brian Jon James, 23** of **Tuberville Street, Maesteg** and **Paul Brain, 31** of **Brynllywarch, Maesteg** all appeared before Tenby Magistrates recently after they were watched by police for a short time before being confronted. Two of the men claimed that they were trying to dig one of their dogs out of the hole because it had got stuck, however this story fell apart when the dog appeared without difficulty when whistled. Amongst evidence which was found in the car were maps of the area belonging to Paul Brain; these were found to have sixty marks and crosses on them, a number of which were later proved to be exact locations of badger setts. Some of the setts showed signs of human interference when inspected. For some reason the four men desperately tried to hide their faces when leaving court....

CJA UPDATE
the season so far

On the 3rd November 1994 sections 68 and 69 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act came into being. Within 48 hours hunt saboteurs had had six arrests!

At the time of writing, 104 sabs have been charged or reported for the two aggravated trespass sections. We have also had our first three trials. The first took place in Ashford and resulted in a bindover; the second was in Hexham and resulted in a conviction, the sentence was a conditional discharge and £100 costs which were paid by a local sympathiser on the spot. Two further Ashford sabs were also convicted and received £200 and £100 fines plus costs.

Interestingly, some notorious police forces have said, after a handful of arrests, that the new law is unworkable.
Some good news: two of our original six arrests have since had the charges against them dropped, it seems the arresting officers hadn't read the guidelines - videoing from the road is as lawful as.... well, foxhunting!

Following the police riot at Good Easter, Essex on 20th November 1994, and the subsequent 32 arrests, some interesting incidents came to light. Five were not charged due to their arresting officers not being located! A protester who was knocked unconscious was handcuffed and not given medical attention as the officers believed she was faking. She was then handcuffed for five hours to a police officer whilst awaiting attention at casualty. Essex constabulary are under investigation for their heavy handed policing at Brightlingsea - I'm sure we could provide the information of where they formulated their controversial crowd control tactics. To bring the figures right up to date, Sussex police have just started implementing the new law at the end of February with two arrests at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray, and three sabs who were among eight arrested at the Meynell & South Staffs in Derbyshire and reported for summons have recently heard that the cases have been dropped.

The majority of the pending CJA trials will not take place until the summer. Watch this space for more exciting news on our ongoing tangles with the British legal system and its many lackeys!

WRITE TO ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Those imprisoned for "Animal Rights offences" would appreciate letters and messages of support.
Most jails now allow stamped, self-addressed envelopes to be sent in with letters and cards. Please enclose these if you write, so that prisoners don't waste their limited funds on postage.
Donations can be sent to the ALF Supporters Group who provide financial help for these prisoners - cheques and postal orders made payable to **"ALF Supporters Group"** can be sent to **ALF SG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.**
Remember that all mail sent to prisoners is likely to be opened and read before it reaches them - please be careful with what you write.

Gurjeet Aujla HV2047
HMP Leicester
118 Welford Road
Leicester
LE2 7AJ

Greg Avery HV3313
HMP Birmingham
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Birmingham
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Dave Callender HV3314
HMP Birmingham
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DAVE CALLENDER
has applied for bail twice since he was sent to Winson Green HMP last October, and has been refused both times. He is soon going to Judge in Chambers, but only stands a chance if surety can be offered - this will be an amount in the region of £250,000 total, which can be made up from a number of individuals.
Dave has contributed a great deal to the HSA over the past sixteen years - if anybody is willing to help him it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the HSA office if you feel you are able to offer an amount of money to help Dave. Any contribution is useful, but realistically amounts in the region of £10,000 would be most useful.

EXTREMIST PROFILE

This is a new feature designed to familiarise sabs with those lovely people into whose hands the future of hunting has been placed ... and all those huntsmen who seem to have a habit of making their presence felt. If you've got any information on anybody who's anybody in the world of bloodsports, whether they're your local huntsman or regional BFSS press officer, or anybody who you think others should know about, then send it in!



BRIAN EDWARD FANSHAWE

"Ladywood," Knossington, Oakham, Rutland

Occupation: Farmer

Howl's good old friend the captain - where is he now? He is, at the age of 58 one of sabs' longest running adversaries, and has found himself a couple of comfortable positions as director of both the Campaign for Hunting, and the National Hunting Club. These two organisations have been swallowed up by the BFSS to get some street-cred back from the hunt foot-followers; more about this later. We're not quite sure why Brian still uses Captain in his name, because (as far as we can see) he is no longer entitled to use it ... he *was* in the Stowe & 12th Lancers but left his army career to pursue the life of a foxhunter.

He farms at his home in Rutland in the heart of the Cottesmore country, where he was huntsman and joint master for eleven years, from 1981 - 1992. Previously to that, he was Master and huntsman of the North Cotswold, the Warwickshire and the Galway Blazers. His son, James has racing stables in Newmarket, where Brian and his wife Libby were going to join him when he retired. Unfortunately for Brian, this arrangement fell through. His parents, Major and Mrs Dick Fanshawe were both one-time masters of the South Oxfordshire FH, with his mother now being called Lady Dulverton.

He is cousin to Ian Farquhar, huntsman and joint-master of the Duke of Beauforts, and a distant relation of Newton Rycroft, famous huntsman and hound breeder from the New Forest.

In Brian's glorious hunting career, he has been in court twice on charges relating to incidents with sabs, found not guilty once and unfortunately on the other occasion, the sab witness was late - the case was thrown out of court. However, a few years ago at the Cottesmore FH's annual Hunt Ball some ladies handbags disappeared. The old Captain was seen to leave the venue early...!

Handbags aside, Brian has never been that popular with supporters - when he first joined the Cottesmore there was action to get rid of him (obviously made a good impression there Brian!), because the new hunt masters, which included himself, removed the old huntsman Peter Wright and Fanshawe took over his role. Also, whilst he was the huntsman some supporters were moaning to sabs because he killed too many foxes.

So, if you see this face around your hunts, there's a good chance that the meet is an important one, probably connected with the NHC / Campaign for Hunting; he has been popping up at a few Newcomers Days recently, welcoming new riders. Or maybe you might see him judging your local hunt's puppy shows ... this man gets everywhere!



SIMON JOHN LONGWORTH

"The Heights", Felixkirk, Thirsk, North Yorkshire

Date of birth: 5.5.58

Previous occupation: Practice Manager for medical clinic

Present occupation: Huntsman and master of Old Ampleforth Beagles

Many people reading this might not have heard of this bloke - here's some background. He was born in 1958, possibly in Goole, since this is where he went to school to gain his seven O levels. After this he surpassed himself in his scholarly attainments, achieving three more O levels, three A levels and even an S level - what a clever boy. These were passed at Fakenham Grammar School in Norfolk. From here he went to Durham University, where he gained a lower second degree in Philosophy and Psychology.

Leaving the heady world of education behind him, Simon joined the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, where he learnt how to be a brave soldier (commanding the troops from *behind* the lines). In the next few years he held various jobs in administration.

In 1990 he set up a business collecting material for recycling (maybe he does have a conscience?) but this seems to have fallen through. In 1991/2 he was appointed Practice Manager at Montgomery Medical Practice, where he left in 1992. Two months later, he held the same position at a clinic in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. In July 1992 he set up his own business, Ashton Medical Services with his present housemate Miss Victoria Ann Walker; however this dissolved two years later.

So what has all this got to do with hunting? Well, a few years ago Simon started a security business in North Yorkshire. The firm was set up to deal with sabs in North Yorkshire, where the stewards worked as a roving firm offering their services to the Middleton, York & Ainsty North and South, Sinnington and Derwent. It was on the strength of their work in this area (must have missed that!) that Longworth was offered the job of organising security for the 1993 Beagling Festival, along with Nick Herbert, BFSS Public Relations Officer (famous for saying "from now on we are going to start hunting the saboteurs"). Unfortunately for "Alpha One" (Longworth's professional name!) he lost control of his stewards on the last day of the festival, where they ended up attacking five sabs. The hunting season didn't start too well for him either - the stewards were so ineffective that Simon ended up hiring and firing several different stewards along the way.

More recently, Simon turned up (without his boys for once) at the sabs meeting place on the day after the Glorious Twelfth, stating in the press that it was in his interests to be there ... but what exactly were those interests? His boys were out again on Shoots Week, where they failed miserably to stop sabs getting onto the moors on the first day. They weren't seen for the rest of the week until the last day when they just so happened to be in the same place as the sabs - on a fairly remote moor with little access. It was on this day that a female sab was punched in the face, knocking her tooth out.

At present, Simon is attempting to hunt the recently re-formed Old Ampleforth Beagles, where he seems to be getting sabbed very frequently - I wonder why? He doesn't seem to have started his hunting career that well though - reports from local sabs in Yorkshire have shown him to favour crying to the police about the presence of sabs rather than getting on with hunting hares.

So, who knows where Simon will take his talents next? As his friend Nick Herbert has recently put himself forward as a possible MP, maybe this will also be the direction that Mr Longworth's career path will follow...

WILDFOWLING

Wildfowling is a lesser-known form of shooting which takes place from September 1 to February 20. In this article the HSA's Shoots Officer explains what exactly it is, where and when it takes place and how it can be effectively sabbed.

Wildfowlers can shoot many species of duck, some geese and one species of wader (Golden Plover). They can do this inland, or on the coastline and edges of estuaries.

There are several methods of wildfowling that are practiced. Probably the rarest form nowadays is punt gunning. This is where they go out in a specially constructed boat which has a gun attached to it. They paddle out and wait to flight birds, or put them up an shoot them. The second and most common form of wildfowling nowadays is foreshore flighting. Shooters go out usually at dusk or dawn and camouflage themselves in holes or natural cover. Generally, ducks roost on the marsh or open water by day and flight inland to feed at dusk, while the wild geese reverse the procedure and roost by night, flying inland to feed at dawn. Shooters wait for these incoming or outgoing ducks and geese. To be in the right position, they go out and analyse bird flight lines so they know where to go. Geese generally follow a fairly regular flight pattern, whereas ducks are more unpredictable. Factors such as foul weather conditions, tide conditions, food supply or a full moon play an important part in wildfowlers tactics, wildfowlers generally prefer bad weather which means that more birds are on the move. The timing of flighting is also subject to considerable variation - for example on a calm clear morning, fowl may flight at any time before one hour before sunrise and one hour after. Bad weather will delay the lightening of the sky and therefore postpone the movement of the fowl. Again, other factors such as tidal conditions will have an effect. The skill of a wildfowler lies in the ability to weigh all these factors up in order to position himself in the right place at the right time, so he can be in range of his quarry. Shooters are usually alone or in pairs, but there may also be groups of shooters out at the same time. Each gun can shoot several birds in one flight.



Wildfowlers in Yorkshire blocked in by sabs - no shooting today!

Wildfowlers and their clubs often own shooting rights over a piece of foreshore. They generally do a great deal of conservation work to foster an ideal environment which encourages wildfowl, so that they can then shoot them. Often the shoot areas are wildfowl nature reserves - it is the same old warped logic to excuse a blood sport. If they couldn't shoot they would not be involved in conserving the habitat. They are not really interested in conservation at all, but totally selfishly in blasting truly wild and magnificent birds.

The third form of wildfowling is walk up shooting where the guns walk up with dogs and beat through reeds / marshlands or on the foreshore. It can also be done inland on ponds. Lead shot is still being scattered over large areas, wildfowl often ingest it due to their eating patterns. Cartridges are also rarely retrieved.

TACTICS

1. Methods to sabotage walk-up wildfowling are generally the same as for any walk-up shoot. You must pay attention to the terrain and be careful not to put birds up yourselves. The guns may also fire into the air to flight birds. The same care must be taken not to damage a sensitive area. Generally sabs need to get to, and stay with the guns to stop them shooting.

2. The sabotage of flighting is similar to that of pigeon shooting. As the shooters are generally hidden / camouflaged, sabs obvious presence makes it harder for birds to be shot as they should change their flight course. Care must be taken not to put up roosting birds. Wildfowlers go onto the marsh to get into position usually about two - three hours before dusk or dawn, they have to be there ready for flighting to begin. Flighting does take place inland too, for example ponds, spiveys etc. You need to check out your local area and find out where the wildfowlers park (laybys, carparks etc). The first bit of the sab involves covering all the shooters parking areas - often if faced with sabs they will not go out onto the marsh / foreshore - if they don't go on, they have no chance of shooting. If they call the police, by the time they arrive it will be too late for them to get into position as timing is crucial. Each group of sabs (covering all access areas) need to keep in CB contact and prepare to shift round if necessary. If shooters are turned away, they may try to gain access elsewhere, hence the need to cover all points. Keep ready to follow their vehicles if necessary, and perhaps block them in until the police arrive. If the shooters attempt to go on the foreshore / marsh, there are two things that sabs can do. Firstly, you can expose the shooter - this can be done by wearing bright clothing, shining torches at the birds and in the shooter's eyes. You could also throw a white sheet over the shooter, again to spoil his camouflage. The guns are often lying on the floor or in gulleys so it is quite easy to stand over them. In the worst scenario, sabs will have to get in front of the guns to prevent them shooting. It is **vital** that any noise or action is controlled. You must not flap around or make too much noise, or roosting birds may be put up. You must not trample over a shot area for the same risk, and also because you might damage the sensitive habitat.

3. To sab punt guns, you need a boat so that you can keep with them. Use the same tactics as on the flats - expose them and / or get between gun and quarry.

In all cases, the name of the game is to cause minimum damage to the environment and make a minimum amount of disturbance. It is well worth the small amount of effort it takes to investigate and carry out sabotage of wildfowling. The shooters will hopefully be so shocked at your presence that they will not even get out of their vehicles.

FALCONRY
the forgotten bloodsport

Falconry is very rarely mentioned in the same breath as foxhunting, harehunting, and all the other types of bloodsports, yet there are all one and the same. Here the HSA's Falconry Officer describes what is involved in this "sport", and questions the possibilities for sabbing such an activity.

Falconry, or hawking, is the practice of using trained birds of prey (or raptors) such as Goshawks and Peregrines to hunt and kill certain bird and mammal species. This bloodsport is indeed increasing in popularity in Britain, with new falconry associations emerging both on a local and county scale. This article can only provide a brief insight into this sometimes illegal pastime where some individuals trade in stolen birds of prey and even hunt protected species. Birds can also be neglected or mistreated whilst in captivity. Falconers also have a tendency to lose birds either whilst out hunting or at falconry displays where birds can get lost for days or much longer. Falconry has often been touted as being conservation friendly by the hunting lobby but instead the practice openly encourages crime against wildlife.

The slaughter in earnest

Falconers often participate in this bloodsport in secluded areas such as marshes and moorland, well away from the general public. They also resort to hunting illegally on areas of moor and protected sites. A dog such as a pointer may be used to detect and flush out the chosen quarry such as a grouse or pheasant and the falconer will release "their" bird onto the unfortunate victim. The bird of prey being used, either a native or a more more exotic species such as a Lanner Falcon or Harris Hawk, may chase the quarry or miss completely. A hawk etc. that does not kill often, may be punished by some intolerant owners. The choice of



Peregrine falcon

prey species to hunt will depend on the type of raptor used for hunting and what is available in a given habitat. Falconers, like shooters are supposed to abide to hunting and close seasons though some species such as pigeons and animals like rabbits can be slaughtered all year round.

An often illegal pastime

The so-called "sport" of falconry encourages the unlawful taking of wild birds of prey such as the eggs and chicks of peregrines from their nests. Although it is claimed that prices for captive birds have fallen, many species are worth hundreds or thousands of pounds each. All birds of prey are completely protected by law under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. This includes the adult birds, eggs, chicks and nests. Some species receive special protection such as barn owls with tougher penalties (though not tough enough). But the trade in illegal birds is increasing with some nests being robbed year after year despite the wardening and monitoring of important sites by local conservationists. Therefore, falconry does pose a real threat to local raptor populations in parts of Britain.

Birds may be smuggled into countries throughout Europe, USA or the Middle East. Paradoxically, the Department of Environment can issue special licenses to falconers so that birds such as sparrowhawks and even peregrines may be taken from the wild, or to allow protected bird species such as skylarks or pipits to be hunted! Falconers do also illegally hunt protected bird species such as songbirds or even other birds of prey (particularly sick). The actual extent of wildlife carnage caused by falconry will never be known.

What can be done?

Falconry is actively promoted by the BFSS and even training courses are offered in this bloodsport by the British



Falconer exchanging bait for reward

School of Falconry in Kent. During early 1994, the inspired DoE made the decision to weaken our wildlife laws by removing the compulsory requirement to register species such as sparrow hawks. Thus allowing falconers to quite easily steal protected birds and probably escape protection. Unless halted, falconry will probably continue to grow with more more terriermen and hare coursers taking up this perverted hobby.

The question is, what can we do about this sickening and neglected situation? Can falconers be sabbed? - probably. But this may be difficult if a bird has already been released. If you do come across a falconer ready to start hunting with a bird, one simple tactic, (like with shoots) would be to disturb them by talking to them. Therefore not allowing the person the chance to concentrate on flying the bird. The problem is you do not want the bird (the innocent party remember) getting panicked or lost. A missing bird could starve to death if not retrieved.

If you have any ideas about possible sabbing tactics or info on falconry then write to the PO Box. Like fishing, falconry has been long neglected despite being widespread and if you live near a piece of wasteland or marshes, there may well be a practising falconer. So track down your local falconer or display at the annual county show and show them that real opposition against this forgotten bloodsport does indeed exist.

HSA Falconry



Falconer after being stopped by sabs

Letters continued ...

A formula for success?

Dear *Howl*

I write in response to Mark Freeman's further views on hound exercise, to make the point that all he has to say on the subject is rubbish. Mark's argument is that as drag hunts have hound exercise and they don't kill anything (except old hounds and the odd collapsing horse) then fox hounds can't learn to kill during hound exercise, so it must take place during cub hunting. I would draw an analogy with learning to drive a car: you can't do a ton down the M1 until you've learnt to steer properly - the process of learning is ongoing. It wasn't that I missed Mark's point, rather that I was pointing out the consequences of his way of thinking.

A fox hound is to be trained from being a puppy to being the animal we see at hunts. Of course (as Mark says) the drag hound has to go through the same process. I would argue, however, that with each of these hounds the process is to the same end - catching it's prey (although, obviously, the drag hound doesn't chew the drag puller to pieces). Mark argues that hunting skills are learnt during cub hunting. However, drag hunts don't go cub hunting (unless of course the bloke that normally pulls the drag gets his kids up early in the morning and has them run round small woods and kale fields - Mark may have photos of small children being chased round woods but I've never seen them. So where is it that the drag hounds learn to chase, obey and hunt?

Obviously hound exercise plays a vital role in disciplining the hounds and it is this discipline - often cruelly inflicted - that makes this stubborn and independent animal behave as it does. Be it drag hunting or fox hunting, you can't walk until you can crawl, so kick them when they're down is what I say (the hunt, not their dogs).

To argue, as Mark does, that sabbing hound exercise would lead to more chopped kills is one of the weirdest things I've ever read. I don't believe that sabbing is such a precise science that comments like this can be made. For example, we are told that we shouldn't call hounds away from 'coverts' unless we are sure that we're not going to call them onto any animals. The thing is, we never really know if we are going to and so it is a risk we take, but it's a tiny risk. I've never seen hounds that have been called out of woods by sabs chop a fox (although perhaps it has happened somewhere).

Perhaps Mark, with his clinical, scientific approach to sabbing (as opposed to my 'chaos theory' could produce some kind of formula which could take into account the possibility of chopped kills and this could be called the "Freeman Factor". Perhaps one day we'll hear sabs all over the country saying 'hold back here, don't call the hounds over, there's a high Freeman Factor I'm afraid'. But until Mark can develop this formula or we can find a way to get hounds to stack themselves one on top of the other, totem pole-like, it's a chance that we are going to have to take. I believe it's worth it.

M

Nottingham.

Chaos on the roads

Dear *Howl*

After coming home from work this afternoon I was nearly brought off my motorbike by stray foxhounds in the middle of the road being watched by a horsebacked hunter making no attempt to get them off the road.

I was so incensed by this that I got off my bike and gave this "lady" a sharp lesson on highway Code practice. Upon this I was outnumbered by about four of the hunt clingers-on who started to tell me that I unbelievably enough was wrong. After much heated debate I rode off as I am not of a violent nature and was spat on!

I am now a firm campaigner along with yourselves.

Yours pissed off-edly

R. McNab

Vale of Belvoir

★ STAR LETTER ★

Dear *Howl*

I've been interested in the fox-hunting issue for some time; it started when I was a student at Wakefield College. Since joining the army two years ago I've lost touch with the whole issue, this hatred for foxhunters was revitalised about four months ago.

My squadron was on exercise at a training area in Surrey when me and my mate successfully stopped a hunt by driving our CVR(T) Spartan APC in front of about fifteen hunters, allowing the fox to escape. One of the hunters was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Scots Guards. For our crime we received a £100 charge and seven days in the guardhouse.

A. Squaddie

Cambridgeshire

Personal searches in the street

A number of sabs have asked about the implications for personal searches after the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act. Here the HSA's Legal Officer provides all the necessary information surrounding this area of the law.

When can a police officer stop and search you?

When he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that you are carrying on your person or in your vehicle one of the following:

- a knife
- any offensive weapon or explosives
- stolen goods
- any articles made or adapted for use in burglary, theft, taking a vehicle or any property obtained by deception
- drugs

An offensive weapon is any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to persons; or any article which is intended for such use by you or some other person.

The police officer does not have to be certain that you are carrying one or more of these things; but there must be some concrete basis for the police officer's suspicion which relates to you. The mere fact that you are dressed in a particular way or are a member of the HSA is not in itself sufficient grounds for suspicion.

If the officer does find any of the items above on you or in your vehicle he may seize it.

What information should you be given about any search?

Before the search starts the police officer must tell you:

- he reasons why you are to be searched
- his/her name and station
- if not in uniform, the officer must prove his/her identity as a police officer
- that you are entitled to a copy of the search record within twelve months, if you ask for one at the police station.

Can an officer stop and search you anywhere?

An officer can search you in any public place or any place to which the public has access (like a football ground).

How thoroughly can the police search you in a stop and search?

An officer may not ask you to remove any of your clothes in public except for an outer coat, jacket or gloves, even if the street is empty. If the officer wants to search you more thoroughly you may be detained for a few minutes in order to carry out the search, but for no longer than is reasonable. The police cannot detain you in order to find grounds to justify the search.

A more thorough search, e.g. the removal of a t-shirt may only take place out of public view and by an officer of the same sex as yourself; it may not take place in the presence of any person who is of the opposite sex.

Can the police use force in order to search you?

The officer can use reasonable force to detain and search you if necessary. The police are only allowed to use force if you have been given a chance to co-operate but have refused. If excessive force is used you may be able to claim compensation for assault later.

Are you entitled to a record of what happens?

Wherever a search has been carried out the officer must make a note of what happened, on the spot if possible, later if not. The search record must include:

- your name, or if you withheld it a description of you
- where a vehicle is searched, a description of it
- the object of the search
- the grounds for making it
- the date and time when it was made
- its result
- a note of any injury or damage to property resulting from it
- the identity of the officer making it

You are entitled to see a copy of any search record relating to your search within a period of twelve months.

SEARCHING YOUR VEHICLE

An officer may search anything in or on your vehicle as well as the vehicle itself once they have decided they have the reasonable grounds mentioned above.

If your vehicle is left unattended when a search takes place the officer must leave a note on the vehicle telling you:

- what has happened
- which police station the officer is from
- that you may make a claim for compensation far any damage done during the search
- that you are entitled to a copy of the search record within twelve months if you ask for one at the police station.

POWER TO SEARCH ONCE ARRESTED

A custody officer may seize and retain any item. Clothes and personal effects may only be seized if the custody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that they may be evidence relating to an offence. Where anything is seized, the officer must tell you the reason for the seizure unless you are violent; likely to become violent or incapable of understanding what is said to you.

Can the police retain property which they have seized?

Anything seized for the purposes of a criminal investigation may be retained for use as evidence of an offence at a trial; for forensic examination or for investigation in connection with an offence. Anything may be retained in order to establish its lawful owner where an officer has reasonable grounds for believing that it has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence.

SEIZURE OF PROPERTY BEFORE ARREST

The general rule is that a police officer cannot seize your property unless you are under arrest and it is evidence of an offence. However a police officer has a duty to prevent a breach of the peace. Where he has grounds for believing that a breach of the peace is occurring or is imminent he may do whatever is reasonable to prevent it. This would include seizing any property which he believes will be used to cause a breach of the peace. once the threat of a breach of the peace is over he must return any item unless you are arrested or reported for summons and the item seized is evidence of an offence.

The Hunted Fox

Although it may seem obvious, knowing as much as possible about the animal you are trying to save can only benefit us in our efforts to stop them being killed. In this article the HSA's Tactics Officer provides us with information about the fox, and how this knowledge can be used to our advantage.

When I give a tactics talk I usually start of with the following statement "The first time I went sabbing we used to follow the riders around trying to save the fox but they very often got killed. So I thought that the best thing was to follow the huntsman, this we did for a while until we realised that the animals were still being killed. So what do you do now, well we took it even further and stuck with the hounds, we seemed to be in better position to save the fox. But still some were getting killed so I took the theory to it's conclusion (I think), that is to try and stick with the fox but keeping ahead of the hounds. With this you have to learn a bit about the fox and its habits."

The Red Fox

So for a basic guide to vulpes vulpes, or to you and me the red fox. An adult fox will weigh in the region of 15lbs, although weights in excess of 20lbs have been recorded. The fox diet consists mainly of small rodents such as voles and rabbits, worms, slugs and large insects, fruit when in season, and even sheep carrion. Foxes usually live in groups with one dog fox to a few vixens. The dog will mate with the domineering vixen in his territory usually Dec/Jan/Feb with the cubs being born 52 days later. Cubs are usually born between the end of January and the beginning of May although cubs have been known to be born in every month of the year.

When being hunted

When hounds have put up a fox (found its scent and frightened it into running) it will generally run out of the covert directly away from the hounds and the sound of the huntsman cheering them onto its line.



When it reaches the open at the edge of the covert however, it often changes direction. It will adjust its course so that it is running down wind, to make its scent harder to follow.

You might find most foxes are territorial and will end up (if not caught) back to where it came from. You can have a few sabs around the area if you have enough waiting in case it comes back, then take the hounds away.

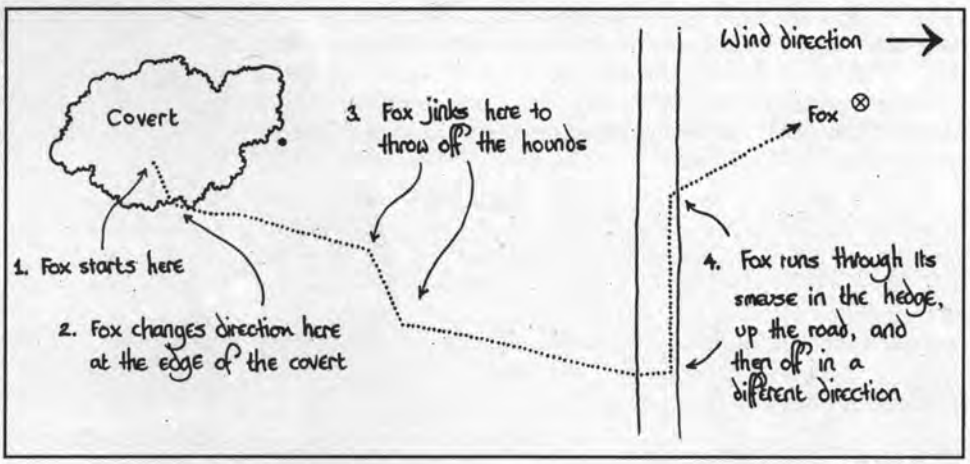


Figure 1

A hunted fox may also change direction during the chase when it reaches a hedge or other field boundary. A territorial animal, it will make use of the same smeuses (gaps in the hedge, fence or undergrowth) whenever it is pursued, and will change direction on the far side. Often a pursued fox will run along a road, and cross to the other side before taking a different course. A fox may also change direction in the open. Rather than simply running in a straight line, it will often jink (turn sharply) in an attempt to cause the hounds to lose its scent (see figure 1).

Foxes will often run the same line, that is, take the same route to escape the pack, as they have done in the past (assuming they escaped on a previous occasion), and it is likely that different foxes will run the same line as their predecessors. They will prefer to run with the ridge and furrow of a ploughed field, rather than against it, especially if the furrows are deep, as this is obviously a lot easier than running against them. They will lie up in hedgerows and kale fields if given the chance. Foxes will tend to run uphill rather than down to reduce the chance that they might stumble. They are more reluctant than usual to move when the weather is cold and windy. A fox will be prepared to cross major obstacles such as rivers, railways and busy roads, in an attempt to escape the pack. When tired, a fox will attempt to go to ground.

All this might seem that it is impossible but you can do it with perseverance, sometimes you will go the wrong way but eventually you will get it right in the end. The best place I've found to be (I think) is between the hunted animal and the hounds. The best way to learn this is to watch the animals preferably not being hunted but even when they are you can learn a lot. If you can anticipate where they will run to you can get in position before the hounds get there.

Sources: **Lloyd, H.G.** - *The Red Fox* (London, 1980 B. T. Batsford Ltd); **Macdonald, D** - *Running with the Fox* (London, 1987 Unwin Hyman)

SABS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In this issue, Belfast HSA provide an insight into how different sabbing is for them, especially with regard to the legal system through a number of incidents which have happened recently in Northern Ireland

This article will hopefully be the first of many sent in from groups around the country concerning sabbing in their own region. It is intended as an extension of the Group News feature, the function of it being to make readers aware of the differences there are when sabbing so many diverse hunts.

1993 - 1994 Season

A Belfast sab was detained by an RUC officer after sabbing the North Down Harriers at Craigantlet for one hour for the possession of a firearm! The sab was told that as a result of this he had forfeited all his rights. In actual fact, the highly dangerous firearm was ... a plant mister containing garlic water.

During the filming of a TV documentary, a sab vehicle was allegedly attacked by the Iveagh Harriers at Laurencetown, Co. down resulting in over £500 worth of damage. ROC officers reacted to a complaint from he sabs by searching all sab vehicles and confiscating maps. When a sab made a statement, he was told that it was full of inconsistencies, and that the incident described could never have happened. The RUC refused to investigate substantial video evidence, and no charges were ever laid.

A sab was then accused of assaulting a young woman. Even though he was able to provide a solid alibi he was still interrogated for several hours. The sab was informed by the police that "huntsmen and lords" wanted to beat him up as a result of the alleged incident, and that he sympathised with them. The sab was warned that if he returned to the area and was beaten up, he would be arrested for causing a breach of the peace. No charges were ever made; it seems obvious that the RUC were trying to intimidate sabs from the area.



Belfast sab explaining tactics to two new recruits

Sabs assaulted

Several sabs were seriously assaulted by a member of the Newry Harriers at Sheepstown, near Newry. All three required hospital treatment, with two still receiving physiotherapy. There was an independent witness for the case, a number of photos were taken, the incident was reported and during the investigation a member of the hunt actually confessed to the incident. The sabs were told that this person would be charged with assault on one sab, and GBH on a female sab. An RUC constable agreed to release the suspect's name to the sabs' solicitor for a civil claim to be made, for the cost of £19.00.

A few days later, the same constable informed the sabs that there would be no further police action into the incident, and that they could not release the name of the person who had previously confessed to the incident. The sabs took out a criminal injuries claim - for this to go ahead the RUC have to send case details to both sides (theoretically).



Dead hound found at the North Downs kennels

The police report that the sabs received ended in mid-sentence, followed by "cont'd" - the sabs had only been sent half of the report, the they did not receive contained the essential facts.

There are now investigations proceeding into the fact that the RUC will not cooperate with the sabs' solicitor; what was once a fairly straightforward assault case has turned into an RUC investigation into allegations against certain officers. The Committee for the Administration of Justice (the Northern Ireland equivalent of Liberty) are now also involved with the case; in addition to this, lawyers for one of the sabs are suing the Master of the hunt involved in the assault, working on the principle that as master, he is vicariously liable as he is responsible for the actions of hunt members whilst out hunting.

Boxing Day 1994

Belfast sabs certainly had an interesting Boxing Day! On their way to the meet of the North Down Harriers, the sabs had to contend with an extreme police presence: roadblocks searching sabs' cars on the way to the meet, four armoured landrovers, seven bikes, six armoured cars, two or three marked cars and RUC officers with dogs. When they got to the meet, the RUC formed a long chain around the sabs to stop them from getting anywhere near the hunt or support. The protest itself received wide media coverage from both TV and radio, and while one of the sabs was being interviewed he was attacked by a local Ulster Unionist councillor who seemed aggrieved at the fact that somebody had burnt his butchers shop to the ground. After being assured by sabs that they were in no way associated with such illegal actions, the councillor seemed to lose his rag. With supporters cheering, a few of the sabs were pulled into the crowd of supporters. As a result of this, and the fact that for some reason there was an undercover RUC officer present at the demo (who knows why?!), the councillor is possibly being charged with assault. There are also allegations that the ex-Lord Mayor was also

throwing punches in the ensuing fracas - no way for such a gentleman to behave, surely!
Newspaper reports of the day stated that it was ironic that the sabs had targeted this meet as the hunt was only drag hunting on that day - in Northern ireland, drag-hunting usually means "Damn, the antis are here, let's pretend we don't hunt wildlife".
Other hunts sabbed so far this season by the group include the East Antrim Harriers, Killultagh ,Old Rock & Chichester Harriers and the North Down Harriers. They also carried out a joint hit with Dublin sabs after a successful tactics talk in the area. The unfortunate recipients of the day were an unknown beagle pack, who sabs had to help rounding up the hounds for the hunt, after which they were put on leads and led around for the remainder of the day (see photo on opposite page).

Belfast HSA have also carried out various kennel inspections recently, uncovering the more unpleasant side of hunting which is very rarely publicised. Several bins of skinned animals were found at the Killultagh Kennels, including one bin which contained dead hounds. At the North Downs Kennels, a hound was found dumped on a patch of grass. The hound had been lead to the spot where it appeared to have been killed.

Thanks to Belfast sabs for sending the information for this article. Hopefully there will be a feature like this in future issues of Howl - if you think your group should be featured write an article and send it in! Also, any photos relating to the article would be appreciated; if sending any in however please do not write on the back of the photo, but on a sticker or separate piece of paper.

Group News

Here is the usual round-up of what's going on around the country - keep sending reports in for Howl 58, the more the better!

WALES

Lampeter sabs received some excellent news at the beginning of the season concerning the West Welsh Foot Beagles, who have closed down after only one season! Sabs had mounted a campaign against them all last season, including severely interrupting the training of the beagles. The group hopes that ex - master Maxwell Rumney now encounters the same pressure in his new post as huntsman for the Trinity Foot Beagles.
In November, Lampeter sabs joined sabs from ***Cardiff*** on a meet of the Monmouthhire FH, with the day starting well as sabs gained control of the pack, pulling them out of the first draw. As a result of this, the hunt spent the rest of the day giving sabs the runaround, eventually disappearing over the top of the black mountains. Acting on information received, the sabs travelled to the Emlyn Beagles, only to find the Gogerddan / Llangeitho FH there instead, following them up the mountains to find them digging out. The fox was bolted by the hunt, but luckily managed to escape unharmed. More recently, the Vale of Clettwr FH went into North Ledbury country for their annual two-day visit, accompanied by sabs! With the help of ***Cardiff*** and ***Ross*** sabs, they managed to stop a dig-out on the Saturday, also saving another fox later in the day. It appears that the Vale of Clettwr were none too pleased to have brought sabs with them on their weekend away! Prior to finding the hunt in the morning sabs found some men ferreting for rabbits, managing to stop them and in doing so helped a rabbit get away. Sabs' next visit to the Vale of Clettwr FH consisted of the Master being more interested in chasing sabs than foxes, resulting in one supporter being cautioned for dangerous driving; on a subsequent visit after saving a fox from a dig out sabs were horrified when they found a hound lying injured on the road, it had to be put down. Suffice to say, the hunt are putting the blame for the accident on the sabs and attempting to sue them. On a more positive note, another successful day was had at the Llanwnnen FH, after the sabs received a phonecall from a local landowner asking for their help in evicting the hunt from his land. The sabs managed to intervene as the hunt were chasing a fox over his land, helping it to run to safety leaving the hunt departing with very red faces. However, the local thugs were less than pleased about the actions of the sabs, who were forced to spend the rest of the morning avoiding road blocks. In the afternoon the sabs decided to visit old favourites the Vale of Clettwr FH where they saw two foxes running to safety. The group encountered some odd tactics from the Llanwnnen FH: after driving straight into a road block the sabs were faced with being sprayed at by the hunt with green sheep dye! Fortunately for the sabs their driver was able to do some fancy driving in order to save their skins. Bad weather in December meant that hunting was severely affected, with scent being very hard to pick up. Finally, Boxing Day passed off peacefully and successfully, with sabs covering both the Vale of Clettwr FH and the Emlyn Beagles - no kills at either. It appears that the Vale of Clettwr are starting to feel persecuted and are wondering why they are being targeted - keep guessing!
All in all, the group reports a successful start to the season, seeing many foxes running away to safety. Although experiencing some transport problems, the group now has a van which should make things easier for them; they also thank the HSA for the loan and help that has been given to them.

Cardiff report a slow start to the cubbing season, visiting the Llangibby FH (who were later found to have had kennel cough during most of cubbing), Curre FH, Monmouthshire FH and the Tredegar Farmers FH. The Vale of Glamorgan FH appear to have no intention of being sabbed, calling the police out to threaten sabs with arrest even if they go near the kennels. The new season shows promise for the Cardiff group, with more new sabs taking two vans out every Saturday. Hunts sabbed so far include the Monmouthshire FH, Curre FH, Llangibby FH, Caerphilly & District FH and the Tredegar Farmers FH. So far, sabs have not seen enforcement of the CJA in their immediate area, possibly due to the financial state of their local police - things will hopefully continue in this way.



Simon Longworth finds he does have a use after all

NORTH YORKSHIRE

"God's Little Sunbeams" from ***Leeds*** have spent Saturdays concentrating on the Bramham Moor FH (as seen on *Emmerdale* !). Although hounds did not respond to sabs too well during cubbing, through their persistence sabs are now getting some rewards, keeping the hounds' heads up well in kale fields, and getting the pack out on a number of occasions, only seeing a couple of definite kills so far this season. during November Leeds sabs visited the York & Ainsty North FH, with police threatening the sabs with arrest under the CJA, following them everywhere. Sabs kept one step ahead of the coppers, pretending to go home then returning

half an hour later to find no police, also just in time to see a fox run across the road with the hounds close behind. The sabs sprayed the hedgerow, whipped hounds off the line and then ran off with the pack. This totally annoyed the huntsman and police who had returned, searched the van and confiscated both whips and sprays. This however didn't stop the sabs who still had some effect away from the road using voice calls to call hounds out of a covert. Police "kindly" returned their property at the end of the day.

Along with ***York*** sabs, Leeds visited the Old Ampleforth Beagles, where Simon Longworth sneaked out the back of the meet to lose the sabs. No such luck - he was soon seen being hounded straight back to the meet by sabs. On seeing that the police had arrived, he decided to go out again; much to the bemusement of Longworth and the police, sabs again followed him and ran off with half the pack when he attempted to cross a bridge. The less than capable whipper-in was left to pick up the pieces, standing around shouting feebly at the pack to come back to him. The hounds only managed to get on one scent all day which they duly lost, and another classic quote was uttered by Simon (see Huntsman's Balls!). He seems to think that sabs have a personal vendetta against him ... Police presence for the day was four cars, one Landrover and two Transits - to deal with nine sabs! They appeared very patronising, walking up to sabs and asking such gems as "Who's being aggressive then?" One sab was arrested, five others were cautioned and charged (but not actually arrested); the day ended with no kills and a very pissed off Simon crying to the cops!

York sabs have been battling against their usual adversaries throughout November, December and January, visiting the Middleton FH, Old Ampleforth Beagles, Hunsley Beacon Beagles, Holderness FH, Sinnington FH and Derwent FH. They have also had a lot of help from Jack Frost and Mrs Snow and Mr Rain (!) causing many hunt cancellations. Kennel cough has also caused at least a fortnight of cancellations for the Middleton FH and Old Ampleforth Beagles - that'll teach them to kennel the two packs together! Particularly memorable days must include their continued fun and games with Mr Longworth and his "new" beagles, and sabotage of the Hunsley Beacon Beagles who have not seen sabs for a while. This pack were found to be particularly responsive to horn and voice calls at Allerthorpe, but unfortunately just as sabs arrived, the hounds rioted after a deer and shot off in the opposite direction, killing something in a local resident's back garden. The resident was not a fan of the hunt (surprisingly enough) and swiftly made a complaint to the police. Boxing Day with the Middleton FH was "good sport" - while the hunt paraded around Malton market place for their photos, sabs were busy pre-spraying all the usually hunted coverts. It was great to see the hunt religiously drawing these coverts, and drawing blank after blank after blank! On Christmas Eve York sabs had the pleasure to meet one of those weird old gumby supporters (every hunt has at least one) who when hounds started to "give tongue" (?!) said that their shrieks were "better than a round of 'Good King Wenceslas' ". Inspired by his wise words, the sabs taped these musical hound noises, put them back through a gizmo on Boxing Day and hey presto! - a pack of hounds at their feet! A belated Merry Christmas to the old fart! York sabs hope he likes their reconstituted hound noises as much as the real thing, as he certainly didn't hear hounds in cry on this Boxing Day!

The Old Ampleforth at Fryupdale was also a success, with York joining Leeds sabs. Poor old Longworth didn't go out on the most traditional hunting day of the year (Boxing Day) because they had no support! Instead they went out on the 27th when no other pack was out! Supporters were everywhere when sabs arrived, the sabs thinking they could be in for some trouble as they recognised a lot of loonies who they had encountered before. Thankfully, there was no trouble, all the sabs got was boring lectures about country peoples' right to do what they want on their own land. As sabbing began in earnest, Longworth was steaming as his hounds deserted him for the sounds of sabs horns and a gizmo, sabs also found one of the best tactics was to keep hounds heads up as there were so many hares in the area. Two off-duty coppers out supporting attempted to get the sabs arrested but unfortunately some proper police arrived and the sabs had no trouble from them. Longworth, however had had "a good dressing down" by North Yorkshire's Chief Constable for hiring so many stewards who behaved violently when two female sabs attended his opening meet. Poor old Simon - things just aren't going his way. And he still owes York sabs a hunting horn! Sabs were left wondering if he actually kills anything even when sabs aren't present, after all, he can't steward, he can't hunt *and* he looks awful!

York have seen plenty of the best type of sabs - when the hunt turns up, has a drink and then returns home because of bad weather. Sabs should obviously be happy about this but don't get complacent - why not go and sab a shoot instead?!

Leeds and York sabs have continued their relentless persecution of the Old Ampleforth into the New Year, with a visit to Harland Moor in early January. The hunt delayed setting off for one hour while waiting for Simon's mates (the police) to arrive, although the one that did eventually turn up was too lazy to run after sabs; only with the help of a large amount of support, including some of Simon's old security was he able to round up the sabs. Despite having been cautioned, the sabs continued in pursuit of the pack, with the copper being more keen to prove that an alias used by one of the sabs was that of a "wanted criminal" than to worry about mere sabbing. Not that the beagles got onto anything all day anyway... Support continued to bleat on about trespass but the day ended with no-one even capable of reading a map to prove that the sabs were or weren't on a footpath, leaving the popeyed copper momentarily speechless. Longworth, unsuccessful and disgruntled once more, packed up before sunset.



Mr. Longworth and his Amazing Pack of Beagles - should I stay or should I go?!

NORTH WEST

In keeping with tradition, the ***Stoke*** group went out cubbing with other groups in the North West, namely Manchester and Liverpool. They paid their respects around Cheshire to the Cheshire Foxhounds during cubbing, and since the start of the season have been out with the Forest and District Beagles, reminding them that they still care, and haven't forgotten that they still exist (but, hopefully, not for long!).

The usual North-West posse consisting of ***Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Stoke*** and ***Preston*** have been kept busy over the summer months by visits to the usual shooting haunts of the Lancashire and North Yorkshire Moors, including actions during the successful Shoots Week. They were also kept busy on days out in search of the often elusive neighbouring mink hunts. Luck proved to be on the side of the sabs during June when they managed to track down the Border Counties MH and quickly managed

to escort them back to their vehicles with the help of ***Leeds, Birmingham, Cumbria*** and ***Wolves*** sabs. Unfortunately, due to a seemingly freak disabling occurrence, apparently only affecting sab vehicles at the front of the queue to leave the meet, all that attending supporters could do was to take in the sunshine for two hours and watch as the North Wales Police spent thousands on the helicopter that constantly buzzed around their heads.

The months of August and September were predictably devoted to cubbing meets, and the sabs hoped that the successes here will come to fruition during the main season. hunts targeted were the usual ones that sabs around the country have come to know and love - Cheshire FH, Cheshire Forest FH, Sir Watkin William Wynn's FH, and the Flint & Denbigh FH. The Royal Rock Beagles continue to be targeted by a hardy bunch of scallies, and their excellent work is backed up by the main NW contingent whenever possible (we do try, honest!). A new find in the North West has been a shoot location, which unfortunately seems to encompass several game bird varieties - however, sabs presence there five weeks on the trot has saved many lives, with the sad and pathetic threatening response encountered in the past has makes it always a pleasure to visit (?!?).

The opening meet of the Cheshire Forest FH was attended not only by sabs and a surprisingly friendly camera crew, but also by a surprise celebrity guest, who could only be identified as the one and only Charlie Chaplin! Obviously a member of the Tarporley Hunt Club - and what a fine body of dinosaurs they are (see photo!). Also visited were the Cheshire FH, Forest and District Beagles, Royal Rock Beagles and the Vale of Lune Harriers. The months of November and December has seen the main sab activity concentrated on the Cheshire packs, but the discovery of the Royal Rock Beagles on several occasions has lent a nice variation to their usual days out - especially when Rodney Symonds, huntsman of the pack is able to summon the help of not just one, but two police force resources (cars, motorcycle, riot vans and helicopter) at the touch of a mobile phone button. The good news was that local residents seemed to dislike the hunt as much as the sabs do, and the future of that particular meet looks to be in doubt. The festive (?) season saw the beagles targeted one again on Christmas Eve, and the Holcombe FH got the regular visit on Boxing Day.



Who says its an outdated tradition?!

SOUTH WEST

North Dorset report a busy two months, with sabs combining direct action in the field with stalls and leafleting sessions. A good rapport has been built up with the local people in the North Dorset region which was evident on Boxing Day. Over fifty locals from Blandford turned out to express their disgust at the Portman FH's meet at the Crown, Blandford holding a noisy but good natured demo which certainly put the wind up the hunters. This was the first demo in Blandford, next year promises to be bigger and more vocal, until the Portman are ousted from the town.

Boxing Day afternoon saw sabs out with the Pimpernel Beagles, who were meeting at Shroton. The hunt was brought to a standstill on a number of occasions while hunters waited for the elusive police to arrive. One sab was even held hostage while, all around, sabs were causing maximum confusion. Late in the day the beagles hunted the line of a deer for three fields after being stopped; the day ended with another stand-off for nearly an hour before the stroll home at dusk. A great day for sabs who included a few who have not been out before.

Previous to Boxing Day at the beginning of November, sabs stopped the South & West Wilts FH from killing. Hounds marked a fox up a lime tree, but luckily sabs arrived with video cameras - the thought of sabs filming a tree climbing huntsman knocking a fox into the jaws of the pack was evidently one that was too unsavoury even for the S & WW scumbags, who left the scene; sabs guarded the tree to make sure.

Sabbing and filming continue to be highly effective tools in the ongoing campaign against the New Forest Buckhounds. Such has been their success that December saw the arrival of thugs out to duff the sabs up. Rather than play the game, they simply moved on to other hunts with much joy. However after some "politicing" the situation seems to have calmed down, and the deer can enjoy the sabs' protection once more.

Stars of the last two months are the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale FH, where sabs have had a fantastic run, with sabs thinking it only fair to thank them for keeping it all fluffy! In particular, three days on the trot stick in the mind during early December. From Cucklington on the 9th, three sabs totally wrecked all serious hunting. Three foxes were saved, including one which had been running in full view of the car followers. sabs used horn and gizmo to divert the hounds, and run them n totally the wrong way. This fox, when re-found then sensibly ran straight onto forbidden land. From Shalford on the 15th, hounds picked up a scent in an overgrown farmyard. One fox was hollered over the road, but the hounds could not work out the line beyond a certain point - was it something to do with that lemony smell? Returning to the farmyard, another fox was soon found, crossing in front of two sabs who called the pack off the scent and away elsewhere. Later on, sabs brilliantly called the entire pack off a fox with horn and voice calls. This was very memorable because the fox had run nearly two miles, and at the point where the sabs stepped in all the car followers could see the fox. Huntsman Chris Bould, however, thought the fox had gone the other way when he saw us with his pack. Silly man. The following day they met at Pylle, within spitting distance of Glastonbury Tor. It was another day of vintage sabbing, with tree sabs splitting the pack hither and thither on the old railway early on in the day. A false holloa fooled *everyone*, two foxes were seen to safety and sabs ran off with the pack. It was no wonder they did a runner at mid-afternoon where they lost the sabs, who later found them hunting a fox - the hounds were called off with the aid of a gizmo and the fox was finally lost near the A37.

Finally, in spite of injunctions the group has been out with the Portman FH regularly. Armed with video cameras rather than horns, they have been a thorn in the hunt's side. The sabs are not prohibited from using scent dullers, and there are a few foxes thankful for that! The new terrierman has been given a telling off by police about stopping up badger setts, thanks in a large part to filming of his work by the sabs, who have recently noticed that no stopping occurs at all, helping foxes who seek refuge in setts. The Portman have been struggling to keep the hounds under control of late due purely to the incompetence of their new huntsman, Hugo Busby. There seems to be a phantom gate wire-upper and padlocker in the Portman country, who is doing a fine job at delaying the hunt. Would the culprit please own up...

The ***Penwith*** group comprises of one person who recently moved to the region, and is keen to gain some more members with a view to going out sabbing in the Penzance region! The lone sab has managed to get out on several occasions, pre-spraying the woodland which is to be hunted and using horn calls from a distance. The fact that transport for the sab is a bicycle makes it more difficult for the police and hunt to locate him, as the bicycle can be easily hidden and further sabbing done on foot! The Western FH were fairly tolerant on the first few occasion but have since wised up to the fact that they are getting sabbed, and have

threatened to call the police - for one sab?! This sab has also been out with a sab from ***Newquay***, and they have succeeded in calling over hounds from the Western FH, before being arrested for aggravated trespass; the two were later released without charge but reported for summons. If anyone is interested in going out sabbing in the Penzance region (the group desperately needs enlarging!) the address is on the Contacts List which is enclosed with this issue of *Howl*.

Bristol sabs' report of proceedings since the beginning of the season starts with visits to the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale FH and Mendip Farmers FH during cubbing. At the Farmers meet, two sabs were unfortunate enough to be treated with the taste of an ex-master's walking stick, one being hit across the face. After joining other sabs in the Shires in September, Bristol sabs went back to Avon to concentrate on the Mendip Farmers who have being playing hard to get. In the beginning of October, sabs from the region crossed the bridge over to Wales where they sabbed the Curre FH, and took their remarkably responsive hounds for an impromptu walk. At the beginning of the season several opening meets were covered, including the Ledbury FH, Avon Vale FH and Tedworth FH. At the Ledbury, sabs spent over an hour and a half unblocking a huge system of earths, some of which had been filled with burning rags. To the sabs' delight, not more than an hour after they finished this unblocking nightmare a fox was seen running for its life only two hundred yards in front of the hounds. Sabs saw the fox round the hill, didn't see it finish the circuit but did see the hounds doing so, completing the full circuit minus their quarry. The Avon Vale opening meet was fairly standard, however the Tedworth saw the whole pack being lifted from the huntsman's sight in front of the support. Needless to say this did little to keep them laughing, and by the end of an excellent day's sabbing the group were treated to two slashed tyres courtesy of the support. The police are investigating! Since the New Year, the Tedworth FH have become firm favourites with Bristol sabs, although these visits have been punctuated with visits to the South Herefordshire, the Portman and the Llangibby, the latter of which, along with Cardiff sabs was truly an inspired day with hounds constantly being taken off the line and split, so forcing the huntsman to keep running all day. Generally throughout the South West the CJA is not affecting sabbing heavily, and apart from the odd warning no real hassle has been encountered so far. To finish, possibly their greatest achievements so far this season has been to stop five (count 'em!) *five* dig-outs in as many weeks. Down at the good old Tedworth FH digging has been becoming more and more commonplace and so armed with only a video camera and numbers of sabs between two and six, dig-outs have been halted midway. Brilliant stuff!

SOUTH EAST

London Guildhall University HSA is a new group who have emerged at hardly the best time, but are managing to successfully sab many hunts in the area with the help of the Students Union who not only entirely fund their activities but also hire vans for them! The group has joined forces with several groups in the region, targeting the Essex FH, Suffolk FH, Essex & Suffolk FH, Puckeridge FH and Woodland Pytchley.

In November, the group met up with ***Mid-Essex*** and ***Colchester*** sabs and the *Times* newspaper at the Essex & Suffolk FH. This hunt are rarely sabbed and this showed in their performance on the day, with hounds being split throughout the day with the use of a powerful gizmo. Sabbing was helped by the fact that Suffolk police were quite content to watch from the roadside, clearly not knowing what exactly they should be doing with the CJA. Testimony to the sabs' success was the fact that three tyres were slashed on one of the vans - wonder who did that?! Amazingly enough, this was actually reported by the Times in their article concerning that day. At the beginning of December the group met up with ***Mid-Essex, Colchester, Halstead*** and ***Saffron Walden*** groups as well as BBC TV cameras, and promptly drove to Brent Pelham to sab the Puckeridge FH. Having been given strict instructions from Herts police not to stray onto private land or footpaths (as if sabs do that!), strangely enough the police were not seen again until late in the evening. They were merely content with sitting in their cosy cars and driving around the countryside, in fact the hunt could not get rid of sabs all day. The hounds seemed to prefer the sound of gizmos to the sound of the huntsman's horn - the hounds never got a sniff of any fox all day. So desperate for blood and action, the hunt stayed out until 5pm by which time it became impossible to sab due to the fact that it was impossible to see anything. An interesting incident took place just before the end of the day when sabs were sure that the terrierman had bagged a fox and thrown it into his Landrover. Because they were unable to have a look inside the sabs informed the police, who immediately questioned the terrierman, inspecting the vehicle only to find two frightened terriers locked up inside. Amazing what you can con the police into doing...

The group report a very successful start to their sabbing, with no kills in their first six outings, and no arrests. On concentrating on the hunts in Suffolk and Herts where the police are less keen on enforcing the CJA than a certain other force in that region the sabs are able to continue without much hassle - one Suffolk Inspector told sabs to leave one area and not to come back, whereupon the sabs drove 100 yards down the road, jumped into the field which was interpreted by the Inspector as a different area, and so the procedure was repeated!

Also in this region, **Chelmsford HSA** have been busy at the Puckeridge FH, Essex and Suffolk FH, the Essex FH and the Suffolk FH, reporting several successful days sabbing mainly through the use of a gizmo.

Sab groups from ***Goldsmiths, Orpington, Brixton, Guildford, Brighton*** and ***North Downs*** have been active over the last couple of months, stopping a dig out at the Surrey Union FH, reporting an excellent day with no trouble from the police. On a separate occasion the groups started out at the Southdown & Eridge FH but found the local beagle pack, the Brighton & Storrington who they decided to sab instead - the groups report this pack as a good find but certainly not amused at the sight of sabs!

The re-vamped ***Brixton*** group has been up and running since the beginning of the season, and loving every minute of it! They have been wreaking havoc all over the Home Counties almost every week, taking implementation of the CJA as an invitation from the local police to test them out and see what they're made of! So far the group has put the wind up Kent, Sussex,



Sabs from the South East take it easy with the Meon Valley Beagles.

Hampshire, Thames Valley, Northampton and any other force who have the audacity to try and stop their gaffa-taped, rust encrusted transit van; however they claim to be being "nice" to Surrey police who are not using the new law. The Surrey Union have not killed above ground all season, only from sordid little dig-outs in pre-arranged woods. The sabs are still preventing dig-outs because the police don't seem to want any breaches of the peace occuring! Brixton sabs have also visited Essex, finding the coppers only too willing to try out their new toys, er, telescopic truncheons. The first visit resulted in sabs from the region being arrested, the second was a considerable success with the hunt packing up early with no arrests. The group enjoyed a day out at the Garth & South Berks as the Chiddingfold cancelled, and finally had a storming day at the West Street & Tickham FH, using horn, voice and gizmo to maximum effect. The group is looking to travel up and down the country bringing mayhem wherever they go, and welcome any offers from people without responsiobilities for their Special Operations Unit - all offers to be sent to the group's address...



Surrey Union hounds riot on a stray golfball, Elstead Golf Course

West London sabs kicked off the cubbing season with visits to the Hampshire Hunt, Vine & Craven FH, Surrey Union FH and, when there was nothing better to do, the magnificent Meon Valley Beagles! Once the season proper got under way, the group turned their attention to old favourites - the Garth & South Berkshire, who appear to have suffered dwindling numbers recently (where is the man from South London??). Towards the end of '94 the group made occasional visits to the Hampshire Hunt and Meon Valley, as well as joining in the fun and games in Essex and Kent. Boxing Day Bank Holiday saw the group in action at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH and in the New Year it was back to the Garth & South Berks. During one memorable visit to this hunt, they ground to a standstill after an incident in a wood where the huntsman (Ian "Laughing Boy" Langrish) mysteriously lost his riding hat. The police and supporters formed a search party to comb the area whilst sabs denied any knowledge of the missing headgear. The hat was eventually located after about an hour of hunting, quite some distance from where it went missing. The hunt then packed up by this time as it was getting dark. As far as Mr. Howard's new law is concerned the group has suffered two arrests, one at Essex in November and one at the Garth in January, where the old bill decided it was time to start enforcing the CJA and sprang into action. The number of arrests was kept to a minimum as fleet-footed sabs were off on their toes and managed to stay one jump ahead of the flat-footed local plod. The sab who was arrested had allegedly stopped running to light up a cigarette... A healthy mixture of old hands and an influx of new recruits means that the group is in fine shape for the future.

A new sab group was set up towards the end of last year in ***Brighton*** as part of the anti -CJA campaign. Very shortly afterwards having gone berserk collecting, they managed to buy an old Ambulance and now sab regularly. The most memorable day was when they teamed up with ***Brighton*** sabs and sabbed the hell out of the Old Surrey & Burstow FH on Boxing Day. The large police presence didn't bat an eyelid as they accompanied sabs for a day's trespassing, nor did they seem to mind when sabs blew horns and hollered. They were, however extremely concerned about all the supporters with no tax discs; by the end of the day they had done seven supporters for not wearing seatbelts and another three for not displaying tax discs. Sabs were left alone all day, and saw three foxes running to safety. Also sabbed by the group has been the Hursley Hambledon, where one female sab was assaulted by supporters and thugs whilst on her own. Also on this day one of the hunt's horses was killed on a road during the day, with the riders merely continuing hunting. No foxes were killed. Hunts in the area seem to be using far more police than before the CJA came into force, but this has not deterred the sabs. A number of hunts have been cancelled through bad weather, others because of the actions at Shoreham - they just couldn't cover both! The group would like to thank Brighton sabs for their help and support with the fledgling group, who are now active, alive and kicking!

IRELAND

The first lot of Group News from ***Galway*** sabs, who have just started this season. Although the group has just formed they have already been effective against the world-renowned Galway Blazers. Their first sab was in conjunction with ***Dublin*** sabs. Although the day started out with some violence the sabs persisted and the hunt was successfully sabbed. It was the first fox hunt sab in the Republic and the hunters didn't know how to react. Five sabs got various injuries from whipping and kicking and horses being used like battering rams. The police were called but not surprisingly told sabs they couldn't do anything. The next visit to the Blazers was without any violence, with sabs keeping well enough away from them to avoid confrontation but near enough to successfully sab. However the most recent visit to the Blazers by Dublin and Galway sabs turned out to be the most violent. After about ten minutes of sabs following them the entire hunt of about 50 riders suddenly stopped turned round and rode into the sabs. Several sabs were fairly badly beaten until they managed to run towards a main road pursued by the hunt. Stood on the road were a gang of locals and terriermen waiting for the sabs who were all beaten up again. In addition to the sabs being attacked the vehicles were also attacked, with one car of sabs almost turned over. Although no police action was taken on the day, sabs are building up a prosecution case against the hunt. Being the most prestigious hunt in the West of Ireland, court cases could really damage their image. Despite the confrontation this new group has not been deterred from sabbing, and has big plans for the future!

WEST MIDLANDS

Wolves and ***Birmingham*** sabs had an excellent cubbing season which started by attending Shires week, before proceeding to stuff up virtually every meet of the Albrighton FH, the only ones missed due to doing the same to the South Shropshire instead. This hunt were particularly easy to sab as they didn't even unbox on four occasions before going home, when they did hunt the hounds proved very responsive to the admittedly crap horn blowing by the sabs! With the start of the regular season came the dreaded CJB, which gave the sabs the opportunity to defy the new "law" before an estimated audience of millions on their local teatime news - the sabs were the lead story, with coverage showing some good sabbing and a lot of gutted hunt scum (disappointed that the sabs weren't being lead off in quick-cuffs as they had been predicting the week before). After their moment of stardom the group has settled down to a regular pattern of sabbing the Albrighton FH week in, week out. The only tactic of the police has been to bring out a large task force consisting of four patrol cars, one or two unmarked Landrovers (with undercover

police who have been following the sabs for about eighteen months), one riot van (two more recently) and a scrambler bike that tries to follow the sabs in the field; also various video crews who attempt to do the same. Surprisingly enough there have been no arrests so far in this area, with the coppers becoming fixated with the issue of trespassing: As long as sabs are seen entering land on a footpath and not seen blowing horns, sabs are "allowed" to do pretty much what they want. The main problem has been the oppressive nature of being so heavily policed (on several occasions there have been more police than sabs), and the feeling of impending doom as the boys in blue get out of their vans and start belting on their truncheons - before not arresting anybody. Fed up with not being arrested, a small group from the area joined a mixed bag of sabs from the East Midlands and Sheffield to sabs the Meynell & South Staffs FH. The result was no kills and eight arrests, as a result of some enthusiastic policing by Derbyshire coppers (two of the cases have now been dropped, more are expected to follow). Most recently the sabs took part in a joint hit on the Woodland Pytchley FH, stuffed up a few meets of the Albrighton Woodland FH, enjoyed several days of hunting being cancelled by the weather, and returned to old enemies the Albrighton FH. To sum it all up, very few kills, very few arrests and unfortunately not enough sabs.

EAST MIDLANDS

Predictably enough, ***Nottingham*** sabs have been out several times a week with old favourites the Quorn, Cottesmore and Belvoir FHs. No surprises anywhere really, the Quorn are still useless when sabs are about, the Cottesmore and Belvoir are both getting that way too. For a change sabs have been starting to visit the Quorn on a Friday, this being their best day for hunting it is worthwhile to sab it, even though they are very fast and the area is a lot harder. CJA action in this area has been very minor, with only three arrests so far in Leicestershire and none in Nottinghamshire, despite an amusing day at the South Notts where sabs were outnumbered by police including four mounted coppers, a riot van, various cars ...maybe its unwise to sab so close to the force headquarters? Or maybe not, considering that there were no arrests and the hunt was sabbed fantastically, with the huntsman drawing vast expanses of woodland in a matter of minutes! The funniest sight of the day was one of the riders giving PC Most-likely-to-arrest a photocopy from Horse and Hound about how the CJA is to be enforced ... maybe the copper couldn't read?! For a bit of light relief, Notts sabs decided to go to the Meynell & South Staffs FH on two occasions. The first was excellent (see Wolves Group News); the second was somewhat less so - after failing to find the pack for approximately three hours a fox was spotted running across a field next to the road the sabs were on. Sure enough, the hunt was in the opposite field, however sabs didn't get a chance to do anything as Derbyshire coppers arrived all guns blazing once again, arresting two sabs for "brandishing offensive weapons" - oh dear, they seem to have a lot to learn. After this the hunt seemed to enjoy the protection by the coppers, who spent more time searching the sab van and confiscating various items including a CB which they were convinced was a scanner, etc etc. Derbyshire police might be skint but they seem to have al the resources they need to stop a hunt from being sabbed.... More recently, a game group of sabs from the region travelled down to Essex, where a good time was had by all! Sabs from the region have continued to go to the Quorn on Saturdays, aided and abetted by ***Derby*** sabs, and have kept up the pressure on the Belvoir and Cottesmore midweek, with one day at the Belvoir being fairly memorable as sabs ran over fields as hounds were in cry, through not only rain but also thunder, lightning and a hailstorm. Nothing, it appears, will put off Belvoir huntsman Martin Thornton (unfortunately).



Riders at the Cottesmore FH suddenly turn shy after blocking in the sab van



Haven't we met before? Notts sabs and regular hangers-on at the South Notts FH

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

So, what have those lovely cuddly sabs from Sheffield been getting up to during the 94/95 season? As per usual, most of their efforts have been concentrated on the Grove & Rufford FH, but after four years of constant sabbing they are considering reassessing how much of a threat this hunt actually poses to wildlife in general - i.e. they're not very good anymore. Support is dwindling steadily, even though the hunt is trying to go out an extra day midweek at the moment. However this doesn't seem to have breathed new life into the support - the latest extra day was attended by something in the region of four riders, hardly a good turnout! Sheffield sabs have also managed to get to a couple of Badsworth FH meets, including their Boxing Day Bonanza at Wentbridge where the sabs received press coverage from BBC Radio Leeds. We all know that this is the day that hunts manage to pull out all their old duffers and next door neighbours on Boxing Day, but Sheffield sabs feel that Horse & Hound's estimate of seven hundred was a bit on the generous side. Also visited by the group this season were the Rockwood Harriers, where Sheffield teamed up with ***Huddersfield*** sabs for a day, sabs are hoping to see more of them in the future. Most of the group's midweek efforts have been involved in the 'Taming of the Shires" along with sabs from the East Midlands; on the periphery of the region is the South Notts FH who have been visited many times by Sheffield; sabs very rarely see kills by this pack. Sheffield hasn't fallen foul of the CJA much, unless stepping over the boundary into Derbyshire to sab the Meynell & South Staffs FH where there have been several arrests - nothing to do with the fact that old Charlie boy goes out with them maybe? Finally, Sheffield enjoyed a day out in Essex but have no idea which hunt they were at - but they got sabbed anyway!

Is There A Point In Hunting?

by David Tattylaw, the HSA's racing correspondent.

The point-to-point season covers the first few months of the year and is a major feature in the hunting calender. The link between the two "sports" is so great that we cannot afford to dismiss point-to-points as having little relevance to the hunted animal in the long run. This article provides information about the races and how they can be disrupted.



Horses qualify for point-to-point races throughout the hunting season

At a point-to-point horse race you can guarantee a profusion of barbour-jacketed, Hunter-wellied, binocular (and booze) wielding Range Rover drivers, who spend most of their time eating out of large whicker hampers and of course betting on the horses. You won't find many terriermen, but the host hunt masters will be there to hand over the trophies, and also the huntsman and whipper-in who will probably parade their hounds and do their bit for public relations.

In previous years, instead of obligingly turning up on the day, joining the British Field Sports Society and purchasing their quality fox-cub tea-towels, various sabs and other people have been involved in the sabotage of point-to-point races. Successful tactics have included: plastering "CANCELLED" stickers over signs; turning signs in opposite directions; taping bin liners over signs in order to completely obscure them; and simply taking down signs and posters and putting them somewhere else (in a hedge for example). The "pitch invasion" tactic is also a tried and tested method, with many a sab running onto a point-to-point course clutching an appropriate banner and then promptly being dragged off by a copper.

So, what is the point (if you'll pardon the pun) of this type of sabotage?

This year, there will be two hundred and thirteen point-to-point races, run on one hundred and seventeen different courses, between the months of January and June. Almost all of these races are organised as major fundraising events for fox, hare (harrier), stag and buck hunts across the country. They are often the single largest income for hunts in any year. In 1990 for example, the Surrey Union Foxhunt gained a total of fourteen thousand pounds from their point-to-point. This was just over half their annual net income from 'outside activities': a substantial amount which enabled them to continue slaughtering foxes the following season. The link between point-to-pointing and hunting is as strong as ever - every horse must have been out hunting for at least seven days during the season in order to qualify to race. The hunt's master has to sign a certificate to verify this. Also, each of the horses in the race must be owned by a hunt master or member of a recognised pack of hounds or else be a hunt supporter or farmer.

Some races which are not directly linked to a particular hunt are run by a club instead. An example is the Melton Hunt Club in Leicestershire, which supports hunting with the Belvoir, Quorn and Cottesmore Foxhunts.

Unfortunately, quarry species (foxes, hares and deer) are not the only animals to suffer as a result of point-to-point races. The horses used are susceptible to injury as in any other horse race where they are made to jump obstacles and run at speed together. In January this year for example, a horse running in the Garth and South Berkshire Foxhunt point-to-point at Tweseldown, broke her neck at the first fence.

How do you find out about these events?

Point-to-point races are often held just outside of a town. The one and a half mile course itself is usually held on a hunt supporter's land, and may be a permanent fixture or just set up for the day. More than one hunt may share the same course. They are usually advertised on large poster boards standing in adjacent fields, or on yellow AA signs set at major junctions and roundabouts near the course. They will probably just say "point-to-point horse race" in order to entice unenlightened passers by who may fancy a jolly day out and a small flutter on the side. Adverts in local papers often play down the involvement with hunting (even if they're sponsoring the event!). The quality and highly factual weekly magazine Horse & Hound will carry adverts for point-to-points, as will other 'country-style' magazines found at local newsagents. Alternatively, you can ring the HSA office who have a list of all the relevant dates and venues. (You may be lucky enough to live near a race organised by the local beagle pack, where people run instead of horses. These are rather amusing events which on the face of it appear too ridiculous to be true, but they are still raising cash to go hunting.)

So, it's worth remembering that there is a point to sabbing these events. A hunt can only exist (like a sab group) if they've got the funds to do so.

HSA COMMITTEE NEWS February 1995

Several changes have taken place in the posts held by committee members recently. Paul Gammon and I have swapped roles so he now has the unenviable job of the HSA Press Officer while I can now wield my sarcastic tongue as the Chair of the committee. This has required me to relinquish my position as Vice Chair which has been filled by Karen Edmonds. The editorship of *HOWL* should regain stability with the appointment of Liz Edwards; Liz will be helped by John Seagrove has been appointed assistant editor. Aubrey Thomas is standing down as Finance Officer as he is finding he is unable to give the job the attention it needs. Knowing Aubrey, though, he won't be away from the committee for long. He has been replaced by Patrick Brown who has volunteered his knowledge as a trained accountant. With Patrick's help we expect to be able to plan more effectively for the future enabling us to provide services to local groups and develop national strategies with more coherence.

The Criminal Justice Act continues to be the prime issue occupying the committee at present and the underlying feeling is positive. Active sabbing is proving to be resilient to the new laws as everyone promised Michael Howard it would be. We're liaising closely with Liberty who are monitoring events, particularly involving hunt saboteurs, very closely. We're looking forward to testing cases at European level but this is a slow and laborious process. In the meantime, the unprecedented level of opposition to the Act and the ever-growing credibility gap it (and Michael Howard) is suffering are leading to the broad failure of aggravated trespass as a deterrent. As the season draws to a close, hunt masters across the country should have some searching questions to ask of the BFSS who convinced them that the new law would mean the end of direct action against hunting.

We will be organising the 1995 AGM for June, the earliest opportunity the Association's constitution allows. By scheduling it for the beginning rather than the end of the summer we believe that much of the experience and impetus that is developed over the course of the season can be built upon to greater effect while it is fresh in our minds. This is particularly important in the context of this season and the Criminal Justice Act.

Finally, this year will see the launch of a newsletter which will be sent to all HSA members between issues of *HOWL*. It will be a low-cost single sheet publication with the aim of spreading news and information more quickly amongst our membership.

Ben Ponton

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

The election of the 1995/96 committee is imminent. Candidates must be members of the HSA of at least one year's standing as of 31 March 1995. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by members of at least one year's standing, and neither may propose or second another candidate, or themselves. Biographical information about yourself (about 150 words) needs to be submitted for publication by 31 March 1995. There is no information which *must* be included, though it is customary to mention the following: how long you have been sabbing and/or how long you've been a member of the Association; whether or not you're vegan; your age; what you feel you have to contribute. There are twelve elected committee members and all are subject to the election. You don't have to stand with a particular officer's post in mind, more than anything else the committee is a decision making body.

1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held on 4th June in Birmingham. Motions for debate at the AGM must be submitted in writing to the PO Box by 30 April. Motions fall into two categories: policy resolutions and constitutional amendments. Both require a proposer and a seconder who are current members, though not necessarily of a year's standing. Copies of our constitution are available on request from the office; a donation of £1.00 to cover photocopying and postage would be appreciated.

CAN YOU DISPLAY AN HSA POSTER AT YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE / WORK / LOCAL HEALTH FOOD SHOP / LIBRARY?

If you think you can help us by displaying our posters, please give the office a ring, or write in.

We produce a set of four A2 sized glossy colour posters which help to explain what the HSA is all about, and invite people to join.

Each set includes a photo of a fox cub, a sab being whipped by a huntsman, a ripped up fox and a dig out.

The set of four posters is free, but donations towards costs would be greatly received. So take advantage of this offer now! Ring **0115 959 0357** or write to the PO Box in Nottingham.

Review ... Review ... Review ... Review

"NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL BLOODSPORTS"

H.S.A. Benefit compilation tape.

Taking a breather from their hectic schedule of getting mass arrested, Essex and Herts. HSA have somehow found the time to foist upon an expectant public this latest of their benefit compilations, culled as usual from numerous live shows at Harlows' Square Club. Ye Olde Traditional sab fare it is too - afficionados of Acid Jazz will once more be left clutching their berets in despair and dribbling brokenly into their cappucinos - because for Essex sabs at least, the noble body of Hunt Sabotage will forever be clothed in the fetid rags of anarcho-punk. There's plenty of it (26 tracks in all) by all your faves - *Blaggers, RDF, Snuff, AOS 3, Psychastorm*....oh, you name it, they're on it. Probably. All radical, raging and revolutionary, undoubtedly, but all unfortunately totally impossible to have sex to unless afflicted by a particularly virulent nervous disorder. However, put such practical considerations to one side and doff caps to the compilers for avoiding the obvious song choices, plumping instead for a spikey-topped blend of unreleased tracks and, er, interesting cover versions. Even ears as old and cobwebbed as these jolted to life by *Bender*'s skank attack on the Violent Femmes "Add It Up" and *Sofahead*'s oddly respectful "Sleeping Satellite", but I graciously award the Golden Hunting Horn to *RDF* for their splendid "Punks With Guns", which is slow enough for me to dance to, and has a bass that rips your spine out to boot. What more could you want? Well, there's *Grotus, Herb Garden, Wat Tyler* and *Sloppy Seconds* for starters, so if squealing geetars are still the perfect soundtrack to legging it about the muddy fields, then go on, buy the tape! ***from:*** *M. Norris, PO Box 2717, Harlow, Essex CM18 6SN; price £2.50*

HuntsmanBalls

"You can wipe your arse on the Criminal Justice Bill"
Eloquent supporter at the Cottesmore FH

"If they stay, I'm going ... they're a bad lot"
Mr Simon Longworth, Master and Huntsman of the Old Ampleforth Beagles as sabs appear at yet another meet of his.

"If we had a fox for Prime Minister, we would all be a sight better off"
Tommy Golding, sheep farmer in Pennine country

"There is something inherently noble and nothing cruel in the great and glorious death of the fox in the field"
Nicholas Soames MP, offering yet another rational explanation for hunting

"My clients are desperatly upset that this case has arisen against them because they are leaders in conservation"
Mr Neil de Voile, representing the Quorn FH in a recent pollution case.

"If there is any trouble we'll lead them onto the farm that crosses the county boundary - then they'll have two police forces to contend with"
Capt. Charles Barclay, joint master of the Puckeridge FH showing that brains are not essential in dealing with sabs under the CJA.

"Clearly we are not going to be arresting people when it is uncertain if there is a public right of way ... even landowners themselves have difficulties in defining them"
Inspector Don Ramsey, Herts police in reply to Captain Barclay's proposals for sabs.

HSA RAFFLE WINNERS 1994

1st Prize: M. Fill, Surrey
2nd Prize: P. Young, Luton
3rd Prize: D. Cowie, Paisley

Runners Up: S. Fenn, Surrey; P. Ansell, Hants; B. Naylor, Manchester; S. Crowle, Surrey; I. Morgan, London; I. Patchett, Notts; Hugget, Perthshire; O Louks, Lincs; Adams, Shetland.

CLUB DRAW WINNERS

October: 1st M. Dollimore, Basingstoke
2nd R. Baker, Devon
3rd S. Crowle, Surrey

November: 1st F. Lyons, Shropshire
2nd A. Burge, Wiltshire
3rd C. Murphy, London

December: 1st J. Booth, Cheshire
2nd P. Franklin, Essex
3rd M. Williams, Notts

Why not enter our Club Draw - see enclosed leaflet for more details.

The caption competition will be back in the next issue of *HOWL*. The winner from the last issue was Mr B Kent, with the caption "Home Office prototype infiltrator joins North West sabs"

BADGER A FRIEND TO JOIN THE HSA!

and receive a pewter brooch yourself!

The HSA can only go from strength to strength with the help of our members. If you have a friend or relation who would like to become a member of the organisation, this offer cannot be refused!
As a new member, your friend will receive an HSA badge and car sticker, in addition to four copies of HOWL each year. You will receive a free pewter brooch of a badger (pictured below), of which stocks are limited, so join a friend now to take advantage of the offer!
Use the membership form opposite to fill in your friend's details, including your name and address so we know where to send the brooch.
Thank-you for supporting the HSA, and helping us to continue saving lives.



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

Card number:

❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑

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.

please send the brooch to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Noticeboard

Publications

Battle for Hyde Park: ruffians, radicals and ravers, 1855 - 1994

includes accounts of the recent anti-CJA demo in the Park and other confrontations over the past 140 years. Well worth a read, the paper shows that the CJA is not the first such attempt to stop people from protesting etc, and that previous laws have been successfully defied in the past. Anybody wanting a copy should send a stamped addressed envelope to:

Practical History, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24

Wildlife Action has recently released video footage filmed at the New Forest Buckhounds showing the horrific shooting of a deer held underwater by hunt staff and support. Copies of the video which includes this and other aspects of cruelty from deerhunting in the New Forest are available for £10.00 from: **Wildlife Action,** *3B Magdalen Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset* (cheques payable to "Wildlife Action")

Local Groups

Birmingham Uni / City sabs have again reformed under the new name of **Birmingham Anti-Bloodsports Society** and have bought a van after a large donation from one of our sabs - thankyou.

We can be contacted at:

Aardvark Centre, 115 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DD

Events

WORLD DAY FOR ANIMALS FAIR is being held on Saturday 22nd April at *Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, LONDON WC1* from 11am to 8pm.

This free fair has been organised as an alternative to the NAVS fair to enable groups who do not have access to the NAVS fair to publicise their work.

There will be a number of different stalls, videos shown, with vegan food and drinks available.

The nearest tube station is Holborn (Piccadilly/Central Line).

For further information contact:

World Day for Animals Committee, PO Box 1178, Westham, Pevensey, BN24 5LU

Catering

VEGGIES

Catering Campaign (Nottingham)

180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW.
Telephone (0115) 958 5666

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.

Addresses

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX. Publishes *ALF SG Newsletter*

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA) PO Box 90, Bristol BS99 1ND. Publishes *Pisces*, newsletter of the CAA

League Against Cruel Sports 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG publishes *Wildlife Guardian*

Fox Cubs (HSA's junior campaigning group) PO Box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4YN. Send large SAE for "bloodsports factsheets" for young people

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

Arkangel Magazine Published four times a year, this provides a forum for debate and exchange of ideas about pro-animal action at all levels - £7.20 for a year's subscription. BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX

Respect for Animals Campaigns against the fur trade. PO Box 500, Nottingham NG1 3AS

UK Animal Watch Infiltrates, investigates and exposes illegal bloodsports. PO Box 220, WR4 9UZ

Freedom Network Provides information and ideas on the CJA. Green Office, The Old Dolehouse, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton SW9 8PT

Information

WANTED: FREEMASONS

If anyone has information on freemasons, ie. details on individuals, where they are etc, the details will be very useful and **will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

Preferably details required on people connected in any way with hunting, police forces, MPs etc.

Also wanted: any information on gentleman's clubs. All details will be of some use!

If you can help with any of the above, please contact the HSA office.

Clothing

T-shirts for sale, proceeds going to Birmingham HSA. Bearing the legend "Hunters, Shooters, Anglers, Wankers" on the front and "Bollocks to Bloodsports" on the back (white print on a black shirt), they are available for £8.00 (inc. p&p). Cheques made payable to *Birmingham Anti-Bloodsports Society* and sent to :

Aardvark Centre, 115 Alcester Rd, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DD

Vegan footwear company **Ethical Wares** will donate a percentage of their sales to the HSA if they are mentioned when ordering. For a catalogue, send an SAE to: *Ethical Wares, 84 Clyde Way, Rise Park, Romford RM1 4UT*