Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
Autumn 1995
No 59 £1



DID YOU ENJOY YOURSELF THIS SUMMER?

HOWL 59

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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Letters

EDITORIAL

Welcome to HOWL 59, the Autumn issue of 1995. In this issue there is a report of the day of activity against grouse shooting on the 12th August, plus features on research, grouse shooting, cubhunting and lurcher and terrier work. In addition, there are replies to the Forum article published in HOWL 58 which provoked many responses.

Readers are reminded that if there is anything they would like to see in HOWL but haven't for a while, any suggestions for articles etc are always welcome Alternatively, we always need more articles to be written, along with news stories, letters and photos as usual are needed.

In addition to the above, I desperately need an Assistant Editor to help with the production of HOWL. Jobs include typing, news stories and compiling Group News from reports sent in. If anybody is interested in helping out, please contact me via the PO Box.

Finally, thanks to all those who have helped with this issue, especially Nic for proofreading.

FRONT COVER: Ytene huntsman Tony Smart finds himself well and truly sabbed! Summer 1995.
Photo: Wolves sabs.

More support please!

Dear *HOWL*

Sabs from this part of the world feel that on a sizeable number of occasions whilst sabbing the Chiddingfold last season, the group felt let down by other sab groups - groups which said they would support us and didn't!

This isn't a real moan as it is known that often sab groups have other commitments, but in the coming season please try to support us (Chichester Hunt Saboteurs) when arrangements have been made to do so! Credit to Brighton and Portsmouth sabs however, who even sabbed the Chid. when our group was unable to do so - the other groups know who you are!

It seems to get forgotten that just because Chichester is tucked away in quiet, cosy Sussex and not a spiralling city of anarchy it doesn't mean that our local hunt is any less violent towards sabs!

This isn't meant to be a real criticism and hopefully it will be taken in good faith - just as a plea for a little more support next season (especially when arranged).

Yours for animal liberation,
Chichester Hunt Saboteurs

Suggestions needed

Dear *HOWL*

We received your address from the animal rights organisation "GAIA" from Belgium. Because they cannot help us, we thought that perhaps you could help us. The problem is as follows:

We live near a military domain, where it is NOT permitted to hunt. The domain consists of heath (moor) with scrub land and forest on both sides, and also a few meadows. Near this military domain is agricultural land, where hunting is permitted. At the domain there are living roes (hinds) who graze at night on the agricultural meadows. These are of course killed by the hunters.

To prevent this I spent the last month every evening patrolling the outside of the forest, to try and keep the animals inside the domain. I have already tried to get more people on my side, but they are not keen enough to take action against the hunting.

The hunting season started in May, therefore I am requesting advice as to whether there is a product which produces a kind of scent which will prevent the animals (roes - hinds) from breaking out of the domain. If anybody knows of such a product, I would also like to know how long it would work for.

We thank you very much in advance and are hoping to get a positive reply.

Yours faithfully
Lenaerts G.
Wuustwezel, Belgium.

If anybody has any suggestions on what could be used to prevent the hinds from getting out of the domain, we will be pleased to pass on the information to Lenaerts as it will no doubt be of great value. Please send ideas to the HSA address.

STOP PRESS! By some amazing coincidence we have just received a note from an old HSA committee member saying that he found a note he had scribbled some time ago - apparently human hair is a deterrent for deer! This has never been tried but there's a first time for everything!

New tactics

Dear *HOWL*

I have a new tactics suggestion. It has come about because we had been more than six years consistently with the same hunt, nearly every time they went out. The consequence of this was that on the one hand the hunt had become very bad (in their sense, i.e. few kills and little support). But on the other hand the hounds had become more and more used to us and they wouldn't react to any of the usual tactics anymore (like horn blowing and holloaing; the gizmo still worked to some extent but much less than with packs with little sab attendance).

Basically what happened when we went out was that they kept their hounds rather close to the huntsman and moved quickly around. In this way they killed more or less only when they came across a fox by chance. In order to kill, the hunt started to move into sugar-beet and other fields a great deal, where the huntsman would see the fox and where other supporters could surround the field such that the fox could not escape.

To counter this behaviour we started to go into the sugar-beet and behaved like whippers-in. That means we cracked whips and shouted "leave it" and "eyeyeyeyeye" and "go back to him" in order to keep the hounds as close as possible to the huntsman. So, in contrast to trying to take the hounds off the huntsman, this tactic tries to keep the dogs tightly with the huntsman to keep them from spreading and finding a fox. This tactic, however, involves running with the huntsman

all the time, so you have to be fit.

The fake whipper-in ideally stays about ten yards from the huntsman and rather in front of him/her and tries to get and keep the hounds between him/her and the huntsman. Cracking whips and clapping hands makes it very successful. If the hounds don't follow easily then you fake aggression and really shout at them and run towards them. We found this works very well and the huntsman will try to move away from you. In a sugar-beet field you will soon catch up and s/he will soon be forced to leave the sugar-beet field.

The tactic also works in coverts and hedgerows. In hedgerows, again, just keep in front of the huntsman and drive the hounds back to him/her. With the right shouting they will keep out of the hedgerow and go back to the huntsman. In a covert things are more difficult, but if it turned out that if you stay near the huntsman (10 to 20 yards) and shout at the hounds they will stay with the huntsman and will not draw for a fox. In a very small covert you can stay outside, near the huntsman, and do your shouting and you will see that the hounds stay very close or come out, and won't draw. the huntsman will then leave the covert and you have won.

The biggest problem with this tactic is that the huntsman is on a horse while you are on foot. therefore s/he will try to run away from you and will most likely succeed in doing so, at least for some time. But with these tactics we found that you can keep the huntsman on the run and some coverts clean of hounds. It certainly works much better than any other tactic for hunts with lots of sab attendance.

Cheers
Martin, Cambridge

Time to join

Dear *HOWL*

As I totally oppose all bloodsports (including angling) and have participated in sabbing hunts, shoots and angling (though not enough, I admit with regret), I thought it was about time I joined perhaps the most effective, direct campaign against the blood lust. I have enclosed a donation with my membership fee.

P.S. I'll be out on the Twelfth (even despite 61/2 hours in a Yorkshire police cell last year - I thought "what the hell, it was worth it!").

For the animals
R.E, Bolton

With compliments

Dear *HOWL*

Every member of the "Animal Rights View of England" tour group found memorable their visit to meet, amongst others, representatives of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. Many of them commented on the positive impression made upon them. They were impressed with your commitment and dedication to helping animals. There will be an article about the visit in a future issue of The Animals' Agenda, and the tour was such a success that it was decided we should have another one.

Sincerely,
Kim W. Stallwood, Editor in Chief, The Animal's Agenda
Baltimore, U.S.A

Problems were solved

Dear *HOWL*

Upon receiving Howl 58, the letter "Credit Where It's Due" sprang to our attention. It should be stated that any problems arisen here have been discussed and sorted with the Bath Sabs. However, we still feel a letter to Howl to clarify things is in order.

We feel that writing to Howl for what amounts to individual opinions, as opposed to group feeling, is undemocratic. Not only is there the group contacts mailout, but also personal contact between groups to sort out any problems. Recently Bristol sabs have started writing reports for Group News , presuming that Bath sabs would continue to write theirs. This however was not the case and Bath sabs were excluded from our report. This put a nose out of joint, prompting a letter to Howl .

To our minds all sab groups including ours work hard to raise funds, contact media, etc. We don't feel we've left Bath to carry the financial can. The Tedworth Foxhunt were regularly sabbed last season by several groups and praise is due all round for the many dig-outs stopped by all concerned.

Love from Bristol sabs

More about tactics

Dear *HOWL*

For the last 2 or 3 years of reading HOWL magazine all I've seen in the letters section is a constant argument about the police and if they are bastards or not; if it is not that it's about class war and its place in sabbing. Who gives a monkeys? Sabbing is basically about people who are fed up with shouting at demos and are more interested with saving lives on the day. Unfortunately, due to the nature of our organisation people are causing more harm than good.

I would go as far as saying that some sab groups help hunts kill more wildlife than they would without sabs being there. It seems that some people think sabbing is about jumping in an old van kitted out in standard issue ex-army green jackets then turning up at the meet to shout abuse then chase the hunt around looking so right-on with a CB or mobile phone. When the hunt is found the van empties out and everyone heads to the covert being drawn. Then everybody starts to shout and scream; after a minute or so the hunt rides off not to be seen again. The sabs claim victory making wild assumptions that the hunt haven't killed that day. The truth is that the hunt killed in the wood because the fox was too frightened to break cover as it was surrounded by shouting sabs -who were doing the job of the hunt!

The sab groups I am talking about are usually the bigger groups and whenever myself and like-minded people have sabbed with such groups I am surprised to notice only one person in the group can blow a horn, and even then the inappropriate notes. I haven't space to write a tactics article but what's the point of turning up to a hunt without a whip or a can of spray? The only item these people sab with is a whistle - great! Huntsmen always use a referee's whistle to call hounds - don't they? Whenever someone tries to point out that they are endangering a fox's life by making such a noise, the usual answer is "Look here mate, I"ve been sabbing for 10 years and what would you know!". My answer to this is you've been doing it wrong for 10 years.

The *HOWL* magazine should dedicate much more space to tactics and the whole movement should do likewise. Let's face it, it's through our tactics which inevitably save lives .

I suggest the groups that this letter strikes a cord with should get a tactics booklet and sit around as a group and go through the whole thing until it becomes second nature. Every new face should be put straight on what sabbing is about. If they are not interested in learning the correct way to sab a hunt then they are not worth having as sabs.

Yours, a Kent sab

Don't forget snares

Dear *HOWL*

I have been an active hunt saboteur since January 1993 - not exactly a veteran but I have done what I could. I have also been removing fox snares locally since 1991 on a very regular basis, in particular from one large wood eight miles away. Unfortunately there are many snares put out by all the gamekeepers in the area and there are many estates I have not visited. I have had a number of run-ins with gamekeepers and on two occasions a shotgun has gone off in my vicinity, plus numerous other threats.

I wish there was greater enthusiasm among North East sabs - I am sure it should be seen as an initiative to let the public know of the true scale of horrific suffering and killing resulting from snaring. I desperately wish that sabs would turn their attention to this matter instead of other activities - it is a case of "out of sight" which should be anything but out of mind. If the HSA wishes to arrange a blitz on snares everywhere I could accommodate a number of people if they would come and give me some much needed assistance.

Yours faithfully
John, Co. Durham.

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.

Deadlines for items to be included in HOWL 60:
Letters, articles, news stories etc: **31st October**
Group News: **30th November**

Stewards attack sabs

Sabs from South Dorset were viciously attacked by followers of the Cattistock FH at the start of the cubbing season this year.

After having sabbed the hunt from the start of the season, the sabs turned up at a meet at the end of August. Following a short period of sabbing, two thugs appeared through the hedge by which sabs were standing, starting to attack the sabs and their vehicle. One sab ended up running down the road being chased by a supporter's vehicle, only narrowly escaping being run down.

Although they were shaken up following the attack, the sabs decided they would not let themselves be driven away, managing to locate the hunt again. A local policeman was by this time present. After a few minutes they were then subjected to a violent attack by the self-styled 'stewards" for the hunt, prompting the policeman to call for back-up. During this time, various threats were made to the sabs; punches and kicks were thrown at them resulting in one sab sustaining broken ribs. The threats continued for the next twenty minutes, with no action taken by the police against the perpetrators of the violence. The sabs were left with no other option but to leave the hunt with a police escort for their own safety.

This leaves South Dorset sabs with the unenviable award of being the first sab group attacked this season. However, they vow to keep sabbing the Cattistock FH and will no doubt be back there soon. Hunts should have realised by now that violence does not remove our compassion and does not stop us sabbing. It hasn't before and won't ever in the future.

Stressed-out hunters seek psychologist's help

After successfully challenging the ban on hunting imposed by Somerset County Council, the Quantock Staghounds have sent a bill to the County Council including £4000 claimed for "stress counselling".

The bill for four visits to a psychologist by hunt members was part of a £244,000 legal bill presented to Somerset County Council after it was ordered to lift the ban. Other expenses claimed for included

- witnesses' fees for people who never appeared in court;
- fees for an article appearing in *Horse & Hound*;

and, perhaps most outrageously:

- charging several hundred pounds for a leading lawyer to experience a day's hunting to familiarise himself with the subject.

The Council stated that it would challenge these claims, as the bill had been estimated to be around £70,000 which could have been covered by donations pledged by other local authorities to fight the case. A council leader in Somerset has been quoted as saying "Maybe they think we are the National Lottery!" in response to the apparently excessive bill.

Hunt applies for financial aid

Ryedale District Council is to consider an application from the Sinnington FH for financial aid (i.e. to give the hunt money to enable them to carry on killing wildlife). The Sinnington FH, which hunts 360 square miles of the North Yorkshire Moors is seeking a grant to help cover the cost of maintaining the land, insisting that improving cover for foxes will also benefit other wildlife (that old chestnut!). Councillor Tony Fisher, who had previously criticised North Yorkshire County Council for allowing hunts on its land, stated "if they can show that the application is beneficial to wildlife, as distinct from foxhunting, then I might reluctantly approve." Surely Mr Fisher hasn't fallen for the great "Country Sports Means Conservation" con; most people can see through the claim as it really is. The hunts simply want to breed more foxes so they can, in turn, chase and kill them.

Executives get chance to blast away at wildlife

One of the wealthiest men in the North West has decided to open his country estate in Merseyside to businessmen for corporate shooting and hospitality events.

The Earl of Derby has invited guests to enjoy a coffee before accompanying the Head Gamekeeper onto the estate to roam around the 2500 acres shooting pheasants. After blasting away hopefully at the poor pheasants, the businessmen will then be able to settle down to enjoy a sumptuous champagne lunch.

This practice of letting out days shooting to executives is possibly even more barbaric than organised shoots - the people taking part seldom have experience of shooting and therefore many birds are likely to be badly injured as a result.

- Tory MP for the High Peak, **Charles Hendry**, has accused the Peak Park of "using public funds to pursue a political agenda" after it spent £40,000 buying shooting rights over 1250 acres of land so it can ban the sport!. Peak Park chairman, Martin Doughty replied that he was "disappointed to hear Mr Hendry has so little regard for such an important conservation issue". Nicely put!

Hunt receives bill for £12,000

The **Cottesmore FH** has received a bill for £12,000 from Railtrack after two hounds were killed on a railway last February. Officials from Railtrack claim that the incident led to nearly four hours of delays, and Railtrack has to compensate the train operators. Also included in the bill is the cost of sending staff to the scene of the accident, clearing the track and checking for damage to the train. A spokesman for Railtrack said the bill had been sent after "more normal means" such as sending letters to the hunt had no effect!

Shooters dreams come crashing down

Sabs in Germany saw the deer hunting season off to a cracking start as hides built for shooters crashed to the ground in forests around the country. During the close season in winter, the sabs saw through the legs of the millions of wooden hides that dot the countryside so that they collapse under the unsuspecting gun as he settles down ten feet above ground.

Germany has the highest concentration of hoofed game in Europe - this includes deer and wild boar. More than a million deer were shot last year on 80 million acres of hunting land by 326,000 licensed guns.

Hunting for funding

The National Lottery continues to stumble along surrounded in controversy - not content with giving a huge amount of money to the National Opera (that most worthy of worthy causes), the Lottery is now directly funding the continuation of bloodsports through a little-publicised donation of money to a hunting lodge in a Scottish estate. The Hunt Saboteurs Association has not received any money from the Lottery yet...!

• A Mr Schadla-Hall from Leicestershire has applied to the National Lottery for funds to finance the building of the ill-fated Museum of Foxhunting in Melton Mowbray. He tried to justify the museum buy insisting that both sides of the argument would be given - does that mean there will be exhibits of huntsmen all over the country losing their hounds to sabs? I think not!

Don't want your money to go towards funding the killing of animals? Forget the National Lottery and enter the HSA's Club Draw - details are on page 23.

New group for badgers

The Coalition for Badgers is a new national group which has been set up as an alliance of badger and wildlife groups, independent badger experts and scientists all pledged to fight, without compromise, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods' horrendous slaughter of badgers.

This year, MAFF planned to kill some 3000 badgers in their twenty-five year long campaign to eliminate Bovine TB from small pockets of the national cattle herd. Yet this killing has been going on since 1971, without a decrease in the amount of cows infected by TB. The theory that badgers are responsible for the spread of the disease has no scientific evidence to back it up, yet the slaughter continues. In addition, thousands of badgers could be sacrificed to produce an anti-TB vaccine for badgers. This programme would take years to develop and trial, and in the mean time the slaughter of badgers would continue.

Scheme set up

A huntsman and gamekeeper, are aiming to set up a countrywide scheme with the aims of "fighting young people's prejudices against fieldsports, and encouraging hunts and shoots to work together".The idea is to show students around hunt kennels and game farms, hoping that seeing puppies, horses and pheasant chicks will bring them round to the idea that hunting and shooting are both necessary.

This approach seems rather patronising - most young people realise that the friendly pack of hounds they get to see at the kennels are also able to rip apart wild animals - not so much a case of prejudices but more of well-informed opinions.

news in brief

● The **Tiverton Staghounds** have been banned from land owned by the Devon Wildlife Trust, which owns 2500 acres of land near Exeter, Honiton and Tiverton. The hunt's response: they would "hunt deer to the edge of the reserve and wait for them to come out again".

● Congratulations to the **Shark Protection League**, who are now one year old! During their first year, they have grown from nothing into an organisation which is preparing to halt the slaughter of sharks and eventually all marine life once and for all.

Successes include their recent protest in China Town, London against the shark fin trade and a successful week of action against shark fishing in Cornwall, and at present they are involved in an investigation regarding captive sharks.
If you would like to know more about the Shark Protection League, send an SAE to: *Shark Protection League, BM L.A.P.L, LONDON WC1N 3XX*

● **Big game hunting** could return to Kenya after an 18 year ban A commission set up by the Kenyan Wildlife Service is recommending the sale of hunting licenses. from next year species such as lion, zebra, buffalo and antelope could all be declared fair game.

Write to Animal Rights Prisoners

Those imprisoned for "Animal Rights offences" need your support. Show them you care by sending letters and messages of support - these are greatly appreciated by all prisoners.
Most prisons now allow stamped, self-addressed envelopes to be sent in with letters and cards. Please enclose these if you write, so 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**

Melonie Arnold GJ0940
HMP Pucklechurch
Pucklechurch
Bristol
BS17 3QJ

Dave Callender HV3314
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
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Niel Hansen HF3184
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Lise Olsen B48426
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KMSU
Dwight
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USA

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.

Not Guilty!

CJA CASES IN THE COURTS

Five sabs from **North Yorkshire** were cleared of trespassing on the North York Moors and attempting to disrupt a meet of the Old Ampleforth Beagles (which are apparently a pack of hare coursers, according to the local press!). Scarborough Magistrates ruled that there was no case to answer against the five sabs; in addition one of the sabs was cleared of resisting arrest and failing to leave land when ordered to. The solicitor for the defence successfully argued that it had not been proved that the five arrested were those trying to disrupt the hunt, as alleged by witnesses in the case.

Five sabs, three from **Edinburgh** and two from **Tyneside** were acquitted of charges under the CJA (Section 68). After being arrested in November at the Tynedale FH, the sabs were eventually taken to court in Hexham for a three day trial in June. At the trial, it turned out that none of the police officers present could identify any of the defendants as having actually done anything, maybe because the sabs were arrested whilst walking back to their vans when the police came chasing after them!

A sab from **Basingstoke** was recently cleared of Section 69 after an arrest at a meet of the Hampshire Hunt last season.

Lifetime Injunctions

The latest trick up the sleeve of the bloodsports fraternity appears to be lifetime injunctions against sabs. **Grimsby HSA** are at present in the courts fighting the Earl of Yarborough (Brocklesby FH) who is attempting to place lifetime injunctions on many of their sabs. The group decided to keep up the pressure on the hunt after a sab was hospitalised by some followers, and have obviously been extremely successful so far. We wish them all the best!

In addition to sabs in Lincolnshire, three sabs who were arrested in the Pateley Bridge area of North Yorkshire on Shoots Week 1993 have had permanent lifetime injunctions placed upon them, preventing them from entering shooting estates or land in the area, and one Peterborough sab who had an injunction placed against him by the Fitzwilliam FH.

While the threat of injunctions may seem worrying at first, it must be remembered that it costs a great deal of money to bring them about in the first place. So, if you sab a very poor hunt, you're laughing (in theory, anyway!). Also, hunts have to know names and addresses of sabs to be able to bring such actions, so don't panic!

No breach of the peace

A sab from Ayrshire was recently found not guilty of causing a breach of the peace at a meet of the Eglinton FH last season. The sab was originally arrested with three others for aggravated trespass; the charges against these three were dropped. The charge against the sab from Ayrshire was later dropped to causing a breach of the peace as the trial approached. The arrests occurred after a major operation by Strathclyde police against sabs - apparently the coppers went a little over the top and met nine sabs with police dogs, motorcycle patrols and the force helicopter (the presence of which they later attempted to deny, until it was pointed out that sabs had filmed the helicopter!).

After hearing pitiful evidence from Lauchlan Quarm, estate manager of Annick Lodge, to the effect that he had recognised the sab as being present but was unable to supply any evidence that the sab had caused a breach of the peace, from an Inspector Campbell who stated that the sabs had been armed with cameras and video cameras, but hadn't actually committed any offence, and from the hunt's terrierman, Robert Reid, the Sheriff decided that it was obvious that no breach of the peace had taken place as the sab was merely on land filming a dig out.

Good news for sabs in the region - it seems that the court will not allow the "breach of the peace" law to be stretched to cover trespass; even better news because it appears that the local police are unwilling to use the CJA. So the sab was free to go ... or, as his supporters overheard one policeman telling the terrierman, "the bastard walked"...

Far-fetched case against sab "not proven"

Two Mansfield sabs who were forcibly removed from land and later charged with ABH were recently in court in Leicestershire. One sab had the case dropped on the day of the trial, the other sab spent an enjoyable day in Oakham Magistrates Court, listening to wildly exaggerated tales of the events that day. The magistrates obviously realised that the case was a little far fetched, and found the case against the sab not proven. The landowner in question, Mr William Cross of the Cottesmore FH, had also been questioned by police after the incident after allegedly attempting to strangle the sab with a cord holding a horn round his neck.

Vermin



Four men charged with sickening cruelty to a deer walked free from court because of a legal loophole. The fallow deer, which had been badly savaged by a number of lurchers, had to be destroyed by a vet after being found in the locked boot of a car stopped by police in Northumberland.

The traumatised animal, which was bleeding from wounds to its throat and groin, was put in the boot of the car along with another deer, already dead. On reaching the vet it was given emergency treatment but had to be destroyed two days later after suffering serious brain damage in the attack by four lurchers.

Under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act (the case under which the prosecution was brought), wild animals such as deer are not covered, therefore the magistrates dealing with the case ruled there was no case to answer.

Two badger baiters who used a camcorder to film their activities were jailed for three months each by Chester Magistrates. The men, **David Thomas, 25,** of **Larkspur Close, Lache** and **Mark Lea, 27,** of **High Street, Saltney** had both denied attempting to take a badger and digging for a badger. However, they were found guilty; in addition to this Mark Lea was also convicted of causing suffering to a dog.

When the two men were stopped by the police after being challenged by a man who had seen them on land known to have badger setts, they both had dirty and bloodstained hands. Their two dogs were both injured, one having 34 fresh deep puncture wounds - consistent with those inflicted when fighting a badger.

A man found with a badger's head in his home freezer was recently given a three month prison sentence, after being arrested on a tip-off to police in York.

James Pipes, 21, of **Danebury Drive, York** admitted possessing part of a dead badger. He told police that he was keeping it safe for a friend, and came across the dead badger while out walking his dogs. He also told police "I thought it would be a nice thing to have on the wall; it looked like it had been run over". However, the prosecution stated that the bite marks on the badger's head indicated it had been involved in badger baiting.

Pipes was let out on appeal after serving one week of the sentence.

Sabs Answer Back

Replies to *Forum*, HOWL 58

The Forum article "What are your reasons for sabbing?" (HOWL 58) provoked many responses, all with valid points to make. Here are some of the replies which HOWL received.

Different areas, different situations , different tactics

"I'm not happy with this kind of letter at all. Firstly, I don't like the attitude of "be nice to the police and they will let you get on with it". Maybe sometimes with certain police officers of certain forces this will get you anywhere, but normally the police will be as much against you as possible. In Essex, police descend on people (like in Cheshire) every time sabs go out - even though sabs have been very nice to the police. Don't unnecessarily aggravate them, i.e. without good reason, I agree. But don't be nice and honest with police and expect anything in return.

Secondly, reading this letter I suspect that this "pissed off Leicester sab" has never been seriously assaulted by hunts people, otherwise s/he wouldn't be talking like that about other sabs and their behaviour. It is complete nonsense to add "there is nothing wrong with defending yourself". You should know that people at hunts rarely if ever attack you when you have a slight chance of defence. They only seriously attack you if they totally outnumber you. So, what do you do if you are attacked and have your equipment damaged repeatedly by the same gang of thugs, and you are once outnumbering them? It is too much to expect every sab to be a Ghandi-type. If you go out sabbing you see that sabs are far more peaceful and friendly than the average person on the street, but to expect them to be persistently attacked and never defend themselves is ridiculous.

Different areas - different groups - different hunts - different situations - different tactics. Let's be tolerant enough to leave the sab groups to their particular tactics and don't hassle them about it. You never know the complete picture. Just don't go out with this particular group, if you don't want to, but with statements like "if you've only come out to shout abuse" then perhaps you should ask yourself just who's side you're on, and whether you've any interest in saving wildlife" you start trouble where there doesn't have to be any. This sentence is so arrogant it makes me sick. I'm happy to get arrested for a good action I didn't do, as has happened already a few times - better than the person who did it gets nicked. We need solidarity and more tolerance of each others' tactics, not a slanging match and ill-though out attacks on other sabs. And besides, dear pissed off Leicester sab, you might get a lot of compensation out of this case.

Cheers,

A Cambridge sab"

Mass arrests and van seizures are nothing new for us

"In reply to the Forum article (HOWL 58) I feel that the author's views on the first mass hit in Cheshire this year appear to be rather different to what actually happened. Sabs were attacked, and managed to come away in one group, to be confronted by large police numbers near our vans. However the main reason that they had only just arrived was the time it would have taken them to travel from the Cheshire Forest meet (our regular pack) to the Cheshire Foxhounds meet. Mass arrest and van seizures is what we've had to put up with for most of the second half of the season in Cheshire, and it was surprising that more weren't arrested on that day.

After your van was nicked the rest of us went off in a police convoy from which we promptly left and went on to pack up a meet of the Royal Rock Beagles (with a guest hunt). The day was a brilliant success, the first time we'd been able to do the Foxhounds in the full season that year, them on the run all day, another hunt packed up , and a great deal of support from other sabs - a good tribute to Mike (Hill).

Finally, it appeared that the young woman made up the whole story about her and the dog getting a beating (although other sabs houses were attacked by thugs at the time). Check your story next time you want to diss us.

A North West sab."

Arrogant and patronising

"Like many other people I was truly sickened by the letter form the anonymous Leicester sab (Forum, HOWL 58). He or she was obviously in no position to pass comment on how sabs respond to the situation in Cheshire. I'm sure Cheshire sabs will have something to say about the content of the letter as regards the problems they face in the North West, and I am led to wonder exactly which planet in which galaxy Leicester is on when I read yet again sabs blaming other sabs for violence at hunts and for police harassment. We did not start the last thirty years of bother. It isn't sabs who beat up other sabs and I've never actually been nicked by a sab or had sabs attack my dog. I think I'm probably repeating someone else when I say we simply are not responsible.

My main problem with the article, however, was its sheer arrogance, patronising title and tone. The idea that a lot of people seem to have got into their heads is that while some sabs are "real sabs" (Jon from Colchester, HOWL 55), others are "part-timers" (Anon, HOWL 58) and lack "dedication" (various numerous sources). The objection that there seems to be from some quarters to non real part-time sabs is that they are failing in some obligation to dedicate not only more of their time to animal rights and hunt sabotage but are failing to live up to other standards of opinion and behaviour.

It is pathetic for someone to question and belittle what motivates people (who they don't even know) to go sabbing. All sabs hate foxhunting, that's fair enough, but is someone going to come along and tell me that some sabs hate foxhunting more than others, or have purer motives, and have we really reached this pitiful level of debate? When this patronising attitude that sabs who choose to give up more of their time to sabbing are somehow better than other sabs disappears, maybe the sabs can just get on with the sabbing. In whatever form is necessary.

Anon, Midlands."

Articles for Forum are always welcome. If you would like to submit an article, it should be around 200 words long. Please send to the PO Box by the deadline (see page 3).

Knowledge is

In the first of a two-part feature aimed at helping sabs gain more knowledge of their local hunts, the HSA's Research Officer provides information on how to find your local pack when they just won't play the game anymore (i.e. they've stopped advertising their meets!).

The task of sabbing some hunts is becoming increasingly harder to do, not by the introduction of crap new laws or the use of heavy handed stewards but, paradoxically, by the success of sabotage in the past. The days of buying *Horse and Hound* on Thursday and finding an array of hunt meets for the coming Saturday are over for all but a few sab groups. The fear of sabotage has caused rife paranoia within the hunting sect and has driven many hunts all but underground as far as advertising their meets goes (so much so that many supporters have a hard job finding their amusement).

Even if you are not one of the lucky few whose local pack are still quite blatant about their affairs or have a hunt secretary gullible enough to give out information to anyone with a good telephone manner, there are still plenty of avenues open to the enterprising sab group prepared to put a little effort and deduction into finding their quarry.

Finding Meets

• Hunting reports

Available in various magazines such as *Horse and Hound, The Field, Countryweek Hunting* etc., these can help with compiling a list of regular known meets, the coverts drawn (successfully or otherwise), who hosts meets and the routes ridden by the hunts. The last can be useful if you turn up late for a meet for instance - hunts will often follow a particular route to favourite coverts and can therefore be tracked down without too much dithering with maps and general panic.

• Local Newspapers

Although many hunts do not go national with their information they still may advertise in local newspapers - probably because most hunters are obsessed with the idea that all sabs live in the depths of cities and will never get to see the local press. Local sabs and / or supporters of sabbing should keep an eye on papers' forthcoming events or "what's on" columns. Some local papers in particularly "country" areas may also carry hunting reports which can be used as above. (During the shooting season it is also worthwhile looking in the temporary jobs section for ads. for beaters - ring and you could end up with the time and place of a drive / shoot).

• Hit Reports

Much as most sabs loathe doing their hit reports they can be invaluable in finding the hunt and getting to know their country. If your group has old ones of their own then they can be used in a simular way to hunting reports, i.e. meets, coverts drawn and routes between coverts. Hit reports should have the added bonus of grid references for locations plus all the top tips others sabs may have noted in dealing with a particular hunt. If you don't have any copies or you would like to see what other sab groups have done concerning a specific pack then get in touch with ....

• The H.S.A

The H.S.A has hit reports sent in by local groups and will provide local contacts with further copies (hit reports are filed under the hunt sabbed, so reports from other groups will also be sent if you so wish!). There are also back issues of Horse and Hound (and other hunting magazines) - plus hunting reports of particular hunts all waiting for sabs to use. So someone please use them !!!

The fear of sabotage has caused rife paranoia within the hunting sect and has driven many hunts all but underground

• Phone Directories

Hunt reports will not contain exact locations of meets but a quick flick through the "Farmers" section of Yellow Pages may give an approximate guide which can then be located on a map. Any named hosts in the hunting press can also be used for finding a meet. (A little deduction may be in order here - there may be only one Mrs V . Fortesque-Beau in the area but many more J. Browns). Handy things to remember are

power a guide to hunt research

that anyone living in a town or even on a village street is unlikely to be able to host a meet, and that anyone living in another hunt's country will be out of the running too.

• Baileys Hunting Directory

A research bible; it's published yearly, containing details of the hunt, its country kennels, masters, staff and hangers-on (puppywalkers etc). Useful for many things, it can give you the exact location for a meet at the kennels or a meet hosted by any of the hunt staff since it contains their addresses. The H.S.A office always has an up-to-date copy so you don't even have to buy it yourselves.

• Hunt Histories

Local libraries and smaller booksellers will almost certainly carry any books, published by the local hunt, to commemorate centenaries etc. Although much of the information will be out of date, i.e. an ASDA Superstore has been built over a favourite covert of 1896 (shame!), some details may be relevant.

What to do with lists of meets (but probably no dates to go with them).

All known meets can be marked on a map and if all else fails, each can be driven to and checked out. Possible, if very frustrating and costly, in a hunt with a small country but pretty impractical with most hunts and never one to rely on. However, many hunts may only hunt particular regions of the country on certain days i.e. east on Wednesday and west on Saturday, and by studying hunt reports etc this can easily become apparent.

Trying to discover patterns in meet lists can be attempted- dig out the sab who secretly loves 'Take-a-Break' and 'Logic Problems' for this one. Two useful ways of plotting the meets are to list them side by side with their corresponding days or to list them by the 1st saturday / 2nd Saturday / 1st Wednesday of the month for example. Although neither method is cut and dried, some hunts are particularly regimented and will always use the same meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for example, so this is possibly the method to try first for a probable meet. It's very likely that big events such as Boxing day /New Year / first meet of the season will start at the same place every year.

Finally, never underestimate the support of anti-hunt locals. It can be a huge bonus on a wet fund-raising stall, with only a few quid in the collecting tin, to hear a old lady mention how much she hates having the hunt go past her window at 12:15 every 3rd Saturday of the month during the season !

Loads has been omitted from this article because of space but this has to be said:
PLEASE keep sending hit reports, press cuttings and your own research notes into the H.S.A office so that it can be passed on to other sabs now and in the future. The H.S.A files are in the process of a dramatic facelift at the moment and are for every sab to use.

Coming soon in HOWL 60:-***Digging the Dirt***- How to find out more information on hunt, useful both in the field and for general (non-libellous!) muck-slinging.



"So, where do you think they might have gone then?!"
Don't waste time on driving round in circles trying to find that elusive pack you've always wanted to sab - all it takes is a little research and you could find yourself turning up at the first draw of the day. The HSA has a comprehensive file on every pack in the country, with reports from years gone by - USE THEM!

Small dogs & Spades



Here is a brief insight into the grim world of terrier- and lurcher-work. Sometimes the work is legal, others completely illegal, but both involve horrendous degrees of cruelty.

Badger Digging

Sadly, over the last few years we have seen an upsurge in badgers being terrorised and killed in the name of "sport". You might be forgiven for thinking that badger digging has been illegal for many years. Unfortunately, it was only when the Badgers Act 1973 was introduced that badger digging became illegal. Even so, this does not stop the vast majority of people (used in the loosest possible sense of the term!) who are determined to persecute the badger. However, the continued persecution of badgers produced pressure for a further tightening of the law. In 1991 the Protection of Badgers Act was passed, this now makes it an offence to tamper with or dig out a badger sett.

Today, with the aid of expert witnesses sympathetic to terrier work, those accused are acquitted, using the defence that thy were out hunting foxes. Some diggers even take foxes or carry fox catching equipment to provide evidence that they are after foxes. Courts today have the power to imprison convicted badger diggers, or give them a heavy fine, but these are very rarely used, with only a few sentences showing the opposite.

Terriermen

Over a year, terriermen will kill more foxes, hares, rabbits etc. than will all the hunts in the country put together. This fact seems to be overlooked by most people who concentrate on their local hunts, yet it is from these hunts that terriermen learn the skills and pick up knowledge as to where fox earths and badger setts are located.

Coursing

Illegal /legal coursing also seems to be on the increase with possibly thousands of hares being coursed and killed. In virtually every town and city in Britain/Ireland there is a terrier/lurcher club, and as new Fringe Bloodsports Officer I am appealing for information on who those people are who carry out such atrocities in the name of "sport".

Appeal for Information

Any information received, no matter how big or small, will go to helping compile a database of much needed information. **Press clippings, photographs** (no matter how old) will also be of great use.



Some people go to great lengths to kill wildlife

Local Sab Groups

I am also appealing to local sab groups - could you please send me ***details of the terriermen at your local hunts***, past and present, together with a photo if possible.

Please send any information to:
NORTH WEST HUNT SABS, PO BOX 155, MANCHESTER, M60 1FT *or* HSA, PO BOX 1 CARLTON NOTTINGHAM NG4 2JY

Cubhunting

how sabs can stop the killing

As many readers probably know, cubhunting is the secret side of foxhunting, during which time young hounds are taken out to be taught how to hunt and kill foxes. This article provides a brief introduction to the practice and shows how sabs can most effectively stop the slaughter.

Cubhunting , or cubbing, takes place before the main hunting season. Its object is *to train young foxhounds in pack work and to follow the older hounds, and also to learn to obey the horn and calls of the huntsman.* They are familiarised with fox scent so they do not riot and are given a taste of fox blood.

In addition to training young hounds, cubbing serves many additional purposes:

- It has the effect of persuading cubs that safety lies not in going to ground, but in fleeing across country, thus providing the hunt with good runs.
- It is intended to disperse foxcubs over a wider area, by encouraging them to leave their home territory as soon as possible. To this end, the hunt will often concentrate during cubbing on coverts that can't be visited during the main season due to their proximity to roads, railways and other places hazardous to riders and hounds. It is hoped that cubs will establish themselves elsewhere in the hunt's country, and so provide more sport later in the season.
- Cubbing is supposed to (paradoxically) reduce fox numbers, as they are alleged to be a pest to farmers.

WHEN does it take place?

Early in the morning when scent is best, before the sun's heat can dry it up. The time of the meet gets later towards the beginning of the foxhunting season. Occasionally evening meetings are held (these are more popular), taking place as the sun begins to lose its strength at the end of the day, when scent also good.

WHO takes part?

Invitation only by the Masters; normally fewer in number than during the actual season; usually wear ratcatcher (tweed jackets).

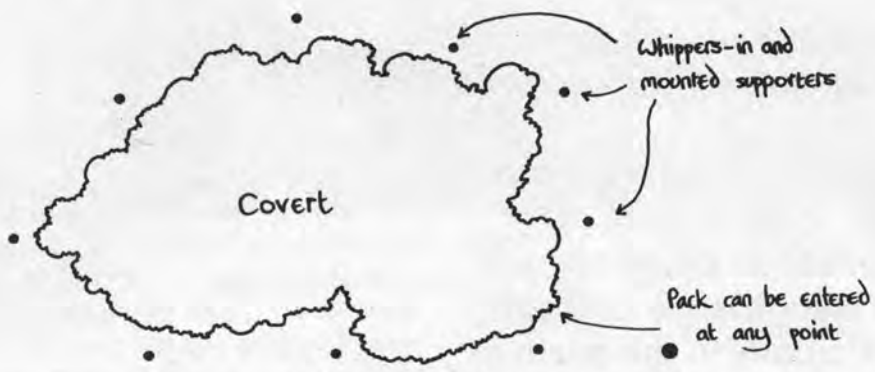


Diagram showing how hounds and cubs are kept in covert

HOW is it carried out?

Hounds are taken straight from kennels to the covert, once there they are taken into the covert by the huntsman. During late July, August and early September, followers are positioned around perimeter of covert holding it up.

WHY is it practiced?

To keep hounds and cubs in close confines of a wood - hounds learn to use their noses and to listen to and follow cries of old hounds. It is not unusual to dig out and kill a cub, then give it to young hounds to worry - this gives them taste of blood.

LATER in the cubbing season

In October, runs in the open are encouraged - young hounds learn to hunt on the right line, see foxes and know what they look like. Earths may be blocked. Now foxcubs are dispersed. (Runs outside covert may occur earlier if wood has become foiled by blood or over-running by hounds). When foxhunting starts in November, cubs will almost be fully grown and by this time will know that the sound of the horn is the signal to leave covert and run

TACTICS

It is extremely important to break down the rapport that the huntsman tries to build up with new hounds. Insufficient training before and during cubhunting can seriously damage a pack's ability during the main season. Early on, young hounds will find it harder to differentiate between sab calls and those of the huntsman. All the huntsman's hard work can easily be ruined if his hounds feel that he is giving them conflicting orders.

Even before cubhunting begins, it is possible to sabotage the hunt when they take their hounds puppy walking. In late July and through August, the hunt staff will take the hounds for exercise, often fairly close to the kennels. Try to accompany them whenever you can, distracting the hounds with voice and horn calls. The huntsman will be forced to rate them when they respond, thereby breaking down the bond that he is trying to establish. The effectiveness of the pack as a whole will thus be reduced during the season.

Cubhunting itself is difficult to sabotage, due to the close contact that the huntsman maintains with the hounds, and the presence of followers positioned right round the covert. Nevertheless, the most effective tactic, if it can be accomplished, is to call the hounds out of the covert, using the usual long winded notes and "Come Come" calls. Alternatively, it might be possible to get the very excitable young hounds out by using the hunting on calls. Even if you fail to pull some or all of the pack out, you will at least succeed in confusing new hounds, and break down the rapport that the huntsman is trying

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Grouse Shooting



The grouse shooting season begins each year on 12th August and ends on 10th December. During these four months, tens of thousands of grouse will be slaughtered for sport, principally in the north of England and in Scotland on the heather moorland. Shooters will come from as far away as the United States and the continent, paying vast sums of money to shoot our wildlife.

Grouse and "moorland management"

There are four species of grouse found in the British Isles: Red Grouse, Capercaille, Ptarmigan and Black Grouse. The staple diet of these birds are the shoots and seedheads of ling heather, bloom of bell heather, grass seeds, berries and corn. They also need a supply of grit and water. Grouse are totally wild birds, unlike pheasant and partridge, which are often reared.

In order for grouse to thrive in large numbers, rigorous "moor management" is necessary. It is ironic that those who kill animals or profit from shooting for sport are usually the most "concerned" about the survival of their chosen quarry species and its habitat. The basis of ensuring that maximum numbers of birds are available to shoot lies in providing plenty of young heather for them to eat. This is done by rotational moor burning where strips of old heather spanning from two to six acres are burnt to encourage new nutritious growth. Also vital to sustain a high grouse population is adequate drainage of the moor to foster ideal growing conditions for the heather.

The burning and draining exercises are accompanied by the relentless extermination of all of the grouses' natural predators. Foxes and crows are probably the most eagerly pursued predators as foxes eat grouse and crows will take chicks or nests. Stoats, rats, weasels and many other species are also destroyed because they are seen as a potential threat to grouse. Some gamekeepers have been caught for illegally killing protected birds such as falcons and hawks. The usual pest control weapons are traps, snares and guns, with poison also being used on occasion.

If moors were no longer managed in order to sustain a large grouse population for shooting, they would most likely gradually revert back to forestry as has happened in some areas of Scotland. These areas, once populated only by grouse are now birch and scots pine woodland, and are populated by a vast variety of flora and fauna.

An unnatural environment

Whilst the heather moorlands are undeniably beautiful, they are unnatural and unbalanced, and virtually devoid of any other wildlife due to enthusiastic gamekeeping. Heather burning is often carried out at the expense of flora that is less resistant to fire.

The drainage of the grouse shooting areas leads to the destruction of the sphagnum bogs and loss of all their unique wildlife and flora that usually covers such areas. Draining and heather burning also leads to an increase in erosion and silting up of rivers downstream. Burning is also partly responsible for the gradual loss of fertility.in moorland soils which may one day make the moors incapable of supporting any plant or animal life at all.

Some moors are more intensively managed than others, but the effect is always that a man-made fragile environment is created solely for shooting interests.



A grouse butt ready for shooting. Finding these before the start of the season can help sabs be aware of which areas are going to be shot.

Shooting is *not* conservation!

As saboteurs, we object to the killing or harming of any creature for sport. If grouse shooting were ever stopped, those who participate in and promote the sport will stress that the heather moors will be lost. The grouse shooter is only interested in protecting the imbalance of nature in a short-sighted and selfish manner. If the heather gradually

disappeared, all the species that now live on the moors would not face extinction as a result. They would merely occupy the landscapes where they originated - the grouse would once more revert to its rightful status as a rare upland territorial bird. The shooting fraternity cannot justify the slaughter of birds for sport because they claim to be conservationists. They are NOT!

TIPS ON SABOTAGE

Grouse shooting is most commonly practiced from grouse butts on the moors, although sometimes walk up shooting, shooting over dogs or a mixture of both can be practiced.

If sabs are aware of which butts or moors are to be used, pre-beating is an effective method of preventing birds from being shot by whichever method. This should always be done with the wind (birds do not want to fly into the wind) away from the line of shooting butts, if used, and beyond the point that beaters will start. If possible, this should happen downhill as it will be a lot easier to force birds to move.

The sab beat-line must be longer than the line of butts and widen out as it progresses away in order to encompass the whole area. It is vital that the line remains straight.

Driven shooting can be sabotaged in two different ways, but ultimately they should be done together. The most important tactic is to occupy the butt and block the line of fire at the front and rear of the butt. As one function of a butt is to provide camouflage for the shooter, any effect to expose him/her will lessen the possibility of a kill as birds will be encouraged to fly higher/wide. White sheets, banners, controlled noise, reflective items etc can all be useful to dissuade even the most persistent shooter. If all these fail then use your initiative to stop them!

Counter-beating can take place in addition to the above, or when it is impossible to stay with the guns. It is important that a counter-beat line does not move parallel to and forwards of the beaters as the aim is to move or funnel grouse in a particular direction off the shoot moor. The line should be a wall of noise at 45° to the beaters.



Sabs surround a butt, preventing shooters from taking aim, Shoots Week 1994.

If it is not possible to do this, then try a static line about 200 yards from the butts. If this is tight and noisy then hopefully it will force birds up into the air and out of range (about 50 yards) of the guns. This is the least satisfactory tactic however, as grouse usually fly hugging the contours of the land which provide a degree of defence. By forcing them higher, they are at greater risk of being targeted, particularly when they start to descend.

Walk-up shooting can be dealt with by beating well ahead of the shooters and, as usual, by closely marking the guns. The beaters should form an arc 400 yards ahead with the two ends furthest away from the shooters and clear all bird life away as they proceed at the same speed as the shooters. Make sure that the guns do not change direction behind you! If there are guns walking up towards butts then sabs should obviously cover the shooters in the butts too.

Of course the best prevention of mass slaughter of grouse is either to prevent the shooting party from getting onto the moor in the first place, or, once on, preventing or delaying them from moving to the next drive! Again, use your initiative.

The effectiveness of sabbing shoots

The emergence of such laws as the CJA reflect the impact that our grouse shoot sabotage has had in the past, as we have lost some estates BIG money. Although we may only save a few hundred birds out of the thousands shot each season, we *can* make a difference and we must stand up against what we know is wrong.

Kate (Shoots Officer)

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to establish with them. Also, it is important to rate the hounds if you hear them speaking inside the covert. Shout "leave it" and "git back to 'im".

If hounds do leave the covert on a line, then you could hunt them on. The huntsman will almost certainly try to call them back, thus interfering with their training. If he doesn't, you should be able to take an inexperienced pack off the line of the fox without too much difficulty by using whips and calls such as "leave it" and "git back to 'im".

Under no circumstances should you enter the covert. You run as much danger of turning a cub back into the hounds as of helping it. **Do not beat any covert that the hunt are going to use for cubbing**, as you will yourself simply be encouraging inexperienced foxes to run into the open. If you know before hand which covert the hunt are going to be cubhunting, you could carefully spray the entire area to make it harder for hounds to scent foxes. Alternatively, you could try to lay false trails and thereby interfere with the huntsman's attempt to train hounds to draw coverts.

Remember that you will have to leave early to attend a cubhunt, particularly at the start of the season, and that many petrol stations will not be open. It is thus best to fill up the night before.

The moor, the merrier

Sabs return to the grouse moors once again to prevent mindless slaughter

Although very few shoots went out on the traditional starting date of the Grouse Shooting season, sabs still managed to find a few that did! This year we managed to cover both North Yorkshire and the North West to save more birds' lives. Here's how it was done...

Cumbria

Sabs from the North West joined up with sabs from Bristol, Cardiff and the North East to sab grouse shoots on the moors of Cumbria. After drawing a blank having checked all known shooting areas in and around Alston, the scouts located a shooting party at Rotherhope. The group of about fifty sabs followed the shooters up Rotherhope fell, the guns deciding to wait until the police arrived. After trying unsuccessfully to remove the sabs off the moor, the party then decided to pack up and head home without firing a single shot. This unlucky shooting party decided to try their luck again in the afternoon, but fortunately for the grouse in the area, sabs from Edinburgh and Manchester were keeping a watchful eye over the proceedings. They confronted the shooters, who once again decided that they would call it a day. On the other side of the moor at Crossgill, a much larger shoot was located. However, when they saw sabs running up the moor towards them, they could not pack up fast enough! This was then followed by a quick run to their vehicles to try and make a dash for it. Helped by a local farmer and the ever impartial Cumbria police, they managed to evade the sabs. However, nothing stops sabs for long - after sixty minutes of walking up a track to the moors the shoot was located again - this time they had resorted to walk-up shooting in the area around Crossgill Pants. Once again, the sabs managed to stop the killing by standing in front of the guns - the shoot decided to call it a day.

Contradictory to the shooters' claims that there were very low numbers of grouse this year (can't they make up a different excuse?), there were a large number of grouse seen on the moors, but luckily very few were shot whilst sabs were in attendance. Congratulations to sabs in the North West and those who joined them on the 12th - a very successful day's sabbing.

Sab groups attending the 12th in Cumbria: ***Workington, Carlisle, Lancaster, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol, Bolton, Newcastle, Preston.***



The picture that says it all ... a shooter in North Yorkshire with nothing to do.

North Yorkshire

A large group of sabs from all over the country met up at Leeming Bar services on the A1 to make sure that the twelfth of August was less than glorious for another year!

It appears that the day just isn't what it used to be, with many shooting parties deciding not to shoot on the traditional first day of the grouse shooting season. Because of this, we were left kicking our heels (as the media said) in a very pleasant village somewhere in North Yorkshire. Some sabs indulged in the foul practice of kicking a football about, as many are prone to do; sadly one of the policemen who seemed to have settled in for the day decided that it wouldn't be a good idea to have a "Sabs v. North Yorkshire Constabulary" footie match (would it have counted as a friendly??!).

While the majority of the sabs were waiting, a number of scout cars were out scouring the area for possible shoots; finally the good news came through that a

shooting party had been located. They were spotted leaving Stang Hope Forest on Stang Hope Moor after lunch, so sabs were quickly on their way. And an impressive convoy it was too, until the inevitable happened, with one van dying from a broken clutch cable - it happens every year without fail! With the occupants safely distributed into other vehicles, the convoy eventually reached the shooting party.

A sight of great amusement before sabs even reached the shoot was the two coppers on trials bikes, sat by the sign on the border of North Yorkshire/County Durham, wondering whether they should carry on. True to form they did, and met up with their chums at the shoot. What happened next was a little ridiculous - as soon as sabs got out of their vans the police went berserk and just started arresting people for absolutely no reason. This carried on for a few minutes until they had filled up a van with arrestees; while this was going on a number of sabs had managed to run past the police to keep an eye on the beaters' vehicle, which was seen disappearing over the horizon rapidly!

Working on the principle that a shoot cannot function without beaters, one van managed to get through to pick up the sabs and follow the large ex-army truck carrying the beaters. The shooters parked up in a farmyard, so the one van continued following the beaters. After staying with the vehicle for a while, the motley collection of sabs inside realised that maybe the beaters were not actually going anywhere (this dawned on them after they had gone through the same village three times and seen all but about three of the occupants dropped off!). So it was decided that they definitely didn't have time to set up another drive, and the sabs left to meet up with the others.

While all this had been going on, the remainder of the sabs had managed to find another shoot on Whitaside Moor, just north of Askrigg. The sabs found the first line of butts which were empty, but as they continued across the moor another line of butts was seen complete with shooters. Sabs went down the line of butts, with each shooter breaking their gun as sabs approached. Sabs were kept with each gun, ensuring no more shooting took place, and the guns eventually left the moor with sabs in hot pursuit.

So, despite the fact that many moors were too dry for shooting, we still managed to pack up three shoots in North Yorkshire - not bad considering that they were very hard to find! Thanks to all the groups who attended the Glorious Twelfth in both Cumbria and North Yorkshire - see you again next year!

Sab groups attending in North Yorkshire: ***York, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Colchester, Brixton, Petersfield, New Forest.*** Apologies to any group who were present but have been missed out of this list!

Group News

The usual round-up of sab activity around the country! Keep reports coming in for HOWL 60, happy sabbing at your opening meets!

South

Aldershot Hunt Saboteurs and **Farnham HSA** have as usual been targeting the Hampshire Hunt. Constant pressure on this hunt for several years has really seen this once prestigious county hunt turn into a third rate, back street pack with kill rate down, support dwindling and the rapidly greying hair of huntsman Bob Collins. From the start of cubbing in 1994, the HH were constantly sabbed two or three times a week with only one kill noted. Efficient sabbing resulted in this pack being a shambles by the opening meet.

The main season was equally well attended with every meet except two sabbed, even the secretive post-season Farmers meet was successfully sabbed. A reasonable relationship with the hunt has ensured little trouble and every digout found quickly stopped, although one sab van had the windscreen smashed at a meet at Lower Froyle towards the end of the season. The 94/5 season ended with only a handful of kills and the morale of the hunt at rock bottom.

Aldershot and **Basingstoke** sabs have started this season off well with the HH - the hunt was kennel-watched for three - four weeks during which time they did not go out at all. Since they have started hunting, the hunt has been sabbed successfully, with sabs getting some of the pack all of the time, and all of the pack some of the time! Sabs caught the hunt sneaking out for the first meet of the cubbing season, by thoroughly outwitting the hunt - they had taken hounds to the meet the night before, but sab intelligence being as it is, the groups guessed where the hunt would be! A note to the HH - try harder next time!

Those lovable Cockney rogues **Brixton HSA** have spent a long hot summer



Another sab van afflicted with the mysterious Smashed Windscreen Syndrome - this time the recipient was Aldershot HSA

manically collecting for several weeks to enable them to acquire more artefacts to help in the fight against bloodsports. The biggest fundraiser so far (take note other groups!) was the Anti-Hunt Ball / Rave at Cooltan in Brixton in the middle of July. Despite many difficulties, the sabs came out ahead and would like to thank everybody who went along - over 1400 of them!

Managing to fit some sabbing into their hectic party schedule, Brixton sabs turned up at the Four Shires MH at Aylesbury where, lo and behold, they went home quickly. The group then trekked down to the Ytene who were less than co-operative, and most recently there was the Glorious 12th. The group would like to thank Sheffield sabs for their generous Yorkshire hospitality, and those who attended the self defence workshop (the sabs that survived a night out in Northallerton) were full of praise. The next few weeks should see the troops briefed for combat, artillery purchased and vehicles mobilised (NB all the pro-bloodsports people who are reading this - ever heard of sarcasm? The above comment is a JOKE). The group reports the best start to a season for years - let's hope things continue in this way!



The Hampshire Hunt seemed to forget they were a foxhunt for a short while, with staff deciding to let the hounds maul a rabbit with myxymatosis.

New Forest sabs have been active throughout the summer months covering the Ytene MH and Valley MH; August saw the start of cubbing in the New Forest. After a week of stake outs at the kennels with no activity, finally on the day sabs decided against another early morning they received a call saying the hunt were out. Two sabs attended the meet at Minstead Manor, some sabbing was achieved but sadly one fox was dug out in Manor Wood. A few days later sabs we out again at Mid Top Beaulieu, where scent was very poor due to the dry weather. Again, some good sabbing was achieved with (surprisingly) very few thugs out with the hunt, although many threats of violence were made. In between their hectic schedule down in the New Forest, sabs from the region travelled hundreds of miles up to North Yorkshire for the Glorious 12th, then back home to sab the New Forest again on the Monday.

A meet at Hinchelslea had saw one sab in attendance; within ten minutes a fox was seen running across private land closely pursued by the hounds. The hounds were rated and slowed down a little, much to the annoyance of supporters - the wife of one of the terriermen tried to take the windscreen out of the sabs' car but fortunately the stick broke! After an hour, another fox was seen, again closely followed by the hounds but this escaped into an earth which could not be dug out; however another was not so lucky as the day ended with a dig out - the terriermen present definitely weren't amused at the idea that they were successfully sabbed by one person! Two sabs attended a meet at Ogdens, again successfully rating the hounds on many occasions helping foxes to evade death, and most recently the hunt was sabbed at a meet near Ringwood. One fox was put to ground where the terriermen dug for three and a half hours, still without a kill. One fox was saved by sabs calling hounds out of a wood and splitting the pack, with the fox seen escaping in the other direction; another was put to ground and left for the terrierboys to dig out once they had finished the first. Sabs unblocked all the entrances to the earth so hopefully the fox managed to escape before the spade brigade turned up. The scent has been extremely poor with the hot dry weather - so far so good sabbing wise with the New Forest FH! Anyone fancying a day out sabbing over such varied terrain as in the New Forest should contact New Forest HSA soon!



Ytene huntsman seems unamused as sabs play "How many antis does it take to block a hole?"

Wales

West Wales sabs report a successful season with the minkhounds, managing to sab almost every meet, even stopping them going out for the whole of June. The Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire Minkhounds are a small pack but a registered one who were once quite prestigious. The rise of the West Wales Minkhounds has led to a decline in the support and prestige of the Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire. The pack is kept going by Richard Griffiths, a Carmarthenshire barrister. Most days the only supporters for the hunt would be the huntsman, his wife and a couple of others. Sabbing him is working well as he tends to pack up when sabs arrive! Not that they would catch much if the sabs weren't there - one supporter said they hadn't seen a mink in two years. The hunt also operates a callout service for

farmers who are having trouble with a mink: apparently the hunt were called out a couple of years ago to deal with a mink that had killed some prize ducks the previous night. The hunt was called out but managed to find nothing! With a little more consistent sabbing there is a real chance of this hunt closing down.

Policing in the area has been over the top, the strangest episode was when Cardiff sabs had their CBs confiscated for not possessing a CB licence with the police refusing to give a receipt. The police have not yet used the CJA, only once threatening sabs with it but with no actions to back up their words! They just keep using old favourites like stopping vehicles for no reason and general intimidation. Fortunately they have failed to stop any sabbing, despite their best efforts.

Some of the more memorable days are spent watching Griffiths bring his hounds back to the hound trailer on leads because he can't get them back any other way, and.possibly the best day of the season so far was at Camrose, when he had the most support all season and received a telling-off from the landowner because he had not got permission to hunt there! Apparently the landowner had lost three customers who wanted to fish on the river that day (shame!). The last sabs heard was that the landowner was threatening to sue the hunt for loss of income. The sabs also spent an enjoyable evening out with Richard and Julie at the hunt ball - Cardiff sabs apparently also went down but didn't believe West Wales when they told them it was in a village hall! West Wales sabs enjoyed the peanuts and crisps laid on, but most of all enjoyed listening to Wham! and Duran Duran on the mobile disco. The supporters had more fun chatting to sabs than dancing, with hunt logic as sharp as ever - one claiming he was a battery hen farmer who kept losing chickens to the mink.

Since Richard hunts until October the sabs still have plenty of fun in store; also cubbing is drawing neared but does not start until 9:30a.m. in Wales - which pleases the sabs as they can think of a few Welsh terriermen they don't particularly want to meet at six in the morning! Finally, cheers to Cardiff for helping the group out - much appreciated.

Cardiff sabs spent a quiet summer (as normal), visiting the Ytene MH on a couple of occasions but would have liked to have done more! This season cubbing has started later than normal, much to the relief of local sabs, so far so good; also the visit to the East Midlands for Shires Week provided a welcome break, and proved very worthwhile attending. The new season will hopefully be good, numbers of sabs are stable and the group has two vans available so they hope to fill them! Finally, the group had a good time on the Glorious12th courtesy of North West sabs, with plenty of shoots stopped.

Ireland

Dublin sabs visited at least one hunt each week for the whole of last season, have held demos at hunt balls and have generated a considerable amount of news coverage. Unlike most sab groups they have no problems with the police, at worst they are neutral towards the sabs!, The group has reported hunts crossing main railway lines, obstructing roads and trespassing across land on a number of occasions. Although organised sabbing is fairly new, the group manages to cover all hunts to the north, northwest and west of Dublin, and there are at least two other groups covering the rest of the country. The case against the Galway Blazers for an unprovoked attack against sabs (as reported in HOWL 57) is still under investigation - watch this space for more details.The sab group is also active in campaigning against live exports from Rosslare port.



The official Hunt Adjudicator for the day decides performance is poor, and advises that the Ytene go home early ***(Photo: Wolves Sabs)***

North West

Since the end of the hunting season the North West sabs (**Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Preston & Stoke**) have been fairly quiet on the sabbing front. However, they had a couple of good days visiting the Ytene Minkhounds, showing their dedication by travelling almost half the length of the country! On the first visit in May, the hunt packed up after ninety minutes of being continually sabbed (which included stopping a mink being dug out from its hole), despite the presence of some thirty local bobbies. A couple of weeks later the sabs returned to the Ytene, with another round trip of 500-600 miles for some of their members (the hardy sabs from Cumbria) which again proved to be a successful day.

With regard to one of the favourite hunts of sabs in the North West, the Royal Rock Beagles, it is with great sadness that we have to report the retirement of their huntsman, Mr Rodney B. Symonds. After years of service he has decided to hang up his hunting horn for good. There have been rumours among the hunting fraternity in Cheshire that Mr Symonds retired due to persistent pressure from sabs over the last few seasons, and the pressure just got to him, but who are we to say if these rumours are true. The little git from Liverpool says "see you soon"! Howevèr, the local sabs look forward with great enthusiasm to meeting his replacement, and hope it will not be too long before he retires as well.

As part of the anti angling week in June, **Bolton** sabs organised a river clean-up, collecting four binbags full of rubbish/tackle from their local rivers. Who said anglers don't leave litter lying around?! A quiet July was the time for some much needed fundraising, with all the groups in the region doing stalls on what seemed like every street corner.

In early August it was off yet agin for another visit to the Ytene, however this one was a little different from previous visits as sabs did not see the hunt all day. the reason for this was that the hounds were being followed around the countryside by local sabs. By the end of the day the hunt did not even manage to get their hounds out of the van - yet another successful sab.

Sabs from the NorthWest also had a glorious 12th (of August) - see report on page ?.

Sabs from **Workington** and **Carlisle** have had their work cut out even before the start of cubbing, managing to sab a number of shoots on the moors around Cumbria. After a successful day on the 12th, sabs from the North West together with sabs from Cardiff and

Bristol found some beaters high up on the black Fell moor area. After the guns had started shooting, it was unfortunately realised by the sabs that the shoot was far too large to sab effectively; also police presence was becoming more extreme! After deciding to move off to find a smaller shoot, the sabs were followed everywhere by increasing numbers of police, so it was decided to sab some anglers instead. The following weekend, sabs from Workington, Carlisle, **Lancaster** and **Newcastle** found a shoot around Alston but again were thwarted by a large police presence. One piece of good news gained however was that the large shoots in the area won't venture out on the 12th anymore due to the chances of sabs appearing!



With very few shoots out on the Glorious Twelfth, sabs were left to their own devices for a few hours...

West Midlands

Wolves sabs have had a relatively slow but effective summer, starting by holding a demo at the Warwickshire FH fundraising pig roast with friends from **Coventry** sabs and Coventry Airport campaign (which they won). A good turn out by sabs and a low turnout by the police led to a happy day for sabs and a very miserable day for the hunt .

Sabs also attended the really successful mass hit on the Ytene and the equally successful but less mass hit on the Four Counties, both of these with **Birmingham HSA**. Wolves sabs also took part in another classic sab on the newly discovered Valley Minkhounds, which ended in no kills, a good day's sunbathing as the hunt waited for the police to arrest sabs (which they didn't) and the discovery of the Valleys hunt kennels. The group rounded off the summer by occupying the 18th green of Walsall golf course with Coventry Airport supporters, local residents, ex walsall sabs, loads of press and the Central TV camera crew in protest at the slaughter of foxes by the golfclub (they kill many more than local scum the Albrighton FH). Faced with the prospect of regular disruption by a hoard of unwashed animal rights loonies and unwelcome tv coverage, the golf club agreed to suspend shooting for a month so they can consult with the Fox Project on protecting their greens from the foxes using non lethal methods.The group also attended Shoots and Shires Week, and are now well into sabbing the Albrighton FH's cubbing meets.

Yorkshire & Humberside

Hull & East Yorkshire sabs had an excellent season despite the CJA & early season transport problems. Now back on the road they took in at least 2 meets a week since the Christmas period, mainly the Holderness FH, but also the Middleton FH, York & Ainsty South FH, Hunsley Beacon Beagles and Old Ampleforth Beagles joining **York, Pickering** or **Leeds** on occasions

Outstanding days include Boxing Day when the Holderness FH & Hunsley Beacon Beagles were both visited with great success; also a mid-week York & Ainsty South meet where the hounds were taken off three foxes and the hounds were told by hunt staff to "pull your socks up, call yourself foxhounds, you couldn't hunt a mouse!". On this same day the Holderness were meeting a mile up the road, sabs ended up with each hunt telling them where the other was - so much for "country sports united"! Finally, The last meet of the Holderness saw some classic sabbing, foxes everywhere, and the hunt going on until late with no kills recorded.

During the summer the group has been fundraising and gaining new support, especially in rural areas, and have survived five CJA arrests and three days in court to hear their was no case to answer.

This season **Pickering** sabs have mostly joined up with **York** to concentrate on Mr Longworth and his beagles, also sabbing the Derwent, Sinnington, Middleton and Holderness FHs. At a Sinnington FH meet in December, sabs took advantage of otherwise occupied stewards with one sab taking half the pack. In January the Derwent FH went out on foot, two sabs calling the pack out of the covert and were left with them until the new master turned up in a car, in the meantime followers threatened to take photos of the sabs (ouch). As hounds were called out of the opposite side of the covert with a gizmo one follower was heard to comment on how well the hounds sounded?! Discretion being the better part of valour the new master decided to head for home, so sabs headed for the Old Ampleforth Beagles to find **Leeds** sabs had been there all day .

Visiting the Old Ampleforth at Allerston, there were hares everywhere and there were also hounds everywhere. Some of the pack was with Hull sabs , some with York sabs, a few with Longworth and the rest being collected by the whips!

When Nick Herbert arrived for a day in Ampleforth country with the Newmarket Beagles two sabs thought they were going to get attacked by a couple of stick wielding farmers - no worries however as the farmers proceeded to chase away the hunt and invite sabs onto the land! After the Derwent FH hid from sabs, they moved off to the Old Ampleforth again on another day, seeing Longworth left alone on the moor with just the chuckling grouse to keep him company as both hounds and supporters deserted him.

To finish, last season was another successful season with only two definite kills and great animosity among Derwent followers since the new masters took over

South West

Since the end of the 94-95 fox hunting season **Bristol** and **Bath** sabs have been concentrating on their old summer favourites the Ytene MH. Due to cancellations and the usual unprovoked violence sabbing has been difficult but by no means impossible. At least half of the known meets were effectively sabbed, including one meet in June when sabs managed to occupy a dig-out, so preventing any further digging taking place.

At the end of July the Valley Minkhounds, a fairly new pack who have never been sabbed before(!) saw sabs descend upon them and immediately saw the hounds ascending out of the river and into the next field. Fifteen minutes later with the hounds now regrouped, hunting was recommenced, but again to no avail as hounds were once again lifted from the riverbanks and taken for a walk by the sabs. After some hour and a half had passed, the hunt were followed back to the kennels to finish a useless day's hunting.

Since then, Bristol sabs have been active on the Cumbrian moors to stop the Grouse shooters on the glorious 12th. Three shoots were stopped in all, with very few birds being shot.

As HOWL goes to print, Bristol and Bath sabs are getting ready to undertake sabbing the first cubbing meets of the new season, with one or two notable hunts already out.

Sabs from **South Dorset** have started sabbing the Cattistock's cubbing meets, unfortunately with a less than warm reception (see news, page 4). However they have had several successful days including one in mid August when sabs managed to find the hunt after they had left the kennels early, the hunt seeming to hunt as if it were full season not cubbing. The group were also busy in the

summer, holding a demo at the Dorset Fair which is organised by the South Dorset Hunt. For some reason, the signs on a nearby roundabout had disappeared, leaving one of the hunt supporters to stand on the entrance holding a "way in" sign! Back to the present, the group continues undeterred against the Cattistock FH and has some new sabs and supporters to carry on the good work.

East Midlands

Not much to report from **Nottingham** sabs except that they attended a couple of the Ytene hits and the Glorious Twelfth in North Yorkshire. The group also travelled to Sheffield to take part in Shoots Week, along with Wolves sabs (cheers for the lift!) which unfortunately had to be cancelled. The group has also hosted Shires Week - report in HOWL 60.



The all-conquering team of Ytene-busters. Applications for next year's squad are already being taken...

HSA Salesgoods - New for Christmas

We are offering the following new items for sale exclusively for Christmas.

Why not treat yourself or a friend to a real pewter brooch - they make ideal presents. each one is made from high quality pewter, and has a secure pin fastening at the back. Choose from the small fox head design or badger (shown actual size). Each brooch is available for only £2.50, postage and packaging included.



Our third new item, available only until Christmas, is our very own design fox-cub glove puppet. Each puppet is hand made by one of our supporters and is sold exclusively for the Hunt Saboteurs Association. All fastenings conform to British Safety Standards. For only £4.50 (includes postage and packing) you too could be the proud owner of an adorable cuddly cub.

To order any of the items advertised above, simply send us a note with your **name**, **address**, the **quantity of items** you require and a **cheque / postal order** made payable to ***HSA***.

Send your order to

Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 1
Carlton
NOTTINGHAM
NG4 2JY

Please remember: with every purchase you make, money is donated directly to fund the work of the HSA.

Wanted...

The HSA desperately needs a replacement
SALESGOODS OFFICER.

Our current SG officer is unable to carry on - can you help? You don't need to have any retail / stock management / design experience, although it would help. perhaps you would like to take on the post jointly with someone else - it basically involves collating and sending out orders, keeping stock levels up and organising the merchandise catalogue.

If you think you'd like to have a go, then contact **Karen** via the HSA office (0115 959 0357) right away!

In Memorium - Brumas 6.3.94

"Brumas took her blanket, and went into another room I cannot find
I know she was here, because of all the love she left behind"

As a result of recent donations in respect of Brumas, a much loved companion, the HSA will be supplying each group around the country with at least one new hunting horn (for recreational use only of course!) and one lucky (and needy) group will be receiving a vehicle.

AGM REPORT

The AGM in July was attended by representatives of sab groups around the country, which meant there was plenty of discussion on the agended items, and also plenty of "you wouldn't believe what happened to us on the so and so hunt last season" stories!

Item's on the agenda included: the introduction of a group membership scheme; ideas for the forthcoming committee year; grouse shooting; minkhunting and self defence. Quite a selection of topics! Also, following in the great traditions of sabbing, a selection of brave individuals entered this years horn blowing competition. Judged by a well known vertically challenged sab from the North, the competition provided some amusement to everyone present! A brand new Earlham hunting horn was dished out to the winner (our very own Vice-chair / Salesgoods officer), and also one went to the winner of the prestigious title: Worst Hornblower of the Year (won by our Northern contacts officer). More entrants next year please!

At the end of the day, an auction of donated items was held. This is a new idea, which will hopefully be a fixture for next year as well. Thankyou to the donor of the various items. For details of next years AGM, watch this space. We will hopefully be holding it earlier on in the year. All HSA members and sabs are welcome, although you must be a paid up member to be able to vote (so get your membership forms filled in now!).

COMMITTEE NEWS

Since the last HOWL, it's been all change on the HSA committee!
The new committee is now as follows:
Animal Freedom (formally Fox Cubs) - Clare
Contacts Officer (North) - Sid
Contacts Officer (South) - Norma
Fringe Bloodsports Officer - Paul
Press Officer - Paul G
Research Officer - Roe
Sabbing Skills Days Officer - Simon
Shooting Officer - Kate
Tactics Officer - Steve
Treasurer - Patrick
Vice-chair / Salesgoods - Karen.
Working off committee is Liz, Editor of **HOWL**.

Also, Martin (a sab from the South) will be putting himself forward for the committee post of International Liason Officer in the near future.
So, at the moment we have a strong, new committee dedicated to supporting and promoting sabbing around the country. We would like to say a big thankyou to Paul D, Ben, Aubrey, Eric, Jo, Andy and Neckie who've put a lot of work into the HSA in the past.

If you would like to contact any of the committee members mentioned above, write to them via the PO Box or phone the office if you have a specific enquiry. Also, it's not too late if you would like to join the committee. We need input from all over the country - the more the merrier!

Animal Freedom (formerly Fox Cubs)

The youth group of the HSA, aimed at young people. Produces an interesting and informative 3 monthly magazine covering all areas of animal rights, wildlife and green issues. Also includes competitions, stories and puzzles. Most importantly, it is full of ideas on action to help animals. When you join, you receive an Information Pack, badge and the magazine four times a year.

Comprehensive fact sheets on all forms of bloodsports taking place in the UK are also available.

✂

I would like (please tick boxes): ☐ to join, I enclose £4
☐ more information* ☐ ...set/s of fact sheets, I enclose 50p a set.

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

.....

.....POST CODE.....AGE.....

Please return to Animal Freedom (hs),
PO Box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4YN.

SABBING SKILLS DAYS ARE BACK!

Your chance to catch up on old skills or learn new ones from a wide range of activities:

Legal Workshops
Tactics
Whip Making (and using!)
Horn Blowing
Map Reading
and much much more!

Sabbing Skills Days are available as weekend or single day events depending on the needs of your group. Contact the **HSA office (0115 959 0357)** for further details or to make a booking.

"After one of the HSA's Sabbing Skills Days, my local group was much more effective in stopping the huntsmen in their tracks - thanks, sabs!"
A Fox, Surrey

SHOPPERS CORNER

Your guide to what's new on the market to watch, listen to or even eat!
Reviews by Marlene

UNDERCURRENTS 3

Undercurrents 3 is described by the producers as "the first ever alternative news service on video. Published every few months, it challenges the mainstream media's definition of 'news'. Undercurrents is shot on domestic camcorders, mostly by campaigners themselves. It covers key issues from the UK and other countries".

With a running time of two hours, the video provides an invaluable source of information covering a wide variety of topics which you are unlikely to come across in a s much detail on your television screen or daily newspaper. It includes, amongst other news items, outrage following the death of a man in police custody; live exports; anti road building; boycott campaigns against major banks and sabbing in the New Forest. In addition to news stories, there are snippets of information and an excellent piece concerning what can (or cannot) be done when the police abuse their powers. Not surprisingly, this includes footage of sabbing the Garth & South Berks FH earlier this year - were you there?! Sabs are also included in a piece about direct action and civil rights in Northern Ireland.

Footage is not only confined to actions in the UK, but from around the world, including protests against logging, reclamation of land in the Netherlands and support for the homeless in France.

If you're interested in finding out more than the mainstream media wants you to know, *Undercurrents 3* is definitely worth a look. The video also includes a booklet with details of the groups featured.
Prices are as follows:
Subscriptions (4 issues): £32.00 normal / £20.00 unwaged / £70.00 institutional

Single issues (including Postage & Packing, VAT etc): £9.50 normal / £6.50 unwaged / £25 institutional.

Cheques should be made payable to **"Small World Media"**, orders to be sent to:

SMALL WORLD MEDIA
46 RYMERS LANE
OXFORD
OX4 3LB.

Please quote reference number DW112 when ordering.

"THE ONLY GOOD HUNTSMAN IS A DEAD ONE"

(allegedly)

Herts & Essex HSA have done it again with another compilation of tracks recorded live at the Square, Harlow. The tape is surprisingly good quality for a live recording, and the twenty tracks include something for everyone. The amusing *"Rupert the Bear"* by China Drum and "interesting" cover of *"He Aint Heavy"* by Decadence Within make for compulsive listening; alongside tracks from a number of other bands including Chumbawamba (*The Day the Nazi Died*) and Blaggers ITA (*1994*). AOS3, Wardance, Spithead and Blind Mole Rat all surpass themselves, contributing two tracks each.

Other bands featured on this not-to-be-missed tape are S*M*A*S*H, Tofu Love Frogs, Press Gang and Collapsed Lung, to name but a few. As before the tape is a bargain at the price of £2.50, available now from:

HERTS & ESSEX HSA
PO BOX 2717
HARLOW
ESSEX
CM18 6SQ

ANIMAL FREE SHOPPER, 3RD EDITION

This latest edition is, as usual, packed with information on everything that's animal- and cruelty-free. The easy-to-use format includes entries on everything from biscuits to berets (!) and there are handy lists of additives and animal derived substances. Browse through it at your leisure and marvel at the many varieties of vegan ice cream available - the thought of ten litres of Mint Choc Chip certainly caused a stir in our house!

Unfortunately, some of the major supermarket chains failed to provide lists of animal-free products, and Sainsbury's only list products that do not contain additives, so the guide is not as comprehensive as it could be. However, this is no fault of the publishers and hopefully the large chains will be more co-operative in future as they realise the market for vegan goods is growing.

Overall, this is an essential purchase for anyone interested in a cruelty-free lifestyle and an eye-opener for those who think being vegan is all lentil soup and tie-dye.
Copies of the **Animal Free Shopper** are available at the price of £4.95 + 65p p&p.(please make cheque/P.O. payable to The Vegan Society) from:

THE VEGAN SOCIETY
DONALD WATSON HOUSE
7 BATTLE ROAD
ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA
EAST SUSSEX
TN37 7AA

Reviews of relevant books, tapes, videos etc are always welcome in HOWL - any sent in will be considered for publication. Reviews should be approximately 150 words long - send to the P.O Box in Nottingham.

INTRODUCING THE NEW GISMOS

Gismos can work with amazing effect on some packs! If your group could use one, take advantage of this offer now, courtesy of Vale & Valleys HSA!

A TBA 820M audio amp unit: £10.00 +**P & P**: £1.00

Output power into 4 ohm - 1.6W
Power supply rejection ratio - 42 dB
Supply Voltage 3V - 16V
Housed in a compact 79x61x40mm hardwearing box
with on/off switch and power indicator
Adapted for use with personal stereos and any 4 ohm horn speaker

Suggested Speaker: £13.00 + **P & P**: £1.00

A weather proof plastic rectangular horn speaker

Max power - 20W
Impedance 4 ohm
Frequency response 600hz to 8khz
Size 125x115x80mm
Weight 680g

Available from **Vale and Valleys H.S.A**
c/o N.A.R.C, P.O.Box 70,Newport, Gwent, WALES

Cheques payable to: **Vale and Valleys H.S.A**

Animal Freedom - Help needed!

Animal Freedom (formerly Fox Cubs) is the youth group of the HSA. It is currently being co-ordinated and run by one person but there is a great deal to do. Much more could be achieved if more people helped out.

Main tasks:

- Editing the magazine, which comes out 4 times a year
- Writing articles for the magazine
- Keeping fact sheets and leaflets up to date
- Salesgoods
- Attending fairs
- Fundraising
- Accounts
- Drawing / sorting out pictures for the magazine.

Other things that could be done include:

- School talks
- Running campaigns
- Work on getting a higher profile for Animal Freedom

If you are interested in helping out with any or all of these tasks please write to Clare, Animal Freedom, PO box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4YN, or phone 01932 242 1326. Animal Freedom has a lot of potential and help is desperately needed to fulfil this. If you have a little or a lot of time to spare get in touch - we're looking forward to hearing from you.

APPEALS

At present the HSA office has one computer, a DTP which is used for everything from producing HOWL to updating the membership files. As we are currently attempting to store all the information we possess (in files) onto computer, we desperately need another computer as this one is old, tired and overworked!

Although a new computer may seem to have little relevance to the saving of the hunted animals out in the field, it will help in the long run by making our organisation function much more efficiently.

We are therefore asking our supporters for the princely sum of £1600 to enable us to purchase a new Apple Macintosh computer. Alternatively, if anybody has an unwanted computer they wish to donate to us, we would be more than grateful! We require an Apple Mac, running on System 7 or above (this is so we can work with the existing computer - we are all technophobes!). We also require a laptop computer, if anyone has one going spare!

Also, the HSA has produced a new Tactics Book, 64 pages of how to stop wildlife being killed. The book is ready to be printed, but we cannot afford this at the moment. The sum we need is £3000 - again, if anybody can help we would be extremely grateful. The publication of this is desperately needed!

THANK YOU!

The HSA would like to thank all those involved at the Wicker Camp (Thai Boxing Gym) for their efforts on August 13th. You know who you are! There were a lot of sore limbs afterwards, but we are all extremely grateful for your continuing support - thanks a million..

Group Membership Offer

Here it is at last - the long awaited HSA Group Membership Offer. The idea behind it is to get HOWL out to as many active sabs as possible. Your sab / animal rights group can join the HSA at a **reduced yearly rate of £30 for ten members** (that's £3.00 a year each for those who are no good at sums!). You'll receive all the usual things -HOWL four times a year, merchandise catalogue, Club Draw, raffle tickets and so on.

Of course, if active sab groups wish to receive HOWL three months too late, they can always ring up the office for back issues to put on stalls for fundraising.

If your group wishes to join, please fill in the Group Membership form below without delay and send back to the P.O. Box.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP FORM

Group Name .....

Group Address .....

.....

.....

Contact Tel. No. .....

We enclose (please tick as applicable):

❑ £30.00 for Group Membership of the HSA

❑ Donation of £.....

(Cheques/P.O.s made payable to *HSA*)

Return to:

Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 1
Carlton
NOTTINGHAM
NG4 2JY

Please mark envelope "Group Membership"

Huntsman Balls

"An efficient riot squad of 40 men could disperse a crowd of 2,000 in 20 minutes with a whiff of CS gas here, a hose there, a couple of snatch squads, some thunderflashes, stun grenades and rubber bullet rounds in between"
Auberon Waugh on how to deal with animal rights activists.

"It was a minute incident. I told one of our opponents that he could see what was going on, when he complained. Then he started photographing and I said 'Please stop that' and one of our chaps squared up to him a little bit, and that was then end of the incident."
Capt. Simon Clark, Joint Master of the New Forest FH after LACS monitors were pushed and threatened by hunt thugs.

"The vast majority of saboteurs I have met are intelligent, educated, caring people with a strong moral code...(they) are motivated...by the desire to do something good rather than evil."
Is this quote along the same lines as the idea that huntsmen 'respect' their quarry? Matthew Black, writing in Shooting Times gives us a glowing reference - couldn't have put it better ourselves!

" 'Sabbing'...is great fun...There is the social aspect of spending time with friends and making new acquaintances. There is... the intellectual challenge of meticulous planning and careful execution. There is bracing exercise in the fresh air amid beautiful scenery..."
Yep, our friend Matthew again. Of course, we only go out sabbing for the enjoyment of it all ...try telling that to the countless numbers of sabs who have been beaten up, and in two cases killed, for trying to prevent the unjustifiable slaughter of wildlife.

It's more likely to be you ... with the HSA's CLUB DRAW

Fed up with hearing that the proceeds from the National Lottery have gone to yet another unworthy cause? Don't take the risk of funding the slaughter of wildlife on sporting estates in Scotland - invest in the HSA's Club Draw and you know your money will be going to a worthy cause, that of fighting bloodsports at grassroots level.

Our organisation is the only one dedicated to physically stopping the hunting of wild animals for sport, but we cannot do this without support. By joining the Club Draw, you can help us stop the slaughter.

The procedure is simple: the more people that enter, the bigger the prizes. Half of the money raised by Club Draw goes to the HSA, half as prizes. First prize is 50% of the money, second is 30% and third is 20%. You can buy as many or s few stakes as you like. Winners are drawn every month by our computer. Don't forget that the odds against you winning the National Lottery are considerably higher than those against you winning a prize in the Club Draw! So take advantage now, and remember - it *could* be you!

CLUB DRAW WINNERS

JANUARY
1st RIST, Hampshire
2nd FOX, London
3rd SMITH, London

FEBRUARY
1st WILLIAMS
2nd SUTCLIFFE, Surrey
3rd GREGORY, Kent

MARCH
1st Anon. Suffolk
2nd HARKER, Lancs
3rd CROALL, Scotland

APRIL
1st McCLEAN, London
2nd TUCKER, Surrey
3rd SUTCLIFFE, Suffolk

MAY
1st MAY, London
2nd HAMPTON, North Yorks.
3rd BURGE, Wilts

JUNE
1st GRIMBLEBY, Merseyside
2nd BAKER, Devon
3rd MACKIE, Scotland

JULY
1st CLIFFARD, Wolverhampton
2nd FENN, Surrey
3rd THOMPSON, Cumbria

AUGUST
1st D. WETTON, Kent
2nd J. RIST, Hampshire
3rd R. BAKER, Exeter

WE NEED MORE MAPS!

Our map collection has severely depleted - we urgently need replacements and back up copies of all areas around the country. We particularly need any Landranger (pink), Pathfinder (green) and Outdoor Leisure (yellow) maps. They do not have to be new - we would appreciate any donations of maps which will help us plan sabs more effectively.

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 (0115) 959 0357

Noticeboard

Publications

TACTICS BOOKLET

The North-West HSA has published an updated version of the old booklet. New features include:

- Legal advice and a guide to suing the police
- How to make a whip and when and where to use it effectively

and many more interesting articles (foxhunting / cubbing, hare hunting, angling etc).

If you would like a copy, please send a cheque/postal order made payable to ***Manchester HSA*** for £3.50 to **North-West Hunt Sabs, P.O. Box 155, Manchester,**

Local Groups

CLYDESIDE HUNT SABOTURS have spent a busy summer fundraising for a van, and will be out in force when the hunting season starts again! Any potential new members are reminded that the group gets very little hassle, they just get on with sabbing! So if you want to join, get in touch with the group at

PO BOX 180, GLASGOW G4 9AB

Local sabs in the **TUNBRIDGE WELLS** area are looking to get a new group set up, and would like anybody interested in sabbing in their area to get in touch ASAP! You can contact them via the HSA,

PO BOX 1, CARLTON, NOTTINGHAM NG4 2JY

Events

- The second national **JUSTICE FOR KEITH MANN** demo is to take place on

Wednesday 25th August,
outside the
Royal Courts of Justice, the Strand, London.
at
10:30 a.m.,

Everybody is welcome, especially children in either animal / convict / judge fancy dress! Please bring banners, flags, etc to make this a noisy but peaceful event

IMPORTANT: Keith's appeal date is to be sometime between the 13th - 24th November. This demo is therefore the last to be arranged before that date - please make sure it's well attended.

Further details: JFKM, PO Box 1135, Downs View Road, Hassock, West Sussex BN24 8AA

- This year's ***WORLD VEGAN DAY*** takes place on Wednesday 1st November. For an Action Pack send two first class stamps plus a large SAE marked 'WVD' to:

The Vegan Society, Donald Watson House, 7 Battle Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7AA

- The Animal Aid ***CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CRUELTY FAYRE*** is to be held on

Saturday 16th December,
at **Kensington Town Hall, London W8**
from **10a.m. - 5 p.m.**
Entrance is **£1.00**

Addresses

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

Pisces (formerly CAA). Campaigns against all forms of angling. PO Box 90, Bristol BS99 1ND. Publishes *Pisces*, a newsletter about their work.

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

Animal Freedom (Youth Group) - 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

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.

Clothing

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

Thank-you

to the person who anonymously donated a considerable sum of money to the HSA! The money will be spent on actively continuing the fight against bloodsports.