HOWL

No. 6 SPRING 1976

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Hounds off our wildlife

MAGAZINE OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 19 TONBRIDGE KENT

AIMS: To save the lives of hunted animals by legal, non-violent direct means and bring to the attention of People and Parliament the barbaric cruelties involved in the hunting of animals until such time as these practices are banned by law.

Waterloo Cup Tarnished

Friday the 13th of February was an unlucky day for some, amongst whom were 4 unfortunate hares, 7 redoubtable saboteurs and hopefully the entire membership and hangers-on of the hare coursing fraternity. For on Friday the 13th the Waterloo Cup (the highlight of the hare coursing year) was contested for and to witness the proceedings were about 100 HSA members from all over the country, a bevy of policemen and a sprinkling of newsmen.

The day started off sunny but crisp when the saboteurs congregated at Formby, Lancashire, but the day turned cold as they approached the coursing field at Altcar, a few miles away. As the line of activists neared the field on the (public) road they were met by a line of policemen led by their Chief Inspector who gave them a friendly warning about keeping the peace and allowed them to pass through with a few of his men to keep them company.



The thin blue line

The line advanced up the road, now skirting the car park with Rolls and Fords bumper to bumper and now the coursing field, past punters drinking their shorts from the beer tent and the bookies shouting the odds, until they reached the main gate onto the field. Here, some of the sabs, feelings running high, ran onto the field – moments later to be shuffled off by the police and put in a van.



The 'strong arm' exerting itself

The others made their way up the road past the bemused coursers where, finding their way cut off by a gate, about thirty climbed over and ran on up the edge of the field waving banners, scarves, arms and football rattles, some stopped to light 'air-bomb' fireworks and all of them shouting; in fact anything to keep the hares from entering the coursing arena after being driven across the plough by the beaters with their yellow flags.

Eventually these too were escorted off by the police and another four were led to the police van which was, by now, getting a bit crowded.

Now followed an uneasy truce with the fresh-faced policemen, who were standing kicking their heels to keep warm, wondering what was going to happen next and wishing they'd been given football hooligans for the afternoon. Reinforcements turned up from the other end of the field wearing wellington boots, probably sensing that they were in for a run. Meanwhile the saboteurs kept up the screen of noise every time a hare ventured towards the coursing field.

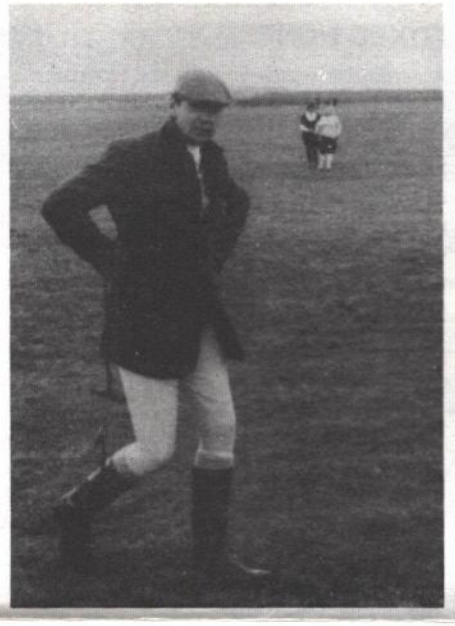
For a time all was quiet while the Waterloo Cup was being presented and the winners and gazers drank their champagne and toasted the winning greyhound without a thought for the hares that had made their day. Then, the drinking over, the last course was run, but not without a final gesture on behalf of the hares by the saboteurs – activists ran into the field from all directions and the police, slow to react, were some distance behind. But the 'strong arm' of the law will have its way and one by one the saboteurs were removed from the field still shouting and scaring hares away. The noise continued on the road, much to the annoyance of one drunken courser who kept exclaiming, 'Stop that bloody foghorn and give the hares a chance'.(!) Despite the efforts of the saboteurs the last hare entered, the dogs slipped and the day ended with yet another death.

Seven saboteurs were taken to Ormskirk Police Station and reported for charge – action likely to cause a breach of the peace – we have heard that charges will be pressed.

Meanwhile, back in London, the Select Committee of the Lords is still considering the evidence for and against the Bill for the Abolition of Hare Coursing.

How many hares will have to die for the gold cups of this world before this 'sport' is banned? The majority of the people in this country are against hare coursing, if the democratic system worked then it would be the coursers on charge *not* the saboteurs.

Let's hope this will be the last Waterloo.



Slipper waits for saboteur to clear the field

Hi there!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into the Hunt Saboteurs all those hundreds of new members who have joined as a result of the HSA **Open Door** *programme which went out on BBC2 last November.*

As well as bringing us in all these badly-needed recruits, the programme also promoted an extremely encouraging financial response (even though no donations were asked for) so that now the HSA funds are in very good shape.

With both these radical improvements in our situation, we will now be able to bring out **HOWL** *on a much more definite basis in future.*

We hope all the new members approve of **HOWL**.

Good anti-huntin'



CLOCKWORK LOONY

A Huntingdonshire man who is a committee member of the National Coursing Club has constructed a scale model of a coursing field based on a toy-train set lay-out. Mr Gordon Elphick of Alconbury Weston has been a coursing crank for over fifty years and spent three months constructing the lay-out in an effort to campaign against the abolition of hare coursing by Parliament.

Mr. Elphick said, "Some friends have been showing it to people all around the country and it is having an effect".

What that effect is, Mr.Elphick didn't say, but perhaps some kind of indication of his success is given by the increasing proportion of the population which is opposed to this disgusting blood-sport.

A local HSA member commented, "Clockwork trainsets are fine but the greyhounds aren't chasing clockwork hares".

ICI EXPERIMENTS SMOKED OUT

Animal welfare organisations, particularly the Hunt Saboteurs Association, chalked up a victory recently with the complete routing of the massive Imperial Chemicals Industry in their notorious 'smoking beagles' experiments.

The experiments, involving 48 beagle dogs (see HOWL 4) will not be allowed to be repeated, after the Home Secretary heard a report from his Animal Welfare Committee. The Committee was undoubtedly influenced to a certain extent by the vigorous campaign which many organisations waged against the experiments, after they were first exposed in *The Sunday People* newspaper. The National Anti-Vivisection Society also commissioned an opinion poll on the subject, which showed that 60% of the population were opposed to the tests.

However, probably the biggest single blow against the ICI/vivisection combine was the releasing in June of three of the beagles by HSA Committee member and animal activist Mike Huskisson. On the 17th June, Mike entered the ICI laboratory kennels at their Toxicity Unit, Alderley Edge, Cheshire and rescued two of the 48 beagles housed there – Major and Noddy. The dogs were removed to a place of safety and the next day the incident received widespread coverage. Through the news media ICI disclosed that Major and Noddy were 'control dogs' (although Major had started life as a 'smoker' and had a bad cough) and were being used to compare their health with the actual 'smoking' beagles.

Undaunted by the publicity, Mike returned to the kennels in a last minute bid to rescue a 'smoker' (the *Kent Messenger* had reported that **all** the dogs were to be dissected at the end of that week) but the attempt was unsuccessful and Mike was arrested in a rain-swept Manchester bus shelter with Snap (a 'smoking' beagle) tucked inside his jacket. This unfortunate creature is back at ICI, being experimented on.

Believing that he had committed no crime Mike admitted to the rescue of Major, Noddy and Snap but because he refused to diclose the whereabouts of the other two beagles he was remanded in custody. Within hours of his arrest a tip-off was received by the police hinting at the hiding place of Major and Noddy and this led to a raid on the now defunct 235 acre Animal Defence Society sanctuary near Shaftesbury, Dorset. They found nothing. The estate's manager, John Bryant – an HSA supporter and RSPCA council member – admitted that he had taken in the two beagles because they were in desperate need of care and attention.

Eventually Mike was charged with the alleged theft of the beagles and going equipped to steal and John was charged with allegedly receiving, handling and disposing of stolen goods and they elected for trial by jury. However, minutes before the trial was to begin last December, ICI backed down and offered no evidence

(continued overleaf)



Dear Editor,

I am a new member to HSA. I should like to make the following comments to Derek Carroll – see *HOWL No.5.*

He states that he personally agrees with HOWL's disgust at the Royal Family's participation in blood-sports and agrees that they should be setting a good example etc., etc. He also states that he and other members think that HOWL does more harm than good in bringing this to people's attention.

I feel that members of HSA should be fighting for one cause; this should be inclusive of all "Hunters". I have been a "Royalist" nearly all of my life, but I do not keep my eyes open just for their good points and closed for their bad ones. Anyone who is an enemy of the creatures great and small is an enemy of mine and it is all too easy to lock skeletons away in cupboards and to turn a blind eye to what does not suit one, but it is not so easy to forget the hares and foxes when they are ripped to pieces – because each time this happens, some part of me is being torn apart too. My motto regarding **HOWL** is "One for all and all for one".

You have to do what you believe is right and fight for what you truly believe in.

Expose **all** "Hunters" whoever they may be and get your priorities right Mr. Carroll.

Yours very sincerely
Mary Herd
66 Glenwood Road, Little Sutton,
Wirral, Merseyside

Dear Editor,

At my previous farm I had a family of wild foxes living in my orchard, rabbits in the hedgerows and 2,000 hens walking around free range. The rabbits were kept down to reasonable numbers (by the foxes) and we all lived in harmony.

One day the slavering curs of the Essex & Suffolk Hunt chased a fox onto my land causing panic among the poultry and among my ponies (an in-foal mare aborted because of this).

I ordered the Hunt to call their dogs away in no uncertain terms. Meanwhile my staff were dousing the dogs and keeping them away from the fox. The dogs were called off eventually and when I said I would sue for damages the noble hunters (horrid little fat men and their scrawny, horse-faced females) sneered and said I would just be wasting my money.

However as soon as proceedings commenced their insurers rushed round with an open cheque book and said, "We will pay whatever you ask; these people (the Hunt) will do anything to avoid any more bad publicity!"

Yours,
W. De Frense
Dedham, Essex

Dear Editor,

My father has been breeding sheep for over 27 years and has never lost any stock to Mr. Tod, but we have suffered from stray dogs which do much more damage.

Our flock is managed in an area surrounded by woodland where foxes are quite evident. This year, in particular, my father has been round the ewes, most of which have now lambed, having started some three weeks before Christmas and seen foxes pass through the flock.

On one afternoon two ewes had just lambed and Mr. Fox just walked by without looking at the new born. On another occasion, it was a beautiful sunny morning with a thin layer of snow, my father went to feed the ewes and do his usual round and he found, sat amongst the ewes a fox and a vixen. They were sprawled out on the ground mopping up the sunshine. He said that he got quite near to them before they left and even then they were in no hurry, stopping again further up the field.

As with most farmers we have had some losses in lambs, mainly due to natural causes or due to the fact that we were not around at a particular time to offer assistance. In a number of cases the lamb carcases have disappeared before we have had time to bury them, and we are all quite confident as to who has been doing the cleaning up. This year has really confirmed our belief that Tod does not take live lambs, because we have seen with our own eyes him, and indeed her, pass through our ewes and lambs without any harm done. Whether it has been day or

ICI EXPERIMENTS *(continued)*



Mike and John after committal proceedings at Wilmslow, Cheshire.

against the two, when they agreed (after consultation with counsel) to be bound over for two years in the sum of £50. Paradoxically, a verdict of 'not guilty' was entered – which means that in the eyes of the law Mike and John have no criminal record.

During the run-up to the trial, HSA offered to buy the two rescued beagles at ICI's valuation of £60 each but the offer was rejected by the giant conglomerate, who stated that they were anxious to recover the dogs so that they could again be used in experimentation. Also, in August, HSA Committee member John Hicks, together with his wife Jo, staged a near-fatal hunger strike outside Alderley Park in an attempt to get the experiment stopped but without success.

Since the trial both the police and ICI have been approached in order to discover the exact legal position of Major and Noddy but both parties have given non-committal answers so the two beagles must still stay in hiding. Readers are therefore urged to write demanding their release to **ICI, Millbank, London, SW1.**

Although the rescue of Major and Noddy and the statement by the Home Secretary can be hailed as a victory by anti-vivisectionists we must not become complacent. All over the country cruel and unnecessary experiments are taking place every day, accounting for over 100,000 deaths (of animals) every week.

1976 is Animal Welfare Year. It commemorates the 100th anniversity of the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act under which experiments like these are allowed to continue! Let us make Animal Welfare Year a year to remember – do we really want to wait another 100 years for animal liberation.

DO SOMETHING POSITIVE !

FOXED HUNT

A cement-lorry driver on the Horton Road, Northants in January thought he was doing the Oakley Hunt a favour when he stopped to let the hunt cross the road in front of him and continue after their quarry. But the fox had the last laugh, when it was later discovered that he had taken refuge on the back of the lorry and hitch-hiked a ride to freedom!

BFSS OFF TARGET

The British Field Sports Society pledged themselves to a target of £¼ million in 7 months for a Fighting Fund against the anti-organisations. They now have £95,000 (March) and have had to extend the time limit to twelve months in order to ensure the pledged amount.

Perhaps they think that adding Jimmy Hill, the BBC (blood?) sports personality to their PR team will help them achieve their 'goal'.

Anyway the HSA have nothing to worry about as according to a correspondent in the Field we reputedly have £500,000 in the bank!



Which hunt do you sabotage with ?

RSPCA

We naturally welcome the RSPCA's decision (after 150 years) to unequivocally condemn foxhunting and now have no hesitation in advising members to join the Society (membership fee £3 – RSPCA, The Causeway, Horsham, Sussex).

As the pro-hunters still within the Society will doubtless attempt to get the decision reversed at this year's AGM we urge all of you who are current members of the RSPCA to attend the AGM on Friday 25th June at 11am at the Cafe Royal, 68 Regent Street, London, W1.

Full background to RSPCA's decision in HOWL 7.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS '75

The number of active HSA groups has increased considerably since the *Open Door* programme. Some groups may contain as many as fifty members; others in pro-hunt countries, may struggle to get two or three members.

There follows a brief resume of the trials, tribulations, successes and sorrows of active groups.

If your group is not mentioned here, it is probably because you have not kept HQ informed of your activities.

Please rectify!

(Or you might be a 1976 group in which case you'll get a mention soon!)

Aldershot group members have been involved with canal restoration, and various anti-vivisection, circus and other demonstrations. Lack of transport has caused considerable problems and individuals have had to rely upon joining other groups for joint hits, although several times, sabs have been able to hit local hunts on bicycles. One member collected 1,700 signatures for the Hare Coursing Abolition Bill petition.

The **Ashdown Forest** group in Sussex has been very active this season, especially against the Old Surrey & Burstow FH. The group has attended nearly every joint hit, travelling as far as Dorset or Oxford for some hits. In fact the group are so active in the field and in the media that they have been the recipients of threatening phone calls from angry hunt supporters. One member has also given lectures about the HSA and organised a lobby of MPs in support of the Hare Coursing Abolition Bill.

The **Bath** group have been busy against the Mendip Farmers and the Duke of Beauforts' foxhunts. The group have favoured the use of antimate and have had success in their experiments with farmers' gear – acting as supporters.

Bridport group members have had an interesting time at hunts, suffering endless harassment from hunt supporters at demos and during speech making. The group has given lectures and proposed motions condemning hunting at various Young Liberal meetings.

Brighton group has become very active this season against local fox and hare (beagle) hunts. They have had so many hits against the Brighton & Storrington Beagles that the hunters spend most of their time trying to give the group the slip. They have even left their own supporters standing at times! The group has had a lot of trouble with both the Southdown and the Crawley & Horsham FHs, experiencing a lot of violence from the supporters of both hunts. The group are continually getting good write-ups in the local papers.



A demonstration at the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt in Bucks.

Bristol group has been concentrating on promoting the Save Our Stags campaign and have been active against the west country stag hunts. Nation-wide publicity was received after a joint hit with SOS against the Devon & Somerset Staghunt. Anti-staghunt tactics have been pre-meet rookying of woods and large quantities of 'sab special'.

Buxton group have advertised for recruits in local papers. The group has concentrated on the High Peak Harriers and has, until recently, found the hunts-men to be unusually civil and polite. The group's favourite tactics are pre-meet soaking of roads (in gutters) with 'special' and the use of antimate after the meet and demoralising the hunt by putting up HOWL posters at the meet and leafletting supporters cars. The group has been hit by a lack of transport but bicycle sabs usually manage to prevent kills using these methods.

Cambridge group have been very active against Essex and Cambridge hunts and have joined in on most joint hits. The group organiser, Mike Huskisson spent some time having dealings with ICI (see front page story). The group has recently had an injection of new blood and have been very active against local hunts with antimate, special and hunting horn. The group has managed to hit two or three hunts in one day!

The Cotswold Anti-Bloodsports Group have been growing in number, experience and success. They regularly manage to hit local hunts, concentrating on the Heythrop FH and the Dummer Beagles. They place great reliance on a detailed knowledge of the hunt area. The group are very keen and very successful – perhaps one reason why the Master of the Heythrop, MFHA Chairman Ronnie Wallace, is leaving the hunt to become a joint master of the Exmoor FH!

night when we have seen the foxes pass through our sheep and despite the fact that ewes had actually been lambing at that precise moment, never has foxy made any attempt to reduce our flock.

My father has been a shepherd for many years and although he has never doubted foxy, this year has certainly confirmed what we have always been saying.

Sincerely,
Malcolm Douglass
Berriew, Powys

Dear Editor,

I note that your May **HOWL** No.4 states that wolves are now protected by the US Endangered Species Act. Don't believe it – the State of Alaska is busy organising three hunts to be conducted by air to 'manage' the wolf. Every time wolves are turned loose to repopulate an area where they used to live some local traps or shoots them – no prosecution ever, eg Michigan. The arms industry controls the politicians through its lobbying arm – the National Rifle Assoc.

Yours sincerely
Muriel Geach, 239 W.Gardner Street, Long Beach, CA 90805 USA

BOOK REVIEW



Brocky
by Monica Hutchings
published by The Abbey Press, The Parade, Sherborne, Dorset **£1.50**

Brocky is the story of a sheep-dog pup growing up with Miss Hutchings at her cottage home on the wild coast of Argyllshire.

The book is certain to be popular with HSA members, especially since Miss Hutchings is a long-standing member herself.

Animal Rights
by Andrew Linzey
published by SCM, 56 Bloomsbury St., London, WC1 **£2.25**

Mr. Linzey's book represents a sane and documented survey of man's treatment of animals from the Christian point of view. Although much detail is given regarding vivisection and cruelty, the Christian aspect of the book does not get bogged down quoting minute verses and Biblical parables. Instead Mr. Linzey examines the subject from a more general ethical standpoint, thus permitting non-Christians to get a better grasp of his moral position.

WORLD NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Small fortunes are being made down under by smuggling parrots and other fauna out of the country. Since 1955 there has been an almost total ban on exports, but this has driven up the black-market prices and attracted even more animal entrepreneurs onto the scene. A pair of Northern Rosellas is worth about £1,800 in Europe, and the more exotic species can command over £4,000 in Amsterdam, the main centre for the trade. Animals are of course one of the few 'commodities' which ceases to be contraband once it leaves the country. And according to the Federal Customs Department, professional criminals are now leaving the harder graft of bank robbery and violent crime and moving into the safer, more lucrative trade of bird smuggling. To keep the birds quiet during transportation they are injected with Luminal, a sedative drug which, administered inexpertly, often leads to mortality rates of over 50%.

USA

Radioactive waste from the reactors used to make plutonium for early American nuclear bombs has contaminated wildlife over a twenty square mile area of Washington State. The waste was buried in shallow trenches, but was uncovered by burrowing coyotes and badgers and then eaten by rabbits and mice. The radio-activity was later spread by predators which ate the mice.

HONG KONG

Four British Army mules in Hong Kong, threatened with death because of defence cuts, will instead be sent to the local Jockey Club to provide rides for handi-capped children.

Hong Kong SPCA officials are stepping up their investigations into the hideous trade in dog flesh in the British Colony. Family pets and stray dogs are captured by dealers who butcher the animals by scalding them to death in boiling water, hanged from trees or beaten to death with clubs. Although illegal, dog meat is sold openly at Hong Kong street stalls during the winter when the Chinese traditionally eat dog flesh, believing that it both keeps out the cold and acts as an aphrodisiac.

Hunt havoc in the small village of Loughton, Bucks, as a marauding band of thugs from the Whaddon Chase Hunt vandalise a sabmobile and brutalise the occupants. The hunt yobbos surrounded the car, squealing like a tribe of Red Indians surrounding a wagon train. They then dismounted and proceeded to damage the car by tearing off bits of trim and then smashing the windscreen with a crop. When the police eventually turned up all they were interested in was why the sabs had "provoked the huntsmen" into doing such a thing. Suitable bubbles for the gesticulating policeman will be gratefully received and considered for the next issue of HOWL.





Photos reproduced by courtesy of the Bletchley & Milton Keynes Gazette.

The **North London Group** have been hitting the Enfield Chace to good effect, using horns, sprays and unblocking earths and they too have had new blood join their ranks andthings are beginning to look up.

In South London the **Wild Animals Protection Society** recently organised an 'Abolish Bloodsports Week' to great effect with film shows, an anti-hunt ball, a vegetarian barbeque and a 'foxes versus huntsmen' football match, the foxes won of course! It all helps to spread the word. They've also had great success with jumble sales.

Leeds & District group have been very active against fox and hare (beagles and harriers) hunts this season. They have achieved total disruption of foxhunts purely by spraying antimate on roads and in woods. Unfortunately the Rockwood Harriers have been very violent in the past, smashing cars and injuring sabs. The police were reluctant to act against the hunts-people but the sabs were fined a total of £20 for 'action likely etc'. Despite this set-back the Leeds group are as active as ever.



New members demonstrating in Essex in February.

Maldon group has found that the spraying of antimate (both pre- and post-meet) on roads and in coverts causes considerable confusion amongst the hounds and on several occasions a fox has passed within a short distance of hounds without any reaction from them.

The group offered to lay a drag for the Boxing Day meet of the Essex Farmers FH. The hunt said 'No' so Maldon 'sabbed' them instead!

The **Mansfield** group have experienced trouble with local hunts. Last season Quorn FH supporters boxed sabs' cars in, let down tyres and were abusive. This season their local roving huntsman Tom 'Chamber' Potts who usually hunts with the South Notts FH has been getting physically abusive. The redcoats in the South Notts have always been nasty individuals and are fond of playing with whips. The Mansfield group have made use of pre-meet time by unblocking earths. False holloas and antimate are used resulting in complete and utter chaos. False trails are laid before week-day meets and have baffled the huntsman.

The **Merseyside** group have been very active against the coursers at Altcar and on one of the days prior to the Waterloo Cup were fairly confident that the coursers were using 'boxed' hares. The National Coursing Club forbid this under their rules but it is known to go on in certain parts of the country – another nail in the coursing supporters coffin of 'fair play'.

The **North-East Council of HSA** have been having remarkably successful raids in the North especially against the Northern Counties Otter Hounds. By repeatedly and successively hitting the NCOH they have forced them to stop advertising and supporters' attendance figures have dropped as a result. The support for the NECHS in local papers has been good and many letters have been published slamming the NCOH.

On the foxhunt scene the group forced the Zetland Hunt to stop advertising for a time. The NECHS have also printed their own leaflets and car stickers. They also conducted their own 'defence' on a phone-in on local radio.

The **Norwich** group are a new group on the scene, very active, with over forty members. They have been concentrating on the Dunstan Harriers and unfortunately they have been met with rough treatment from the supporters.

The group have tried, with some success on foxhunts, feeding the dogs, and have also experimented with antimate filled eggs lobbed in front of the hounds!

The group is centred around the UEA and are now producing a regular newsletter/info/hit sheet.

Ramsgate group concentrate on the West Street FH and twice a week they spray the pre-meet area with a mixture of camphorated oil and Jeyes Fluid. All gates, roads and wood entrances are soaked. All the present group members are vegan.

The **West Midlands Group** is currently the biggest in the country boasting over 90 members! It is one of the most active groups. With such a large membership they are able to hit several hunts on the same weekend.

The group is always ready to join other groups for joint hits and the large turnouts at the meets are very moral-boosting.

The group is also very active on the social scene and last year organised a party for saboteurs and sympathisers. They hope to do a similar 'stunt' in conjunction with this year's AGM so watch out for details!

New groups have formed and some of them have already been successful against their local hunts. Other are still in the process of 'getting to know their enemies' and will begin to act against local hunts next season.

Various groups and individuals have participated in HOWL-selling, pen-selling and other fundraising events for their groups. Many individual members have lobbied their MPs and collected signatures on petitions for the Hare Coursing Abolition Bill. Other members have participated in run-ons at hound parades and organised their own stalls at local shows to raise funds and promote the cause.

Every little bit helps.



130 sabs were present at this demonstration against the Quorn in March

COUNTRY LIFE

Of all our Summer visitors, this brightly coloured, semi-aquatic mammal is becoming harder to find as it has been driven into hiding by the unwanted attentions of *huntus saboteurus*; but when sighted it can be recognised by its peculiar habit of prodding with its wooden appendage (or 'pole') in the roots of trees along river banks while searching for its prey, the otter.



Lutra persecutus, as its name implies, has a one-track mind, pursuing its quarry to any lengths – which may even entail wading up to its heavy chest in water. It is not easily distracted from its purpose but when its head is lifted one cannot mistake the warning signals – a puffed out neck, a deep red tinge about its gills, often accompanied by the gutteral cry 'buggaroff ulott'. Surprisingly, *lutra p.* never eats its prey but adorns itself with the bones of the victim and its success in the chase is recorded with a notch in its appendage. This strange ritual is known to its adherents as 'conducting a survey'.

If you do happen to see a specimen of *lutra persecutus* this Summer approach with caution because it never travels alone, there are usually others of the same species lurking in the undergrowth and they can be vicious when disturbed.



I'm telling you!
It's the only way to conserve them.

HUNTING SUFFOLKATED

Sir Richard Hyde-Parker has erected notices on his large estate at Melford Hall, Suffolk, to forbid the shooting and persecution of birds and wild-life. Until now the estate has been valuable hunting territory for the Suffolk Hunt.

HUNT HAVOC

STOCK ATTACKED

A Leicestershire farmer is considering taking legal action against the Fernie Foxhunt after one of his cows had to be slaughtered following a riot by hounds.

Mr. John Beeson of Grange Farm, Arnesbury, alleged that the hounds had run amok amongst his highly-bred herd of Friesians and had stampeded them against a barbed wire fence. One cow had a teat severed by the wire, and with the danger of mastitis setting in, Mr. Beeson was advised by the vet to have the animal slaughtered. There have been previous incidents at the 150 acre farm between Mr. Beeson and the Fernie, but Mr. Beeson considers the latest to be the last straw. The cow-herd was accredited and had taken years to build up. "It just will not be possible to replace the slaughtered beast", said Mr. Beeson regretfully.

Meanwhile down in the wild West, farmer George Wright of Westcott Farm, Collumpton, Devon, believes more in direct action than in lengthy litigation. After repeatedly warning the East Devon Hunt to keep off his land, he finally shot one of the hounds after his sheep were attacked. "They have been told to keep off my land because of the damage they have caused", said Mr. Wright. "But about once a month for the past seven years the hounds have crossed my land in full cry. They have frightened ewes which were lambing, so much so that their milk dried up and the lambs died. The hunt has left gates open and the hounds have damaged my fences".

ESSEX EPISODE

An Essex foxhunt, the Essex Union, are notorious for having little or no control over their hounds. This was evident once again in February when 45 saboteurs from various groups held a demonstration against the hunt. Soon after the meet the huntsman took the hounds to draw a covert only yards from a busy railway line between Brentwood and Billericay. Hounds were straying all over the line when suddenly a train sounded its whistle. Sabs were too far away from the hounds to be able to help and the huntsman was completely unable to bring the hounds off the line before the train arrived, ploughing its way through the pack.

Fearing the worst, especially since the train had stopped, one sab ran up to the line and was just in time to see two dismounted hunt officials running up the line. One said 'Quick, before the antis see it", and the two then dragged the mangled body of a hound off the line. As one of the whippers-in said, it was a miracle that no more hounds were killed and that he himself was not knocked down.

Despite the accident, the rest of the pack were then taken to draw coverts along the line for a further ¼ of a mile before being taken elsewhere; three trains passed the spot in fifteen minutes.

The incident was reported to British Rail but it is doubtful whether they will take any action; they usually turn a blind eye to such offences.

FATE SEALED

Although 1974 saw a great victory for Hunt Saboteurs in the cancellation of the proposed culling of seals in the Wash, the year 1975 represented a hideous milestone in both official and freelance cruelty.

The gruesome season began in August when it was discovered that thirty seal pups had been wantonly murdered on Scroby Sands, three miles off Great Yarmouth. The local sub aqua club, in conjunction with the RSPCA, laid on an ad-hoc vigilante patrol off the sands after several seals were washed up, riddled with shot-gun pellets. One of the seals, a two-week old pup, was still alive and had to be humanely destroyed. It was thought that shotgun vandals were to blame.

Although 'vandals' were to blame in East Anglia, a hundred miles up the coast officially licensed 'conservationists' were carrying out the same brutal slaughtering, but with Home Office permission. Mr. Jenkins gave approval in July for the destruction of up to two thousand seals on the National Trust's Farne Islands off the Northumberland Coast. Widespread protests reached the National Trust, including a forceful intervention at their Bristol AGM by Pat Hirst, Director of the Animal Protection Trust in Wiltshire and a Committee member of HSA. The Trust were so flattened by Pat's arguments that they refused to take part in a BBC TV *Nationwide* debate on the subject.

When the seal culling did begin, the NT refused to allow observers from the highly-respected Universities Federation for Animal Welfare to attend, even though their representatives were fully qualified vets. This was presumably in retaliation for a UFAW recommendation in September that fencing off one of the islands would be a better solution than culling. UFAW officers also incurred the disaffection of the Trust when they criticised the last seal cull on the Farnes in 1972.

One of the more alarming aspects of the cull was that a team of four Norwegian huntsmen was used – a team which had already gained a reputation for cruelty in the culling of Harp Seals in Canadian Waters. It would seem that the Trust had selected their agents on a financial rather than humanitarian basis, for the Norwegians demanded no payment for their bloody task; they would simply be entitled to sell the carcases and pelts of the seals for the production of margarine, candles, handbags and shoes.

Police reinforcements, including a police motor launch from the Tyne, stood by during the cull in case of militant intervention by the Save Our Seals campaigners from Northampton. However the only interference came from the weather, which stopped the cull on two occasions.

As if killing seals by rifle-fire were not bad enough, a report from South Africa tells of the clubbing to death of seal pups and even skinning them alive. David Whiting, the Director of Beauty Without Cruelty attempted to film these atrocities during the Summer, but had to literally run for his life when he was spotted by huntsmen at Mossel Bay on the Cape Coast. After abandoning his car in order to make good his escape, he sought refuge with the local police, who promptly confiscated his cine film.

Meanwhile in Canada Greenpeace have set up an Anti-Sealing Project. They plan to mark as many Harp Seals as possible with a harmless unwashable dye to spoil the commercial value of the fur. They also hope to place themselves between the seals and the clubs of the sealers.

Back in this country a Seal Preservation Action Group has been set up to combat the National Trust's seal culling activities. Contact: **SPAG, 2 The Cottages, Merrington Grange Farm, Spennymoor, Co. Durham.**

TICKHAM TICKED OFF

The Tickham Hunt have written a letter of apology to a Conyer boatyard after an incident involving huntsmen early in November.

There is a public footpath through the yard, but after the hunt rampaged through the village three years ago, the boatyard owner Mr. Geoffrey Jarman, decided that riding horses through the yard would be forbidden. However three Tickham louts jumped the gate and brushed past Mr. Jarman after being expressly warned not to enter.

The hunt have now promised that there will be no re-occurance of the debacle.

However, no such apology was forth-coming when later on in the month three Hunt Saboteurs had to receive hospital treatment when they were viciously attacked by hunt barbarians. The incident happened at Detling, near Maidstone, and featured in National newspapers, television news, papers in Canada, Australia and South Africa and also the HSA *Open Door* programme broadcast later in the month.

One sab, on her first hit, was knocked unconscious by a hunt virago flailing her with a whip and trampling on her with her horse. Even after Jenny Simpson picked herself up and staggered towards a fence, a hunt helot attacked her by spraying her in the eyes with antimate.

60 year old Fred Piddock of Sittingbourne was also brutalised by a dismounted bovver boy. "He had his coat off and said, 'I've been waiting three years to get you, you bastard'." said Fred, who is one of the most effective antis in Kent, and thereby one of the most hated by the hunt.

After the attacks were featured on TV, HSA HQ was flooded out with letters of support. This just goes to show that hunt violence is counter-productive; the more they attack us, the more public sympathy is created for us.

It is gratifying to know that the police have taken statements and are making further enquiries.

WE NEED HELP!

We need all the active members we can get; but if for some reason you cannot come out on strikes due to health or work commitments, there is another way you can join in the active fight against blood sports.
You can help us through a donation, no matter how small. You can be guaranteed that every penny will go towards our active campaign, since we have no office or staff to cost us overheads.
Please send whatever you can spare, filling in the attached slip if you wish.

TO: HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION P O Box 19 Tonbridge Kent

I enclose my donation of £_____/I enclose my membership fee £_____
(50p min.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

SALES



HOWL Sweatshirts: *Long-sleeved, thick cotton. Lincoln green with lime green lettering 'Hounds off our Wildlife' & line illustrations of a stag, otter, fox & hare. Sizes: Various – please state chest measurement.* **£3.30 including p & p.**

HSA badges: *Purple-grey background, white lettering 'Hunt Saboteurs Assoc' and red fox.* **10p each**

HOWL badges: *Dark green background with lime green lettering 'Hounds off our Wildlife'* **10p each**

Biros: *Black ink with wording 'Hounds off our Wildlife – Abolish Bloodsports' Blue ink with wording 'Hunt Saboteurs Assoc. PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent'*
5p each

Posters: *'Hounds off our Wildlife' plus illustrations as sweatshirt.* **2p each**

OUTLETS WANTED

Next time you visit your local health-food shop or vegetarian restaurant, why not show the manager a copy of HOWL and ask if they would be willing to stock it on a sale-or-return basis.





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NEWS FLASH

BAND OF MERCY

Cliff Goodman and Ronnie Lee, ex-HSA Committee members have been released on parole after serving only one year of a three-year prison sentence. They were serving time at The Verne Open Prison, Portland Bill for causing £57,000 worth of damage to property and equipment belonging to the vivisection and seal-culling industries (see HOWL 4).

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing them well in the future.

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