# Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

# HOWL

*Winter*
*1996*
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*Free to members*

***Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association***



"This season every Master has signed a form saying that he has read the Master Fox Hounds Association rules and will abide by them. All 188 terriermen will carry a card to say that he will adhere to the MFHA rules on terrier work"*

**Over 200 years down the line, and they still can't stick to their own rules...**

*'The Field', November 1996

# HOWL 63

**Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association**
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**Please note - our address has changed!!!**

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***To oppose and undertake sabotage, where pratical, the pursuit, harrassment or killing of any sentient creature for sport, pleasure, profit or population control, save where this is necessary for their own benefit, until such time as these practices cease to exist.***

letters

**Cover Story** - Terrierman as E. Sussex and Romney Marsh FH releases fox in front of hounds in breach of MFHA rules. (See page 3 for full story)

### *Editorial*

As this issue is bustin' at the seams with fabulous stuff, I'll keep this short and to the point (as all who know me will appreciate!). As the Bristol Week article and the 6 pages of Group News show, sabs continue to be 'a major thorn in the side' of the hunting fraternity (quoted as per an admission in a recent BFSS advert), despite what a certain national 'quality' newspaper would have you believe. But, more about that on page 18... Rumours abound that the next general election will bring Labour to power, and that a free vote on hunting will follow. However, even if this does happen (and it's a pretty big 'if') this would only deal with the issue of hunting with hounds, and fails to touch shooting, fishing and the sort of activities that are dealt with in 'Vermin Patrol'. The battle is being won, but it is not going to be won over night and your continuous support is desperately needed until all bloodsports are banished from the land. Please keep up the fight against the 'people' out there who continue to get kicks from torturing our wildlife - if you can't get out into the fields to help sab the bastards then please support the HSA any way that you can. The HSA is run entirely on donations and revenue brought in from salesgoods, the Club Draw and 'Howl'. The people who make the HSA what it is are not paid, and contribute in their own free time - this ensures that all monies received go back out to helping the hunted animal. Please do all you can to support us. Thank you. - Dawn, Howl Editor.

**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.**

## *Teaching old hounds new tricks?*

Dear Howl

After flicking through old Howl's recently I was amused to find the first (as far as I know) formal suggestion of a gizmo. In Howl 47 a Tyneside sab notices how hounds excitedly respond to other hounds in cry - more so than the 'hunting-on' call of the horn.

She writes 'I feel absolutely certain that if tape recordings of hounds in cry were played over loud speakers to packs, the hounds would respond by moving towards the attraction...'. Now, of course, most sab groups use a gizmo and the HSA actually supplies them. They are an essential item of kit for our group and have saved the lives of many animals. At the time however, I'm sure the idea met with many raised eyebrows.

I bring this up simply because there may be many sabs in the field with equally useful ideas, but who don't suggest them for fear of ridicule. The HSA's Tactics Officer is, I know, only happy to hear of any new ideas/suggestions for new tactics and ***any*** sab who has one should write to him.

Realistically many suggestions probably wouldn't work terribly well in practice, but if another idea proves as successful and effective as the gizmo then we could be on the way to saving even more lives.

Roe,
London sabs.

# Two terriermen suspended by hunt following alleged breach of MFHA rules



This is the picture that hunt sabs allege shows a terrierman from the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Foxhounds releasing a live fox into the path of the hounds so that it could continue to be hunted. This action is in clear breach of Master of Fox Hounds Association Code of Good Fox Hunting Practice, which clearly states as one of the 'three golden rules' that :-

*"1(iii) A fox which has had to be handled by a terrierman or his assistant must be either freed or humanely destroyed immediately;* ***under no circumstances may it be hunted"***
*(taken from September 1992 edition 'Hounds' magazine, p5)*

Sabs present at the time stated that the fox had gone to ground in a drain and that a terrier had been placed in after the fox in order to flush it out, which it did after a substantial batttle between the two animals which lasted around 15 minutes. It is then alleged that the terrierman picked up the fox, which was trapped in a net placed over the entrance to the drain, and let it go in front of the waiting pack. It was only thanks to the quick actions of sabs that the fox managed to escape with its life. Paul Gammon, HSA Press Officer and a sab present on the day, stated that "This would have been certain kill and it was only due to saboteurs distracting the hounds that it got away". The British Field Sports Society, the supposed bastion of all field sports, wheeled out old favourite Janet George to comment on the incident. She stated that "The hunt was going to get a gun on the landowners request but when the saboteurs arrived the terrierman released the fox to avoid incident. The hounds did go after it but were called off by the hunt. There was no breach of the rules". Strange then that she admits that two members of the hunt have been suspended whilst an enquiry is carried out. An enquiry into a non-existant incident? - methinks not.

The RSPCA were said to be aware of the incident and are investigating to see if there are grounds for a prosecution under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

## *Wild Mammals (Protection) Act may be tested by saboteurs*

Saboteurs from the North West are considering legal action following an incident in mid-November which they believe to be illegal when considered under the new wildlife legislation, the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996. Whilst present at a meet of the Holcombe Harriers, a harrier pack which is actually a registered foxhunt, sabs witnesses a fox, which in shear terror, ran in to the tail end of the pack and was soon brought down by hounds. Sabs then allege that the huntsman quickly went over to the pack and rode over the foxes body to prevent it from escaping as sabs tried to rate hounds away and intervene. Despite this action the fox was retrieved by sabs and, although riders present allegedly attempted to ride sabs down as they left the moor with the stricken animal, it was rushed to a vets for emergency attention. Unfortunately the animal died later that night of its extensive injuries, but an autopsy later carried out revealed that the one year old vixens body had extensive puncture wounds which were deemed to be 'consistent with multiple bite wounds', and that 'a major blunt trauma' probably caused the injury which most likely killed the fox. The vet concluded that the animal would have been suffering 'very severely' until receiving treatment.

Sabs from the group held a demonstration later that week at Holt Lane Farm, Brindle, the home of the Hunt Master Arnold Greenhalgh, who later commented to the press that the fox was 'virtually dead' before the hunt came upon it, and that '...it was injured before the hounds ever got near it...It did not run or move out of the way. I know it would just have starved to death on the moor'. Although the autopsy revealed that the fox did have an old leg fracture, this was said to have healed.

The group is currently taking legal advice on whether the hunt can be brought to court under the new Act. The section of the Act being investigated deals with the despatch of animals taken or injured during lawful shooting, hunting, coursing or pest control. In respect of these activities the Act clearly states that the quarry must be killed in a 'reasonably swift and humane manner' or the person responsible could be liable to prosecution. The maximum fine for an offence under the Act is £5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 6 months.

## *News in brief*

***Labour announce plans to ban hunting on forestry commision and Ministry of defence land*** - Elliot Morley, Labours Animal Welfare Spokesmane, has stated that if Labour win the next general election plans are afoot to effectively abolish hunting over 2.5 million acres of land currently held by the Forestry Commission and the MoD. It is estimated that this would mean the suspension of over 100 licences granted to fox, hare and stag hunts.

***BFSS launch £1 million 'fighting fund'***

The British Field Sports Society unveiled their new appeal in mid- November for a target figure of £1 million to enable them to fund 'the most serious battle field sports have ever faced'. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, Chief Executive went on to state that 'This new appeal is aimed at the hundreds of thousands of people who want hunting to continue - but have not yet contributed to its defence'. And this from an organisation that has just spent thousands relocating to plush new offices - no wonder your 'supporters' don't give you money!

***Police desperate for new tactics against sabs*** - so deperate it seems that when they managed to pull over the HSA's very own Sabbing Skills Officer whilst he was making his way to Brighton to conduct a sabbing skills day, they couldn't help treating themselves to an early crimbo pressie by insisting they take one of each item

# National Beagling Day - a gift to saboteurs everywhere!

Further to the report in Howl 62 that the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles were considering advertising meets in) order to 'promote hare hunting to a wider audience', Saturday 23rd November was duly advertised as 'National Beagling Day' and *Horse & Hound* advertised over 30 meets in their issue of the Thursday before. Despite BFSS Chief Press Officer Janet George's statement that '...only three or four of the 77 packs participating had any saboteurs,' this wasn't true even when just looking at action in the North-West. Despite heavy snow on the day, (which wouldn't have encouraged your first time beagler much!), sabs quickly packed up the Bleasdale Beagles before they could even unbox! They then visited the advertised meet of the Forest & District Beagles but they were not to be found in the area and nor could any known supporters vehicles be seen (although they would have needed a snow plough to leave the kennels!) It appears that the Cheshire Beagles, infamous after their involvement in the 'accident' which led to the death of Livetpool sab Mike Hill, saw sense after advertising their meet - they too where nowhere to be seen in the stated area - perhaps they decided against meeting up with old friends. The Royal Rock Beagles didn't escape the attentions of sabs either, and proceeded to get so flustered that they lost the pack for about two hours! Reports from up and down the country indicate that many sab groups took up the invite to visit the beagle packs and makenlew friend.', although it seems that the only people to make a killing in respect of National Beagling Day was BT, as sabs around the country lit up the country's 'phone lines as excited messages of 'have you seen *Horse & Hound*... I can't believe that they've been stupid enough to advertise!' bumped up the next 6 months profits of the telecommunications giant. **Roll on National Beagling Day II!**

# Save Our Stags - Update

The campaign to ban carted staghunting in Northern Ireland continues to go from strength to strength. The local petition has now reached the 50,000 signatures mark, and it is hoped that this will be a sufficient number to make the N.I Office sit up and take notice of the democratic wishes of the people - although campaigners aren 't expecting any miracles when you take into account that the N.I Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew is a keen bloodsports supporters and was recently exposed in the local press attending the opening meet of the East Down Foxhounds in Co Down. The group is currently planning its next moves, and has several protests and hunt sabs due to take place before Christmas. Christmas Eve has been set aside for a media event which will use the symbolic characters of deer at Christmas and school children singing carols during the hand over of the petition. There will also be a candle light vigil outside the hunt kennels.

As readers of Howl 62 will recall, 12 of the campaigns supporters have been summoned to appear in court over alleged oftenses committed during a sit-down demo at the Co Down Staghounds kennel back in March this year. All 12 have been charged with 'obstructing a Constable in the execution of his duty' plus a further charge under Section 68 Of the CJA. All of the 12 are pleading not guilty and a date has now been set for mid-December at Lisburn Magistrates Court, Co Down, although it is believed that the case may run into the new year as there are quite a number of witnesses to be called. It is hoped that the charges can be overturned - update to follow in Howl 64.

Anyone wishing to make a donation, no matter how small, to the defence fund can send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Save Our Stags' and send it to -SOS, PO Box 287, Belfast, BT6 9QS, N.I. Letters of protest can also be sent to the hunt to let them know exactly what those in the civilised world think of their disgusting activities (polite letters of course1). Please send these to Mr & Mrs Wing, Co Down Staghound Kennels, 56 Ballycrune Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, N.I. Remember, this hunt breeds stags to be chased week after week and transports them in a tiny crate at the back of a landrover to the meet - let them know what you think!

## *A day out with the Vine & Craven...* *(Photos: Basingstoke sabs)*



Two sabs, one from West London and the other from Basingstoke came under attack from a landowner whilst sabbing the Vine & Craven in early November. As well as the man assaulting the female sab as the photos show, he also hit the photographer in the stomach and on the arm with his stick.

This incident occurred after a peaceful days sabbing, with a small group of sabs present. After the incident the hunt packed up and apologised for the attack, apparently trying to distance themselves from the landowner to the extent of saying that the sabs present were as 'good as gold'. Obviously they know what happens when a sab gets attacked.



## Hunting myth number xxx - 'Hunts really do care for their hounds'

Trouble may be in store for the **Ledbury Hunt** following the death of one of its hounds after 'straying' onto the B4215 Newent to Gloucester road. A report of the incident has been sent to the local police, who will now decide whether to prosecute for allowing the animal onto the road. Hunt master Donald Haden, in a clear display of the level of intelligence required at such a high level of the hunt hierarchy, simply stated that 'During the hunt we became aware that one of the hounds had been killed'.

At least three hounds were killed and another 5 injured during a meet of the **East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH** recently after running onto a main road and coming into collision with a bus.

The **Cheshire Foxhounds** faced a barrage of press coverage earlier this season as a hidden cameraman, courtesy of the League Against Cruel Sports, caught the callous death of two hounds. The cameraman first saw the worker bring two hounds into the yard, and then heard a shot ring out. Subsequent video footage showed the kennel worker simply holding a gun to the head of a hound, pulling the trigger and then simply tossing the body into a bin. The League, who estimate that 10,000 hounds are disposed of each year due to hunting packs needing an influx of young hounds, has passed the video footage to both the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the National Canine Defence League to allow them to investigate the legal situation of such action.
Clifford Pellow, a former huntsman, stated that 'Sometimes a hound might just move its head at a vital moment and you haven't shot it, and you have to have another go at it. My feeling looking back at it is that it barbaric'.

## Huntsman noticeable by his absence after hound cull

News reaches us that all is not well in West Sussex where the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray FH appear to have parted rather messily with their huntsman, Valentine Villiers, who allegedly did the unmentionable and killed over half of his pack after they rioted.
Whilst on hound exercise in Petworth Park (National Trust) some hounds (allegedly) took a fancy to one of the deer in the park, and tore it apart. Also during the same period, two pet dogs were (allegedly) killed by the excited pack, but because their owners reside or work in the Stately Home, the matter has been kept desperately quiet until now.
Under orders, kennel staff started the slaughter on the basis that any hound showing more than a passing interest in a domestic dog tethered inside the kennel compound was to be executed. After only a few hounds had been killed, the staff involved could not continue, and the grisly task fell to the loveable Valentine. Reports suggest that between 17 and 30 hounds were killed, with the skip used for their bodies filled to overflowing.
Differing versions of the huntsman's employment status are told by the hunt officials and the followers - with the "oiks" saying that he's been sacked due to his killing the hounds upsetting the other masters, and the officials insisting he has "hurt his hip" after a fall and will be out for the rest of the season. Funny how sabs have observed him enjoying himself at several neighbouring hunts, with no sign of a limp even!
The hunt have now brought in a professional huntsman and associated hangers on, and they have been begging and draughting in hounds from other packs to make up the numbers. Despite cub-hunting many days during the week, the new huntsman still didn't have the confidence to face sabs on a Saturday until nearly into the main season, and we look forward to making his murderous work all the more difficult from now on!

***Thanks to feature writers - Martin, Paul T, Paul G, Seth, Craig, Ed & Andy. Also to Roe and Dave. Can't wait to do it all again - can you?!***

## *More News in brief...*

**What a fall guy...**
The new huntsman of the Garth & South Berks FH had a most unfortunate fall one morning after daring to leave the kennels to go cubbing. He broke his pelvis in four places and won't be back in the saddle for the rest of the season. His pain on the day in question was made all the more unbearable by his woefully inept whipper-in taking up the horn and blowing raspberries to call the hounds back. The injured huntsman could only stand so much, and after some shocking foul language took the horn back and blew it from his reclining position.
Still he felt more comfortable recuperating in the "Hunters Ward" of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Pity it wasn't the mortuary!

**Hunt sabs attend Eton!**
Four HSA members represented the organisation to over 300 pupils at Eton College, including the rabidly pro-hunt Prince William (wonder where he gets that from?) and other aristocratic offspring too numerous to bother mentioning. In what was said to be the best attended and most robust meeting ever held inside the imposing halls of the college, the outnumbered sabs gave as good as they got, with many of the questioners having been briefed beforehand by the Campaign for Hunting - so at least the standard of questions was up to their usual ridiculous standard!
After nearly two hours of debate, the sabs were treated to an improvised version of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" with caps being thrown and feet stomped in appreciation of our bravery in turning up. We don't know if we changed anyone's views but you have to try, and this was worth doing just for the "craic" (and the supper!).

**Deadlines:**
**Group News - 14th April**
**Letters/Articles/news etc - 31st March**

Letters should ideally be limited to c200-300 words; articles to one page in length (c1000 words) unless otherwise arranged by the Editor. Please DO NOT write directly on the back of any photos sent in!
The Editor reserves the right to edit both articles and letters in respect of length and content.

## Ayrshire 8 get off scot (ho-ho) free as Scotlands first CJA case collapses

The first case for aggravated trespass to be tried in Scotland under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 ended in shambles earlier this year. Following consultation with the sheriff, Frances McMenamin, the Deputy Fiscal Alison Wylie informed the court that the case was to be deserted *'pro loco tempare'* (temporarily) after a member of the public had been observed talking to two prosecution witnesses who had yet to take the stand.

The sabs had been present at a meet of the Eglington Hunt on the Caprington Estate in Kilmarnock in January this year, and were subsequently arrested under Section 68 of the CJA after a neighbouring landowner had called the police. The sabs concerned have stated that they believe the 'member of the public' referred to to be the wife of Captain Robert Cunningham, the owner of the estate and a prosectution witness who had singularly failed to identify anyone of the 8 accused as protestors present on the day.

Although strictly speaking the case has only been adandoned 'temporarily', it is though highly unlikely to be re-tried.

## *Cheshire Constabulary pay compenstion following wrongful arrest.*

The Chief Constable of the Cheshire Constabulary has been sucessfully sued for wrongful arrest following a threee day trial at Chester Crown Court. The incident dated back to February 1991 in relation to an attack on the home of Alan Summersgill, huntsman of the Cheshire Beagles, following the death of Mike Hill, a Liverpool sab who had been out sabotaging the Beagles.

The sab was arrested with other colleagues as they had just begun their journey home, was detained for 10 hours at Chester police station before appearing in front of magistrates the next day, and was then returned to Walton Prison, Liverpool.

The Court heard how the saboteur had been wrongly arrested and detained for 20 hours following the attack, as he had not taken any part in the incident. Although the Judge ruled that the actual period of unlawful detention had been only 55 minute, he ordered the police to pay £500 damages to the saboteur.

With many similar cases for wrongful arrest still pending against the Cheshire Constabulary, some dating back a number of years, this case is likely to be one of many to come.

## Cornish sabs feel long arm of the law...

Cornish sabs have suffered a poor start to the season in respect of arrest and charges. On the 28th September 3 sabs were arrested near Gunnards Head, Penzance for doing nothing other than stepping onto a public footpath. It is alleged by sabs that at the same time that the police were arresting them, both the huntsman and terrierman of the Western Hunt were destroyinga badger sett on adjoining land. Sabs have informed the RSPCA in connection with this incident.

All three sabs were taken to Camborne Police station and were detained but later released without charge. However, in mid-October two of the three sabs arrested were summoned to appear in Court on a charge of 'breach of the peace'. The remaining sab was served with a summons on arrival at court in connection with a Section 68 (aggravated trespass) charge following a sab on the Western Hunt on the 3rd October. The charge of aggravated trespass made stated that the sab had intended to disprupt the hunt by blowing a whistle, spraying citric onto the ground, and had distributed biscuits with the intention of disrupting hounds.



**If you're an active sab reading this and thinking 'I've been arrested this season - why isn't my story here?', it's probably because you haven't sent the details to the office!**
**Keep the HSA informed about arrests!**

Photos:- above right - sab arrested for Sec 68 at Western Hunt. Cop has had presence of mind to seize the bag of biscuits, although obviously the hound following still lives in hope. Right:- badger sett dug by the hunt whilst cops busy arresting....sabs. (Photos:Cornwall HSA)



# *Hunt landed with bill for £10,000...*

The joint master of the Albrighton Woodland Michael Mallard (49) of Little Hartle Farm, Belbroughton, Stourbridge and huntsman Austin James (42) of the Kennels, Hurcott Lane, Kidderminster appeared before Kidderminster magistrates on 11/11/96. They were both charged with failing to ensure 'Specified Bovine Offal' was stained with a colouring agent and failing to ensure it did not come in contact with other waste before disposal. They both pleaded not guilty, however, mid-way through the trial they changed they plea to guilty. The court heard that the hunt collects fallen stock from farmers and feeds them to the hounds.The waste is then taken to a rendering plant. But Ministry of Agriculture officials found cattle heads and intestines had not been stained with a colouring agent or kept separate from the other waste which was for conversion into meat and bone meal. The magistrates fined Mallard £2,000 and ordered him to pay costs of £5,000, James was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,000. Joint masters Richard Follis (40) of Giles House Farm, Hollies Hill, Belbroughton and Natasha Wheeler (26) of Goldness Farm, Torton near Hartlebury both denied the charges and the case against them was dismissed.

## Shooters go ballistic over proposed new gun laws (ho-ho)

The shooting fraternity are up in arms (ho-ho) following the attempted introduction of new restrictions on the type and calibre of guns which may be held by the public. Although a total ban on handguns was rejected by Parliament in mid-November by a small majority of 25, the Labour Party indicated that if successful at the next general election it would introduce a total ban at the 'earliest opportunity'. As the Firearms (Amendments) Bill stands at the moment it will outlaw guns above .22 calibre, but around 40,000 of the 200,000 legal handguns will still be in circulation after the bill is expected to be passed around the end of December.

In another clear statement of the governments support for bloodsports, the Home Secretary Michael Howard (yes, that git again folks!) recently stated in 'The Field' that the new laws will, as with the recent Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, include exclusions for those involved in bloodsports. He stated that '...there will be exceptions for the very few professionals - like vets, RSPCA officers and huntsmen - who need handguns...in order to put animals down humanely' (hmmm, don't vets and the like usually use drugs to do this??? - Ed). Howard concludes '...we *(the government)* support game-shooters...Indeed as a government we have taken action to ensure that those pursuing perfectly legal country sports - like hunting - should be protected from protesters'.(That wouldn't be that Criminal Justice Act thing that was supposed to put a stop to us hunt sabs was it Michael?. It was? Oh dear, I don't think that the shooting fraternity will be putting much faith in you then, mate. Never mind, hopefully you won't need to deal with these things once you're a shadow Home Sec again - Ed)

## *The things those shooters say...*

'The spectre of the most pernicious and evil legislation to stalk Europe since the reign of the Third Reich is about to be forced upon the British nation'
*Shooters' Rights Association, Guardian 24/10/96.*

'All the political parties are taking on board a gun ban. We have as much representation in Parliament as Jews had in the Reichstag'
*SRA Secretary Richard Law, Guardian, 24/10/96.*

'...(the) proposed changes to firearms law will not work, but will cause a great loss - both in human and economic terms'
*Sportsman's Association.* (Tell that to the people of Dunblane - Ed)

## *Jointmaster's daughter in court after staghounds incident*

Joanna Mary Scott, daughter of Diana and Maurice Scott, joint masters of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds found herself in court recently in a case brought under the Deer Act 1991 by the League Against Cruel Sports. In court it was alleged that Scott had pursued a deer being hunted by the Staghunt along a deer fence in her Landrover with the intention of preventing it entering a neighbouring sanctuary where it could not be followed by the hounds. Although video evidence was presented by the League which showed her driving along the boundary separating the fields in question and clearly showed the deer running in front of the vehicle, Scott stated that she had been tailing the deer to ensure that she knew where it was headed, and that if it had crossed over onto the sanctuary land she would have been able to stop hounds from trespassing. Despite the unfavourable odds of a single person occupied with driving a vehicle being able to stop around 20 hounds in full sprint, the court accepted Scotts defence and cleared her of the charge.

## Whipper-in found guilty after injuring sab

The amateur whipper-in with the New Forest Foxhounds, John Mitchell (56) of Outlands Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire was found guilty of careless driving by New Forest magistrates in October. The court was told how Mitchell had sandwiched a hunt sab from Southampton between a van and a Land Rover. The incident happened in September 1996 when a sab was standing close to the side of a Land Rover when Mitchell drove past, the front wheel went over the sabs left foot and the wing mirror hit his shoulder, it was at this point when he was sandwiched between the two vehicles. The Southampton sab suffered a badly sprained ankle and other injuries. A police officer on duty at the time of the incident said other vehicles had found room to pass comfortably. Mitchell also claimed in court it was a "set-up". The court imposed a fine of £180 with £150 costs and had seven penalty points put on his driving licence.



4/11/95 - Shoot found by sabs just north-east of Vienna (Photo: Vier Pfoten)

# Hunt sabotage in Austria

***Continuing our look at hunt sabotage around the world, Erich Schacherl of the Vier Pfoten (Four Paws) animal protection society reports on the situation in Austria. (With thanks to Martin for translation and editing).***

Hunting in Austria is conducted almost exclusively with guns. The quarry can be almost any animal, but is mostly deer, wild boar, hares and pheasants, together with the mountainous species like chamois. Hunting animals with hounds is outlawed. In addition to the above mentioned quarry species, hunters will shoot any predaceous animal like foxes and martens, and also domestic dogs and cats in large numbers in order to keep the numbers of animals they consider worth killing high. Hunters will feed chamois and deer regularly throughout the winter months to ensure that there are more animals living than the environment could sustain itself. This fact is used by hunters as an excuse to kill when challenged in public on the one hand, and it leads to more animals to kill on the other.

The whole of Austria is split in a large number of small hunting districts, which are rented by a hunter. In order to rent such a district, a hunter needs to have a hunting licence which s/he can only get after an exam. Such a licensed hunter renting a district is then the only one allowed to kill on the allocated district. These areas might include the private property of people who actually object to hunting, but who have no right to stop it. Since such a single hunter can hunt any any time, it is very difficult to sabotage this type of hunting directly. However, all these hunters rely on shooting platforms, which tend to fall repeatedly prey to anti-hunting folk .

It is common for the major companies in Austria (and also from abroad) to rent a number of hunting districts on a long term basis for their respective Managing Directors to use in their leisure time. Such districts will then have employed gamekeepers with similar duties as the corresponding gamekeepers in Britain.



All in a days 'sport'... (Photo:Vier Pfoten)

In addition to individual hunting there are often large driven hunts organized. For such hunts there will be beaters and guns present in a similar manner to grouse shooting in England, only that the guns will shoot any animal that flees from the beating line and not just grouse. It is this type of hunting which has been targeted by Austrian hunt saboteurs.

It is very difficult to find out dates and times for these driven hunts, but occasionally sabs will get tip-offs. As examples, two recent sab hits are described below, but such hits tend to happen rarely since the sabbing movement is only in its infancy compared to the situation in the UK.

On 4th November 1995 10 sabs tried to disrupt a driven hunt with about 50 hunters in the woods just to the north-east of Vienna. Unfortunately, the sabs were

spotted just before the first drive was to start and the hunters called the police immediately. It is a criminal offence in Lower Austria, where this hunt took place, to enter an designated hunting are whilst the hunt is taking place.

Two police officers arrived trying to prevent the sabs from entering the area. The sabs, however, broke through the woods and arrived whilst the first drive was in progress. Pheasants were shot out of the sky just metres away from the heads of the sabs. The sabs split into pairs, with one pair standing in front of one gun. This stopped the hunt for the moment. However, when police arrived sabs had to quickly disappear to avoid arrest. The police were unsuccessful in their attempts to catch any sabs, and whilst this was going on no hunting took place. When police reinforcements arrived sabs had to leave to avoid arrest.



An internationally recognised stance of a hunter - camera-shy and packing up! (Photo: Vier Pfoten)

The second incident occurred on the 23rd November 1995 when another driven hunt, this time just outside Vienna, was sabbed. Again there was in the region of 50 hunters, but these were now faced with around 35 sabs. On this occasion sabs were equipped with hand-cuffs and chains so that they could attach themselves to trees to avoid arrest or attempts to force them off the area. Also present was a TV and radio team and the resulting report was shown in the news in a very sympathetic light.

Sabs hid in the woods and appeared only just before the first drive started. In the ensuing confrontation the hunters resorted to violence. After realizing the presence of the media however their behaviour soon changed and they called the police. Four sabs took on the job on delaying the police when they arrived by talking and arguing points of law. The rest held banners in front of guns or simply stood in their way. The first three police officers were not in a position to stop sabs and so decided to call for reinforcements. After two and a half hours of this stand-off the hunters decided to call it a day and left.

Apart from such direct interventions, the sabs also disrupt promotional events and propaganda stunts of the hunting fraternity. One huge 4 day event took place in Salzburg in February this year, and was designed to promote the most modern hunting equipment and to advertise trophy and tourist hunting abroad. Sabs blockaded the main entrance, spread ample amounts of artificial blood, distributed leaflets and displayed their banners. Amazingly the police did not intervene.

Although the Austrian hunt sabotage movement is still in its infancy it is growing day by day. It is hoped that in the near future there will be more moles planted in the hunting circles who can leak the vital information required in order to sab the hunts effectively. Hunters are a very powerful minority in Austria. Traditionally, hunting was an aristocratic privilege. It was therefore never easy to speak out in public against hunting. But over the last decades ramblers associations and forestry commissions have taken an increasingly vociferous stand against hunting. And, especially due to the large numbers of domestic cats and dogs killed by hunters, the public is turning against hunting as well. In any case, media reports on hunt sabbing and anti-hunt protest has been encouraging in their positive coverage.

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# legal talk.... aiding & abetting

This first article will cover aiding and abetting, this is in light of a hunt saboteur who was convicted for aiding and abetting aggravated trespass in August this year. This would now appear to be a new offence that we must be aware of, aggravated trespass under section 68 of the CJAPOA 1994 is committed where a person trespasses on land so as to intimidate, deter and disrupt an activity which persons are engaging in. This recent case suggests that by being a driver who would not normally leave the van you may now be convicted of aiding and abetting aggravated trespass even though you are not an actual participant in the protest, this would appear to reinterpret the 1994 Act; which could now be coupled with aiding and abetting.

The terms "aid and abett" means assistance and encouragement, so a person who aids and abetts encourages the commission of another to commit an offence. Most crimes with some exceptions require an intention to commit an offence. However case law is ambigous because it suggests an intention to aid does not require that the defendants motive must be that the actual offence be committed.

The saboteur was convicted for aiding and abetting aggravated trespass by being the driver of a mini bus full of protestors or saboteurs, demonstrating against angling. The saboteur in question had stayed in the vehicle all the time and rightly refused to name companions in the van. It would appear that this driver was convicted for something he did not do. The offence of aiding and abetting is covered by statute - The Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. Section 8 provides that an accessory shall be liable to be tried as a main offender. The case of Rook (1993) states that contemplation or foresight of a real serious risk is sufficient and it is immaterial whether the secondary party, i.e. the aider or abettor is present at the scene of the crime or lends assistance or encouragement in advance. However the accessory up until now could not be liable for the offence committed by the main participant or participants - this is determined by case law with Anderson (1966) and more recently with Perman (1995) although under Reid (1975) and recently Stewart (1995) the answer appeared to be that you could be liable which is reflected in this 1996 sab case involving a mini bus driver. It would appear that by being a mini bus driver and present at the scene a person is capable of giving rise to encouragement and in addition to encouragement there must be an awareness of the fact that an offence was being committed.

## Legal Observers

In the past few months Stoke and Wolves sabs have sometimes had the benefit of legal advice and a legal presence in the form of trainee solicitors and law lecturers from local universities. Recently one such observer managed to get himself arrested within 5 minutes of arriving at a meet. The individual concerned was then "dearrested" 3 minutes later when the police asked him what his occupation was.
There are 3 lessons to be learnt from this:

1) Make sure your observer knows what he/she is doing there.
2) It's amazing what a suit can do for you.
3) If you get nicked, you could claim that you are a solicitor/law lecturer - it might just work!

This is the first of a series of articles covering areas of law that hopefully will inform people about their legal entitlements if the need should arise.I will explore: Legal Aid, if and when to accept cautions, pros and cons of no comment interviews, and injunctions. In addition I will examine the distinctions between lawful and unlawful arrests and the role that the Public Order Act 1986 and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 plays.

***This is your magazine so use it! I welcome your comments and views regarding any area of law that you wish to see examined, as long as it's not conveyancing, wills or anything else as boring. I also need help from you, by making sure you send in news of any legal incidents. For example your sab group may be taking legal proceedings, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! (care of the office).***

# lamping

**Lamping is one of the biggest threats to our wildlife. A single lamper can clear an area of foxes in 1 or 2 nights and repeated attention over a larger area can have a catastrophic effect on the resident populations of the animals hunted. So what can you do to reduce the success of lampers in your area?**

Lamping involves the use of a powerful beam of light (used at night - of course!) to spot foxes etc. The direct beam of light is often used to transfix the quarry which is then killed or captured in a variety of ways. Animals which are lamped include the fox, badger, rabbit, hare, deer...in fact any animal large enough to be spotted.

Lamping is a blood sport often heard about but which has had little attention when it comes to sabbing. This may be due to a number of factors, none more relevant than the fact that it often takes place late at night in the open country side - not the sort of place your average sab (is there such a thing!?! - Ed) would wish to find themselves, especially after a hard day in the field avoiding the cops/thugs and sabbing the hunt.

### *Who lamps?*

Your average lamper will include: farmer (especially sheep farmer), terrier/lurcherman/woman, badger-baiter, game keeper - definitely not the usual Range Rover vogue shooting party or fox hunting brigade!

### *How do they lamp?*

#### Lamping with dogs

This is the more 'traditional' form. The lamp is used to scan the field in search of suitable quarry. The actual beam of light is very powerful, up to a 1,000,000 candle power, and is designed to give a long narrow beam rather than a flood light effect. The dogs are released and trained to 'run the beam' straight to the fox or other animal. Depending on how the dogs have been trained, together with the quarry hunted will dictate the animals death. In the case of a fox or badger they are likely to have been transfixed by the bright light and will have no time to escape before the dogs are upon them, literally savaging them. The lamper may intervene, especially is the badger is getting the better of the dog. In this case the badger is often injured to 'even out' the fight (this may be in the form of being stabbed or clubbed).

The types of dogs used are usually lurchers - i.e. bearded collie, border collie, bearded/border cross greyhounds etc. The bigger, more powerful dogs used to bring down deer will include deerhound/greyhound crosses. Nets are sometimes used to capture the animal, especially in the case of badgers, and the dogs are used to hold the badger at bay while the lamper catches up with the dogs. The badger or fox caught in this way will either be baited on site or taken away in a sack/bin for baiting at later date. It would be reasonable to assume that a fox caught in this way could end up being used for hunting with hounds at a later date (I can hear the hunts faxing their denials now - Ed).

#### Lamping with the gun.

This type of lamping is increasingly popular and can consist of either one person with a gun mounted with a lamp, or two people, one with gun and the other with the lamp, working together. Red filters are often fitted to the lamp, although green and yellow can also be used as a means of reducing the visability of the lamp - thus enabling lampers to work land close to residential areas without attracting (unwanted) attention to themselves. Indeed not all farmers welcome lampers as a stray bullet could injure or even kill valuable livestock.

Once an animal is located it may be shot or, if distance is a problem, stalking the animal may take place. In the case of foxes lampers often use a caller or 'squeaker' which is designed to mimic a rabbit in distress. Blinded by the light the fox comes closer and closer, investigating the sound of the 'rabbit' until it is close enough to be shot or set upon by dogs. The squeaker is also used to attract stoats, weasels, mink and even feral cats. The squeaker is a simple but very effective tool which can draw foxes in from neighbouring fields. The sound is distinctive and can be mimicked by sucking the back of your hand. It is a sound which once heard is never forgotten and is a way in which I have been made aware of the presence of lampers before I have actually seen them.



#### Lamping with vehicles

The use of vehicles for lamping is usually found in large open spaces. 4X4's fitted with powerful spot lights are driven round fields in search of quarry. As before the use of guns or dogs is employed and the end result is the same - the suffering and death of many wild animals.

#### The hidden cost of lamping

It is not just the hunted quarry which suffer at the hands of lampers - dogs used in the 'sport' can also suffer serious injuries and even death. Whilst researching this article I read one account of a lamper who scorned other less 'professional' lampers as they took pride in running their dogs to near exhaustion and even death through over-exertion. The terms used include a dog being 'blown' - that is when damage to the heart, lungs and diaphragm occur through over exertion when the dog has been run repeatedly hard after rabbit or hares. Some dogs are literally run to death - others are disposed of as they are blown and they never fully recover

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from their injuries. Other injuries occur due to collisions with fence posts, barbed wire and farm machinery, especially if two or more dogs are allowed to run the beam.

### *Lamping sabotage*

Reports on the sabbing of lampers are few and far between. The main problems are that lampers operate singularly or in small teams, unlike hunts they do not publish a meet card and they operate at night - so not a lot to go on there! However, based on experience, I have found that if you can locate lampers then sabotage can be very effective.

Don't assume that all lamping goes on in the heart of the countryside - wildlife is moving into urban areas, the fox and the rabbit can easily be found within our cities and playing fields within built-up areas offer great scope to a lamper. Of course, to sab lampers you have first got to be able to locate them! Don't load up your sab van and go off into the countryside at 1am in the morning looking for lampers because your chances of finding them are very slim.

Look for the person with lurchers etc. exercising them in your local area. Admittedly, not everyone who has a lurcher is destined to be a lamper - look for other signs such as a vehicle with dodgy stickers such as BFSS, Working Terrier Club etc. or perhaps a terrier in tow. Talk to them! It is amazing what people will tell you if you get talking to them. Other signs to look for

- that light on the playing field may be the granny who has nine cats and is looking for a lost moggy...but does she have a lamp pumping a beam with 1,000,000 candle power - I think not (not on her pension anyway - Ed (oo, a bit of politics, eh?).
- that weird squeaking sound - is it a 'squeaker'? My dog used to wake up to the sound and bark. If it hadn't been for him a lamper could have been working the fields next to my house and I would have never known (except for the absence of foxes the next day).
- lampers will sometimes check over the land by day before lamping, especially if using dogs in order to familiarize themselves with dips in the land and/or half buried obstacles.

### *Sabbing tactics.*

If you come across lampers working a field there are a number of options open to you when it comes to sabbing them. Firstly, noise is your best weapon. Wildlife will flee from noise, but you must be in the right position. As with sabbing shoots and hunts care must be taken not to drive any animal into a dangerous position. Noise in the form of shouting, screaming, banging tin cans/pans can be very effective. The net result of this action will be a cessation of lamping in the field...but you will then become the focus of attention and this is were things can get a bit complicated. The lamp will probably be focused on you and you need to know what you are going to do next - before you make the noise.

It goes without saying that extreme caution must be taken when guns are being used. To run into a field which contains a lamper at night is a dangerous thing to do and is not recommended as a healthy course of action! A phone call to the police can have good results, especially if the land being lamped is in a built up area or is publicly owned. Other areas to complain about could be the noise or the bright lights - tell the police you think it may be a burglar. If someone is lamping near a known badger sett this would definitely be an area open for police investigation. The police can be very effective at disrupting lampers - flashing lights and size 11 boots stamping across a field can do wonders for a foxes well-being! Some lampers phone the police beforehand to tell them that they're out lamping and where. This is usually where they have permission from the landowner to lamp and don't want to be disturbed. If you think that they don't have the landowners permission it's always best to phone for the cops.

Equipment which have been found to be effective include rookies (crow-scarers) and rockets (left over from November the 5th). Due to the time delay a series of rookies can be lit across the edge of a field, preferably to the rear of the lampers, and left to their own devices. This is particularly effective where a confrontation is not advisable, i.e. if guns are involved or you are outnumbered. The noise generated by rookies will clear most wildlife or make them extremely cautious and less susceptible to lampers. Because rookies generally have a 15 minute time delay it is often useful to shorten the fuse by taking one off the rope (there are usually 10 to the rope), stripping back the paper and lighting the fuse. This gives you about 3 seconds so throw it as soon as it's lit!!. When it goes off it should be high in the air, giving it maximum loudness. Don't forget to take a lighter out with you and prepare the rookies before you go out. Rookies are unfortunately usually only available from gun shops or agricultural merchants but are essential for sabbing lampers and are also useful for pre-beating foxhunts. They usually cost around £35 for 12 strings of 10.

Another good investment when sabbing lampers is your own lamp and a dry cell battery pack. The effect of turning a beam onto a lamper is akin to the hunter becoming the hunter...and for some reason they don't seem to like it! A dry cell battery pack costs about £60 and a lamp can be obtained from car accessory shops - ours came from Argos, £16 and an output of about 750,000 candle power - quite effective!

A method of drawing lampers out of the field is to congregate near their vehicles. Remember, if they are having to watch you or having to work near their vehicle they are not lamping effectively. Although lamping is undertaken throughout the year, gamekeepers tend to lamp for foxes early spring and mid to late summer. Lampers will generally not work a field with long grass or one with a crop in it. A lamper who operates near me visits on the 2nd cast of silage each summer. As soon as I see the tractors working the field the rookies and rockets are on standby and I get on the telephone tree to round up other sabs. Once you have found where lampers are it's likely that they will lamp that area again, sometimes for a few nights in a row - especially if they have the landowners permission.

**Hopefully this article will encourage sabs to target lamping in their area, or at least to highlight that it is one of the biggest threats to our wildlife. For little over £100 you can equip yourself with everything you need - a small price to pay considering the benefits felt by the intended quarry.**



# Vermin Patrol

**Three follow up stories from Howl 62 -**

1) **Kevin Gustard** (24) of Metcalfe Crescent, Murton, County Durham admitted three offences of interfering with a badger sett on Croxdale estate on 10/9/95. On 6/7/96 Durham Magistrates heard that Gustard was spotted by a local gamekeeper who then phoned for the police. The gamekeeper then made three return trips to the sett after Gustard had disappeared and a puppy could be still heard yapping from inside the sett. The following day Gustard and **John William Norman** (23) of Barnes Road, Murton, County Durham returned with the puppy's mother, who had been fitted with a tracking device, and she was put into the sett to find the pupt. The police then swooped after being tipped off. Gustard told them he knew it was a badger sett but was trying to retrieve his puppy. He was given 120 hours community service and ordered to pay cost of £973.90. Norman, who admitted to one offence of interfering with a badger sett, was given a 2 year conditional discharge. The court was told that Norman was given a 3 month sentence for an unconnected offence by Peterlee Magistrates on 30/8/96.

2) **Stuart Anthony Fellows** (26) of Pond Lane, Parkfields, Wolverhampton was jailed for 4 months and banned from keeping dogs for 10 years after being found guilty of interfering with a badger sett by Oswestry Magistrates in August 1996. Fellows has had his ban from keeping dogs cut to just 3 years following an appeal at Shrewsbury Crown Court on 13/9/96.

3) A judge has thrown out appeals from three convicted cockfighters against a life ban on owning birds. Judge Richard Lowden sitting at Durham Crown Court on 11/10/96 refused the appeal of **John Hawthorn** (42) of Calvert Terrace, Murton, County Durham, adding "The purpose of the sentence is to discourage you from ever again participating in the obscene and degrading pastime of watching animals inflict pain on each other". Appeals from the other two men **William Ross** (49) a butcher of Sharon Avenue, Kelloe, Durham City and **Joseph Kelbie** (34) formally of Cottingly Springs, Leeds, now of Turney Lane, Newark, Nottinghamshire were rejected formally by the judge.

On 18/1/96 Norwich magistrates heard how a gamekeeper set pole traps to catch birds of prey, **David Millican** (42) of Kimberley Hall Estate, Norfolk, a trainee at the estate, was told by the head gamekeeper **Sidney Carter** (81) to set the traps. The traps which have been illegal since 1904 were rigged to trap such birds as sparrowhawks and tawny owls as they swooped down on pheasants which were being reared in pens on the estate. The traps were set on five 10ft poles at various places on the estate and steel jaws were triggered by a spring to snap shut when the birds land on the poles. An RSPB officer commented that any birds caught in a pole trap would die a very slow and painful death as they would just be hanging there with one or two broken legs until it either died from starvation or shock. Millican, fined £1,500 (£300 for each trap) and £30 costs, later said "I have been made a scapegoat, I did not know these traps were illegal, I was just told to do it and I did". He also told the court any fine would be paid by the landowner, Eton-educated **Roland Buxton** (72). Later he told reporters that he had to pack in his job and that nobody wwould employ him because of this case. (Shame). Sidney Carter, the head gamekeeper, was said not to be prosecuted because of his old age and ill heath - so all you old and infirm sabs get out there and kick some ass!

**Neil Keith Bingham** (24) of Pateley Moor Crescent, Darlington admitted to interfering with a badger sett by causing a dog to enter it at Northallerton magistrates on 30/7/96. The court heard how a local had visited the sett in January 1996 while out walking one evening and noticed a van parked nearby with cages and spades in the back. Dog noises could be heard coming from the sett and he also noticed the top had been disturbed. The police were then called. When the police arrived they saw three men walking towards a wood. Later on Bingham approached a PC at the scene and said he was looking for his dog. Michael Wilson, defending, said Bingham had been out chasing foxes (there goes that old excuse again) with some friends when his dog had got trapped down a hole. He said Bingham did not know it was a badger sett and added "It was done unwittingly and he had full co-operated with the police". However, examination of the sett later had showed one entrance had been enlarged while two others had been blocked by lumps of concrete. A terrier that was found nearby after the incident had various wounds and scars in the nasal area. It is now in a safe RSPCA home. Bingham was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £470 costs, banned from keeping dogs for 5 years and had all his equipment, including nets and tracking devices confiscated.

A hunt supporter of the Seavington Hunt who trespassed on a railway line was caught on camera and reported to the police by a member of League Against Cruel Sports. Yeovil magistrates heard on 8/8/96 how **Bernard Martin** (58) of New Close, Haselbury Plucknett, Somerset was filmed walking along the track near Crewkerne with a number of others during a meet of the hunt on Boxing Day last year. In his defence Martin said "He had been led to believe that checks had been done and no trains were running on that day. He had been doing what he did that day for many years. Ignorance of the law is no excuse but no-one ever stopped him". Martin was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £20 costs, a charge of trespass against his son Paul Martin (32) was dismissed at the request of the prosecution.

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On 14/9/96 a former student who was studying to be a gamekeeper at Newton Rigg College, Cumbria admitted illegally removing a dead deer from land without the consent of the landowner. Penrith magistrates heard that **Kevin Lloyd Dean** (28) of Hylton House, Long Marton, Cumbria was stopped in the early hours of 21/3/96 while in a car and a dead roe deer was found in the back of the vehicle. When the police asked where it had come from they said it was found at the side of the road. On further examination of the deer it was found to have slash marks to the throat and wounds consistent with having been bitten by a dog.
The court also heard how Dean and others had been out rabbiting in the Cockermouth area when a dog with them had attacked the deer. They claimed deer had been killed with a knife to put it out of its misery and then they were taking it home for consumption. Dean, who has since left the college because of fear of recriminations, is now unemployed and was fined £150 with £50 costs. Two other defendants **Paul Tony Wren** (23) of South Street, Cockermonth, Cumbria and a youth from Lancashire pleaded not guilty to the incident.

Yet another hunt supporter has appeared in court - **Dean John Richards** (36) of Glebelands Villas, Bishops Nympton, Devon pleaded guilty to two charges of assault at Tiverton Magistrates on 20/9/96. The court were told how two LACS sanctuary officers were monitoring the Tiverton Staghounds who had met at the Exeter Inn, near Bampton. During the day Richards had thrust himself through their car window, both the monitors inside were hit around the face and one video camera was damaged. In court, Richards claimed he had been given the task of getting between the hounds and the stag to stop them attacking it, (he must have thought their was a few stay hounds in the front of the car and was just checking). Magistrates fined Richards £50 for each assault with £69 costs and ordered him to pay £25 to each of the victims.

**Mervin Brice** (24) of Mill Road, Deal, Kent was ordered to do 200 hours community service and told to pay £700 vets fees after pleading guilty to unnecessary suffering to a dog He was also banned from keeping dogs for 5 years. Dover Magistrates heard on the 16/10/96 how Brice was 'leaned on' by some people from south London to whom he owed money. The court was told how a Jack Russell terrier called Rocky was entered into a sett that contained a male and female badger in March 1996 at an un-named location. A savage fight then broke out in which Rocky suffered serious injuries to his jaw that later became infected. In a statement to the RSPCA by Brice, (who is experienced in the use of working dogs and fox control methods) said "Rocky took a bit of punishment off the sow but most came off the boar, I didn't know what to do. I couldn't take him to the vets. I agree I should have treated him". Brice also said he did not believe in badger digging although he admitted being present while one took place. The only good news is that Rocky is now with a new owner.

Following a successful prosecution at Newcastle Crown Court on 28/9/96 five men from North Shields were convicted of illegal fishing. A spokesperson for the Environmental Agency said "Illegal fishing in the Northumbria area has been almost halved since Operation Target began in 1994". The court heard how fisheries inspectors had watched **Mark Alderson** (22) of Knott Memorial Flats, North Shields over a three month period. Following a raid on his home they found the bodies of 20 migratory fish in a chest freezer and a receipt book that suggested that £7,742 had been made by the illegal catching of fish, such as salmon and trout. Alderson said he had made £1,500 profit which he had split with **David Nolan**. Alderson who admitted seven counts of illegal fishing was put on probation for 12 months and ordered to do 80 hours community service. David Nolan (35) of Knott Memorial Flats, North Shields admitted six counts of illegal fishing was put on probation for 12 months and ordered to do 60 hours community service. **Paul Mundy** (30) of Knott Memorial Flats, North Shields, **Kenneth Marsh** (36) of Knott Memorial Flats, North Shields and **Raymond Mundy** (40) of Hudson Street, North Shields all admitted illegal fishing. Raymond and Paul Mundy were each given a 2 year conditional discharge, Marsh was given a 12 month conditional discharge.

Gamekeeper **Dennis Stephenson** (35) of Park End Estate, Wark, Northumbria was convicted of using a Larsen trap for the purpose of killing or taking a wild bird and fined £100 with £200 costs. During a hearing at Hexham Magistrates court on 18/10/96 the court heard how RSPB officers and police had kept watch on the Park End trap, which had been baited with a live racing pigeon, and had been placed near a pheasant release pen. The prosecution of Stephenson is the first successful one in England and Wales. The wildlife liaison officer for Northumbria said after the case "It is a milestone case and we are delighted at the decision. It is a very important development which will hopefully send out a message to all gamekeepers and landowners that the law will not tolerate the prosecution of birds for prey". (Larsen traps can only be used under licence from the Department of the Environment for the trapping of birds of the crow family. If you see of any illegal traps or snares you should report it to the police straight away, and not attempt any action yourself).

Yet another gamekeeper in court, **Michael Skelly** (31) of Stanhope Estate, Tweedsmuir, Lanarkshire has been found guilty of having shotguns and rifles out of his cabinet and of illegal possession of 20 rounds of .275 ammunition and four slug cartridges. Following an anonymous complaint about poisoning police obtained a warrant to search Skelly's house. During the search they found Cymag gas, .275 ammunition and his guns were out of their cabinet. Following an appearance at Peebles Sherriff Court in September the police have revoked his shotgun and firearms licence. However the court did not fine Skelly or make him pay any costs, he was just admonished (given advice) by the

Sherriff.

Yes, you guessed it, another gamekeeper in court - **Martin Wise** (35) of Hildenborough, Kent will appear before Sevenoakes magistrates charged with possessing two guns, a handgun and a rifle, which is more than more than his firearms certificate allowed. Wise, who has recently been cleared by two juries at Maidstone Crown Court, firstly on a murder charge and secondly on a charge of manslaughter. The cases were brought after Matthew Hodge (20) was shot dead outside Wise's home in August 1995. Wise, who once worked as a gamekeeper on the Duke of Manchester's estate, maintained that his .25 "Auto Baby" Browning went off accidentally, fatally wounding Hodge. We hope to update this story when he does appear in court.

The former Grand National winner **Bob Champion** has been fined £250 for possessing a shotgun without a licence. Apparently he has not owned a licence for his 12-bore shotgun since 1989. Police acting on an anonymous tip-off found the gun stored in a loft at a friends house in Essex. Magistrates told the police to hold onto the shotgun until it was licensed.

(This person appeared in Howl 62 but due to a printing error only half the story was appeared).
The case against **Edward Tuckwell** of Hampton Estate, Seale, near Aldershot was dismissed after two hours, he was originally charged with interfering with a badger sett at Little Common which is on the Surrey Estate. Defended by Michael Goodridge, Tuckwell pleaded not guilty to the charge, he said he suffered a lot of problems with rabbits on the estate and thought the sett was inhabited by rabbits. He denied he intended to gas the sett.

**Jason Lidbury** (18) from Stockwell, south London has been fined £475 with £75 costs and bound over for a years to the sum of £500 for taking wild birds. The Bow Street magistrates heard how he stole pigeons from Trafalgar Square and sold them to his uncle. Sometimes he would cram up to 40 birds into a box, then sell them to his uncle for 20p each. Ledbury pleaded guilty to six charges brought under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

**Mark Harvey** (30) of Witham, Essex admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a three-year-old Jack Russell terrier which he had owned only a week. Harvey killed his dog by stabbing it 11 times with a commando style knife. Witham magistrates put him on 12 months probation and ordered him to do 80 hours community service and ordered him to pay £350 costs. He was also banned from keeping dogs for ten years.

**Angela Pearson** (26) of Spa Road, Atherton, Lancashire admitted causing unnecessary suffering after RSPCA inspectors found her 10-year old collie dog Benjy starving in a small compound without any food or bedding. On 6/9/96 magistrates fined her £100 and ordered her to pay costs of £150, she was also banned from keeping any animal for 2 years. The good news is that Benjy is now in a new home and is fit and well.

Farmhand **John Smith** (39) of Charlbury, Oxfordshire killed his wife's pet dogs on their first wedding anniversary after she left him for another man. Whitney magistrates heard on 18/9/96 how Smith had slashed the throats of 11-year-old border collie Tosh and an 18-month-old spaniel. He told RSPCA inspectors he wanted to get back at his wife Pam after she moved her lover into their home. Smith who is a former pig slaughterer said he also wanted to "put the dogs out of their misery" because she had left no food for them. "I stunned them with a hammer and cut their throats. It was all over in half-an-hour". Smith admitted cruelty. If he did this to his pet dogs, what did he do to the pigs in the slaughterhouse, stun them with a brick?

**Keith Sherry** (38) of St James Road, Orrell, Wigan pleaded not guilty to possessing a wild goshawk, possession of the bird without registration ring marks, and keeping the bird illegally within 5 years of having a similar conviction. The alleged offenses contravene the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. He was remanded on bail until 6/12/96 and will appear at Wigan Magistrates.

On the 23/10/96 a former pet shop worker was jailed for 2 weeks for leaving her rabbit and gerbils to starve to death after she moved house. **Christine Bescoby** (23) of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire admitted 6 charges of animal cruelty, and was also banned from keeping animals for 10 years by Nottingham Magistrates. Bescoby moved house from Sneinton, Nottinghamshire to live in Lincolnshire.

The following people are due to appear at Nottingham magistrates court in January 1997 charged with various badger offences, **Nicholas Grooby** (unpaid terrierman for South Notts Foxhounds), Paradise Lane, Old Dolby, Leicestershire, **Gary Pearson**, Souldern Way, Longton, Stoke on Trent, **David William Edwards**, Roughcoat Lane, Cavershall, Stoke on Trent and **Mark John Hulme**, Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke on Trent.

**I would like to thank the following people for all their help in compiling these pages Michelle B, Alan B. and everyone at the HSA office. I would also like to thank the many people who have sent in clippings, if you do not see it listed above rest assured it will be in the next issue of Howl.**

# *Bristol Week...*

**Saturday the 19th October saw the start of a week of animal rights activities centred around Bristol and Bath. The week was set to include McDonalds demos, pet shop demos and the first half of the week was pencilled in for hunt sabbing, with sab groups around the country duly notified and invited. Here's what occurred...**

Despite the annoying lack of of hunts advertising in the area, (probably due to the posters put up in Bristol advertising the week of action), a decision was made to sab the Vale of White Horse FH on the Saturday.
Undoubtedly some enterprising scum had seen the posters and scuttled off to warn their bosses of the impending ineffectiveness of their blood thirsty activities. In fact one local paper in the Devon area printed a warning that more animal rights activities could be expected that week! A movement on the run perhaps ?????

Since it was one of the last few weekends of cub hunting the meet up time was early so thanks to Wolves, Liverpool, Bolton, Dorchester and Pewsey sabs for making the trek at some unearthly hour of the morning to arrive on time (Liverpool on time? NEVER! - Ed).

Although the hunt were not advertising their meets that week, an information database which the local sabs held on the hunt enabled a prediction of the meet to be made. Lo and behold when the spotter van turned up to the meet the scum were all busy unboxing, hob nobbing with the big-wigs and sipping sherry from a silver saucer in preparation for the days hunting ahead.

When they eventually moved off sabs headed straight round to where the hunt were expected to draw, in preparation to disrupt the hunt if any foxes were found. Although there were several sightings of "Charlie" by sabs, the hounds failed to pick up a scent for the first hour and a half. When the hounds eventually "found" and went into cry sabs were immediately on top of the situation. Sabs managed to call the majority of the pack over the first time the hounds "checked" (when hounds temporarily lose the scent and stop on the line of the fox). Usually the huntsman will re-cast the hounds back onto the line he suspects the fox to have taken, but sabs horn and voice calls meant the huntsman had little hope of hunting the pack on successfully. Of course this pissed the hunt right off as their prey had a good 8-10 minutes to escape which is usually more than enough to save its life.

Although the police were called they seemed to have been taken by surprise as to which hunt we would be at, because no more than one copper managed to crawl out of the woodwork until about an hour before the end of the day. Taking their lead from this obviously complex tactical manoeuvre Vale and Valleys, Swansea and Lampeter hunt sabs also turned up at the rear end of the day (ahem) to help pack the hunt up.

Overall the day was a real success with no kills and the hounds being pulled away from "coverts" on several occasions. Sabs were also treated to a ramble through an extremely twee and equally massive back garden towards the end of the day. The land owner seemed somewhat dismayed to find 80 odd sabs wandering along the footpath at the bottom of their garden. As the hunt packed up the police mounted a huge operation to stop and search all the sab vehicles, possibly in a last ditch attempt to make themselves look useful. It was quite unnecessary as sabs were quite obviously on our way to the pub so they could "appreciate and evaluate the day's tactics", (which has also been referred to as "Getting bevied up").

The Sunday saw us practising our self defence at a course organised especially for sabs, and designed to show sabs how to defend themselves if/when faced with violent situations. The course was based mainly on Ju-Jitsu and tackled many of the situation sabs are likely to encounter out sabbing. Everyone who went said what a great success they thought the day had been. Wolves sabs and Vale and Valleys sabs were unable to attend due to the excesses of a free party the night before. However not wishing to be left out they were widely rumoured to be practising a few "tackles" of their own!!

On the Monday sabs travelled southwards to a meet of the Taunton Vale Harriers. Although harrier packs traditionally hunt both hare and foxes, the T.V.H. only hunt foxes. This is most likely due to the fact that hare numbers are dwindling in their area due to persecution by hunts. Once the hunt had moved off from the meet, sabs made their way into the fields next to where the hunt made their first draw. The hounds were taken off the huntsman by sabs as soon as they got onto a scent. The huntsman managed to regain control though he re-cast them onto the scent which led them into a field thick with kale. The hounds then went absolutely berserk and were in full cry for almost 5 minutes. During this time we managed to call a few hounds out, but the din from the rest of the pack soon drew them back onto the fox. Then, just as it was about to make a break from the edge of the Kale, a hound caught hold of it quickly followed by several others and despite putting up a good fight the fox was soon ripped apart by the rest of the pack. There was nothing anyone could have done to help it.

A few of the hunt supporters, obviously on a high after this kill, then took it upon themselves to forcefully eject the sabs from the field they were in. Several mounted supporters rode into sabs and attempted to hit them with their whips and crops. They did this even as sabs were trying to leave the land. It was at this point that sabs decided to leave the area as it had become evident that a normal days sabbing was not going to be possible whilst the hunt were in such an aggressive mood.

As everyone got back in their vans the police arrived with all guns a-blazing, sirens a-howling and lights a-flashing. One van decided to leave the area, but the coppers chose to follow them. The other van decided to go and made their way home. Unfortunately the police car followed the first van so close and at such speed the sab van ended up in collision with a parked G.P.O. van. The impact tore the sliding door clean off of the sab van. The van was then stopped a little further down the road by a multitude of coppers, cop cars, dog handlers and other piggy hangers on. Everyone in the van was arrested and taken to Barnstaple police station forty miles away in west Devon. Later that day a van similar to the one seen at the hunt was stopped in an inner-city Bristol shopping area. The van was subject to a huge police operation involving helicopters, loads of panda cars, chase cars, dog handlers and cops on motorbikes. Some of the people the police believed to be in the van were arrested in the surrounding streets shoppers stood agog at the sea of pork in fluorescent jackets. Everyone arrested ended up in a cell in Barnstaple overnight and spent all day the next day in cells in the heart of turnip and yokel country. Late on Tuesday evening they were all released without being charged. Those arrested believe this was a cynical attempt by the police to persecute saboteurs as it quite evidently meant the following days sabbing would have to be cancelled. Especially as both of the vans were confiscated by the cops. It seems as if police puppet strings have been pulled in order to allow the hunts to continue killing unabated in what surely must be their last seasons hunting. Vested interests????? Nah mate!!!



## *Competition!!*

Just what is this contemplative sab thinking?
Is it about hunting being banned?
That somewhere in that bloody field he's gone and dropped his horn? Or that right now he could do with a pint?
Best caption wins a years subscription to 'Howl' and entries to the PO Box by the 31st April. Get to it people!

## *Huntsmans*balls

'I'm nothing to do with the hunt, I just breed the beagles...I don't do anything - why don't you go and do a proper hunt?'
***Response to sabs on calling at the Forest & District Beagle kennels! November 1996.***

'To many women, a Master of Foxhounds is an irresistible catch'
***The Field, October 1996. This can also be re-written as:-***
'To many sabs a Master of Foxhounds is an irresistible catch (allegedly!!!!)'

# NEWS FROM THE HSA PRESS OFFICE.

To date, this has been by far the quietest cub and main hunting season I have known. We have had virtually no national press coverage this year, the one notable example being an article in The Sunday Telegraph (03/11/96). Local press has been really good overall, and we've also had a lot of demand from foreign journalists from France, Germany, Finland and America, so next year will be a lot more cosmopolitan!

Going back to the S.T. article, this one has thrown up a number of points which have ended (I hope) with my reply to an article in PR Week in November (both articles printed in full below) - which puts my thoughts on the current state of play between us and the media as succinctly as possibly in 300 words.

The original S.T. piece came about after I had a chat with the journalist, Sebastian Berger, and was about my belief that a lot of hunts were keeping their heads down to avoid any publicity before the next election, waiting for us to make the gaffes. I was fairly reported within the quotation marks in the article, but the paper coloured the tone of the article by adding that I said our "new" tactics were down to falling numbers - something I certainly didn't say. If you saw the article, you would have noticed that the last comment was not a specific quote, and as such, there is not much I can do about it now.

Another indication of the slant of the piece was Janet George's quote that all hunt sabs were chain-smoking vegetarians who couldn't even manage to run across a field. Aside from this being pretty rich coming from the (hardly) fit and lithe BFSS press officer, I can think of plenty of coppers who know that isn't the case!

Lastly, the HSA needs to know immediately if anything unusual or newsworthy has happened at your local hunt, so please contact me on 0976 418053 and let me know what's gone on.

**"THESE HUNT SABOTEURS COULD LEARN FROM THEIR COUNTRY COUSINS** PR Week 15/11/96

*The HSA may have shot itself in the foot with its recent revelation that it is to return to guerilla style tactics to disrupt the country pursuit, says Olly Grender, MBE, director of communications at Shelter.*

What do Bob Dole and the HSA have in common? One wants to "build a bridge to the past" and another is "going back to what we used to do".

Whatever the merits of the issue, harking back to the past tends to sound the death knell of any story. Whether running for President of the US, or hoping for a high profile change in campaigning tactics, the result is the same; talk about the past and the media soon lose interest.

The recent abandonment of mass protests in favour of smaller, guerilla-style tactics by the HSA has another disadvantage - the majority of people are under the impression that the guerilla-style tactics never went away.

What was the original objective of the change in tactics? If the aim was profile, it did not hit the target. If it was changing the law then we will have to wait and see.

If 7 in 10 people are opposed to hunting then, surely, the objective is not to change public opinion, but the policies. The lack of media profile may suggest a change in the interest of the media, perhaps guerilla-style tactics are just passé.

In the past year, we have seen the live animal protests and demonstrations about road building. To go back to an old style of campaigning simply will not grab the headlines.

There is a stark contrast between this announcement and, in the opposing corner, the Countryside Movement. They set up an enquiry into hunting and secured good coverage including a live interview on the Today programme.

Do shock tactics work or does lobbying through the democratic processes make the difference?

At the party conferences, the League Against Cruel Sports beat Shelter into 2nd place with their shocking but effective conference display. With blood oozing out of sports cups and the sound of hares being killed, they certainly grabbed the attention of the policy makers.

The RSPCA recently won a PR Week award for their Wild Mammals Protection Bill because they changed policy. But does high profile disruption change policy?

This personal jury is still out, but one thing is certain - in the world of multimedia, with the never ending hunger for change, old news means no news".

**The HSA Press Officer replies**

"Is Olly Grender (Judge and Jury, PR Week 15/11/96) really so naive that she reads an article in The Sunday Telegraph (03/11/96) and then believes that it is an accurate, unfiltered assessment of the aims and methods of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA)? Can you imagine two more diametrically opposed sets of people for a start?

The reality behind the piece (and something which we have been trying to get across for the last four months) is that the hunting fraternity is so desperate to stay out of the news in the run up to the next election that it is basically beating up far fewer hunt saboteurs than it usually does during the course of the season - 2 hunt saboteurs have been killed by huntsmen in this country, and thousands injured in the 34 years the HSA has been in existence

Consequently we as an association can cover far more hunts with the same number of people, attending in smaller but equally effective groups, saving more hunted animals from a barbaric fate.

As an organisation, we are probably as far removed from salaried, hierarchical bodies such as our opponents, the British Field Sports Society (BFSS), or maybe, for example Shelter, that I can appreciate Olly Grender's inability to understand our rationale. We have no paid staff, exist on a minuscule budget, and yet still manage to empower well over 1,500 people to actively save hunted animals each week, risking both their liberty and

continued on page 24

# GROUP NEWS

***Your seasonal round-up of news from groups countrywide. 'Course since sabs numbers are falling so drastically I've made it all up myself and there isn't any sabbing going on at all this season!?***!

### *Ireland*

Following Belfast's great lead **Dublin's Association of Hunt Saboteurs** has set up it's own Save Our Stags (SOS) campaign which aims to highlight the practice of using 'boxed' stags on some Irish staghunts. These stags are bred by the hunt, solely to chase. [see HOWL 57] Much of the summer was spent publicizing this and keeping an eye on one such pack, the Ward Union Stag Hunt.

After sabbing the South Westmead FH for the very first time, sabs returned to their vehicle to find a dead fox on the hood, which had been shot by the hunt. On a following radio debate the hunt secretary, when cornered with the incident, told the usual fairy stories of assault & terrified children. Yeah, right - the BFSS handbook on how to answer (avoid) embarrassing questions is obviously available there too.

**Waterford sabs** have been out with their local packs this season as their numbers are increasing nicely. A not-so-nice new development has been the presence of hunt heavies at the Waterford FH. After two sabs were shoved around, the police were called but since they proved to be on first name terms with the hunt, a complaint has been lodged with the police commissioner.

The East Down FH were sabbed for the first time in 3 or 4 years by **Belfast group** & the pack were totally wooed by sabs charms. At least two foxes were saved. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, had been out with the hunt the previous week & had also opened a Game & Country Fair last July in the region. It was lucky fluffy **Belfast sabs** had such influential an alibi since while they were busy at the East Down FH, 4 vehicles were allegedly set upon at a North Down Harriers meet by persons unknown.

The CJA was used for the first time on **Belfast sabs**, 12 being arrested for Section 68 & Obstruction after blocking in the local staghounds. It ain't stopped mainland sabs & it certainly ain't gonna stop the Irish lads & lasses !!

### *Scotland*

Along with **Aberdeen sabs, Dundee & Fife HSA** have been sabbing the Fife FH, who seem very down at the moment, & unable to catch anything (not that this is much different to them at their best!). Rumours abound that the hunt are watching the political situation regarding handguns very closely at the moment, as apparently both the Master & a terrierman carry one. It may well be that if fox-hunting looks like being banned, they will cut their losses & close before it gets to that stage.

### *North East*

Despite being dogged by transport problems during cubbing, **Hull & East Yorkshire** sabs are now out on a regular basis. The Holderness FH's opening meet was a lack-luster event for the hunt due to the pre-spraying activities of sabs making a scent extremely hard to come by. The group has found this to be an very effective measure against this hunt, even if the (ex) whipper-in had said "spraying... that's old fashioned stuff". Well, sometimes the old ways are the best !

Several shoots of the rough and ready kind have also been attended by **Hull & E. Yorks**, with the guns usually taking an early lunch.

### *North West*

The end of cubbing saw **North West sabs (Bolton, Manchester, Liverpool)** in action at the Cheshire Forest FH. A bad day for the hunt with sabs seeing plenty of foxes & the hunt missing them all. More bad news lay in wait for them when the next month, Chris Thorn, regular follower of the more physical kind, died in a tragic cycling accident near the kennels late one night. Oh dear.

Cubbing also saw a few visits to the Holcombe Harriers - the Aspel meet saw them stop hunting to watch two farmers squaring up over hunt vs. sab tresspass & the huntsman make a delightful fall over a ditch. (Where's the piccy?! - GN Ed )

**Liverpool & Bolton** sabs also traveled up to the Lake District to join Cumbria at the Blencathra. Those sabs lucky enough to stay in the van and off the fells, watched the fox come straight past them & away from the hunt. Sabs from the region also traveled down to the Bristol week of action (see Bristol feature)

The start of the main season saw a lone sab out on the Holcombe opening meet after pressure had forced the last minute cancellation of the scheduled opener. He was in place to rate hounds off the only hare they put up, leaving the new whipper-in amazed. Late October saw a couple of visits to the High Peak Harriers whose hounds were very responsive to a good telling off when trying to chase hares. A recent attempt to sab the Staffordshire Moorland Harriers by sabs in the region (**Bolton, Manchester, Liverpool, Stoke & Wolves**) was hampered by the large police presence - police horses , riot vans the lot. Methinks we are not alone on the phone.

The worst day this season occurred at the Holcombe meet at Loveclough for **Bolton & Manchester sabs**. On the moor the hunt, suprisingly, soon got onto a fox which was caught within seconds. As sabs tried to intervene & rate the hounds off, the huntsman rode his horse over the fox, breaking her spine. The master then picked up the still living fox by it's tail before sabs snatched it from him & took it to a local vet. Although the fox received treatment it died later that evening. This disproves YET AGAIN the claims the BFSS et al make that a hunted animal dies by a quick bite to the neck - the only bite wounds on this fox were on it's belly. A demonstration outside the master's house on the Monday evening received a lot of local media coverage & an autopsy & full vets report on the fox has been prepared. Regional sabs intend to get as much out of this awful death as they can-being the only kill they've seen this season.

An excellent day was had on the 23rd November- the National Beagling Day that never really was ! It is a sad but true sabbing dream when three beagle packs advertise in your locality, & North West sabs didn't let the opportunity slip...despite the frost & snow **Bolton and Manchester** sabs headed into Lancashire to see the Bleasdale

Beagles. After having to push both sab vehicles up the hill due to a distinct lack of grip in the snow, sabs were (happily) greeted by the sight of the huntsman boxing up as soon as he laid eyes on the eager beaglers that his advertising had attracted! Sabs then headed over to Cheshire to look for the Forest and District Beagles .As nothing could be found of them in the area of the meet & the snow was even worse in this area, it was safely assumed they had not ventured from the kennels. **Liverpool & Midlands** sabs took up the rare invite to visit the Cheshire Beagles, who have operated underground since the hunts involvement in the death of Mike Hill, a Liverpool sab killed whilst sabbing the hunt in 1991. However the beagles were not found at the advertised meet & one can only assume that they may have realised some 'old friends' could turn up. May they continue to hide in shame until their 'sport' is banned.

### *West Midlands*

**Wolverhampton sabs** started their summer by knocking the stuffing (figuratively) out of a fair proportion of those disrupters of summer Saturdays, Mink hunts. Starting with the Northants Mink Hounds (with many other groups ) they then joined forces with **Stoke & Manchester** to turn the spotlight on the Border Counties MH, who turned tail & packed up as soon as they clapped eyes on our heroes. On to the Ytene (see last HOWL for details - the one Wolves sab who was arrested has had his charges dropped, surprise, surprise !) & then a 100% successful blockade of the Dove Valley MH with help from **Stoke, Manchester & Sheffield** sabs.

Then in mid June their van was confiscated, condemned & crushed into a tiny cube of rusty green metal by the police following a lively live exports demo. Since **Wolves sabs** judge this to be just a little excessive of the police, they are currently suing for the full value - anyone who has seen their van will probably estimate this at around 10p! After some frantic fundraising a beautiful new van was on the road in time for cubbing. However they are still skint because of this, so anyone with any spare cash...[That's enough crawling! - GN Ed]

During cubbing virtually every meet of the Albrighton FH was sabbed by **Wolves**, along with **Stoke, Birmingham & Coventry** - including an evening meet which was pre-beat with great effect. (Their thanks go to sources in the Albrighton Woodland FH for providing the information - who says the hunting fraternity are united?)



It's not just young hounds the Albrighton FH want in at the kill (Photo:Wolves sabs)

On days away from the Albrighton, **Wolves, Stoke & Coventry** groups met up to register their disapproval of the South Shropshire FH on two occasions. Unfortunately their second rendezvous saw 7 sabs arrested for aggravated trespass - but hey, who's counting. They also visited the Warwickshire during cubbing & were most recently seen at the North Ledbury FH with sabs from **Wales, Stoke & the Cotswolds** - a rumour floating around in summer that the hunt was to close regrettably turned out to be false.

### *East Midlands*

A supporter of the Grafton FH was so eager to bowl over **Leicester sabs** with his Landrover, that a policeman standing in the middle of the road had to leap for his life. Expect that to be one case of dangerous driving that gets followed up. Police have also been present with sabs on meets of the Oakley FH & Fernie FH, and were back to their usual habits on the latter by arresting anyone with any equipment.

A local landowner in the Quorn FH' s country invited sabs over to keep the hunt off her land. This confused the Quorn' s new Joint Master, R. Smith-Ryland who said that any disruption of the hunt would be against the Criminal Justice Act. When **Leicester sabs** pointed out to him that they had been invited onto the land he said it was still against the Criminal Justice Act." What section?", asked sabs. "Er.. the Criminal Justice Act!" he replied. Amazing how they seem to think those words should act as a talisman to keep sabs at bay.

A similar knowledge of the law was shown at the Cottesmore. A barrister & judge, (hunting's so classless isn't it, all you at the BFSS?) riding with the hunt, insisted that sabs would be arrested under Section 67! Annoyed by the sabs successful disruption of the pack, some of the field tried to get sabs to turn their attention to some nearby shooters saying "they kill more fluffy creatures than we do." Ah-ha...encouragement from hunts-people to sab shooting. Wonder if the BASC should hear about this! (The sabs found out later in the day that one copper had fallen into a slurry tank full of pig shit [I won't make the obvious remark - GN Ed] and had to be pulled out on ropes by the others. Bet he was popular on the way home!!)

More confusion about the CJA saw 2 policemen at the Woodland Pytchley arguing over its exact meaning while sabs dodged off to do some sabbing. With no kills on Biscester recently **Leicester sabs** have had a storming start to the season.

Sabs from the **East Northants** area have graced the presence of most of their local hunts (the Oakley, Bicester, Grafton, Fernie, Cottesmore & Woodland Pytchley foxhounds) both during cubbing & the season proper. In particular a strange rapport with the Oakley FH & their friendly bunch of stewards, is developing. The hunt has been sabbed 5 times this season and have not killed once on these occasions.

Despite 'agreements' with the police re. the position of sabs on adjoining land to the hunt & the implementation of the CJA, the police backtracked completely after meeting with the hunt & have now decided sabs can no longer do anything, anywhere!! The police assured confused sabs that official policy was now, er, well, we'll get back to you on that. Despite these changeable police tactics the group have still managed to sab effectively on most hunts attended. Events at the Fernie FH seem to confirm this; after sabs had rated hounds from the scent of a fleeing fox, the hunt called on their friends in blue, who proceeded to arrest two

sabs for aggravated spray possession. The police then tried to use their 'hostages' as a bargaining tool to get the remaining sabs off the land. It didn't work; the hunt got sabbed & those arrested were freed on bail, but don't hold your breath for any charges.

**Cambridge group** suffered a substantial loss of numbers due to an exodus of members out of the area; however the g roup has pretty much recovered with the recruitment of many new faces. A brilliant sabbing skills day in late August, organised by **East Northants HSA**, was well attended & found useful for new and experienced sabs alike.

Still with **Cambridge**, they have become something of social butterflies this season, sabbing with groups from **East London, Saffron Walden & Essex in the South; West Norfolk & Peterborough in the North, & East Northants & Northampton in the West.** [You all know where Cambridge is now! - GN Ed] Hunts attended include the Puckeridge FH, the Oakley FH, the Woodland Pytchley FH, the Bicester, the Grafton & the Cottesmore FH, & meets of the Dunston & North Norfolk Harriers. They have even ventured into uncivilized (!) Essex where the combined power of the hunt & police is only equaled by their unimaginable hatred of wildlife & protesters alike ! That being so, the group has managed to keep their noses clean with no arrests this season (so far).

On 22nd November, the Trinity Foot Beagles had their hunt ball at the University Arms Hotel in Cambridge. The well attended and lively protest attracted the support of passers-by, but some huntspeople had difficulties getting into the premises & parts of the Hotel began to mysteriously ooze (fake) blood. Unbelievably a Mr Ted Heath was in the hotel at the time (nothing to do with the ball) & showed sabs his support by giving them the thumbs up as he left!

On a last note from **Cambridge**, their group has been continuously in existence for 29 years & for their 30th birthday they'd like a complete ban on hunting with hounds, please! Until then they have pledged to keep up the ancient tradition of hunt sabotage in Cambridge until all wildlife is safe from these psychopaths.

### *Wales*

**West Wales** spent the summer visiting the Ytene & doing enough fundraising to purchase themselves a new van. Joining forces with **Vale and Valleys sabs** they started the season off with a visit to Banwen Miners FH & had a reasonable days sabbing with a wind to blow away those summer cobwebs. Voice calls & use of the horn left the huntsman without his hounds, & the support regretting getting up so early for such a poor days hunting. Having the hounds run off into a valley inaccessible to horses didn't help matters for the hunt. The next week saw them making a trip into England to visit their old friends (?) the North Ledbury FH. The hunt was, of course, pleased to see sabs, especially when the hounds responded so well to the horn & gizmos in the quarry that sabs were able to take them for a good run. Another successful 'away day' was spent at VWH during Bristol week.

Following the success of last season, Welsh sabs are working as a region, incorporating **West Wales, Vale & Valleys & Swansea groups** to sab their area more effectively. A day at the Tredegar Farmers FH was fairly uneventful until the police turned up & threatened to nick everyone for aggravated trespass under the 1986 public order act !! Just to completely outdo themselves they then arrested an innocent bystander for obstruction & breach of the peace.

**Welsh sabs** are pleased to see that unity in the hunting sect is as strong in their region as it in the West Midlands [see Wolves report]. Gareth Morgan, formally with the Carmarthenshire FH has set up his own new hunt leaving the Carmarthenshire with only a handful of followers. Strangely, reports in the media say the Carmarthenshire has objected to his planning application for the new kennels. Perhaps internal bickering has left the Carmarthenshire's new huntsman rather tense, as he seemed to be trying to redesign **V&V's** windscreen & wing mirrors on their first visit there, until the calming influence of another van full of sabs came up the road. A split pack meant that sabbing was a breeze for the rest of the day. A return visit to Banwen Miners FH saw several new faces out with the hunt. An iron bar was waved around, followed by a loaded shotgun, which was threatened to be used on sabs. After a discussion it was uncocked but still left loaded. The hunt then ran off to lose the sabs but in their haste left their hounds ("you know, I'm sure we've forgotten something...") & didn't retrieve them till the end of the day.

During a fruitless visit to Llangiby country the groups accidentally bumped into the Curre FH who'd had an equally bad day with no kills and another lost pack. It would seem that many of the hunts visited this season by **Welsh sabs** are in the same condition as they left them last season, i.e. varying states of disarray.

### *South West*

**North Dorset** HSA's video of a buck being savaged by the New Forest Buckhounds resulted in a three meet ban for the hunt. Of course this is a minor slap on the wrist for the atrocity done, but further action is in the pipeline. Pressure is being brought to bear on this hunt from all directions. Expect good news soon.

Video cameras have also proved to be an decisive weapon at Portman FH digouts. Their terrierman, Nick Stevens, may be known to anyone who has sabbed the Beaufort in times past & is now down in Dorset, with orders to be on his 'best behavior'. Due to this he refused to dig a fox from a rabbit hole in August, because sabs were filming, & again in October refused to kill a fox hiding in a drain, although this was directly against the wishes of the Master.



A South Dorset sab assumes the 'scarecrow' position in the vain hope that he won't get ridden down. (Photo: S. Dorset HSA)

Other hunts visited by the North Dorset 'roving eye' include the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, Wilton FH, Quantock Staghounds, Devon & Somerset Staghounds, Huckworthy Bassets, Chilmark Beagles, Stoke Hill Beagles & the Shivenham Beagles.

**South Dorset** have been sabbing the South Dorset FH, the Cattistock FH, & the Portman FH all fairly equally, preventing any one hunt feeling ignored. They have welcomed some local road protesters who have been joining them regularly & the company of Southampton sabs on several visits to the South Dorset and the Cattistock. Policing has been minimal although the hunt heavies of the South Dorset have caused some aggro possibly because they've been trying to impress some of the visiting Ytene boys. Following their lead whipper-in Dave Boulter has lost this temper several times, but sabs are not impressed.. .



The ever responsible South Dorset FH take their hounds on a 'short cut' down the main Dorchester to Sherbourne rd (Photo: S. Dorset sabs)

Several artificial earths have been discovered in South Dorset country, and several blocked earths have been unblocked by vigilant sabs.

As well as hosting Bristol week, **Bristol sabs** were busy up in Lancashire for the shoots, where their cherished sab van had it's gear stick ripped clean off by a somewhat accident prone & over enthusiastic member of the group. Presumably this has now been botched back together, as the start of the fox hunting season has seen **Bristol and Bath** hunt saboteurs on their usual shambolic tour of local hunts. Joining up with **Pewsey Vale sabs**, a favourite during cubbing was the Tedworth FH, a weedy little pack from Wiltshire. Partly because the hunt started the year with both a new huntsman & whipper-in, & partly because of the "devastatingly talented" (eh? - GN Ed) sabs, the pack have been taken from the huntsman many, many times. Often he'd recover them only to see them flock off again at the toot of a sab horn. The sporting instincts of the elderly (& infuriated) huntsman have been so riled that he allegedly got off his horse saying "I don't care if you sack me, I'm going to get those bastards" before rolling up his sleeves & going for a sab in front of 2 coppers. Unfortunately the police didn't have the manpower to deal with the aged gent, but minutes later had the manpower to arrest an entire sab group for trespass.

**Bristol & Bath** have also sabbed the Avon Vale FH & Mendips Farmers FH. At a recent meet of the latter, they bumped into a pheasant shoot

# SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Those imprisoned for 'Animal Rights offences' need your support. Show them you care by sending letters of support - these are greatly appreciated by all prisoners.

Most prisons now allow stamped, addressed envelopes to be sent in with your letters and cards. Please enclose these if you write, so that prisoners don't waste their limited funds on postage.

Donations can be sent to the ALF Supporters Group, who can provide financial help for these prisoners - cheques and PO's, made payable to **'ALF Supporters Group'**, can be sent to: **ALF SG, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.**

Melanie Arnold GJ0940
HMP Eastwood PArk
Falfield
Wotton under Edge
Gloucester GL12 8DB

Gurjeet Aujla HV2047
HMPBirmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4AS

Dave Callender HV3314
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4AS

Rod Coronado #03895000
FC1, PO Box 23811
Tuscon, AZ 85706
USA

Michael Green VA2923
HMP Bristol
Cambridge Road
Hurfield, Bristol, BS7 8PS

Angie Hamp TW1687
HMP Ashkam Grange
Askham Richard
York YO2 3PT

Keith Mann EE3588
HMP Full Sutton
Nr Stamford Bridge
York YO4 1PS

Gillian Peachy RL3415
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London N7 0NU

Michael Roberts GE3743
HMP Lewes
Brighton Road
Lewes
E Sussex BN7 1EA

Geoff Sheppard MD1030
HMP Parkhurst
Newport
Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX

Charles Skinner No 24250
HMP La Moye
St Beades
Jersey
Channel Islands

Barry Horne VC2141
HMP Bristol
Cambridge Road
Horfield
Bristol, BS7 8PS

Darren Cole XD2301
HMP Exeter
New North Road
Exeter,EX4 4EX

Karen Hannigan
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London, N7 0NU

Dave Palmer
HMP Canterbury
Kent, CT1 1PJ

**Assume that your letter will be read - please be careful what you write**

who packed up on sabs arrival. One of the beaters was a known follower of the Mendip Farmers & told sabs to expect a pasting should they return to the hunt. Undeterred by bullish threats, the saboteurs sabbed the hunt quite successfully culminating in obliterating (with sprays) the scent of a fox that had broken cover in the next field to the hunt. When hounds appeared they were held up for the vital minutes the fox needed to make its escape. One form of bloodlust denied them, the hunt took to cropping & whipping the local sabs, whilst the field acted out a cavalry charge. The sabs have since been attacked again on the Mendip Farmers, this time in the company of **Wolverhampton & Liverpool** sabs. They claim the perpetrators to be "the ugliest west-country turnip eating bumpkins you've ever seen!!". Be warned.



A Brisol sab takes the Shiverham Beagles for a lively jog to help shed those excess summer pounds! (Photo: Brixton Sabs)

Leading up to National Beagling day, **Bristol & Bath** packed up the Shrivenham Beagles nice & early after ensuring there were no kills during hunting. On the day itself the Clifton Foot Beagles received similar treatment, although 2 sabs were arrested by a WPC who hysterically grabbed them & waved a canister of C.S. gas around, screaming that she'd spray anyone who resisted!

Ignoring all little hiccups **Bristol group** is going from strength to strength, with several new regular sabs & a positive vibe for '97.

### *SOUTH EAST*

**Reading & West London sabs** saw the season kick off to a good start, when towards the end of cubbing the Garth and South Berks FH huntsman fell from his horse & broke his pelvis in 4 places! Since that great day the Garth have been sabbed mid-week and Saturdays, mainly to watch the amusing spectacle of the 1st whipper-in (now huntsman) struggling to keep it, & his pack, together.

**Reading sabs** made a recent visit to the Sandhurst Beagles & found the gizmo went down a storm with 'the little blighters'. Efforts have also been made to get to the Shrivenham Beagles , but so far without success.

Other hunts visited by **Reading & West London** include the Hampshire Hunt with **Brixton and Basingstoke sabs**, the Vine & Craven FH, the Surrey Union and the Crawley & Horsham FH, all with only one arrest for aggravated trespass, which was dropped, according to the cops, because "he was lucky". Hmm.

The Chiddingfold hunt has seen it's old chums **West Sussex Wildlife Protection** still intent on preventing any 'fun'. Police numbers have remained high with at least ten officers including 2 on trail bikes at most meets. As with Surrey (see Brixton report) the Sussex police have not been over-zealous in enforcing the CJA, but have concentrated on reporting drivers for summons & confiscating sprays & gizmos.

Three group members visited the Isle of Wight FH at the end of November & found a large support & even hunt stewards to deal with the resident anti-hunt group who largely confine themselves to pre-beating, monitoring & sit-ins at digouts. The hunt reacted to mainland sabs' efforts by attacking one of the monitors shouting "If you want to play dirty, I'll play dirty" The hunt's claim that they are needed to control the island's fox population has been shattered by the discovery of monumental stick piles built in hunting country, built to encourage foxes.

Back at the Chiddingfold hunt, **WSWP** organised a demo outside the kennels which was attended by 120 people; the aim was to expose the numerous allegations the group has received that the hunt shot a large number of hounds in August after the pack rioted after a deer, killing it and also injuring a domestic dog. After the demo about 50 protesters and sabs moved on to the Crawley and Horsham FH. It was here that a **Dover sab** was ridden down and hospitalized. **WSWP** video of the aftermath was shown on local T.V. to the embarrassment of the hunt.

**South Essex sabs** second visit to the Dunston Harriers this season was a great success & 'a top days sabbing'. They had little trouble tracking down their 'respectable social betters' but as they stepped into the first field three members of the local constabulary made their presence known. Two sabs were arrested & subsequently driven around with the hunt in the comfort of a police car, thus keeping one step ahead of most of the field and supporters!

The arresting officers continued, with little effect, to harass the remaining sabs throughout the day. One, (nicknamed Judge Dredd), hung out of the Landrover window shouting "Run, rabbit, run!" as they pursued one sab. He later saw the error of his ways and apologized (!), after a little talking to about professionalism. Sabs continued to disrupt the hunt leaving the master just a tad annoyed that sabs were running off with the whole pack.

At the end of the day the two arrested sabs were released without charge (yawn). Proving his (and the police's) knowledge of the law once again, 'The Judge', asked by sabs why they had been arrested replied, 'I do not know what section the arrest is under, but it's something to do with new age travelers'. Obviously.

**Dover & Ashford** (sporting a new van & video camera) groups have sabbed the East Kent FH and the Wye College Beagles so far this season but have been having major problems with the police in Kent. An example of this being 1 unmarked police car, 3 landies, 3 patrol cars & 1 police van being needed to watch over...5 sabs!! Sabs have called into question the impartially of the 'hunt liaison' officer & are currently making



'Just where did I lose my bottle?' ponders Adrian Thompson (2nd left) after finding himself (& the hunt) held in a field for 3 hours by sabs (Photo: Brixton sabs)

an official complaint about it. They attended the demo called by **WSWP** with rather unhappy results (see that groups report). Legal action is being taken.

After last seasons 'away day mania' **Brixton sabs** are concentrating on local hunts this season. During cubbing they attended meets of the Old Surrey & Burstow FH & the Crawley & Horsham FH with best buddies **Brighton & Croydon**.

The opening meet of the Crawley & Horsham saw other groups help swell numbers even more, causing Messrs. Thompson et al to pee their collective pants. Lost without their 'hard-men', riders took it upon themselves to keep up the image, trying in vain to ride sabs down wherever possible.

After the many cold mornings staking out the kennels, the Old Surrey & Burstow FH opening meet was sabbed by **Brighton, Brixton & Croydon**. It was equally successful with poor Mark Bycroft (huntsman) having a bit of a temper towards the end of the day due to sabs getting a fox away from under his nose. The day was marred only slightly when Surrey police saw fit to impound **Brixton's** 'troop carrier' on the grounds that it had been abandoned-despite the fact it was full of sabs. Although it took 2 weeks to get the van back (sorry Wolves!) the following Tuesday & Friday, **Brixton, Croydon and Guildford** attended the totally inept Surrey Union FH whose latest tactic (supported fully by the local constabulary) involves rushing into the nearest covert, shooting blindly into the mud & then picking up an invisible corpse to carry off in an empty bag!

Sadly this tactic has fooled sabs twice and resulted in 3 arrests.

Surrey Police have thrown down the gauntlet by attempting to confiscate all equipment known to sabs, including the seizure of a broken gizmo by P.C Feast on the grounds that it "may be used for violence"?! Despite this set back the 8 sabs present managed to use voice calls to full effect and stopped a dig-out on the county border where 6 police vehicles & 30 coppers from Kent & Surrey were powerless to intervene.

Although **Brixton** have had no CJA arrests in Surrey, they claim the most stupid charge yet, that of a sab arrested for "suspicion of handling stolen goods", because he didn't have the receipt for the radios he was carrying on his person! Not surprisingly this was seen as a good excuse for the police to confiscate the radios, but **Brixton** claim that they weren't any use anyway, since **Brighton** group's piercings kept interfering with reception!!!

Away day mania reared it's ugly head more recently when sabs (accompanied by **Essex & Croydon**) descended on the Puckeridge FH, pulling the hounds off a fox in front of a disgruntled bunch of bumpkin scum. The group have yet to see a kill this season.

**Brighton group** has been very active this season, venturing forth at least two or three times a week. After the Southdown and Eridge FH admitted to them that sabs stopped them killing (Doh!) they have not suprisingly been targeting the said hunt. The statement has proved eerily true, as no kills have been accounted for whilst sabs have been present for the last two & a half seasons. **Croydon** also joined in the fun up on the downs on a couple of occasions, a visit much appreciated by **Brighton** sabs.

Policing has been kept low key & many thanks go out to PC Gary Meadows for being such an effective sab when he's pissed off!

Finally, **Brighton** sabs CB's keep disappearing into other group's vans so if anyone has any money they would like to donate... [Stoppit! Stoppit, Stoppit! - GN Ed ]

**So there you go! Sabbing going on all over the country, new sabs going out with nearly every group & public support as generous as ever (how many groups with new vans?!). Apologies are due from those at the Telegraph methinks.**



16 years sabbing & stil boasting a fine head of hair! South Dorset sab proving he's still got the magic touch with the Portman FHs (Photo: S. Dorset sabs)

***Group News Deadline***

News (with photos) needed by 14th April and should be sent to:

Roe c/o Brixton Sabs ,
121 Railton Road , LONDON SE24 OLR

Many thanks go to all you that sent Group news in, especially those who responded to my nagging phone calls for pictures. For the next issue, please try to send stuff in before the deadline so that I'm not so rushed with the (two-fingered) typing and my phone bill isn't too high !! ROE xxx

**Continued from page 18**

personal safety.

Therein lies much of our problem with the PR industry, and also part of the reason why I am unsure why I am even writing to PR Week. At the end of the day, we have no time for any public relations - our aims and methods revolve solely around direct action to save individual animals who are being hunted. Most of us fully support organisations who campaign in parliament to change the law, but in the meantime, thousands of wild animals are being killed for fun every day.

Olly Grender is obviously free to form her opinions from the mainstream media, but she would do well to remember that pro hunting groups have millions of pounds at their disposal to promote their message, and untold influence at editorial level with which to "interpret" a story. Our press budget on the other hand amounts to not much more than £1,000 per annum, an element of trust, and the will of some journalists to find out what is really going on in the world. **Paul Gammon - HSA Press Officer**

# Committee News

Over the last few months the committee has undergone considerable changes. For a start the office has completed the big move from Nottingham to Brighton. It is now being run by a group of four Brighton sabs, Sam, Sadie, Emma and Kate. Kate has been voted on to the committee as **membership officer** to keep the office closely in contact with the committee. Massive respect to Roe and Karen for doing such an ace job for so long in Nottingham and to the Brighton crew for all their dedication.

Following the office move was the regionalisation of all the hunt files to your local regional contact, this was so groups could have easy access to their relevant files and get the files back to the grass roots so you use them more. They are there for you to use - get clued up on your local hunts and add information for future years. You may be surprised at how much information is available about your local hunt. Sadie has been voted on to the committee as **research officer** as she has ready access to all the remaining files down in the office.

Paul G continues to be **press officer,** striving to get sabs fair and favourable coverage in both local and national media. With the BFSS embarking on continuous advertising campaigns to try and increase their numbers, and the media desire to portray sabs as the bad guys in the hunting 'debate', his job becomes increasingly important. With articles appearing in Time Out (very favourable!) and numerous local papers and fielding enquiries from journalists from all over the country (and some abroad) he manages to keep busy (!).

Paul T is your **fringe bloodsports officer** and he has been keeping close watch on animal abusers nationwide - continually proving the links between hunting and illegal bloodsports such as badger-baiting. Paul compiles 'Vermin Patrol' for 'Howl' and keeps local groups informed about court cases in their areas.

Phil has been in charge of **salesgoods** since March and has been steadily getting the orders up-to-date. With a few exceptions all orders have now been dispatched and everyone who has experienced delays has had explanatory letters. Salesgoods are now back up and running - as the 1997 catalogue enclosed in this issue should testify.

Steve, who does **tactics**, has been working on a new tactics book-updating previous efforts and including new sabbing skills to spread info. on how to sab most effectively all around the country. Any ideas or suggestions for Steve should be sent to the Brighton office. Steve is also co-ordinating the editing of the HSA tactic video, currently in production.

Norma was the regional contact for Essex and is invaluable at keeping the committee communicating, she has been working on the 'Will to Live' leaflet (about donations left in wills) but has recently decided to take on the responsibility of **treasurer** (it's a dirty job but someone's got to do it - Ed).

Martin is the **international officer** and he contacts and communicates with sabs and other direct action animal rights groups world wide. Spending a lot of his time on the Internet he is able to discuss ideas, swap information with and support sabs all over the world. The Austrian sabotage article in this issue is a result of his many international contacts.

Seth, with the help of Craig, produces **group mailout.** Their job is to amalgamate information and dates with any relevant or interesting articles or opinions and distribute them quickly and regularly to group contacts. Seth encourages contributions to the mailout which is a really important communication between groups.

**Sabbing skills** are currently being covered by Simon. Simon is available to travel to groups to hold skills days demonstrating techniques both in the field and in the police station. There are few groups who stand up to the true-to-life high-pressure role plays reconstructed by Simon.

As **chairperson** my job has involved chairing committee meetings and compiling the agendas. I have also been typing and distributing the minutes and trying to chase up committee members about their commitments. Over the last few months I have spoken for the HSA at the Liberal Democrat conference, with other Brighton sabs and on Leeds radio to promote and defend sabbing and hunt saboteurs.

Lastly I would like to say goodbye to Roe who resigned at the AGM from research officer and thank her for long and dedicated

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work for the HSA, and to welcome Aubrey back on to the committee to provide us with his experience and knowledge.
The committee all work very hard and dedicate a lot of time and stress to attempt to keep the HSA running smoothly. If you are interested in joining the HSA committee why not stand for election? Further details can be found if you shift your gaze right a wee bit. This is your committee- let us hear your ideas and opinions. Claire the chair.

Eds note - Since Claire compiled this committee news unforeseen events have led to her (hopefully temporary) resignation. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Claire for the work she has done for the HSA, and we hope to see her again very soon! XXX

## Get the Horn - for only a fiver +p&p!

Why not treat yourself to a brand spanking lovely shiny etc etc new hunting horn? The HSA has discovered it has a bargain basement and has budget hunting horns, the same as an Earlham but not quite as polished, for a super-duper £5 + £1.50p+p BARGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

First come, first served, Cheques, PO's Access/Visa to office address ASAP. Ta.

# *Election time again...*

## *(no, not* that *election - the HSA committee elections!)*

*All members are invited to stand for committee posts in the forthcoming election - due to be held in Spring 1997. The actual positions available on the committee are really determined by the people who want to undertake them and are not 'set' positions, with the exception of* ***Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer****. Positions duly created and filled by eager beavers in the past include:-*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Press Officer* | *Fringe Bloodsports* |
| *Research* | *Membership* |
| *Group Mailout* | *Fundraising* |
| *Salesgoods* | *Sabbing Skills* |
| *Tactics* | *International* |
| *Student Liaison* | *New Groups* |
| *Legal* | *Shoot* |
| *Northern Contact* | *Southern Contact* |

*So, as you can see, if you're thinking of getting more involved there is a vast range of jobs which all require a nice responsible person to do them! The above list is certainly not exhaustive - if you can think of something that the HSA should be doing but isn't then why not be creative and design a job to stand for (because, as some annoying advert once said 'if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything - Ed).*
*Any interested members must:*
*1. be paid up members of the HSA of at least one years standing*
*2. be proposed and seconded by two other HSA members. Both must have been members for at least one year prior to the closing date for nominations. They must not be candidates themselves and may not nominate more than one candidate.*
*3. supply a written CV of not more than 200 words to include the following: name, age, occupation, why you think yourself suited for the committee and how you see the HSA developing in the future.*
*4. state the post they standing for.*
*5. enclose a £100 donation with their CV...oh, OK 'only joking!'*

*Committee work is unpaid, although basic expenses will be met. Committee work can sometimes be invariably boring, thankless and tiring - but then again it can be seriously rewarding when you see that you've got the bloodsports fraternity on the run or all het up about something! All CV's submitted will be sent out to members in Howl 64 in preperation for the elections to be held at the next AGM in Spring 1997.*

***All nominations must comply with the above and be submitted to the HSA office, clearly marked 'Committee Elections' by the 28th February 1997.***

## *Want to get involved but don't know how?*

Then your first point of reference should be the office - if the ansamachine is on - please leave a message and someone will call you back. Not sure whether you really want to get actively involved or just as a supporting member? Again, contact the office and they will put you in touch with your local sab group and you can get together and have a chat about the local situation, and find out what other things you could perhaps help with if you decide against action in the field. Whichever way you decide to do it, *please please* get in touch! ***THE HSA NEEDS YOU!!!!!!!***

# *Why you should support the HSA...*



So you really think that 1996/97 might just be the last season that hunting with hounds goes into the British history books? Maybe you're right...but then again, even if a Labour government who promises a free vote on the issue does get in, how high on their list of 'Things To Do' do you really think hunting will be? Near-ish the top perhaps - but certainly not near enough for the fox or hare that faces another two or three seasons being relentlessly persecuted.

What are **you** doing to hammer that final nail into the hunting coffin?

The HSA continues its campaign of sabotage regardless of what the latest opinion polls say, with their predictions of what the outcome of the next general election will be.

Formed in 1963, the HSA represents the longest-running campaign of direct action in the country. Using a range of non-aggressive interventionalist tactics, hunt saboteurs save the lives of thousands of hunted creatures every year...and will continue to do so until all forms of bloodsports are banished from the country.

**HSA resources:-**

**advice on tactics and equipment for sabotaging hunts.**
**database on every organised hunt in Britain**
**education packs about hunting**
**24-hour news report and media relations service**
**advice, analysis and monitoring the implementation of public order legislation**
**salesgoods, leaflets, posters - all raising the profile of the campaign**
**quarterly mag -(free to members)**
**contact network of over 100 local groups**

***- - - For fox sake - if you aren't a member, now's the time to join! - - -***

## hsa club draw winners

**August**
1st - B. Robbins, Bristol
2nd - R. Baker, Exeter
3rd - P. Wibberley, Kent

**September**
1st - M. Mead, Bucks
2nd - F. Ford, Lancs
3rd - D. Preston, Gtr. Manc.

**October**
1st - T & B Lithgow, Aberdeenshire
2nd - M J Clarke, Stratford - Upon - Avon
3rd - E. A Adams, Derbyshire

**November**
1st - R Baker, Exeter
2nd - T Nickerson, Norfolk
3rd - D. Langley, Cornwall

## *HSA Membership/Donation Form*

*I would like to become an active/supporting member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association*
*I enclose my membership subscription of :*

☐ *£10 per year waged*

☐ *£7.50 per year unwaged*

☐ *£100 Life membership*

☐ *I enclose a donation of £.....to help fund the HSA's work.*

*Name: (Ms/Mr/Mrs)* _____
*Address* _____
_____
_____
*Postcode:* _____

*I wish to pay by Visa/Mastercard*
*Card Number* ____ ____ ____ ____ *Expiry date* __/__
*Signature* _____
*Return to HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton, BN2 2AX. Cheques payable to HSA.*

Noticeboard

## Stuff to buy!

### Gizmo's!

Cigarette packet size + amplifier, with megaphone and tape recording of hounds and horn blowing. The amplifier is incased in a strong black box - which makes the ultimate claim of being sab-proof!.
Price? - £30 or £33 with a tape recorder + £2.50 p&p. It is expensive, but it has a guarantee!
If interested contact Steve on 0585 14085.

**Tactics Booklet** - The North-West HSA has published an updated version of the old booklet. New features include legal advice, a guide to suing the police, how to make a whip and how to use it effectively - plus many more informative articles. Cheques/postal orders for £3.50 made payable to North-West Hunt Sabs, PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT.

**Overdose on SchNEWS!!!** Want to know what's really happening out there in defiance of the CJA, JSA and lots more large letters clubbed together?? Then you need to place an order for SchNEWS-round, comprising issues 51-100 of the weekly schNEWS letter. Send a cheque payable to Justice for £4.99 to Justice, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX.

**Under***currents* **6 -Under***currents* is a non-profit organisation which distributes video footage shot on camcorders by ordinary people through it's award winning alternative news service and archives. **Under***currents* 6, another 60 mins of whats really happening on the streets, is now available. Back copies of videos 1- 5 also still available. Send cheques/PO's/Credit Card details to **Under***currents,* 16b Cherwell St, Oxford, OX4 1BG. Tel 01865 203 662. 1 issue costs £12.95 (unwaged £9.95). 3 issue subscription costs £32.95.

**Bargain hunting horns for only five squid!** The HSA has got its grubby little hands on a nice consignment of horns for a nice little price. Why not spend what's left of your crimbo/beer money on something productive. They're the same as an Earlham horn but not as highly polished. Cheques/PO's/Credit Card details to the Brighton PO Box asap - first come with the dosh gets 'em!

## Help!

The HSA is trying to get 'Howl' out via new outlets. Do you know of a radical bookshop or similar outlet that may be interested in taking a few Howls to sell? If so, please either send the address details to the HSA office, or write in for further details of the deal on offer (sale or return).
Cheers - Dawn, Howl Ed.

## Addresses

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

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

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

**Fox Cubs** - HSA's junior campaigning group. PO Box 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ. 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** A forum for debate and exchange of ideas about pro-animal action at all levels - £8.00 for 4 issues. 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.

**Animal Cruelty Investigation Group** Conducts undercover investigations and expose of animal abuse. ACIG, PO Box 8, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0JL

**Dave Callender Justice Campaign** Campaign for Dave C, a long time sab and animal rights activist who was jailed for 10 years for bugger all. News, events & merchandise. DCJC, PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX. Any donation cheques or postal orders should be made payable to DCJC.

**Justice for Keith Mann Campaign** for Keith Mann, another long time sab and animal rights activist, currently serving an 11 sentence for conspiracy. JFKM, PO Box 1135, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8AA

## 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 a sae to: Ethical Wares, 84 Clyde Way, Rise Park, Romford RM1 4UT.

**Ethical Investors Group** - can provide in dependant advice on a whole range of personal financial matters, including ethical investments, pensions, life assurance and saving..and they understand were you mad vegans are coming from! For an info pack contact E.I.G at Milestone, Greet road, Cheltenham, GL54 5B. Tel 01242 604550. Tell them were you saw this ad!!!!