Direct Action Against All Bloodsports
Summer 97 £1.50

HOWL 64

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association



QUANTOCK STAGHOUNDS LOSE TRUST

SAB ATTACKED AT 'ROYAL' HUNT
Did Prince Charles witness the attack?

COUNTRYSIDE UNMOVED
Countryside Movement collapses due to lack of interest

EXCLUSIVE!
Photographic proof: hunters really are sick and twisted



Rob Todd

SHE CAN'T WAIT FOR HUNTING TO BE BANNED

Every year, thousands of animals are killed in this way by fox, hare, deer and mink hunts. Although a ban maybe at last be within sight, there are no guarantees, and as we wait for parliament to ponder the 'issues', thousands more animals will die shocking deaths. Hunt saboteurs take action where it counts - in the killing fields - using non-violent direct action. The **HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION** is the only organisation solely dedicated to saving hunted animals in this way. Wherever animals are being hunted for fun, hunt saboteurs aim to be there, protecting our wildlife from the "sportsmen" who get their kicks from killing.

If you want to help the hunted animal *now* then use the form on the back page to join the H.S.A.

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Editorial

As this issue is written (mid-April) the General Election is not yet won, unless you believe the opinion polls - which you shouldn't. This fact is reflected in a lot of the news stories, some of which highlight clearly how the bloodsports fraternity are running around like headless chickens (to use a vegan-unfriendly phrase) because they know that their time is limited, and when you're faced with extinction it does tend to focus the mind. No matter who wins the election, the battle of the killing fields is not yet won. The colour of the new Government should be irrelevant - your support is still required by the HSA until all forms of bloodsport are resigned to the history books. You should ensure that your MP knows your feelings on the matter as soon as possible, and you should also remind him/her on a regular basis. The worst thing that we can do now is underestimate the lengths that the hunters & shooters will go to to try and protect their 'sport' - make sure that you do all you can to drown out their pitiful message. On that note what I'm about to say sounds like a bit of a cop out, but it ain't - honest! This is my last Howl as Editor as I'm shortly destined for sunnier shores, but rest assured the magazine will continue, new and improved, thanks to my successor Roe. Beer and kisses to all those who know they deserve it.

Dawn - Howl Ed

.P.S. Please God send me a Labour government!

Please Note - There are no Commitee C.V's in this Howl as was indicated in issue 63 due to no new candidates sending them in.Therefore all current members are standing unopposed so the commitee will remain unchanged.

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.

Staghunts in serious trouble as National Trust bans staghunting on its land

COVER STORY



Bill Fewings, Master of the Quantock Staghounds rides out for (hopefully) his last season

The Devon & Somerset Staghounds, the Tiverton Staghounds, the Quantock Staghounds and the New Forest Buckhounds will all face a refusal to renew their licences to hunt on National Trust land following the Councils decision on the 10th April to ban the hunting of red and fallow deer on its land.

The recommendations follow the shock results of a two year report which stated that 'hunts with hounds impose extreme stress on red deer and are likely to cause them great suffering'. The report, commissioned by the National Trust and conducted by Professor Patrick Bateson, Professor of Ethology (Animal Behaviour) and Provost of Kings College, Cambridge, aimed to study the behavioural and physiological effects of hunting and other methods of culling red deer.

The study produced clear-cut scientific results, showing that extreme stress was suffered by the deer as the hunts forced them to experience conditions far outside with normal limits for their species. The conditions were likened by one of the reporting group to what would be experienced by a person being taken off the street and being made to run a 100 mile marathon. Peter Green, a veterinary surgeon who had previously hunted stated that 'In the past I have hunted stags with hounds and enjoyed it. Now there is irrefutable evidence that the deer suffer terribly. A year ago, before this study, I would have defended hunting, but this report has persuaded me and I could never do so again".Professor Bateson's Research Associate, Dr Elizabeth Bradshaw spent 18 months living on Exmoor and collected blood samples from culled deer after they had been hunted or shot by stalkers. The date collected showed that the exertion of the chase caused muscle and blood changes which the deer would not experience in normal life, and which were comparable with that produced by severe injuries. As red deer are used to only having to produce short sprints to outrun their natural predator (the wolf), the average hunt chase of 12 miles over three hours was completely alien to them and therefore produced shocking changes in their systems.

Although the report was based on the plight of the red deer, the Professor stated his belief that there was sufficient behavioural and physiological similarities between red deer and fallow deer to lead to the conclusion that the arguments applicable to red deer should also apply to fallow, a species that is unlikely to be adapted for long chases either by its evolution or its everyday activities.Although this ruling represents a massive defeat to the staghunts it must be remembered that the National Trust still issues 145 separate licences to fox hunts covering some 145,600 hectares of land.

Why not write to the Trust, congratulating them on the staghunting ban but also requesting that, as an organisation obviously concerned with the welfare of animals, they commission a similar report into the suffering and stress caused by the hunting of foxes as a means of management on National Trust land. **The National Trust** can be contacted at **36 Queen Annes Gate, London, SW1H 9AS. Telephone 0171 222 9251. Fax 0171 2225097 or 2233037.**The Trust also agreed to provide a copy of the Bateson Report to the Government and request an urgent review by an expert committee into the suffering of wild animals used for sporting purposes.

Cover photo and above: North Dorset HSA

First cases brought under Wild Mammals (Protection) Act

The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, which came into effect on the 30th April last year, saw the first successful prosecutions brought under it in January. Adrian Littler, a gamekeeper from Essex, was found guilty of 'asphyxiating three fox cubs with intent to cause unnecessary suffering' following an incident which occurred in May 1996. On the same day Great Yarmouth magistrates found a youth guilty of kicking, beating and stabbing a hedgehog and ordered him/her to carry out 120 hours community service and pay costs of £50. An RSPCA officer responsible for mounting the prosecution stated "We are delighted with the outcome. Just a few months ago such an act was perfectly legal and this person would probably have escaped punishment". A third case, again involving cruelty to a hedgehog, was heard at Winchester where Richard Smith and Paul West set light to the animal with a home made blowtorch and proceeded to kick it around. Both were remanded by the court awaiting presentence reports.The Act represented the first British legislation to protect all mammals from some acts of cruelty, and it certainly seems to be a more productive and well used piece of legislation than certain parts of the Criminal Justice Act!



National Anti-Angling Week 1997

This year will take place from **Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st June,** to co-incide with the traditional start of the coarse fishing season. Organised by **Pisces** (formerly the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling) the aim of the week is to concentrate public attention on the 'sport'.

This years focus will be on calls by anglers to have cormorants' status as a protected species dropped. Groups and individuals are urged to keep a few days free for anti-angling activities. For further details contact Pisces, PO Box 90, Bristol, BS99 1ND. Telephone/fax 0117 955 9814.

'Union' of Country Sports Workers launched.

w**kers?

In full pre-election panic mode the motley crew of those employed in the bloodsports arena have joined together under the umbrella of the **'Union of Country Sports'.** The Union, which aims to recruit 'thousands' of people employed by hunts or in related trades such as the equestrian industry, intends to highlight the plight of those who would lose their jobs, and sometimes houses if hunting was banned, to Tony Blair in the run up to the General Election.

John Fretwell, huntsman with the Stowe Beagles at Stowe School commented that "They (the Labour Party) don't seem to realise that they are threatening the jobs of some of the lowest paid workers in the land and families would lose their homes if hunting is stopped"

.However, it has been has noticed that an involvement in bloodsports tends to have a detrimental effect of ones arithmetic skills, as although the 'Union' claims that around 125,000 jobs would be threatend if hunting was banned, the League Against Cruel Sports have calculated that as the hunting ban would affect around 300 hunts, this means that each hunt provides around 400 jobs! The persistent rumour that hunt sabs get paid must have obviously been taken literally when these figures were compiled, as this seems to provide the only explanation for the blatant inflated figures provided by the 'Union', who should hereby note that sabs would love to be put out of a 'job' if it secured the safety of Britain's wildlife.

As the 'Union' has not yet made any attempts to fulfil the required legal criteria of a recognised Union, i.e register with the official trade union Certification Officer and submit rule books and accounts for scrutiny, it seems yet another PR stunt may be in the offing. The rural section of the Transport and General Workers Union, the RAAW, who already represents 25,000 rural workers including grooms and gamekeepers, stated that "As the only trade union representing rural workers, we are extremely concerned about protecting jobs and creating new employment in the countryside, by expanding drag hunting, for example. The scare-monger tactics of this new group do nothing towards an informed and accurate debate on field sports and the future of the country side".

Ytene yob falls under 'friendly fire"



You'd be forgiven for thinking that the photos above shows the usual scene of riders knocking down sabs. However in this case the fallen man is none other than Julian 'Paddy' Cooper, notorious Ytene boy.

Cooper was in the midst of the kind of 'negotiatons' with sabs that envolve the use of a big stick, when his mounted back up bowled him over by mistake.

Many thanks to So'ton sabs for the delightful piccies. They made my day!

Thanks to feature writers Paul G, Paul T, Sam, Ed and Oz. Also thanks to all those who sent in photos, especially Joe and Rob.

.....More Movement in the Countryside.

Less than two years after the formation of the Countryside Movement and the Countryside Business Group, both are now extinct following their merger with the British Field Sports Society.

The BFSS line on the matter is that 'the new organisation would represent the wide range of countryside interests, sports and businesses, with a new sense of purpose, which no political party could ignore'. However, as reports indicate that both the CM and the CBG have 'failed to achieve their membership expectations' (as stupidly admited by 'Horse and Hound' - doh!) it seems that the merger may be a quick and easy means of swelling the membership of the BFSS just prior to a very important General Election.

Reports also stated that the Countryside Movement has done much to increase the public awareness of countryside matters, which seems a highly exagerated claim considering that as a member all I received was a welcome pack (including a car sticker!) and some junk mail from the Council for the Protection of Rural England - not exactly mind-blowing stuff I'm sure you'll agree.

Supporters of the now defunct Countryside Movement will probably be awaiting full details of the merger with baited breath, not least because their previous 'membership' of the CM was free wereas the BFSS charge a minimum of £30.00 for annual waged membership! The new Board at the BFSS now consists of Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes (Ex) MP as Chairman; Bill Andrews, Lord Mancroft and Sir David Steel KBE MP as Deputy Chairmen, and Robin Hanbury-Tenison remains as Chief Executive.

John Lewis Partnership BOYCOTT

The National Anti-Hunt Campaign has called for a boycott of all John Lewis Partnership stores following the discovery that they own several country estates which are used to conducts shoot for the entertainment of its staff.

Up to three times a week, at the estate at Leckford Abbas, near Stockbridge, Hants., parties of allegedly drunken staff blast away at pheasants, ducks, grouse and pigeons. Inevitably many of the birds, described by one sickened member of staff as 'harmless creatures, so young they could barely fly' are simply wounded, only to die an agonising and prolonged death from their injuries.

The NAHC approached John Lewis on the matter, but the company refused to discuss the shoots. It is believed that shooting rights add about 75% to the value of the estate, and that as such the company would be unwilling to put a stop to the killing.

The campaign was launched at the end of January when 35 activists prevented shooting taking place on an estate, thus saving an estimated 200 birds.

Besides actually getting active and stopping shoots on the day people can help by boycotting John Lewis stores and by also advising the company that you have done this and why. John Lewis stores can be found at **Peter Jones**(Sloane Square), **Bainbridge**(Newcastle Upon Tyne), **Bonds** (Norwich), **Caleys** (Windsor), **Cole Bros** (Sheffield), **Heelas** (Reading), **Jessop & Son** (Nottingham), **Knight & Lee** (Southsea), **George Henry Lee** (Liverpool), **Robert Sale** (Cambridge), **Tewis Bros** (Watford) and **Tyrell & Green** (Southampton). John Lewis also owns the supermarket chain **Waitrose. The Chairman of John Lewis, Stuart Hampson, can be contacted at 171 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5NN. Telephone 0171 629 7711.** Alternatively you can complete a freepost customer comments card which are available from Waitrose customer service desks.Further information on the campaign, together with leaflets and posters can be obtained from the National Anti-Hunt Campaign, PO Box 66, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2TR.



Stoke & Wolves' van blocks in John Lewis shooting party, January 1997

York sab attacked at Royal Hunt

York sabs hit the headlines in January when one of the 3 saboteurs out on the Middleton was allegedly assaulted by a steward acting for the hunt. This incident would have gone unreported as usual, except for the fact that Prince Charles was hunting with them that day, and the attack happened right in front of him.

After having their car searched by the Prince's arse-wipers (sorry, Special Branch officers) the sabs knew they were in for fun, and they weren't disappointed! Amazingly, the Branch officers were nowhere to be seen when the stewards got a bit fruity, telling the sabs they were told "to keep them away from the VIP", and it fell to the local plod to deal with the trouble.

This had all the makings of a Sunday Paper scandal, especially when the HSA press officer gleamed from the News of the World royal editor that Prick Charles "was actually at Balmoral, and couldn't possibly be hunting in Yorkshire".

The story got juicier when it emerged that the Prince was staying on the Garrowby estate, home of Lord Halifax, and the origin of the infamous "Camilla-gate" tapes. Rumours that Camilla Parker-Bowles was heard neighing in the night and Charles was seen wandering the house trailing string, applicator in hand, were sadly unconfirmed.

COUNCIL ban TRADITIONAL 12TH SHOOT

Saboteurs will have one less place to check come the so-called Glorious 12th this year, following **Bradford City Council**'s decision to withdraw its licence from a local shooting syndicate. The Council, which owns six square miles of upland heath, has decided to open the land up to the public rather than confine it to the shooters, stating 'We'd rather that everyone had the chance to look at all of the wildlife, including the grouse, at that time of year instead of just the shooters killing them'.

Despite the shooters usual 'conservation' claims that without shooting the moors would quickly degenerate, the Council have stated that they will continue to carefully manage heather growth and wildlife, including grouse and the birds of prey which naturally hunt them.

As sabs out on the 12th last year managed to quickly find and shut down one of only three shoots out that day, the removal of shooting rights on the land at Ilkley means that shooters will have even less places to hide come the big day. Congratulations are due to Bradford City Council for their sensible decision!

Cheshire cops go Wild

86 Arrested!

The 6th anniversary of the death of Liverpool sab Mike Hill saw a weekend of action in Cheshire resulting in a total of 86 arrests. A visit to the Cheshire Foxhounds on the 8th February saw around 60 people arrested under the Cheshire cops favourite 'well they ain't done anything yet, but then again they might' guise of 'to prevent a breach of the peace'. The disruption of a couple of pigeon shooters on the same day also led to 4 sabs being charged with robbery after it was alleged that shot gun cartridges had been stolen.

Although a small number of sabs were arrested on criminal damage charges, the police have so far failed to back up with evidence, their claims that hunt vehicles and also a turkey farm in the area (!) were attacked.

Further arrests occurred on the Sunday when protesters, closely followed by vans full of cops and 2 video teams, visited the homes of the respective Masters of the Cheshire Foxhounds and the Cheshire Beagles (the hunt involved in the death of Mike). Although the resulting demo's were brief, 23 people were arrested as they attempted to leave the second demo in order to 'prevent a breach of the peace'.

As past dealings with this particular Constabulary have tended to lead to sabs suing the police rather than resulting in any prosecutions, it is confidently expected that all the groups in attendance that day will be looking to treat themselves to brand new sab vans once the dosh starts rolling in....to be continued!

CRY WOLF

Back at the end of January, when the BFSS were desperately trying to rake up any old dirt they could on sabs, they thought they had what they wanted when their photographers in the South were at a meet of the Chiddingfold (CL&C) at Shillinglee, Sussex.

After about 50 sabs turned up at the hunt, the pack was taken for a short walk in the fields leaving the embarrassed huntsman driving around in the BFSS Land Rover trying to find them.

Nearly 2 hours after the sabs took the pack, boredom started to creep in on both sides and the hounds were taken to a nearby van to be returned to the hunt, who had by this time packed up in disarray. 5 riot vans were patrolling the area, and 2 of them sat and watched as sabs loaded hounds into the van to return them. Out of the blue, **BFSS camera crew Sally and Phil Baker, and Sophie Hill** trundled in with the sheepish huntsman to collect their charges. In the melee, Sophie lost her fetching baseball cap and having a bad hair day perhaps, got very upset – if only she knew the indignities the cap was subjected to!

This was the extent of any confrontation throughout the day, with at least 40 police looking on at the time. How strange then, when the BFSS press release sensationally broke the story that this was the worst violence and intimidation seen at the CL&C this season! Luckily the sabs had an independent journalist and photographer with them for the day, and he reported the day's events in a rather more honest, down to earth fashion - in *The Sunday Telegraph* !!

Barrington Alert!

Further to previous reports in Howl it has been announced that **Jim Barrington**, the 'brains' (if any were ever involved) behind 'Wildlife Network' is to stand for election to the RSPCA Council. Since being dismissed from the League Against Cruel Sports he has consistently taken an increasing pro-hunting stance and now opposes the banning of fox-hunting; his standing can only be assumed to be another attempt from the hunting fraternity to try and gain control of the RSPCA and hence reverse its current anti-hunting stance.If you or any one you know is a member of the RSPCA please ask them not to vote for Jim Barrington, and advise them to carefully read the statements of all those standing before casting their votes.

Barrington Alert!

Corby Police go for GOLD in bent coppers league!

11 Hunt Saboteurs were arrested for aggravated trespass by Northamptonshire Police at the end of the season, whilst a foxhunt was allowed to trespass at will on the Corby – Oakham railway line.

About 25 Hunt Saboteurs were in attendance at a meet of the Woodland Pytchley Foxhounds at Gretton near Corby, a small presence when compared with the 3 riot vans, a mobile cell unit and several patrol cars contributed by the local constabulary - a much larger than usual police presence at a hunt who were amongst the last in the country to cease their barbaric activity this year. Despite pleas from some Northampton police officers to stop hunting at this time, the hunt decided to extend their season for a further week. This was said to be especially cruel to the area's fox population who at this time of year are feeding their recently born cubs - if the hunt kill a vixen during a days "fun", they will also have caused the death of 4 to 8 foxcubs.

In recent times, local Saboteurs have engaged in discussions with Northampton police to try and reduce the numbers of police at hunts and the subsequent strain on their limited resources, and also to get away from the kind of partial policing that led to many confrontations and much bad feeling in the past. The hunt was policed by officers from Corby, and a well-known pro-hunt sergeant was in charge. The officer usually responsible alledgedly telephoned the Saboteur contact prior to the hunt to let him know that a senior policeman had met with the hunt masters, and any Saboteurs turning up would be "set up". This officer said he wanted no part of it, and would be taking annual leave on the day.

Even after the 11 Saboteurs had been arrested, the remaining protesters continued to hound the hunt until they packed up in a foul mood later in the afternoon.

The hunt trespassed on a railway line several times throughout the day, with video evidence showing red-coated riders clearly on the line. British Transport police were contacted as their counterparts from Corby police seemed entirely unconcerned by this flouting of the law. 3 Saboteurs were arrested as they took video of the hunt on the line – the police have confiscated their cameras and film. We can only hope after viewing the film, the police will question the hunt and not "lose" the evidence as they have in the past!

EXCLUSIVE!

- Photo evidence confirms that hunters really are

SICK AND TWISTED

Photographic evidence obtained by hunt sabs has confirmed at last what right-minded people have suspected for many years - that all hunters really are sick and twisted!

The photo(s) to follow show the Huntsman, Mark Sprake, of the Surrey Union being attended to following a rather nasty, seemingly self engineered fall from his horse.

The incident occurred as Sprake alledgedly attempted to attack a lone sab by making his horse rear up on its hind legs and hit him. Fortunately for the sab concerned Sprake instead fell off the back of the animal and landed flat on his back on the tarmac below.

Despite initial 'concerns' that the Huntsman had done some serious damage to his neck and spine, he later left hospital with only badly bruised ribs and back.The incident followed a good days sabbing, which may have explained Sprake's annoyance at the sabs in attendance, and one in which a hunt follower was arrested for suspected Actual Bodily Harm against a saboteur.



Sick and Twisted?



Gratuitous close-up!

DEADLINES FOR HOWL 65

Letters / Articles / News items etc-15th August
Group News - 22nd August

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 photos for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit both articles and letters in respect of length and content.

PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARE NOW ABSOLUTE DEADLINES. ANYTHING ARRIVING AFTER THESE DATES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN HOWL. THIS APPLIES TO EVERYONE.

Melvyn braggs "excitement" about the hunted fox's

Once again, yet another bloodsports supporter has made an embarassing gaff, revealing his ignorance about the subject. Melvyn Bragg, art critic for commerial television's 'The South Bank Show' stated in the February issue of the pro-bloodsports magazine 'The Field', that foxes do not feel fear when being chased by a pack of hounds, but "excitement".

Despite the fact that Bragg admits that he doesn't shoot or fish and would find it "far too much trouble to get on a horse and chase a fox", he is a prominent member of the minor internal Labour lobby group 'Leave Country Sports Alone', which, despite its purpose, has not one single Labour MP supporter. He descibes the group as "an amiable bunch of tolerant people [sic] like myself, who think that Britain is Britain [what?!!] and variety is the spice of life,and these things go on without doing any great harm, and provide pleasure to some and colour to others " Unless you're a fox?

" If a hunted fox is in a state of excitement , then it is the same excitement of an old lady being chased down the street by a gang of thugs."

At first you'd be mistaken for thinking he is more 'anti' than 'pro'. The article states: " He appreciates the arguement and passion of the antis. "It's a wonderful cause and I don't want to run down people who support it, who are often the people one admires...." Bragg continues..."The pro lobby has a long way to go. They need sensible arguements, but they sit back on tradition. I think they're deeply complacent". Humm, we think they're just deeply twisted Melvyn.

Picking and choosing Darwinism, Bragg agrees that humans are animals, but alternatively believes that humans are the only animals that are sentient. He states " There is evidence that they have pain, but none that they have suffering, so a fox on the run is not suffering or in pain , it's in excitement." Labour MP John Mc Fall , who tabled the 1995 Wild Animals Protection Bill, retorted " If a hunted fox is in a state of excitement , then it is the same excitement of an old lady being chased down the street by a gang of thugs." Scientist John webster, Head of the Vetinary School of Bristol University, said that Bragg was "talking rubbish.The evidence is overwhelming that animals feel pain and suffering."

It is amazing how somebody who loves creativity and beauty in the form or art, can at the same time support the mindless destruction and brutalism of beauty in the form of hunting. Bragg's views maybe very avant-garde or post modern, but as with all bloodsports proponents, he's just talking out of his Arts.....!

Your Show!

Dear Howl

I'm just writing with a few points about issue 63. Firstly, the bit about Labours proposed plans to ban hunting on forestry commission and MoD land. I know you're only reporting the news but you don't really believe it do you? All politicians come out with all sorts of promises (i.e. lies) around election time, most of which fail to materialise. The reason I became a sab was because I lost faith in all politicians and realised that if I wanted something to change I was going to have to do it myself. That's probably the same reason a lot of sabs got active.

Secondly, the news report on 'Beagling Day' where a mention was made of the involvement in the 'accident' which led to the death of Mike Hill. Since Howl is currently compiled by sabs that probably knew Mike, I'm baffled by the choice of language used. It was murder, whatever the outcome of the inquest, and we should not forget that. Let's not compromise our choice of words to appease the scum, for our own dignity and especially Mike's memory.

My last point was inspired by the pictures of that doddering fool with the stick attacking a sab. Why aren't more sabs learning how to defend themselves. I'm sick to death of hearing sabs moaning about 'this thug' and 'that lunatic' and seeing pictures of sabs getting attacked. Why aren't the photographers helping the sab concerned instead of standing there taking the pictures? To quote an old cliche, 'It is better to light a candle than complain about the darkness'. There are self defence groups in every town and city in the country - get in touch and go down there as a group and learn how to defend yourselves, so that next time some hunt scum decides to have some fun with the anti's, they'll be in for a nasty surprise!!

Andy, Leeds Sabs.

Ed -As I write this the General Election fast approaches, and to those of you who say that 'it doesn't matter which way you vote, the government always gets in' think about this - to the hunted animal it can make a big difference if the government which gets in is promising a free vote on hunting and to suspend hunting on MoD and Forestry Commission land!!!! The HSA is not going to get hunting banned, nor is it going to change public opinion on the hunting issue - and why should it, because that is exactly what the organisation is not about!! Parliamentary lobbying and public campaigns are the stuff of the League, together with the RSPCA and IFAW under the umbrella group 'Campaign Against Hunting'. The League alone does a tremendous job and played a major part in ensuring that the Wildlife (Protection) Act came into force. Sure enough, this Act was greatly reduced from its original bill form which sought to outlaw hunting with hounds, but it still affords many wild animals protection which they previously desperately lacked, and it is a clear building block for later legislation. Each time a private members bill is introduced to outlaw hunting with hounds the results from parliament show more and more in our favour, and this sends a clear message to the general public on the issue. Hunting with hounds will be banned, and it is only a matter of time before the last blow for home is heard by sabs. With regards to your point about the reference to the Cheshire Beagles all I can say is that I completely agree. However, there exists in this country something called libel' and as Howl Ed I would rather stick with the 'facts' as they are known, i.e Mike's death was classed as 'accidental', rather than print the version of events sabs know to be true and end up with the HSA being sued into oblivion. This attitude also explains the most commonly found word in Howl - that annoying 'allegedly' word.

On the self defence point, again I agree that not enough sabs (including myself) take the time out to learn that art of defence. The HSA in the past has organised a very well attended session in Sheffield, and the recent Bristol week of action had time dedicated to the matter. If any sabs out there need someone to help arrange a session (oo-er) please contact the office and we should be able to find someone to get something together in your area. Finally, thanks to Andy for bothering to take the time out to write in with his comments/criticisms - it's nice to know there is actually someone out there!!

Save our Stags

The use of 'carted' stags to hunt by 2 Irish packs, the Ward Union Stag Hounds and the Co. Downs Stag Hounds, will be something that regular readers of HOWL will be aware. The Irish Red Deer are purpose bred by the hunt to chase for up to 4 hours. The hunts claim that the exhausted animals are then 're-captured' and taken back to the park, possibly to be hunted again.

A campaigning group, Save Our Stags (S.O.S.), was set up to get this practice banned and support for the campaign has been phenomenal, with over 70,000 signatures collected in Northern Ireland alone and some more than sympathic support from the press. 'Sunday Life's own leader comment has told the group to "keep it up" and has urged its readship to sign the petition. Since then the media attention has been staggering, leaving the hunts in question squirming under the pressure.



LICENCE RETURNED

The media spotlight was a little too bright for the **Ward Union Stag Hounds** when it was discovered that they had, in fact, been hunting without a licence for 8 years.

The Ward Union (who hunt in the Republic) had last applied for a licence in 1988, and had been in breach of the Wildlife Act 1976 ever since, for hunting without one. Nevertheless the hunt continued to flout the law, even when this was made public, comfirming that its St. Stephen's Day hunt went ahead without a licence despite being told beforehand by the National Parks and Wildlife Service that such a licence was necessary. This incident sparked a Gardi investigation into the pack, who *still* continued to hunt while an application for a licence was hastily despatched.

Speaking in early January an Irish Council Against Bloodsports spokeswoman stated they "were very concerned that influental people associated with this hunt might be in a position to exert political pressure in order to obtain the licence in time for next Fridays hunt." Meanwhile the Irish Anti-Hunt Campaign handed in a 20,000 strong petition calling for a revision of stag hunt regulations and controls. They also challenged the minister concerned, Mr Michael D Higgins to clarify why the hunt was allowed to operate over BSE suffering farms, since deer suffer from a disease related to BSE. (The Department of Agriculture failed to reply.) The Campaign for the Abolitition of Cruel Sports accused the Government of standing idly by while the stag hunters openly flouted the law, and also claimed the hunt was acting in contravention of the 1911 Protection of Animals Act as they hunted deer raised in captivity.

It seemed as though the IAHC fears may have been justified, as Minister Higgins flew in the face of public opinion and granted the hunt a temporary licence in the 2nd week of January. Doubtless the hunt (and Mr Higgins) thought that all the 'fuss' would soon die down. How wrong they were.

LOST STAGS AND LYING HUNTSMEN

On the 15th of January the hunt headed off followed by a contingment of hunt protesters, government hunt moniters and the press. They chased the deer for 45 minutes and then, suddenly, it was all over. The deer, the hunt claimed, had been cornered in a ditch 25 minutes ago and was already one it's way back to the park. The protesters were suspicious. It all seemed too easy and the protesters thought it must have all been a PR stunt for the media, as the chase usually lasts 3/4 hours. The huntsman Sean Byrne, however, waved this accusation away and instead chose to be magnaminous about the animal. " Everyone underestimates the deer.....he has a a lot of uncanny ability to get himself though the countryside" he said sporting a face full of stratches. That very uncannyness was the undoing of Mr Byrne, and justified the protesters suspicions, when 7 days later, the hunt admited that the stag was in fact, still free.

A witness had rung DSPCA after seeing the deer at large and claimed it had been injured by barbed wire. On 18th January Sean Byrne admitted to the Sunday Tribune that he had told a lie. "I caught the animal but it was as strong as a bull and (it) broke away again " he said "I knew the protesters would say I just didn't want the stag inspected and that's why I misled everyone"

He went on to say that the deer cart had failed to arrive promtly and "only one fellow offered to help me hold on to it. Everybody was scared, there was so much media around. There was more people watching us that day than kept an eye on Bill Clinton and I'm only a farmer."!!!

The **County Down Staghunt** knew exactly how he was feeling. The Northern Irish hunt faced accussations that they too had failed to catch one of their semi-tame stags that had been hunted before Christmas. However, their alledged cover up lasted until February when a stag had to shot after being hit by a car. Local residents, who had witnessed the animal's agony were adament it was the same stag. Farmers backed this up, saying the stag had only appeared in the area after the pre-Christmas meet. The hunt (who did not want to be linked with the realise of semi-tame animals into the wild) refuted this and claimed that the de-horned animal could have escaped from a farm. Hmmm.

'CARING' HUNT EXOSED AS A SHAM

On the 30 the January another stag had to be shot after being chased into the path of the car. The Co. Down hunt spokesman said " The stag jumped out into the path of the car.....The owner of the car was looked after by members of the hunt and is being fully compensated and has been given a hired car. The owner accepted that these things happened." Only that wasn't quite the case.

Sonia Kerr, the driver involved, gave the true version of events a month later. She descibed exactly how she had served but was unable to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

LEGAL BRIEFS

CJA conviction thrown out after appeal

A Dorchester sab, the first to be convicted under the Criminal Justice Act in his area, had his conviction overturned after the main prosecution witness seemingly couldn't find the time to attend the appeal at Crown Court. The sab, convicted in September 1996 following an alleged incident at a meet of the Cattistock Hunt in the ground of Ilchester Estate in Melbury, Osmond, stated that he hoped "the forces of law and order will now concentrate on the real criminals rather than those who seek by lawful protest to preserve British wildlife".

First CJA charges in Northern Ireland dropped against Save Our Stags protesters

The first protesters to be charged under the Criminal Justice Act in Northern Ireland experienced the fate of the majority of their counterparts on the mainland in early March - charges dropped!. The nine were charged back in early 1996 following a blockade at the Co. Down Stag Hounds kennels which was conducted as part of the successful 'Save our Stags' campaign. [See news article] The magistrate, who gave an absolute discharge to all nine after they pleaded guilty to obstructing an RUC officer in the execution of his duty, stated that a major reason for the decision was that the demonstration had been a peaceful one. Following the verdict, one of the protesters commented that 'It's outrageous that they went to the expense of dragging us through the courts for what was a peaceful sit-down protest. Not one of us is prepared to apologise for what we did'.



Reading & Southampton sabs readily line up for prospective compensation pay-outs.

Sabs arrested for "looking like terrorists".

Six sabs from Southampton and Reading were arrested in January for "threatening and intimidating behaviour", whilst staking out the New Forest Beagles kennels.

Even though the sabs in question had been sat quietly in their parked van since they arrived, the police seemed intent on either getting them out of the area, or arresting them. (Which amounts to much the same thing!)

Once at the Police station not only were they booked in incorrectly, the sabs were then told to 'stop dressing like terrorists' before they were discharged on offences differing from those they were originally arrested for. Oddly enough no charges have been brought and legal action against Hampshire police is now under way.

Hospitalised saboteur accused of 'attacking horse'

The Dover sab ridden down and hospitalised at the Crawley and Horsham FH on 22/11/96 is still fighting to pursue a legal action against his assailant. The police have now contacted his solicitors and stated that the assailant has made a statement, alledging that the sab was attacking his horse at the time. They state they are happy with this even though they still refuse to take a statement off the sabotuer. Apparently the police's budget will not stretch to sending an officer from Crawley to London to interview him.

Kent police ignore court ruling

An Ashford saboteur was arrested on the 22nd Feb, on the so- say of the ex-master of the Ashford Valley FH, for assault. The sab was carted off to Tunbridge Wells and eventually forced to give a DNA sample before being bailed not to go within five miles of any hunt in England or Wales, and not to leave his house on a Saturdy between 6am and 6pm!

These conditions were thrown out at a specially convened court hearing that same week. However the police refused to beleive that their powers to give Draconian bail conditions had been over-turned and so visited the sab's house the next Saturday, only to find he wasn't there. The sab was arrested at the East Kent FH later that day for breach of bail, only to find the charge miraculously changed to intent to cause criminal trespass. The arrest took place on a road.

Trials & tribulations in West Sussex

◆ The collapse of a case of a West Sussex sab arrested for section 69, due to questions of identity, has caused Sussex police to re-think their statagy in dealing with sabs. A senior police officer at Chichester has described the CJA enforcment as just an "option",and while police numbers have only been slightly reducied this season there has been a lack lustre enforcement of CJA provisions and no further prosecutions. The police have also told the hunt they must not digout when saboteurs are at the hunt, a good incentive for the local group to keep attending the hunt.

◆ Still with West Sussex, one of their number who had been convicted of spitting at a hunt supporter from the groups van, lost an appeal despite the sab that did spit owning up. Fine plus cost amount to £600. The Judge descibed the evidence of the BFSS Regional Contact witness as "very strong" while the sab that admitted spitting was descibed as "unconvincing".
The Judge in question, Eric Wrintmore, is no stranger to sabs in the South East; in 1993 he heard the appeal of a Brighton saboteur who had been given 60 hours of community service for assauting a hunt supporter. Wrintmore dissmissed the appeal and sent the unfortunate sab to prison for 3 months.

The next *HOWL* will have a new legal '**Question & Answers**' column with advice given by leading sab solititor Des Murphry. Write to him with your questions via HOWL and we will print the best with Des' replies. DO NOT write to the column with urgent enquires; remember HOWL is only printed every 3 months!!

NEWS FROM THE LEGAL OFFICE

As the season draws to a close the legal office has been fairly busy assisting sabs with their legal problems. As per normal the police have been using their powers under the various authorities available to them in affecting arrests, and preventing in some cases legitmate peaceful protest.

However, the protestors are winning, not only in preventing the slaughter of the hunted animal, but in the courts. There has been countless actions against the police. In many cases they have abused their position, with unlawful arrests, and unlawful detention. It is apparent from the amount of success that people have, rectifying a wrong, that the police do not appear to be taking note.

There was a recent case of a sab who was cleared of an offensive weapons charge, as he was alledgedly in possession of a whip. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 S. 1 7)(a)(b), provides that an offensive weapon is an offensive weapon or an article made or adapted for use in connection with an offence. The offences which this section applies are burglary, theft S.8(a)(b)(c) and S.9(a)(b). An offensive weapon means any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to persons or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or some other person. It is clear that a whip in the sabbing context is not a weapon used for burglary, theft or to harm people. A whip is a tool used in sabbing to save lives and prevent injury. Of course, members of the hunt also use whips for controlling horses and hounds (amongst other things)!!

The police like to utilise their common law powers of breach of the peace. Breach of the peace was defined by L.J. Watkins in Howell(1982) " We cannot accept that there cannot be a breach of the peace unless there has been an act done or threatened to be done which either actually harms a person or in his presence his property or is likely to cause such harm or which puts someone in fear of such harm being done." A Cornish sab and two other co-defendants were recently aquitted from a charge of breach of the peace. [See opposite] They had sought to rely on case law including DPP V Nicol(1996), which provides for acting reasonably and lawfully. Well done Cornwall.

In the Midlands a sab, acussed of spraying hounds was aquitted from a charge of cruelty to animals, and yet hounds which belong to the hunt are lucky to live 5 years!! In Essex a sab was aquitted from aggravated trespass but still he had to pay costs. The police recently agreed to pay a small amount of compensation for an alledged damaged window belonging to a sab van. Incidentally if a criminal offence is perpetrated towards you then report it. A sab was successful in instigating the discipline of an officer for alledged neglect of duty for not taking action when a crime had been committed against her.

Recent events in Cheshire saw a number of arrests, but also a number of people had proceedings discontinued - watch this space. The moral of the story is, not only are the hunting fraternity on the defensive but if people stand up for their rights then we can have people out protesting and not in jail or paying fines.

Please send legal incident forms via the office and let me know what's happening!!

Next issue's article will be on legal aid. Cheers, Sam HSA Legal Officer

'Chocolate Biscuit' case resolved

Cornwall saboteur, Mary Lynch's charge of aggratated tresspass for alledgedly "luring hounds with chocolate biscuits" has been dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service. She was arrested on 3rd October 1996 near the Men-an-Tol at a cub-hunting meet of the Western Hunt. When arrested she was only released on the condition that she was banned from the whole of West Cornwall until her court case 5 weeks later.

Jet setting

with the Holcombe Harriers

A Northwest sab reviews a season targetted against the Holcombe Harriers in Lancashire - a good season overall for sabs, a terrible season in terms of hunting, press coverage and the death of hounds for them.

March the 5th and the best day so far this season - it's the final meet of the Holcombe Harriers and I'm so glad it's over. We've really concentrated on them for the last two years, with just three of us about midweek and up to a dozen on weekends - this season they've had only five or six sab free days but in many ways it doesn't feel as though we've won the battle yet. They're a fast pack, underrated by many people, who have had a few virtually sab free years to recover from an intensive campaign in the late 80's/ early 90's.

The huntsman rode over the vixen as she lay injured on the ground - He broke her back before the hunt master picked up the still live fox by her tail.

We'd sabbed a few pre-season meets and knew the hunt was due to open at the Smithills Coaching house, an historic restaurant on the outskirts of Bolton, a different opener to the last few years. We'd had a big demo there a month before when the hunt were meant to have a social there but we're told they didn't turn up because there wasn't enough interest.

We turned up for a demo outside the meet with the press but no hunt, who'd changed meets to a few miles round the corner. One of the directors of the coaching house is a local labour councilor and as the council has an anti-hunt policy we think they decided not to allow the hunt there. Fair enough - the hunt has to meet at an isolated pub and then ride down the roads to hunt the scheduled land.

Everything was pretty quiet until a moorland meet on November the 16th when hounds quickly caught a fox. We called the pack off, but the huntsman rode over the vixen as she lay injured on the ground - he broke her back before the hunt master picked up the still live fox by her tail.

Sabs quickly took her off him and rushed her down off the moors and to the nearest vet. Unfortunately she died that night and an autopsy showed the most likely cause of death to have been the broken spine. She also had forty bite wounds, with most concentrated around the back legs and stomach as you'd expect for an animal brought down from behind, none of the 'single bite to the back of the neck' crap.

Not wanting her death to have been in vain, we presented her body at the master's house a couple of nights later. This, followed by the release of the autopsy results a week later, resulted in extensive and prolonged media coverage in the region.

[We have now made statements to solicitors about this incident with a view to a prosecution under the Wild Mammals Act (Protection) Act 1996.]

Two weeks later we were tipped off that the hunt were to meet at a pub on the outskirts of Bolton, this place is literally five minutes from the town centre and seemed ideal to mount a large demo with as much local support as possible. We've got to show these people that they're not welcome near our towns. We leafleted the local estates the day before the meet asking people to come out and gave our contact number. That evening we had a call from the pub to say that the landlord had changed his mind and was banning the hunt from his premises. We turned out for the demo anyway as did quite a number of local people but the hunt didn't. Sabs down at the kennels confirmed that the hunt hadn't gone out at all that day, obviously the cancellation had come too late to find an alternative venue. Definitely one up for us.

Mid December and we're out midweek on a lowland meet near the master's home, just four of us. This area is really difficult, teeming with hares and although the pack was split they killed a hare after about an hour - we were near enough to hear it scream, too far away to do anything. Within half an hour they put up a fox and the huntsman headed it off after just two fields to get it caught. I got there the same time as the huntsman was getting off his horse, again we got the pack off but as we went to rescue the fox which was dragging itself along by it's front legs, the hind legs dragging behind it, I was stopped by riders who had dismounted and started fighting us to prevent us getting nearer to the fox. The next thing I saw was the whipper-in bludgeon-



The lakes surface is scattered with stones as sabs try to break a channel through the ice for the hounds to escape.

ing the fox's head in with his whip handle. He quickly passed it on to another rider - there was no way they were going to let us get hold of this one. We all know they're perverts, but to see thirty people watch a man smash an animals head in is something I'll never forget.



Sabs and members of the hunt drag one hound to safety.

Another moor meet at the Royal at Tockholes and we're definitely in charge. Onto a fox down off the moor and they had one gate left to go - the huntsman struggling to open the gate. We got there in time to whip the whole pack back over the wall to the huntsman and off the line and then carried another gate over to reinforce the first. If they wanted that fox they would have to come through us for it and we won that battle - there's no way they were getting through.

The hunt had lost a few days in January due to bad weather and it was still cold when we found them on the 25th on the edge of the moors. The hounds put up a hare but we quickly stopped the pack, they soon found again and lost the hunt staff due to the terrain. We raced after the pack, calling a few off, to find the main pack on the far side of a reservoir, some swimming in it. We saw them there the same time as the huntsman, he rode round one way, we took the shorter route and called what seemed the full pack out of the water and round to us and off to the rest of the sabs who held them in a valley. Back at the reservoir though there were still hounds in the water only now we saw that the water was iced over and the hounds had fallen through when seemingly chasing the hare across the ice. We ran round to find a few of the hunt on the shoreline throwing rocks in to try and break a way out for the five hounds in the water. We joined in and this tactic worked for the hound nearest the bank who came out, although it soon became obvious that this wasn't going to help the other four hounds. One had already gone under and the others were struggling to keep afloat, all the time letting out a haunting, baying cry. Two of us joined with a rider in tying together whips to form a rope before wading out into the reservoir, breaking the ice as we went. He had to swim the last couple of feet to get to the nearest hound. We dragged them both out, the hound was cold to the bone and as I carried him ashore I saw the last hound's head go under for the last time. We dried the rescued hound off with our coats and carried him up to a supporters car, on the road overlooking the reservoir. When we got there a local told us that another three hounds had been knocked over on the road and we could see them in the back of a supporter's land rover. All those riders and supporters, who could only watch their hounds drowning, couldn't even look after the few up on the busy road. The hunt collected the rest of the pack from the other sabs and packed up at 1.30, our worst day ever, and of course, not a good day for the hunt either - although a day of their making.



The rescued hound is wrapped in a sab's jumper in an effort to revive it.

We got the last five meets in a row with no kills, a good run with some top sabbing, taking the pack for a good run up at Bacup and the three of us taking them off three hares and hunting them back down the line on the final meet. So that's it, the highs and lows of sabbing, some of my best and worst times. A bit of a rest from the Holcombe until September; we can't rely on Labour's commission into hunting to help animals for the next couple of years.

by Ed, North West Sabs

Save our Stags

cont. from Page 9

avoid the animal, which smashed into the passenger side and suffered fatal injuries. She herself had to have glass removed from her eye and received physiotherapy for whiplash. The medical attention she had received at the scene was in fact ,supplied by a doctor who happened to live nearby and she certainly didn't accept that 'these things happen'. "They claimed that I was looked after by the hunt but they didn't seem concerned at all....they were more worried about animal welfare people arriving than my condition." She retorted " That stag was scared for its life and then I went and killed it. It just made me feel so terrible." Her experience has left her vehemently opposed to terriorising animals for sport.

The hunt stated that they were ".. sorry if the impression conved was at variance with how she felt. ..It was not our intention to little belittle how she felt..." Intentional or not, that is exact what they did do.

Perhaps that is why the hunt then decided to switch back to the kind of behavior sabs know so well. Only days later a local couple Mr and Mrs Toner descibed the scene that met them when driving home from Belfast. " We saw the stag come running down the hill. It's tongue was hanging out and it was foaming at the mouth....It seemed to have no idea where it was and we heard this thud as it went into the ditch..." He continued " ..We came round the corner and were confronted by what can only be described as chaos. About 30 to 40 vehicles in total were parked on both sides of the road and there was nobody marshalling the hunt." After waiting for both people on foot and on horseback to clear the road 10 minutes later, Mr Toner finally drove on, before being stopped by the last vehicle in the line. The two men inside then threatened the couple. Mr Tonerr reported the incident to the police saying" I'm not a hunt sabotuer... but I can now understand why people care so much about the issue."

All these events have only come into the public gaze because of the excellent work S.O.S are doing. To find out how *you* can help, get in touch with them at this address:

SAVE OUR STAGS P.O.Box 287 Belfast BT6 9QS Northern Ireland

Is there anybody out there?

Do Sabs exist or are we all figments of Janet George's imagination?

The HSA's Press Officer gives his personal view in face of a suspicious media blackout.

This season has once again surpassed most previous years, in terms of the number of hunts and shoots sabbed, but it has also been the most frustrating in efforts to get our voice heard in the mainstream media and thus by the general public. In fact, if you weren't part of a sab group or at one of the hundreds of hunts being disrupted this year, you could be forgiven for thinking that no sabotage has been going on, and that we are a figment of Michael Clayton /Janet George's paranoia.

In the current ridiculous situation, we see the BFSS and Pro-hunting media faced with the dilemma of portraying hunt saboteurs as either a defunct, spent force (the BFSS reckon there are only 200 sabs in the whole of the UK) which the might of the police and the CJA has taken care of [oh dear! See victorious legal news items elsewhere in HOWL- Ed], or that we are all terrorists on a par with the IRA – killing huntsmen, eating horses and stubbing fags out on pony club kids. Hundreds of police and sometimes the army (well, military police) are needed to defeat our marauding hordes. Maybe some new laws should be brought in to combat them! Etc.

You would think that the reputable media would take all this with a pinch of salt or perhaps put some journalists onto the case to find out what all the fuss is/isn't about. Unfortunatley this doesn't happen. What does happen, 9 times out of 10, is that the BFSS / police news release is greased through to a favourable hack often via a sympathetic news editor, who regurgitates it verbatim as a factual report of an event.

All a road protester has to do is fart loudly and there is some sycophantic hack desperately reeling off pages about grassroots activism and alternative political comment.

When the HSA (nationally or locally) put out a news release, it is treated as propaganda from a single issue pressure group and more often than not binned if it is at odds with the police / BFSS line. NB I have grouped the police and BFSS media relations together in this aspect because since the CJA came into existence (and well before in areas such as Essex and Kent) the BFSS Public Relations Officers (PROs) and "intelligence gatherers" have been briefing the police on sab related matters and are so trusted that huge numbers of police have been mobilised when the BFSS hear rumour of a joint hit in the offing. (e.g. Surrey police in January 1996 for a meet at Netley House – 150 police for 25 local sabs! Kent plod in January 1997 for a meet at Crundale – 120+ cops for 2 vans of local sabs who were going to 2 different hunts anyway! And Essex plonkers for just about every week!)..

You have probably heard rants from every HSA press officer in the past about the media following a separate agenda but I have to say that we are definitely experiencing it now. In the season leading up to a general election when there are real worries for the usually smug hunter, there can be no doubt that all the stops will be pulled out and the favours called in for supporting "the traditions of the countryside". Sometimes we may have to accept we are going to lose out when much of the media is so lazy and spoon-fed, that they can't even contact us for a comment on one of Lardy, opps, Lady George's lies.

Although the above might seem a little oblique in relation to sabs in the field, I think it does relate to how we are treated and perceived in the media. A diversion is needed if the real issues about hunting are to be avoided, and sabs provide a double edged sword for the journo's to wield, albeit one way. By concentrating on any report of arrests, trouble at a hunt meet, or off the record comments from the powers that be, the media is able to give an air of respectability to hunting without reporting the facts of what may or may not have gone on.

A perfect example is how the press detailed the arrests in Cheshire on the anniversary of Mike Hill's death this February. Happy to ignore the fact that a hunt saboteur was killed under the wheels of a pick-up driven by a notorious huntsman, national media went on to grossly exaggerate the day's events with the poor hunts of Cheshire soldiering on in the face of anarchy. What they all neglected to mention in both their initial stories and subsequent editions were the legion of outstanding civil actions against Cheshire police for previous arrests of sabs for non-existent offences, and the fact that of the 86 people arrested over the weekend, only 4 have been charged with any offence, and these have pleaded not guilty to minor alleged offences.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised at such injustice, but things do get a bit much when all a road protester has to do is fart loudly and there is some sycophantic hack desperately reeling off pages about grassroots activism and alternative political comment. From the column feet these people have been awarded in every paper, TV and radio programme that you seem to see, you'd think they invented direct action. I'm not saying we did, or that I don't admire some of these people's actions, but you'd have to be a saint not to be pissed off with reading what Armani suits Tufty the mole and friends will be wearing to their latest media circus, or what flute they will take to their next court case.

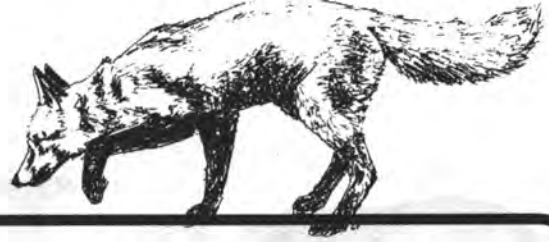
Jealous? You bet, but only because hunt sabs have been putting their lives and liberty on the line for 35 years with so little acknowledgement that you have to be totally naïve not to think we are being tucked quietly away out of the public eye.

It may be cynical but when trying to work out why exactly the road protesters are so attractive to the media, I couldn't help thinking that they are not exactly a threat to the daily routine or personal pleasures of your average newspaper editor or programme producer. Apart from staying in one place for long

continued on page 28



Badger Sett ... or Fox



Whether you are out sabbing or just going for a walk in the countryside sooner or later you will come across a fox earth or badger sett. However, do *you* know the difference between the two?

Here are a few clues that might help:

Fox Tracks - A fox is like a dog, it has only four toes on both the front and back paws. A fox trail is almost a single line, because a fox puts its back feet into the prints of its front feet. It will also leave a very distinctive musky smell wherever it goes and the hole will also bear this smell.



Fox droppings are often left on raised objects e.g. stones or a tree stump. They may contain fragments of bone, fur or seeds depending on its diet. They also have a very characteristic twisted tail. When dry they turn a chalky grey colour from the calcium in the bones that have been consumed. Foxes are such opportunistic hunters that they will eat almost anything, and result is that their diet can vary from one area to another.

Badger Tracks - Badgers have a very distinctive footprint, often showing the five toes that are present on both front and back paws. A badger walks with its feet pointing inwards. Also the back prints often overlap the back of the front prints.



Badger droppings are left in small open pits. They may be moist or dry with cereal husks depending on what has been eaten. A badger will eat a wide range of food, e.g. spiders, slugs, worms, cereals and even fresh fruit. However, this will change depending on the time of year and the availability of the food.

Most people have had the pleasure of seeing a fox either in the countryside or in towns or cities. However, not many people will have seen a live badger in the wild

Badgers are nocturnal and tend to live away from busy /noisy places. They don't have many enemies apart from others badgers and the odd fox. The badgers biggest threat is **MAN**

Here are a few clues that might help you spot an area that is inhabited by badgers.

① **The sett** - this is usually a series of holes anything up to twenty in number The size varies from 20 cm to 40 cm in diameter and will have a large spoil heap outside.

② **Spoil heap** - this is a large amount of soil that has been excavated from the underground and will contain stones, bedding etc.

③ **Bedding** - this may consist of dry grass, bracken, leaves or straw. It is often thrown out with the spoil or even dropped when being collected.

④ **Paths** - these can be narrow, well worn tracks often going under bushes, brambles, fences etc.

⑤ **Hairs** - the course guard hairs from a badgers back may be found where a path goes under barbed wire fencing.

⑥ **Latrines** - often found along the borders of the badgers territory, but can also be close to the sett.

⑦ **Scratched trees** - badgers will often scratch their claws on trees, leaving very distinctive claw marks.

⑧ **Snuffle holes** - these are disturbed earth where a badger has been searching for worms or grubs.

Please remember that wild animals are easily frightened. If you visit any setts or fox earths try and do so in the morning so that your scent will have gone by the time they come out to feed at night. **NEVER** walk over the spoil mounds or get to close to the entrance holes. **ALWAYS** get the landowners permission

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Saturday 26th July 1997 10am - 1am

at the

Red Rose Club,

129 Seven Sisters Rd, London

Nearest tube Finsbury Park (Turn right out of main exit, towards Hollaway; the Red Rose is 5 mins walk from the tube and opposite the Bedford Pub)

Everyone Welcome

Agenda.:

1. Chairpersons opening remarks.
2. Treasurers report.
3. Officers reports.
4. Lunch
5. Discussion - Where the HSA is headed.
6. PARTY

BAR & SOUND SYSTEM TIL 1am



Badgers

Sadly over the last few years we have seen an upsurge in badgers being terrorised and killed in the name of 'sport'. You might be forgiven in thinking that badger digging has been illegal for many years, but it was not until the Badgers Act in 1973 was introduced that badger digging became illegal.

Even so this does not stop the vast majority of 'people' (used in the loosest possible term) who are determined to persecute the badger. However, the continued persecution of badgers produced pressure for a further tightening of the law and in 1992 the 'Protection of Badgers Act' was passed, which made it an offence to tamper with or dig a badger sett.

Listed below are the five basic offences relating to badgers under the Protection of Badgers Act.

Section 1. **Taking, injuring or killing badgers.**

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he wilfully kills, injures or takes, or attempts to kill, injure or take, a badger.

(2) If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) above consisting of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, he shall be pre sumed to have been attempting to kill, injure or take a badger unless the contrary is shown.

(3) A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he has in his possession or under his control any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger.

(4) A person is not guilty of an offence under subsection (3) above if he shows that -

(a) the badger had not been killed, or had been killed otherwise than in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the Badgers Act 1973;

or

(b) the badger or other thing in his possession or control had been sold (whether to him or any other person) and, at the time of the purchase, the purchaser had had no reason to believe that the badger had been killed in contravention of any of those provisions.

(5) If a person is found committing an offence under this section on any land it shall be lawful for the owner or occupier of the land, or any servant of the owner or occupier, or any constable, to require that person forthwith to quit the land and also to give his name and address; and if that person on being so required wilfully remains on the land or refuses to give his full name or address he is guilty of an offence.

and the Law.



Section 2 . **Cruelty to a badger.**

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if -

(a) he cruelly ill-treats a badger;
(b) he uses any badger tongs in the course of killing or taking, or attempting to kill or take, a badger.
(c) except as permitted by or under this Act, he digs for a badger; or
(d) he uses for the purpose of killing or taking a badger any firearm other than a smooth bore weapon of not less than 20 bore or a rifle using ammunition having a muzzle energy not less than 160 footpounds and a bullet weighing not less than 38 grains.

(2) If in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(c) above there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was digging for a badger he shall be presumed to have been digging for a badger unless the contrary is shown.

Section 3. **Interfering with a badger sett.**

A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he interferes with a badger sett by doing any of the following things-

(a) damaging a badger sett or any part of it;
(b) destroying a badger sett;
(c) obstructing access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett;
(d) causing a dog to enter a badger sett;

or

(e) disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett or intending to do any of those things or being reckless as to whether his actions would have any of those consequences.

Section 4. **Selling and possession of live badgers.**

A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he sells a live badger or offers one for sale or has a live badger in his possession or under his control.

Section 5. **Marking and ringing.**

A person is guilty of an offence if, except as authorised by a licence, he marks, or attaches any ring, tag or other marking device to, a badger other than one which is lawfully in his possession by virtue of such a licence.

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

VERMIN PATROL



Cruelty cases in the Courts

✪ **Nicholas Grooby** (22), of Paradise Lane, Old Dolby, Leicestershire (an unpaid terrierman for South Nottingham Foxhounds),✪ **Gary Pearson** (34) of Souldern Way, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent,✪ **David William Edwards** (48) of Roughcoat Lane, Cavershall, Stoke-on-Trent and ✪ **Mark John Hulme** (33) of Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent were all found guilty by Nottingham Magistrates on 15/1/97 of attempting to take a badger, digging for badgers and interfering with a badger sett, after being caught on 16/11/95.

The court heard how they were spotted by a local gamekeeper who had watched them digging at a well known badger sett. One of them had a dog locator scanner while another was poking a large metal spike into the ground. On 20/2/97 they were all sentenced to four months for attempting to take a badger, two months for digging for badgers and two months for interfering with a badger sett. All sentences are to run concurrently. They were also banned from keeping animals for 5 years. All released on bail pending an appeal due in April/May.

✪ **Richard Nicholls** of Apple Acre, Crickham, near Wedmore, Somerset was fined £2,000 by Bridgwater magistrates on 4/12/96 for breaching animal health regulations at the height of the BSE crisis. Magistrates heard how Nicholls is a part-time farmer, relief milker and master of the Maglan Mink Hounds (what a busy man!).

He admitted three offences under the Animal Heath Act of 1981 and Food Safety Act of 1990. Nicholls told the court how for many years he had collected fallen stock which was unfit for human consumption from local farmers to feed to his pack of hounds. Apparently his helper at the time was inexperienced when his farm was overwhelmed with cattle carcasses during the BSE crisis.

✪ **Alan Owen** (48) of Glandwr Gwynfryn, Llanbedr, Gwynedd has lost his appeal for the revocation of his firearms licence. Owen, who is the Master/Huntsman of the Nantcol Valley Foxhounds, first appeared in court in March 1996 after he was accused of punching, kicking and threatening a farming neighbour (what, not a sab!). The court was told how Owen had threatened his neighbour with a knife after the had shot and wounded a hound which was trespassing in a field of sheep. At the time he admitted common assault, but denied the knife threat. The court ordered that his firearms certificate be taken away.

In September 1996 he appeared at Caernarfon Crown Court to appeal against the revocation of his firearms certificate. The court heard he possessed a shotgun, but not used it since he was twelve, two rifles and a handgun. The local police opposed the appeal on the grounds that he was, in their opinion 'not a fit person to possess firearms'.

(In November 1993 Owen was convicted of unnecessary suffering to his pet lurcher by Blaenau Ffestiniog magistrates, he was fined £450 and had to pay costs of £2,227, he was also banned from keeping dogs for a year).

On 31/12/96 a gamekeeper who shot dead a man he found trying to steal his car was jailed for four months and had his guns seized and certificates cancelled after he admitted keeping more guns than the firearms certificates permitted.

✪ **Martin Wise** (35) of Hildenborough, Kent admitted possessing a Webley revolver, a Spanish single-barrel shotgun and 253 rounds of ammunition not covered under the certificates. Earlier this year he was cleared of murder and manslaughter. Wise said that he did not deliberately fire an automatic pistol at Matthew Hodge (20), whom he caught trying to steal his car outside his home in August last year. He said the gun went off after he cocked it to warn Hodge.

Sevenoaks magistrates were told that Wise faced financial ruin and that, by taking away his shotgun certificate, they would be taking away his livelihood.

At the time of his arrest, police found 23 weapons at his home and at his mother's house. Gordon Luckhurst, for the defence, said "His attitude to firearms should have been more strict."

Both unlicensed weapons were found at his home after the shooting, although his licence stipulated that he should keep his weapons securely locked in a steel cabinet at his parents' home half a mile away. Ammunition was also found throughout his council house, where he lived with his wife, and three sons. Two rounds were found tucked inside a packet of cereal.

In November 1996 ✪ **Darren Pratt** of Salle Park Estate, Norfolk pleaded guilty to illegally poisoning foxes. Swaffham magistrates were told that Pratt, who is a gamekeeper on the estate, admitted to laying sodium cyanide (Cymag) at a fox earth which was located near to a public footpath.

Police went to the estate after a pair of passing walkers found the body of a dead vixen. They found the earth had been blocked with bags and sodium cyanide could be seen around the earth. The court also heard how the Cymag cannister had not been disposed of properly and two garages used to store lethal chemicals were left unlocked. Pratt was fined £550 and ordered to pay costs of £350.

The following three cases were all convicted under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act of 1996

1. Gamekeeper ✪ **Adrian Littler** from Essex was found guilty of 'asphyxiating three fox cubs with intent to cause suffering'. The offence took place at Coggeshall around the end of May 1996. The foxes were gassed with cyanide, Littler claimed he did not know the gassing of foxes was illegal. On 23/1/97 Witham magistrates fined him £350 and they ordered him to pay costs of £150.

2. A 16-year-old youth also appeared in court on 23/1/97 this time at Great Yarmouth magistrates. Following the case he was found guilty of kicking, beating and stabbing a hedgehog. He was ordered to do 120 hours community service and made to pay £50 costs.

3. ✪ **Richard Smith** (20) and ✪ **Paul West** (20) both from Winchester were charged with kicking and burning a hedgehog in September 1996. The court heard how a neighbour had called the police after she had seen the two men use an aerosol as a blowtorch to set fire to the hedgehog, which they then kicked around the garden like a football. Winchester magistrates

found them both guilty and remanded them for pre-sentence reports.

VERMIN CONTROL

Coursing Corner

✪ **Edward Scarrot** (56) fromWarwickshire was caught at Leafield Farm, Fairford, Gloucestershire on 17/11/96 taking part in hare coursing. Scarrot, who came with a group of people, told the police when caught he believed that hare coursing was perfectly legal, but they were then told it was private land. Scarrot pleaded guilty to a charge of trespass in pursuit of game on 23/1/97. The magistrates fined him £30 and he was ordered to pay £10 costs. The case against four others was adjourned until 1/4/97.

Two illegal hare coursers were caught by a gamekeeper at Winterbourne Gunner, near Salisbury on 6/10/96 ✪ **P. Nurdin** and ✪ **C. Johnson** both from Poole, Dorset were part of a group of seven coursers seen by a local gamekeeper who phoned the police.

When the police arrived the gamekeeper, John Nicholls, identified two men who he had seen releasing dogs on to hares. Both pleaded not guilty and claimed they were just walking their dogs. However, they were both found guilty by magistrates of trespass in pursuit of game. One was fined £100 and the other £50.

Charles Blanning of the National Coursing Club said "The NCC totally condemns illegal coursing" he also said "There is no connection between the organised 'sport' of greyhound coursing - such as the Waterloo Cup - and illegal poaching with long dogs". Yeah right!

LEGAL NOTE :

Did you know it is illegal to kill hares on Sundays or Christmas Day.

✪ **Dr Andrew Dixon** (31) of The Maltings House, Allendale, Northumberland and ✪ **Andrew Lawerence** (35) of Tredegar, Gwent appeared before Salisbury magistrates on 21/1/97 and both pleaded not guilty to charges of disturbing nests of wild birds.

The case came to court following a nationwide operation targeting illegal egg-collection. The operation, code-named Avocet, was launched after a raid in July 1994 on a meeting of the Jourdian Society, whose members are interested in birds eggs. Dixon faces nine allegations, and is also charged with seven alternative offences of attempting to disturb. Lawerence faces five offences of disturbing wild birds and one charge of attempting to disturb. (See Howl 62, page 19 for other Operation Avocet convictions).

On 8/5/97 ✪ **Leonard Durman-Walters** (57) of Hyndlee, Bonchester, Scotland will stand trial for bird cruelty charges. Durman-Walters of the Scottish Academy of Falconry appeared before Jedburgh Sheriff Court on 10/4/97 accused of releasing a live cock pheasant at Falside on 18/9/96, which was taken and killed by a trained bird of prey under his control.

He is also accused of causing unnecessary suffering and terror on the same day to a captive tethered pigeon, by using it as a live lure to attract birds of prey.

On the 14/11/96 ✪ **Alfred Charles Grant** of Top Farm, Grandborough Fields, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty to six charges of causing unnecessary pain and distress to animals and failing to dispose of carcasses.

Rugby magistrates were told that officers from the Warwickshire Trading Standards Department had visited the farm on three different occasions. On the first visit the officers were unhappy with the conditions of the animals and offered Grant some advice to improve them.

During that visit the officers found a dead calf. On the second visit they found seven dead sheep, and three weeks later during their third visit they found the carcasses of 12 sheep. The court fined him £200 for causing unnecessary pain and distress and two fines of £500 for failing to care for animals properly. He also received three conditional discharges for two years for failing to dispose of animal carcasses on his farm. The courts ordered him to pay costs of £1,400.

After the trial Michael Jarvis, who had defended Grant, said "Mr Grant has been a genuine and enthusiastic farmer with a genuine care for his animals. He still regards himself as a good farmer".

✪ **Samantha Plant** (22) of Carleton Street, Colne, Lancashire and ✪ **Nicholas Brennan** (21) of Mayfield Road, Brierfield, Lancashire, both admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal at Burnley magistrates and were sentenced to three months imprisonment each.

The court were told that they had strangled one kitten and stamped on the other after they had soiled a pile of children's cloths. Police saw Plant and Brennan "laughing and joking" when they found the body of one kitten. Five minutes later, Brennan was seen carrying the second dead kitten by its legs. Both were said to be drunk and Plant was splattered with blood.

Following an appeal at Burnley Crown Court the Judge cut Plants sentence to one month and Brennans to two months. Plant was then released, as she had already served two weeks, the equivalent to a months sentence. They were also banned from keeping animals for five years.

(*Thanks to Marie for this clipping*).

On 14/1/97 ✪ **Barry Johnson** (41) of Beech Hill, Wigan admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal after leaving a puppy with a broken leg. He was given a conditional discharge, ordered to pay £200 costs and banned from keeping animals for 10 years. A warrant was also issued for the arrest of his wife Annette (31).

Yet another sad case ✪ **Paul Bryan** (24) of Dunkerley Avenue, Failsworth, near Manchester was jailed for 28 days by Oldham magistrates after admitting cruelty to an animal.

Magistrates heard how Bryan had kicked a friends six-month-old Staffordshire bull terrier in the head and ribs while wearing steel toe-capped boots. The dog, Misty, died soon after. He was banned from keeping a dog for life but was not ordered to pay any costs or compensation!

Most people may not have heard about ✪ **Anthony Probert** (58) of Woodview, Gilwern, Abergavenny, Gwent who was fined £500 and ordered to pay £700 costs by Pontypool magistrates.

Probert was found guilty of unnecessary suffering to a horse called Target. The court was told how Target was seized by the police in 1995 and then put into RSPCA care. Target has since made a full recovery on a sanctuary. However after the court case Probert offered to buy Target off the sanctuary for £240, they of course refused. This case is now in the hands of the courts once again.

✪ **Leigh-Ann Jeffries** (39) from Bath was jailed for three months and banned from keeping animals for life by Bath magistrates on 5/3/97.

Jeffries who is a leading horse breeder left her own horses to starve in squalor. Fifteen-year-old Frisbee and four-year-old Heddle were weeks away from death when the RSPCA found them emaciated in a dingy stable on a farm near Bath with no food and a bucket of 'black, swamp-like' water.

✪ **Andrew Debidin**

Case 1. On 28/8/96 contractors were bulldozing the back garden of Andrew Debidin (42) of Grazeley Road, Three Mile Cross, Berkshire when they came across about a dozen oil drums crammed full with the remains of animals. Some of the

✪ Andrew Debidin (continued)
drums are believed to have contained just the entrails of dogs. It also appeared many of the dogs had been skinned. A wagon driver who took the drums to a landfill site said "As they were being dumped, one burst open and splattered all over the place. There were some whole dogs and bits of others. It was absolutely disgusting. I never want to see anything like that again".

The neighbours had complained for over five years about the din and smell caused by dozens of German Shepherds he kept. Eventually after flouting several noise abatement orders from Wokingham District Council, he was banned from keeping dogs.

Case 2. - On 3/1/97 Debidin now of Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire appeared before Reading Crown Court.

At a previous hearing he admitted misleading buyers of his puppies by claiming they were registered with the Kennel Club - even though they had already banned him.

Berkshires Trading Standards department highlighted four cases where owners had paid several hundred pounds for a pup after being assured that they had the official documentation. However, they later discovered the pups were not registered because of his existing ban.

Debidin admitted one charge of giving a false trade description and three charges of making a false statement. He also asked for two similar offences during a two-and-a-half month period last year to be taken into consideration. He was given a conditional discharge.

Case 3. - Yet again he appeared before Reading Crown Court. On 6/1/97 he was convicted of assault and received a 12 month suspended sentence. This was for an incident in which he attacked two people with a machete while walking his dogs on university land in 1995.

Debidin now living in Inverness, Scotland had been ordered to do 100 hours community service but the sentence was revoked after he failed to do any of the work.

Following an incident at Ashford market on 2/7/96 **✪ Peter Helesfay** of Duckies Farm, Smarden, Kent pleaded guilty to unlawful transport of a sheep which was unfit. Animal welfare supporters were in attendance at Ashford market when Helesfay arrived with three sheep which were due to be sold for slaughter. They alerted a Ministry of Agriculture vet, who found the sheep had 'toxic mastitis' and was discharging pus from a hole in its udder.

The sheep was humanely put down at the market. Helesfay was fined £120 with £60 costs.

Following a tip-off on 15/2/97, RSPCA officials inspected Winters Farm Pig Unit, near Canterbury, Kent. They discovered 167 dead animals and 232 starving. Police then arrested farmer **✪ Richard Marshall** of Laurel Farm, Lower Houston, Sittingbourne, Kent. An RSPCA spokesperson said "It is probably the most serious and dreadful case of suspected animal cruelty we have ever encountered in the South-East".

When an RSPCA officer was called to an allotment belonging to **✪ John Daniels** of Mill Lane, Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire she found 34 hens (mostly Rhode Island Reds) crammed into a pen 5ft square and 20 more hens in another coop. "They were in very cramped conditions, unable to stretch their wings, in feaces up to an inch thick", "They were very dirty and very smelly and in very poor condition" claimed the RSPCA official.

Daniels was originally summoned to appear before Stockport magistrates on 27 charges, but a number were withdrawn after he pleaded guilty to 18 charges of unnecessary suffering to hens.

On the 28/2/97 he was given a three year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs and £100 vet's fees and was banned from keeping poultry and domestic fowl for three years. The birds have now been rehomed and are recovering well on a farm.

✪ Jennifer Bosson (also known as Mrs Garbutt) (49) of Whitegates Farm, South Hanningfield Road, Rettendon, near Chelmsford, Essex appeared before Chelmsford magistrates on 20/2/97. At a previous hearing she had admitted 10 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to dogs.

The court heard that following a visit by the police to her home on 4/7/96 they found 10 dogs in filthy, cramped quarters without food and water. They also found two dead guinea pigs and seven dead dogs, one of which was thought to have been dead for over a year. The dogs that were alive suffered from bad teeth, severe weight loss, badly matted coats, eye infections and fleas. Floors were covered with compacted hair and faeces.\

Bosson, who was a dog judge and exhibitor, was jailed for four months and banned from keeping animals for the rest of her life. During the court case her solicitor John Bacon said "She had been ostracised by many of her former friends and had become a leper in her own community and in the dog world".

When **✪ Norman Inchley** of Glen Parva, Leicestershire was not invited to his neighbours' barbecue he kicked their cat to death.

Leicester magistrates heard on 20/3/97 how he snatched the pedigree Persian chinchilla cat from the garden fence and drop-kicked it 6ft into the air like a rugby ball. The cats owners returned home to find the cat dead in their garden.

Inchley was found guilty of cruelty and ordered to pay £270 compensation.

Boxer **Owen Harkin** (25) was fined £150 and ordered to pay costs of £600 by Ellesmere magistrates on 3/4/97. Harkin was found guilty of biting the head off a live hamster which belonged to his girlfriend's cousin.

I would like to thank everybody who helped me by sending in the press clippings.

by Paul T., H.S.A. Fringe Bloodsports Officer

...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

THE B.F.S.S. IS HOLDING A PRO-BLOODSPORTS RALLY IN HYDE PARK, LONDON ON THE 10TH JULY.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A DAY-TRIP TO LONDON THIS SUMMER WHAT BETTER DAY TO DO IT!!

RING THE H.S.A. OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS

GROUP NEWS

IRELAND

Hunts receiving the star treatment by **Belfast** hunt sabs this season, have included the *East Down FH*, the *North Down Harriers*, the *Killultagh Harriers*, the *East Antrim Harriers*, the *Iveagh Harriers* and the *Newry Harriers.*

At a meet of the *Iveagh Harriers* in February, good use of tactics resulted in two female members of the group being set upon by hunt followers. The two women were dragged from a car by the hair, and kicked and punched to the ground. Although police are looking into the incident, **Belfast** sabs decided to call a hit on the hunt, coinciding with the action in Cheshire to mark Mike Hill's death. It turned out to be one of the best day sab bing for Irish groups in years, with several vehicles full to the hilt. After a colourful demo that received noisy support from passing motorists, sabs stuck with the hunt most of the day followed closely by the local constabulary. Tempers got very heated as followers of the hunt (mounted and on foot) tried to snatch the sabs' gizmo; at one point the police had to draw their batons to..[bash sabs on the head? - GN Ed] ..protect sabs from being attacked by several hunt thugs. Shortly after **Belfast** sabs managed to call the pack away at a distance of half a mile, and keep the pack with them for twenty minutes. Since this caused the hunt to reach boiling point, sabs decided to leave after half the hounds were picked up by the hound van....live to fight another day springs to mind here!



Charlie Chaplin entertains Mr. Kerrs Beagle.

Belfast sabs have also made contact with Scottish groups with a view to helping each other out next season. Who said sabbing was a regional thing?

SCOTLAND

Good old scottish weather put paid to any hunting by the *Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire FH* in the first week of the new year, giving sabs a chance to recover from the excesses of the season (hic!). **Clydeside** sabs were joined by **Highland** sabs on the 12th of January when poor hunt numbers meant that car supporters were asked to act as point on several occassions! The following week, due to their "big heap of shite of a van" being out of commission, one car load of sabs again visited the *L & R*, but the nature of their transport having drawn the unwanted attentions of the local constabulary, meant only road side sabbing was possible. (Still, no arrests and no kills.)

Linking up with **Edingburgh** Hunt Sabs & a couple of sabs from **London**, **Clydeside** again returned to the *L & R* the next Saturday. Late in the day sabs were approaching the hunt when Alistair Campbell (the Master) dismounted and picked up the body of a dead fox. During the ensuing stuggle between sabs and members of the hunt, sabs realised that the body was stone cold and therefore had been dead for some time.

Surely only true degenerates would try to claim carrion for a trophy!

Saturday 8/2 saw the *L & R* reduced to holding a roadside meet, where cops enjoyed the hospitality of hunt suporters in the shape of drinks and sandwiches. The unusaul meet leads sabs to believe the hunt are out of farvour with some farmers and landowners. Pre-beating of the surrounding area worked well and made **Cyldeside**'s work a lot easier once hunting began.

Since 22nd of February turned out to be the *L&R*'s last meet of the season (what!!) due to bad weather, **Clydeside**, **Edingburgh** and **Aryshire** groups hit the *Berwickshire FH*, the *Dumfrieshire FH (Black & Tans)* and the *Duke of Buccleuch FH*, to round off an excellent few months sabbin'.

The largest number of sabs **Edingburgh** have had out this season has been a measly eight but despite this there has been some effective sabbing, especially on the *Laurdale FH*, a hunt which hasn't seen much attention in the past. Hounds are easily pulled from coverts and are very respondive to horn calls. However it seems little point in bothering with them at all as hounds regularly split off in all directions in the pointless pursuit of hares. **Edingburgh** have also been out against the *Buccleuch FH* and the *Berwickshire FH* this season, the latter now being home to everyone's favourite huntsman, Jeremy Whaley. If any southern sabs would like to renew old aquaintances with this charming gent, please feel free to visit at any time!

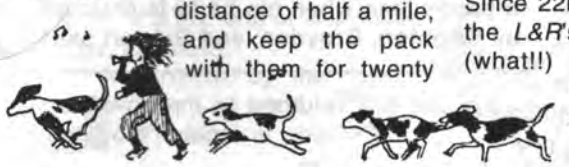
Edingburgh are hoping to get another van soon as relying on cars can cause problems. The next step will be to motivate themselves to recruit enough folk to fill it. Stranger things have happened.

NORTHEAST

Conccerntrating as usual on the *York & Ainsty South FH* and the *MIddleton FH*, **York** sabs have found hounds as responsive as ever this season. Sabs have been busied themselves with the task of getting them out of coverts/beet field and off the trail of the hunted fox. They claim a major sucess every time they go out. One wonders how much of a claim this to be as **York** also claim the *York & Ainsty South FH*, in particular, to be the on the "crap end of the scale of competance"! Mind you the hunt alledgedly seem to make up for this



Brixton sabs lost sight of one particularly menacing member of the old Surrey & Burstow F.H after passing through some long grass.







with some 'questiable 'pratices. Bolting foxes from known holes may not be entirely 'fair play' but does mean you don't have to have the expertise to draw a covert properly.

The *MIddleton FH* have also had trouble holding on to their hounds with **York** sabs about. On one occassion 100 riders and the same amount of support lost the hounds to 4 sabs. Waiting for exactly the right moment to intervene the sabs stopped the whole pack while on the line of a fox and amused the hounds till the huntsman turned up. Not having a clue which way the fox had fled the huntsman, try as he might, could not get hounds back on the line and rode off with a face like thunder.



More bloody stupidity by the Cheshire Forest F.H



NW Sabs interupt filming of Rambo VI in the Cheshire countryside.

NORTHWEST

Stoke sabs have had a good season with a mere 8 arrests! Most of said arrests arose from the Cheshire hit in early February, when Cheshire Police did their usual bit of senistive community policing. Half an hour before the hunt packed up, sabs were arrested to 'prevent a breach of the peace', although possibly a more truthful interpretation would be to 'teach those contrary bastards a lesson'. Six hours later they were all freed, although one Stoke sab still has a (false) charge being held against him.

Stoke have also been to the *Ledbury FH*, the *Atherstone FH*, the *Mendip Farmers*, Ireland and the *High Peak Harriers* this season, joinig forces with **Wolves**, **Manchester**, **Bolton**, **Liverpool**, **Birmingham**, **Coventry**, **Kettering**, **Bristol**, **Swansea** and **Cardiff** sabs to name but a few.

They claim the high points of the season have been: the cops realising that the laws they are a (hopefully) chanin'; the Ledbury Hunt Ball; and their new van (ahh!).To **Oxford** sabs, Stoke say "Thankyou, thankyou... we will look after it and make (very) good use of it."

Early December saw a small but hardy group of sabs from the **North West** (**Bolton**, **Manchester**, **Liverpool** and **Preston**) enter Cheshire for a day out on the *Cheshire Forest FH*. A fine time was had by the undaunted four out in the field, splitting the pack all over the shop and ending with the huntsman spitting at their feet before packing up !. Good to know we're not getting to them, isn't it?. All local hunts lost a few days due to bad weather over Christmas but after that the *Holcombe Harriers* took over the rest of the **North West**'s season, with only two or three meets missed. [See Holcombe article on page 12 - GN Ed.] The first meet after the snow was at Affetside where three sabs escorted three foxes down the same line, and away from the pack - a very strange sight. Mid February was the now infamous day in *Cheshire*; amid all the protesters were some sabs who took the hounds for a run and later stopped a pigeon shoot for the day, before the tactless intervention of Cheshire's finest.

WEST MIDLANDS

Wolverhampton sabs report that after a couple of seasons without any CJA hassle, things suddenly changed in Staffordshire, with the local force attempting to make the county a (short-lived) no-go area for sabs. After mobilising large numbers to attend both the *Albrighton FH* and the *Staffordshire Moorland FH*, the police even arrested **Stoke** sabs' Liberty monitor before quickly releasing him when they discovered he was a law lecturer! Following that, the police followed **Stoke** sabs back to the local student union where sabs had a quick bevvie before heading out the back way. The police remained in the car park for a couple more hours, prompting a formal complaint to the Chief Constable by the head of the University's Law Dept. This had a marked affect on police behaviour with even the keenest copper not attending meets.

Apart from doggidly attending their local packs (and sticking two fingers up to the Staffordshire coppers at the same time) **Wolves** sabs have headed down to the *Ledbury FH* and the *North Ledbury FH*, and even further south to the *Cotswold Vale FH* and the *Mendip Farmers FH*. A freezing Boxing day saw **Wolves**, **Stoke** and **Manchester** combine to overwhelm the *Forest and District Beagles*, an event so successful sabs gave a repeat performance the following weekend. Although **Wolves** also travelled to Eire to 'visit' Irish sabs and hunts, and managed to pack up the John Lewis shoot on the way [see News section _ GN Ed] as always, some of the best days sabbing have been closer to home. In particular the successful sabotage of the rarely sabbed *North Shropshire FH* who packed up early with no kills. On the way to the meet the sabs had packed up a 10 gun driven pheasant shoot and on the way home persuaded a lone angler to go home, practically without getting out of the van.

The **Wolverhampton Workers** are a new group set up by old sabs. Although only numbering 2 or 3 sabs per hit they have managed to confound the *Albrighton Woodland FH* for most of the season with fine displays of tactics. In mid-January they met up with the **Birmingham** group to sab the hunt with more numbers, causing the hunt to flee into a paintball park. Both hounds and field were confused by sab horn calls leaving the huntsman in a tissy. With the muddled view of most huntsmen he still returned to the covert again and again thoughout the



Old Surrey & Burstow huntsman is not a happy man when his party is crashed by Brighton, Croydon, and Brixton sabs.

season. Will they never learn!
In march the hunt managed to kill a rabbit, which they claimed was already dead, leaving the **W. Workers** to assume they hunt have now been reduced to 'hunting' road kills. Although it has been an erratic season for the group numbers wise, several more old sabs in the region have expressed interest for next season, and several older hunt supporters have been left one step nearer to the coronary ward. Shame!

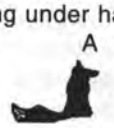
EAST MIDLANDS

Spreading themselves wide (!) this year, **East Northants** group have sabbed the *Bischester and Whaddon Chase FH*, the *Pytchley FH*, the *Stowe Beagles*, the *Grafton FH*, the *Fernie FH* , the *Oakley FH*, the *Cambridgeshire FH*, *the Atherstone FH* and the *Woodland Pytchley FH*. Of all the meets there has been only one possible kill (*Woodland Pytchley*), most have packed up early. Although the hunts have not been killing fox es, **East Northants** have witnessed hounds being picked up by the scruff of their necks, a horse being ridden through a fence and hounds being hunted into a covert from a road.



'Media-babes' Brixton round up the Old surrey & Burstow hunt while auditioning for one man and his dog.

The dangerous antics of one member of the Vale of Alesbury hunt, out hunting with the *Oakley FH*, luckily did not result in serious injuries, but sabs felt his kind of behaviour had to be discouraged and called a regional hit on the hunt. It proved to be a successful day, despite the speed of the hunt, since enough sabs were able to stay up with them and when they did slow down, sabs converged in numbers making hunting impossible.
East Northants have found that the best way to make a hunt adhere to a no dig out policy is to be there in person, surprise surprise.Twice their pressence alone saved the life of a fox, one of which was hiding under hay bales.



A no-show by the Woodland Pytchley at their last fixture was a good end to the sabs season and foxes and sabs are starting to relax. [Oi, what about mink-hunting? - GN Ed]



Cambrigde Anti-Bloodsports have been extremely busy since the Boxing day lay-off. The *Puckeridge FH* have been their main hosts and along with sabs from **Essex**, **Suffolk** and **London**, they have hit the *Trinity Foot Beagles*, the *Oakley FH*, the *Cambrigde FH*, the *Suffolk FH* and the *Thurlow FH*. **Cambrigde** sabs have also managed to overcome their fears of the Essex Police, facing them nuerous times and even managing to stop two dig-outs. These people were now prepared to take on anyone and the *Essex FH* were the obvious choice .The seaon had been relatively violence free up to then. (uh-oh) Some brilliant sabbing took the hounds away several times but it was when sabs pulled hounds off a fox things started to look bad. First hunt staff attacked sabs with whips, followed up by certain notorious hunt supporters hitting sabs with lumps of wood. These events were retified a a week later, when sabs turned up en masse. The hunt were blocked in a farm for well over an hour, waitng for police back up. And turn up they did, in typical Essex fashion, with over 20 vehicles ! Happily, even this was in vain as the *Essex FH* still had to pack up, defeated, at 2.30pm.
With relativly few arrests within **Cambridge** group, they report a superb season.

Since September **Norwich and Norfolk Anti- Bloodsports Group** have been out twice weekly, concertrating mainly on the *Dunston Harriers*, with occasional visit to the *Waveney Harriers*, *North Norfolk Harriers* and the *Eastern Harriers*, in the company of **West Norfolk** and **Waverney** sabs. The best days have been with the *Dunston Harriers* whose falling support and income nearly ended them. Unfortunately, the hunt are hanging on despite only having 10/15 riders and a handful of car support most days. The delightfully named Bob Bothway (the master / huntsman), can often be heard farting through his hunting horn attempting to get his pack back. The only kills they ever made are sitting hares, never from chases.



South Dorset F.H charge Sabs

Even if hunting does continue the local group can't see this hunt being around. However, another pack *has* sprung up, in the form of a new Basset pack that sound of equally high calibre! The *Rally Bevetrait*'s total of 7 hounds and 5 hunt staff / supporters can be seen plodding around, wondering what they must do to revive hunting. Give up, you daft sods!!
On Boxing Day **NNABG** attended a demo/ sab in Alysham town centre, from where the *North Norfolk Harriers* actually went out hunting despite rock hard ground. The hounds managed to riot 2 deer and put up 2 foxes but sabs were handy to call them off resulting in sabs 4, hunt 0. Bad weather allowed a break till the 3rd week in January when **NNABG** resumed their mission to annoy the hell out of the *Dunston Harriers*. On the 1st of March they had a big (for Norfolk) hit on the beliegered hunt attacting 20 sabs! For the first time in years the sabs saw police out-number them, with 5 cars and 1van, but as the cops showed little inclination to stray into nasty muddy fields, sabs managed to keep them at bay.



Cornwall sabs recruit a mobile member on the Four Burrows FH.

SOUTH WEST

Cornwall hunt sabs have successfully sabbed the following hunts this season: the *Western FH*, the *Four Burrows FH*, the *South Cornwall FH*, the *Bolventor FH* and



GROUP NEWS continued

the *Taw Vale Beagles*. The group has now expanded to 5 members, all of whom are now experienced and classy sabs, who all play an important role in saving lives.
Because of the relatively small areas hunted, sabs have found following hounds on foot to be the most effective method, since it avoids losing the hunt by continually returning to the vehicle and driving around. Since winning some important legal battles, police presence has diminished drastically. Police harrasment had previously culminated in a visit by the Constabulary's helicoper and a number of (wrongful) arrests.
Recently whilst most local hunts were attending a point-to-point, **Cornwall** sabs were otherwise engaged with the *Taw Valley Beagles*. The beagle pack had traveled down from North Devon to terrorise what remains of a diminishing Cornish hare population. Ironically, one local paper the Western Morning News , ran a story on how rare hares are in the region. The double irony is that the very same paper habitually advertises hunt meets including the one in question! Fortunately a combination of sabbing and fog caused the only hare sighted to escape, and the hunt packed up early.
Sabs have reported no kills thoughout the season.

Cotswold HSA has had an excellent season, even with only 5 sabs out on most occasions , though one intreped sab has been spending her Mondays and Fridays out on the *Ledbury FH* all on her lonesome! The group have visited the *North Ledury FH*, the *Ross Harriers* the *North Cotswold FH*, the *Cotswold FH* and the *South Heresfordshire FH* but have spent most Saturdays with the *Cotswold Vale Farmers FH* who are believed to be in a little financial trouble. They have had no arrests (!) and have actually only seen the police on two or three occassions [Is that the noise of grinding teeth from the direction of Essex I hear?- GN Ed]. Thanks go to **Bristol**, **Wolverhampton** and **Welsh** groups for helping **Cotswolds** sabs out with frequent visits, including two hunt balls!! Cheers.

SOUTH

Southampton sabs started '97 with a successful outing to the *New Forest Beagles* kennels.Due to the presence of sabs and several police vehicles [see Legal news - GN Ed] the hunt did not venture out all day; being arrested for 'looking like terrorists' proved to be an effective tactic!!
Several visits were paid to the *South Dorest FH* which usually proved to be hectic yet satisfying days out. Combined with **South Dorset** group (of Sunday Telegraph fame!) they stopped them killing every time and usually made them pack up early. Confrontations with the field and supporters were a regular occurance but they had a good laugh at the expense of one Ytene thug.[see news section - GN Ed]
Meeting up with **Stoke** and **Wolves** sabs in January they halted the progress of the John Lewis shooting party near Stockbridge (Hampshire). The shooters had already shot a trailer full of birds (of various specics - doubt they really cared) but two vans, a heavy lock and chain and loads of 'antis' running amok over their private estate stopped any continuation of their 'sport'.
Southampton then teamed up with **Reading** sabs to cause chaos on the Isle of Wight. The *I.O.W FH* tried to do a runner but sabs stayed with them and managed to call the hounds away from the huntsman and off a scent. The I.O.W. cops seem to be almost as notorious as Stoke Newington old billl and acted accordingly badly. One female sab was arrested by a PC who dived off a moving motorcycle to apprended her, while another sab was nicked whilist on the phone to his solicitor. Other memorable days for **Southampton** were spent out with the *Portman FH,* the *Hampshire Hunt*, the *Crawley and Horsham FH* and the *Chiddingfold FH*. They fully admit that they were present at the hit on the *Vine and Craven FH* only in "a blatant attempt to get on German telly"!!

West Sussex Wildlife Protection's numbers have been slightly depleted since Christmas with several stalwarts being on road protests. One sab failed to attend court on Section 69 charges and was described as being "up a tree" and therefore unavailable. It didn't matter though as the case collapsed, with his co-defendants, on questions of identity. [For the repercussions of this case, see legal news - GN Ed]
The group has largely joined up with **Portsmouth,** who have been re-lauching themselves [sounds painful- GN Ed] and now sport a new van (fully equiped with CD etc). While they hope to eventually move on the the *Hursley Hamilton FH* **Portsmouth** are only too happy to work closely with **WSWP**, whilst new members gain experience, tackling the *Chiddingfold FH*. This hunt has been nicely hammered this season with two successful mass hits. Hunt violence has been limited to a nasty head wound at Boxing Day (a rider was later arrested but, guess what, no charges were brought) and the odd punch thrown in an attempt to grab the sabs' gizmo. One shock came on a mid week meet when a small group of **WSWP** sabs went to the *Chiddingfold* only to find a joint meet with the *Crawley and Horsham FH.* One rider started to bash his horse into the groups van, in front of the terrierman. At the following meet, the Chid's terrierman *apologised* (!!) , said he had given the rider a "bollocking" and that he "did not think he would come out again".
Despite modest police presence for most of the season, numbers have rocketed to 30 during the last two hunt meets, following a 150 strong protest and a bit of mayhem at the *Chiddingfold FH*'s Hunt Ball. Police who had 107 officers on duty outside the Ball,did not make any arrests at the time, but now claim 11 cars were damaged as guests drove into the hotel. Several people from Brighton, Bognor and Chicester have been subsquently arrested and questioned.



East Essex terriermen shamelessly dig out by the side of the road.

SOUTH EAST

Thanks to growing numbers (including many new faces) **Brighton** group have been getting out as much as three times a week. Joining up with **Croydon**, and putting up with **Brixton**, they have once again been targeting the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH* and the *Surrey Union FH*, a ploy which has been very successful, not least at pissing off certain Messrs Bycroft and Sprake.
A car load of **Brighton** sabs also popped along to the *Vine and Craven FH* towards the end of the season, and since bad weather and good sabbing stopped 'play' at 1.30pm, they then chugged off to the *Garth and South Berks FH.* Police couldn't cope with sab numbers (!) and told the hunt to pack up. Wot a day!
Brighton sabs give a huge thank-you to Reading's **Techo Allstars** for a very much appreciated donation towards their new van.

Dover and **Ashford** sabs have had a good last half of the season regularly hitting the *East Kent FH* and the *Wye College Beagles*. The latter's Xmas eve was

ruined when **Dover**, **Ashford** and **Hastings** sabs ensured there were no kills with the good use of the gizmo. Boxing Day saw demos by **Dover** against the *East Kent FH*, and **Ashford** against the *Ashford Valley FH*. Both groups then joined up to sab the *East Kent*, pulling hounds off numerous foxes. The day was marred however, with a **Dover** sab being ridden down and hospitalised by a whipper-in. The sab ended up on crutches for two months. Not suprisingly the police have decided to take no action in relation to the incident. A private action both against the police and the assailant is now being investigated.



A young scallywag who spends every weekend running round the countryside, gets an ear bashing from a saboteur

On Feb 22nd police from 4 towns swamped the area around the meet of the *East Kent FH*. Apparently they were expecting a massive hit after 'overhearing' a telephone conversation between two saboteurs. This conversation was, however, staged by the sabs as the two groups were 20 miles away at the *Bolebrook Beagles*. On seeing the sabs the beagle pack refused to leave the meet, but as the sabs were waiting, the *Ashford Valley FH* appeared so **Dover** and **Ashford** gave chase. The hunt ran away, rioted after a herd of cows and got shot at by an irate farmer. The police (from a 5th town!) did not turn up till 2.30pm and arrested one sab for alledged assault [see legal pages - GN Ed)

All season the policing in Kent has been extreme, with the massive number of police and their aggressive attitude - sab camcorders being hit with sticks, vans being searched for stolen hounds vehicles having absolute prohibition notices served on them for having temporary petrol caps. 2 sabs from **Ashford** were even arrested for section 4 because they were in a van that said "fuck off copper" written in the condensation of a rear window.

This season has seen the number of sabs increase dramatically and **Dover** now has its own supporters group of less active people who help fund raise and come out on sabs to help drive people around, take people to hospital, pick people up from police stations and generally supply loads of vegan food and drink (thanks Val) whilst the sabs get on with what they do best.

Dover and **Ashford** have also been respondsible for rescuing a hound caught fast in barbed wire, and saving numerous injured urban foxes.

Essex sabs spent a lot of time with the *Puckeridge FH* this season. The hunt seem to have problems keeping their hounds of the roads , something that has given the sabs plenty of media coverage.This was compounded by hounds running riot all over people's gardens in Farmham, while the hunt tried to focus attention on the sabs lack of sympathy for a rider who had fallen off her horse. The second half of this particular day was spent with the Trinity Foot Beagles who were meeting at Brent Pelham by invitation of Captain Barclay. Their day was ruined by both sab presence and the arrival of the Gung-Ho Essex force who rushed hot-foot to the meet. In their panic they got in touch with Herts police, who in turn sent out their shared helicopter to monitor the situation. It stayed long enough to send every hare on a short holiday, leaving the hunt victim-less for the whole day. The only hare they saw all afternoon was the cheeky chappy who shot across their bows as they were going home!

Although **Essex** sabs did visit other local packs such as the *Essex and Suffolk FH* (where a massive police presence 'protected' a measly 11 riders) most of the time they were found with the *Puckeridge FH*. On one occassion a group split off to find the *Essex FH* and were subjected to sporadic bouts of hunt violence (all caught on video) by both riders and stewards. Of the three sabs arrested one had been grabbed by the hair and her head knocked against a gate, while another suffered a bloody nose. The third made too much 'fuss' about this and was rightly arrested for carrying that most deadly of offensive weapons, the d.i.y whip.

The following week had 80 sabs turning up to support those who had been subjected to such violence and injustice. Both the *Essex FH* and the police were caught completely unawares, the former scurrying in the grounds of Aythorpe Hall to wait for the latter. Waiting for the hunt to make the first move was the effective tactic of the sabs at this point as all the hunt stewards and the terrierman, Steve Martin, cluttered off home at the sight of large sab numbers. Many thanks from **Essex** sabs to all the groups that supported them on this successful day.

Thanks to all groups that sent in Group News, especially those that reached me before the deadline.

Be warned! From now on the deadlines will be stictly observed

- so git yer arses in gear! Roe

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.



Gurjeet Aujla
HV2047
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4AS

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

Dave Callender
HV3314
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4AS

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

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Somerset BA4 5LU

Keith Mann
EE3588
HMP Long Lartin
Worcestershire

Is there anybody out there?

continued from page 14

periods of time, craving camera attention and fluffy protest stunts, they actually impinge upon very few people directly and I think this is the crux of the matter.

If you are, say, an editor of The Independent newspaper out for a day's hunting with the Duke of Beaufort, or perhaps the editor of the Evening Standard blasting anything that flies out of the sky, and a van load of hunt sabs turn up and stop you from killing an innocent animal, you are more than a little likely to get the arse about it. Then just maybe, next time there is something about "fieldsports" in your area of work, you might pay a little too much attention to the "traditional" view and accidentally forget to put the other point of view over. It could happen here? Never!

After 6 months of banging our head against a wall trying to get the media to cover cub-hunting, grouse shooting etc, we virtually broke off "relations" with the national media, and for this reason, only sent out local press releases where relevant. This is also the reason that the HSA webpages on the internet appear to have been dormant since October last year. The matter is now in hand, and we can hopefully build on what was originally one of the best animal rights websites when Paul D started it up. We were ahead of our time as usual, and also we still only pay minimal administration charges unlike the huge amounts of wonga the BFSS are laying out to a commercial company!

Our most notable coup this season was to have an undercover freelance reporter and photographer out with 2 different sab groups to see what we have to face every week. Even though he purported to be working for the Guardian, to put our fears at ease, we weren't worried if he just put over what he saw. We couldn't believe our eyes when a very accurate 2 page article complete with front cover photograph appeared in the Sunday Telegraph back in February. I have it on good authority that they were spitting feathers at the BFSS after we had polluted the hallowed pages of "their" paper! I guess it's the exception that proves the rule in this case!

I don't know exactly what we can do to remedy the current situation if anything, but we can't lose if we carry on with the same direct action that has saved untold numbers of animals from a cruel death over the last 35 years.We have been doing this for too long and we are too good at it to slacken off the pressure now!

by Paul Gammon, HSA Press Officer

Caption COMPETITION



This issue's photo just crying out for a caption was sent in by a Brixton sab and shows the Surrey Union FH's publicly funded protection force (cops!).

Send your captions to: Caption Comp./ HOWL at the HSA office.

The sender of the best caption (in my humble opinion) will win one of the new HSA baseball caps.

Last issues winner (photo right) was Mr C. Turner with the caption:

"HOW COME NO-ONE ELSE HAS TROUBLE WITH THESE RUBBER GATES?"

He wins a years subsciption to HOWL, lucky man!!



CLUB DRAW

WINNERS

December

1st	R Wilson, Devon
2nd	S Fenner, Berkshire
3rd	M Walters, Hants

January

1st	S Burge, Wilts
2nd	V Callant, London
3rd	B Mayo-Turner, Devon

February

1st	P Franklin, Essex
2nd	M Sutcliffe, Suffolk
3rd	D Wilson, Newcastle - Upon - Tyne.

March

1st	J Coles, Cambridge
2nd	D Andrews, Surrey
3rd	R C Smale, Luxembourg

April

1st	J Meares, Kent
2nd	F A Inkley, Surrey
3rd	D Dunbar, London

Too young to be an active sab? Find out how you can still help by joining

Animal Freedom – Ban Bloodsports – Hunt Sabs Youth Group

FOX CUBS

When you join you'll receive a new members pack, with fact sheets on every type of hunting and other animal rights issues, one pack of anti-bloodsports leaflets, a hunt sabs youth group badge, a coloured 'Fox' calender and 'Animal Freedom', the monthly newsletter.

Fox Cubs can also supply you with leaflets and posters to use in school projects and will answer all your questions personally.

And every year the group raises money for animal santuarys chosen by its members, so by joining Fox Cubs not only will you have fun and learn about Animal rights, you'll be helping animals directly.

To join send your name, address and age, and a cheque or postal order for £5 to:

Fox Cubs PO Box 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ

FREE MEMBERSHIP TO CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SABS

NOTICEBOARD

Publications

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 NW HSA, 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.

The Animal Contacts Directory lists 4000 national and local campaign groups, rescue, rehoming and rehabilitation contacts, animal sanctuaries, crulety-free traders and other useful contacts in the UK, and also in 70 overseas contries. The 1997 edition is due to be published in May - for further details please send a sae to Veggies, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW.

Sabbing Equipment

Bargain hunting horns for only five quid! 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!

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? - £35 with a tape recorder + £2.50 p&p. It is expensive, but it has a guarantee! If interested contact Steve on 0585 140851.

Clothing

Original design HSA Bite Back T-shirts- get yours before hunting's banned!!! Same design as previous, red, black and white print of fox biting hunters nose with 'Hunt Saboteurs Association' backprint. Limited stocks, so first come first served. Only £8 inc p&p. Orders to HSA office with cheques/PO's/Visa/Mastercard details.

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.

New T-shirt by Southern Anti- BloodSports with a un-confrontational 'Millions of Dead Hunters' design. Black on white. XL size only. A bargin at £5 post paid. Cheques/P.O.'s to Southern Anti-BloodSports

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.

Sea Shepard Conservation Society - Direct action against illegal marine exploitation & more. SSCS, PO Box 628, Venice, California, 90294, USA.

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, another long time sab and AR activist, currently serving an 11 sentence for conspiracy. JFKM, PO Box 1135, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8AA

Help Wanted

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 *HOWL*'s 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.

Think you can write better articles etc for *HOWL* ? Feature writers, columnists, cartoonist, artists and researchers desperately needed for the HOWL team. Please get in touch with me via the HSA office and I'll ring you back. Roe.

People, equipment and cash needed to fight the Rank Organisation's building of a 'holiday town' in Lyminge Forest near Canterbury. Contact 01227 261057 for more info/details.

Services

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!!!!

Diary Dates

10th July - B.F.S.S. Pro- Fieldsports Rally. Hyde Park London. The idea is to show the new government what a lot of support bloodsports have...hmm. Why not let your views known? Ring HSA office for info.

26th July - HSA Annaul General Meeting. Red Rose Club, 126 Seven Sisters Rd. (Nears tube Finsbury Park) 10am-1am (including party!) Have your say in the HSA! Bar and sounds system 'ti the early hours. Way hey!!!!

Hunt Saboteurs Association

Salesgoods



HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!
'BITE BACK' T-Shirt with backprint.
Black, sizes L & XL.... £7.99

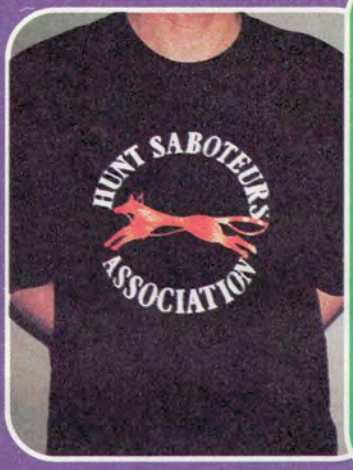
NEW!



Baseball Cap
with embroidered HSA
logo.
Black....£4.99



Ski Hat with
embroidered HSA logo
Black....£6.95

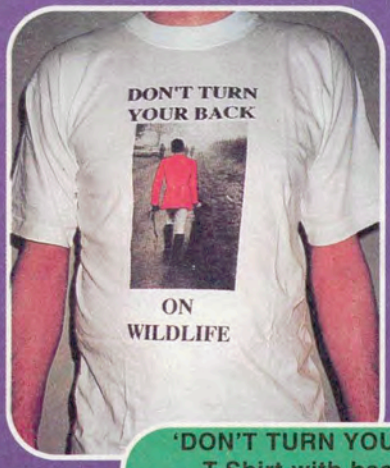


HSA
logo
T-Shirt.
Black or
white Sizes L
& XL £7.95

Also
available:
HSA logo
sweatshirt in
Navy Blue,
Sizes
L & XL
£12.95
As Above
with hood
£17.95



Small triangular logo, hooded
Sweatshirt. Black, Sizes L & XL....£17.95



'DON'T TURN YOUR BACK'
T-Shirt with backprint.
White, Sizes L & XL....£7.99



Shorts. Grey, Black,Navy Blue,
Bottle Green,White, & Burgundy.
Sizes L & XL....£6.99

Name.....☎.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Item Description	Size	Price	Qty	Total

Please continue on a blank piece of paper if necessary

Postage & Packing: please add 10% of sub total

Sub total	
P&P (10%)	
Membership	
Donation	
GRAND TOTAL	

Woul you like to join the HSA? Members receive HOWL 4 times a year, a free car sticker and badge.
Waged £10 Unwaged £7.50 Life £100

Payment method I enclosea cheque/ PO (payable to 'HSA') or debit my Visa / Mastercard account. Card No. ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑ ❑❑❑❑

Expiry date ...../...../..... Signature.....

Send completed forms to **HSA PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX**

Please allow 30 days for delivery.. Enquires ring; (01273) 622827

'HSA' Mug.....£3.49
'For Fox's Sake..' Mug..... .....£3.49
Real Pewter Brooches-
Fox, horse or hare,each.....£2.95
'All to catch one fox' postcard,
full colour, pack of 4.....99p
HSA Logo keyring.....99p
HSA badge.....35p
HSA Logo car sticker.....75p
'For fox's sake..' car sticker.....75p
HSA Logo Pen, pack of 3.....99p

High quality Hunting Horn.....£14.95
'Learn to play' tape.....£1.99
BOTH OF THE ABOVE.....£15.95
Cheap (but funtional!) horn.....£5.00