Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Winter '97/'98 £1.50

HOWL 65

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association



What we want for Christmas!

Editorial

First off apologies for the missing issue of HOWL. For the past year or so HOWL has been going out later and later past its deadlines; mostly because of the lack of input into the magazine by anyone other than the editors and a few trusty contributors. When the deadline for the what was suppose to be the Autumn issue passed, only two articles, and Vermin Patrol had come in on time; add to that the a few news-clippings I had from my own papers and you would have received a magazine with a grand total of 7 pages. Personally, I didn't think that was good enough and told the current committee that something had to be done. They agreed that HOWL should be held back a issue to get it back on track and thankfully managed to 'persuade' some lovely people to help work on it. The next issue should definitely be a team effort, something I believe can only improve it. HOWEVER...like everyone else working for the HSA, we are all volunteers - we do not have the resources or time to run around after stories. They must come to us. In other words, we need *you* to send us your sabbing news, interesting clippings and anything else suitable. So engrave the deadlines of the next issue (printed on page 5) on your brains and get those stories in! We particularly want news about opening meets, Christmas and Boxing Day, and articles on minkhunting and fundraising.

Thanks to everyone who sent back the HOWL survey and made suggestions at the AGM. In short, most wanted HOWL to stay primarily focused on sabbing and related subjects, but that other Animal Rights issues should also be mentioned. So, from the next HOWL onwards HOWL will include a page devoted to other Animal Rights activities, although the main focus of the magazine will remain sabbing and bloodsports. I'm happy to say that the majority of people approved of HOWL; the main gripe being spelling and grammar. Well, a proofreader was finally found, so the grammar should have improved somewhat, and I've discovered how to use my spell check so (hopefully) the spellings better. (However, the spell check is for American English so attribute the odd mistake to that!). Other new ideas for features etc. included sabbing recipes - any ideas? - and a regular spot for photos of fallen huntsmen!

Anyway, hope your sabbing season gets of to a good start; looks like we may be needed for a few years yet. A case of New Labour, New Excuses.? Still, at least Michael Foster's Bill is giving us a chance to show the public what really happens at hunts - some excellent sab footage has been used during coverage of the Bill, and there always the joy of hearing a bloodsport scumbag put their foot in it (See Debate Balls).For anyone appearing on debates or who just likes to argue with hunt supporters at the meet, read Criss Waller's article on fox control. Its enough to make Janet George squirm! What a horrible thought.

Cheers
ROE



The original Countryside Rally T-shirt wasn't too popular with t he BFSS !

HOWL 65
Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The **HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION** has been in existence for over 30 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to effectively prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year.
The HSA committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non - voting posts. All posts are voluntary. NO-ONE IN THE H.S.A. IS PAID - we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation and helping directly with saboteurs in the field.

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Contributions are welcome, particularly news clippings, letters, artwork and photos. We pay £5 for the first photo we use from each of you, then £1 per additional photos used per issue. All contributions to HOWL should be sent via the H.S.A. office.

The views expressed in HOWL do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or of the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee. Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated.
Nothing in the magazine should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

POLL SHOWS 80% AGAINST FOXHUNTING

(WITH ALMOST A THIRD AGAINST ALL BLOODSPORTS - INC. FISHING!)

A survey carried out by Gallop for the **Daily Telegraph**, shows that 8 out of ten people believe fox-hunting to be cruel. A knock for the notoriously pro-hunting paper although they made a lot out of the fact that fewer people thought an actual ban was necessary. (the result was still a hefty majority for a ban however). Contrary to the propaganda of the BFSS and the coverage of the 'Countryside' rally, the difference between the views of "townies' and those living in the countryside was minimal - a mere 5-7%.
The poll also showed a surprising majority of the public are in favour of a ban on game shooting - something the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA etc. have never even dared to press for. The most impressive statistic however was the result of 29% in favour of a ban on angling! Our arguments are winning: almost a third of those questioned recognised fishing as a bloodsport which should be consigned to the history books, along with the rest.

The condensed results of the Gallop/Telegraph poll were:

Disapprove of hunting foxes with dogs:	81%
Foxhunting is cruel:	81%
Approve of ban on.....Foxhunting:	63%
Approve of ban on.....Staghunting:	63%
Approve of ban on.....Hare coursing:	60%
Approve of ban on.....Game Shooting:	54%
Approve of ban on.....Fishing:	29%

LABOUR LET DOWN :

PROMISES BROKEN IN JUST 5 MONTHS.

Before the election New Labour sent out an impressive statement entitled "New Life for Animals", which outlined the ways a Labour government would improve the lot of animals in our society. Among other things it promised a total ban on hunting on Government land (now merely 'under review'), a total ban on testing cosmetics on animals and the setting up of a Royal Commission on the issue of all animal testing.
Although one Labour MP, Michael Foster has, of course, a Private Members Bill going though parliament at this moment, the Labour government has backed off publicly supporting the Bill by not allowing it additional Parliamentary time. This, in effect, means that the Bill can be 'talked out' of time and therefore the parliamentary process, by pro-hunting MP's. The Bill's only hope now lies with the sheer number of MP's that back it on the 28th November. If a huge majority back the bill the government may be forced to give it the time it deserves in the next session of parliament.
Various Ministers, while staying within Labour's stance on hunting, are also coming up with 'opt-out' clauses for some forms of hunting with hounds. Agriculture Minister, Jack Straw, has suggested that licensed hunting may still go on in some areas, particularly those areas, hunted on foot (for instance the notorious 'Fox Destruction Clubs').
New Labour has also broken its promises on animal testing . There will be no Royal Commission on animal tests, and a ban within the cosmetics industry. will not go ahead; The Home Office are worried that any ban on non-medical (eg. cosmetics) testing would effect industry. The budget to pay for research into finding alternatives to animal tests has, at the same time been cut, by £60.000 to £197,000 (less than Tony Blair got for his Islington home.)
Although the number of normal animal experiments has decreased, the rise of genetically 'modified' animals has risen so sharply the the total number of animals ('modified' or not) used in horrific and unnecessary experiments may actually rise under a Labour government.
"New Life for Animals"? How so?

'DIG-OUT' VIDEO SHOCKS IRISH PRESS & POLITICIANS

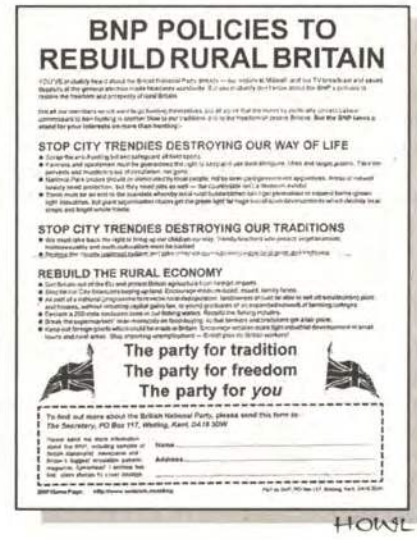
The Irish Association of Hunt Saboteurs have been getting excellent press coverage after they released s video showing the South Union FH, based in West Cork, digging out. This activity is against their own rules and the Irish Council Against Cruel Sports plans to present a copy of the video to the Minister of Agriculture, as part of their campaign to have fox hunting and the digging out of foxes banned completely.
Local press is on their side, with the 'Comment' section of an August edition of the 'Evening Herald' being extremely scathing of the hunting set, labelling them "Hooray Henry's" and the "Tally-ho Brigade". It also says that it would "be damaging of Ireland's image to be the last bastion of a cruel bloodsport."

B.N.P LEAFLETS CIRCULATED AT COUNTRYSIDE RALLY.

People attending the countryside rally were handed leaflets produced by the far right British National Party. The leaflet headed Theme-Park Britain is a right wing rant about how "'politically correct' townies our killing our countryside". As with all marginal politics this is obviously an attempt to jump on a bandwagon but the leaflet plays on the 'country v town' line that was the essence of the Rally.

The BNP claims that the government love the 'under-privileged, multi-racial inner-cities, and ...hate the real rural people of Britain'. According to the leaflet, for 'hundreds of thousands' of Britons [sic], their sense of identity is intrinsicly bound up with hunting and other field sports - that's why they are the latest target (!). It in turn, targets "trendy teachers who preach vegetarianism, homosexuality and multi-culturalism" calling for them to be sacked. In one particular paragraph, after complaining about the metric system (I kid you not), the leaflet states: " That's why our kid's come home from school knowing more about 'colonial exploitation' in Africa than about our own history. That's why TV soaps portray homosexual perversion [sic] as acceptable, even preferable.
The truly shocking thing was that the leaflet probably struck a chord with many of the rally goers. Indeed the tone of many of the speeches echoed the leaflet to a worrying degree. Robin Page, presenter of One Man and His Dog, received massive applause when he said;" ..this is not about hunting. Labour will support gays and the Brixton carnival but they will not support our culture. Under New Labour you can be gay - it will be compulsory in two years. It will be a case of 'Be nice to Muslims and be nasty to country people'"

Judging by the response that such hatred and prejudice received it would not be surprising to see the rise of the Far Right in the countryside - at least among the bloodsports junkies. Sadly, the leaflet may have been hailed as a valid political message for many rally goers.


BNP POLICIES TO REBUILD RURAL BRITAIN

STOP CITY TRENDIES DESTROYING OUR WAY OF LIFE

STOP CITY TRENDIES DESTROYING OUR TRADITIONS

REBUILD THE RURAL ECONOMY

The party for tradition
The party for freedom
The party for *you*

Your Shout!

Star Letter

NB: *The spelling / grammar in this letter has been copied exactly from the original and the text is unedited.*

Dear Sir/Madam,

you've no idea what your talking about, bet you've never even been. your evil, and if you really cared about animals, you wouldn't put horses lives at risk. where ever you people go your evil, and your not going to stop hunting by your silly little protests. your not only putting your own lifes at risk but the hounds, the huntsman and the horses, YOUR BASTARDS. I HATE YOU. If you found out the facts you'd be more willing. you must know the fox population needs to be controlled and how else do you want to do it. gassing+ poisonings is illigal and dangeress to other animals and the shooting needs to be very presise. but then you'd probley protest about that aswell. You've probley no idea what goes on and you never will if you carry on like this. GOD YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA!

Yours sencirly
?

ED NOTE: *Wooah! Such a reasoned argument has made me realise what a fool I've been all these years. Perhaps you should use your considerable literary talents to champion the cause of declining rural education.*

I'm afraid I didn't get your address; please write in so you can claim your Star Letter prize of an HSA baseball cap. (Which you can wear around the BFSS office with pride.)

Barbecues and banners....

Dear Sir,

I am not sure how to write this letter without being misconstrued - Where do I start.

The world is geared up to killing- The foxes who are not killed go on to kill rabbits, etc.If rabbit numbers were not kept down they would be a big threat to mans crops or starve because if all rabbits lived to an old age, within a few years there would be trillions and trillions of them.

I believe it would be better if the HSA change their tactics and some of their attitudes. I feel that they isolate themselves from most of the population - this includes vegetarians.

I would like to see the name changed - No longer saboteurs.

I would like to see people dressed differently - Any message someone tries to make when they have studs all over their faces and 'dodgy' haircuts really weakens their point.

I feel these t-shirts and caps with 'Meat is Murder' etc, again just alienates ourselves and we should finish with them.

Less people in trouble with the law.

I believe then, a lot more people would become members - active members.

I would like to see fewer protests to start with, but the events we do attend would be much bigger and better organised. A minimum number of protesters (200 people - 4 coaches) would have to be reached or the event cancelled.

These events would be for two reasons;

(1) to cut down on animal suffering.
(2) to make a nice day/weekend of it - play games, rounders, football, barbecues, etc.If someone enjoys their work it will be better for everyone.

Just the sheer numbers of people turning up would be intimidating and off putting to anyone taking part in a cruel sport - there or anywhere else.

There would be no trespassing - just neatly dressed people with informative leaflets and loud speakers - no swearing.

I would be grateful I you would take a vote on my suggestions.

Yours faithfully
Andrew Janes
Eastbourne.

...or zero-tolerance sabbing?

Dear Howl,

Today I discovered that the Labour government have killed off any chance of banning hunting. Is anyone really surprised? I, for one, am not. This only re-affirms my view that the only hope for the hunted animal lies within the grass roots activists who directly intervene to save lives here and now. We have put up with harassment and violence from both hunt scum and police scum for to long, and for those who haven't realised it yet it is time to put our feet down and say "enough". In my mind, the 97/98 season should be one of zero - tolerance sabbing.

For years, the police have encouraged hunt scum to attack us. They stand passively by and watch the hunt hospitalise and even kill us. They refuse to take action in 99% of these cases which, in turn, allows the hunt to think they can attack us at will with no consequence. Every time the police refuse to prosecute they are actively encouraging another Mike Hill, another Jill Phipps, another Tom Warby.

On the other hand they do everything they can to give us grief, to criminalise us and to send us to prison. They lie, they fabricate evidence, they assault us - so why, why, why are there still sabs around that think it is only the occasional over-enthusiastic copper who commits these offences? This is a concerted campaign from the very top to crush us but, as long as there are enough of us prepared to stand up and not take this crap then we will never be crushed.

The only way to dissuade a hunter from riding us down or attacking us is to make it clear that we will defend ourselves with whatever force necessary. Obviously, by waiting for them to attack us is putting us at a disadvantage so we must be prepared to get our defence in first as soon as there are any indications of an attack.

We must stand firm against the police. Do not allow them to grab us, carry out illegal searches or harass us in any way. If a copper so much as touches you and it is not to prevent a breach of the peace or to arrest you, then he/she is committing an assault and you have the legal right to defend yourself. Remember also that to be nicked you have to be caught so MASK UP and LEARN TO RUN.

Many hunts are in financial difficulties. If fear of sabs keeps away the casual support, hunts will lose a lot of money. Money is the key - the cost to run a hunt, the cost of policing. If we cost them money then they are in trouble. The only reason that the police give us so much grief is because we are effective.
So lets show them that we won't be put off by their threats and violence. Remember - zero-tolerance sabbing and sue the pants off the police as often as possible.

Teflon,
Kent

An Insiders view of bloodsports

Dear Editor

I am an ex-hunting person writing to pledge support for Micheal Foster's Bill to outlaw hunting with hounds. My reasons are as follows.

I began my hunting career at the age of 14, in my home county of Essex and was bloodied at 16 with the remains of a hare. During my teens and early twenties I hunted foxes, mink, hare and deer 2-3 times a week. I was active in the British Field Sports Society and promoted hunting at stands all over the country.

Three years ago after thinking long and hard, I gave in to my conscience and made the difficult decision to not only give up hunting but to actively campaign against it. I have certainly not regretted that decision (although it lost me friends), mainly because of what I had witnessed and participated in whilst out hunting.

For example, on one occasion a dog fox was dug out after 2 hours. The terrierman had run out of bullets, so resorted to using a spade. Before he died his eyes were forced out of their sockets by the force of the blows to his skull. This was witnessed by children.
Another time, another place: a heavily pregnant vixen was unearthed. She was shot in the head but remained fully conscious. However, no attempt was made to end her suffering; she was thrown to the terriers who ripped chunks out of her before she was thrown into the back of a landrover. She was still alive and groaning pitifully. When this came too much for me and I requested she be shot, I was told that it would be a waste of a bullet.

There are other cases I could mention, as indeed could others who have stopped hunting, which clearly indicates that the 'sport' has failed miserably to police itself even in the face of abolition.

Your faithfully
Lynn Sawyer
Uxbridge, Middlesex

The Countryside speaks

Dear Editor

I have the good fortune to own a property in a small rural village in S.E. England and at the end of June, a pamphlet advertising 'the countryside rally' came in the post. It seemed especially relevant as the village has suffered both P.O. closures and ailing bus services - two of the issues this leaflet addressed. I spoke with neighbours who were very keen to attend and I decided to go along with them.

There was a huge turn out (something even your magazine would have to acknowledge!) but what disgusted me was the pure , unadultered hi-jacking of the rally by hunt people.

The 'countryside rally' pamphlet did not mention hunting once , yet it was the only topic to be discussed. (my view on the hunting debate is commonplace : I'm sure it is cruel, but I have neither the time nor the passion to become embroiled in it's demise.)

My self and my neighbours felt compelled to let you know that a large number of people on the rally were not there to support hunting, but were there for other countryside issues. My disappointment was further heightened when I saw a small group of well-behaved anti-hunting people, coming under verbal and physical abuse from a large proportion of the crowd. I do not wish to be judgmental, but I have noticed a growing number of rural people acting in a completely unfitting manner. We cannot expect to be treated as valid citizens if we consistently behave, and are perceived as, ignorant, pompous and unapproachable.

I love the countryside, but from the outside we have turned it into a closed club for the socially inept.

Yours
A. Humphreys
Shackleford
Surrey

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters in respect of length and content.

Send letters to the Howl Editor at:
HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

The Star Letter wins a HSA long sleeved T-shirt. The rest get nothing!

HOWL 66 DEADLINES

News/Letters: 28th DEC 97
Group News: 5th JAN 98

Address to the Editor via the HSA office

Now's the time to fight...and write!

1997 looks good so far for Britain's wildlife! The Batesman report, the first convictions under the last Wild Mammals Act, the demise of one whole aspect of hunting (the New Forest Buckhounds). And now, we have the most important ongoing event - the Private members bill put through by Michael Foster, Worcester MP. And it is something we can all help to get through.

Coming first in the draw for Private Members Bills, Mr Foster, after consulting his constituents, decided to introduce a Bill which would outlaw hunting with dogs. Hence the Wild Mammal (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is due for it's first reading on the 28th November. All those who realise the obscenity of hunting with dogs (not just hounds - the Bill covers coursing and terrier work too!) must start to do all they can to ensure that their MP is fully aware that the vast majority of people in the country want the practice banned.

As an active sab, I know that a high percentage of sabs feel the legislative system and the parliamentary system as a whole, is a process which constantly fails to deliver and thus one from which they withdraw. It cannot be stressed too strongly that a large part of what the HSA (and sabs) exist to prevent is in parliament now ,and with your help it can become law. It does not take more than 5 - 10 minutes to pen a letter to your MP. You, your friends, relatives, work mates (stop laughing!) and anyone else you know, should question their MP on their views on this issue, and wether they intend to be there for the vote on the 28th.

Although it is widely agreed that the 2nd reading will be in favour of a ban, a considerable majority is required if the vote can be successfully held up as a mandate of the people. Should the opposition attempt to 'filibuster' (talk out) the Bill in the Commons, or the Lords refuse to ratify it when it is passed to them, a massive majority in the Commons can be used by the anti-hunt lobby to argue either for a) the Government to adopt the bill in the next session; b) for the debating methods and rules to be changed; or c) for the archaic Lords to be speedily reformed (or even all three together!). If that does become the case (which, hopefully it will not, since we want the Bill to go straight through) then the resulting furore can do nothing other than smooth the way for the later re-introduction of a Bill to ban hunting regardless of which way it is introduced.

Dawn, HOWL Editor 1995-1997

Points to Note

1. Your MP can be contacted at the House of Commons, London SW1A OAA. If you don't know who she/he is then try your local library for details.
2. When writing, make the letter as personal as possible (but don't go as far as photos of you and your dog!) Hand write it where possible and do not simply copy other people's efforts! Letters which appear to be part of a mass letter writing campaign are not as effective, or taken as seriously as those which appear individual.
3. State clearly that you are against hunting, and that unless your MP states his/her support for the Bill, and attends the 2nd reading on the 28th, to vote accordingly, your vote will never be cast for them.
4. Write more than once! Re-confirm attendance etc.
5. See your MP in person if possible; try to make them understand what happens at a hunt rather than have them perhaps wrongly focussed on alleged job losses.
6. It has been said that MP's view just one letter from a constituent as representing the views of around 200 people (who did not vote). It cannot be stressed enough how much the price of a 2nd class stamp and a few minutes of your time can help change so much...GET TO IT!!



NEWS IN BRIEF

The LACS has branded the Royal Artillery FH, which was still hunting on Salisbury plain on the !st of May, as 'Britain's sickest hunt'. A full month after most fox-hunts had packed up for the season the Royal Artillery were hunting animals that were likely to be nursing young or cubs that would have been about six weeks old ! The Royal Artillery claim that it's involvement in hunting is good training for soldiers. Most people will find it hard to believe that setting packs of dogs onto six week old cubs will improve anybody's military 'skill'.

Vulpine Observer April 1997

A police angling competition in Sheffield was disrupted by a mini crimewave - three officers had their cars stolen and equipment worth thousands of pounds went missing.

Daily Telegraph 29.9.96

Racehorse trainer and President of the Vine and Craven FH, Peter Walwyn was taken to hospital in August after a bizarre accident, at the hunt kennels. Walwyn, 64, tripped over a chair and stumbled into a clay pigeon launcher. This triggered the launch trap's release handle, which embedded itself into his stomach. Although the handle was removed under local anaesthetic, Walwyn needed further surgery later.

Daily Telegraph 19.7.97

English fox-hunting enthusiasts are fleeing Britain for Ireland, in a bid to carry on their 'sport'. Estate agents in Eire are reporting a large rise in enquiries into property by people worried about a possible ban on hunting with hounds. Areas close to hunts are being snapped up they claim.
However the British invasion has provoked a backlash in some Irish hunting circles. Turlough Coffey, of the Federation of Field Sports, said "There's no room for British hunter's over here. If too many come over, we will not accept them into our packs and we will tell them to go home."

Daily Telegraph 19.7.97

Anglers in Milton Keynes are being attacked by children as young as four who have also taken thousands of pounds worth of fishing gear. Some spots have become 'no-go' areas for anglers.

Pisces Magazine Summer '97

NATIONAL TRUST HUNTING BAN UPHELD.

A High Court judge has refused an appeal by hunters to overturn the National Trust's ban on deer hunting with hounds, choosing instead to give the go-ahead for a judicial examination. The Trust was asked by Justice Robert Walker to reconsider the ban, since he believed that the speed and secrecy of the ban going through may be "a serious error of judgement". Unhappily for pro-hunters, however, he did not order the Trust's ruling council to overturn its decision of April 10th.

The complaints against the ban rested mainly on the way it was implemented, rather than the reason behind the ban. The main criticism from staghunters was that the ban was imposed within 38 hours of Prof. Batesman's report on the unacceptable stress caused to deer by staghunting. The claim centred on the fact that the council had pushed through the ban, rather than leave any time for discussion and consultation, after the report had come out. Justice Walker agreed that the Trust's chairman and his small group of officials who knew about the report's findings were "preoccupied, and probably excessively preoccupied" with the need to make a quick, clean decision to deflect media criticism. Since council members had received the 77-page report only a day before being asked to vote on the ban, Justice Walker said the speedy timetable was 'bound to impose pressure" on council members, however well informed and diligent they may have been, on April 10th. The Judge also thought it "very questionable" that the report was presented to the media before the council met. At this point one can only assume that the staghunting fraternity must have been rubbing the hands with glee; however Justice Walker scuppered their hopes of a return to the killing fields, when he concluded, to their surprise, that he was very "far from convinced" that the actions of the Trust's staff amounted to a conspiracy by them to get hunting banned. Subsequently he refused to allow a judicial review of the Trust's decision, saying there was equivalent redress to be had using charities law. The judge ruled that the huntsmen had an arguable "but not strong" case for a further trial of the Trust's decision.



DEAD ANIMAL 'PROTEST' SICKENS AR CAMPAIGNER.

A Rugby Animal Rights campaigner was was the target of a sick 'counter-protest' by bloodsports supporters in June. Maurice Pratt (aged 66) woke on the morning of the 10th June to find the bloodied corpses of six animals sprawled on his drive. The four hares and two rabbits had been dumped there overnight. All the animals had come to violent ends, almost certainly by dogs. Mr Pratt had no doubt who was responsible. "The hunters are now the protesters in many ways," he said "They are bitter about the prospect of a ban. But it won't deter us from our commitment to the animal rights cause."

The police at first seemed unconcerned about the incident, and treated it as "a case of litter" . However once the local press got hold of the story Insp. Nick Croft changed his tune and decided to 'follow up' the case.

It was not the first time that Mr Pratt (a member of Rugby Animal Rights and active anti-bloodsports campaigner) had received such 'gifts' - two years ago the body of a fox was left outside his house.

BRAIN SURGEON 'MISTOOK' SHOT SWAN FOR A GOOSE

Paul Marks, a neurosurgeon at Leeds General Infirmary, was cleared of deliberately shooting a mute swan after he claimed his contact lens had 'slipped' while pulling the trigger. Marks (40) was on a shoot at Ripley Castle, near Harrogate, North Yorks when he blasted the swan, which 'he thought was a goose'. Two paramedics saw the bird spiralling out of the sky and were so angered they called the police. Mute swans are still officially the property of the Crown and it is illegal to shoot or deliberately kill them.

Anyone with neurological problems in the Leeds area is advised to stay well away from Mr Marks. Should his contact lenses 'slip' again, you may well find yourself with a full frontal lobotomy.

BLOODSPORTS SUPPORTER ON RSPCA COUNCIL EXPOSED

August saw the election of Elizabeth Burton, a candidate endorsed by the pro-hunt lobby, to the RSPCA ruling council. Also elected was Roy Forster as chairman, another supported by bloodsport enthusiasts. Although Mr Forster is anti-hunting, he is, however viewed as a 'moderate'. Ms Burton has also been thought to be neutral on the issue; however a transcript of a secretly taped telephone conversation (allegedly) with Ms Burton paints a slightly different picture. The transcript was passed around at the Society's AGM, and includes another conversation this time with Peter Voute, executive director of the BFSS, who describes the campaign to influence they RSPCA as being a long term one..

The transcript quotes a woman who answers the phone as Ms Burton, as saying "I am not opposed to fox hunting as such.....I do not agree with the RSPCA ban on foxhunting until such a time that alternative methods of control can be found. I feel that foxhunting is the best way of controlling foxes and that was my view to my own supporters..... My husband was the Master of Foxhounds, my grandson has also been Master of Foxhounds, so I know very well what I am talking about." Well, that seems neutral - even if the alleged conversation with Peter Voute (BFSS) has him describing Ms Burton as "very good news".

● For some time the BFSS and others have been encouraging bloodsports supporters to join the RSPCA in an attempt to change it's policy towards hunting from the inside. It has been rumoured that over 3000 bloodsports enthusiasts have joined the RSPCA in this attempt to sabotage it's anti-hunting stance. Senior members of the RSPCA are so concerned about the level of infiltration that they are exploring ways of excluding hunters etc, or at least limit their influence. Suggested methods are to require members to affirm their opposition to "any activity which is considered by society to involve avoidable suffering to animals", or to force new members to wait 5 years before they can be elected to the council.

£2,600 OF TAX MONEY SPENT ON EACH AND EVERY BADGER KILLED BY GOVERNMENT

Just before the general Election the Secretary of State for Agriculture admitted that the government spends £2600 for each and every badger killed by MAFF. This is way past the figure at which Professor Dunnett ("Dunnett Report" 1985) said that on economic grounds alone, the policy on badger killing would become unjustifiable. The new Labour Government has yet to introduce the moratorium promised before the election, on badger killing by MAFF.

The slaughter of badgers still goes ahead because of fear of bovine tuberculosis. However there is no proof that badgers can infect cattle with the disease under field conditions. MAFF even admit this is the case! In fact the infection is more likely to be passed on the other way round. Some badgers catch TB from infected cattle as they root around for food in cattle dung. Badgers act as a 'miner's canary', ie. infected animals show up where TB is endemic in cattle. Badger Groups claim that left alone these badger social groups would develop an immunity within a generation or two.

Badgers are currently killed after being caught in metal traps set by MAFF operatives. The traps are set in badger territory but usually not near to the sett itself. The traps are baited with peanuts and set to trip when badgers enter for the food. The next morning MAFF operatives shoot the badgers in the head and the bodies are removed for examination. They vast majority of these badgers are perfectly healthy. Badgers can also be trapped in large snares that hold the animals around the stomach.

Dartmoor Badgers Protection League is asking you to sent letters to your MP and Tony Blair asking for the policy on badger killing to be changed.

● The British Veterinary Association backs the killing of badgers, although they have publicly admitted that there is no evidence of cross infection from badgers to cattle in the field. TB itself is a hugely important financial industry for the veterinary profession. The BVA has yet to reveal how much money its members make from TB. (A cynic might wonder if they would like to see an end to TB at all, and hence back the myth of badger infecting cattle with the disease.)

Fortunately , not all vets believe in the cruel policy of badger killing. Ask your vet to publicly disassociate themselves from the BVA line on badgers and ask them to write to the BVA condemning its stance. Do not take animals to any vet who believes in MAFF's slaughter of badgers.

HUNT THUG RETREATS TO IRELAND

An English huntsman who received a three month suspended prison sentence for shooting at saboteurs 10 years ago, is now the huntsman to the **Waterford FH** in Eire. Nigel Cox previously hunted with the **Albrighton FH**, where he caused £300 worth of damage to the minibus of local saboteurs who had parked the van across a gateway to block the movement of the hound van. After the sabs refused to move, Cox produced a shot gun which he used to attack a female sab, smashing her camera. He then shot at the van, holing it's radiator.

Nice to see that Irish Hunts use as much discretion when employing staff, as do their mainland counterparts! Nigel Cox is one of a long list of hunt staff who are still in the pay of hunts all over Britain, that have criminal records for violent crimes. And they call us bullies!!

NEWS IN BRIEF

The National Convention for the Welfare of Swans and Wildlife report that 720 swans had to be treated for injury and poisoning through tackle left by careless anglers in just nine months last year. These figures relate to the Midlands, with more than 400 birds being treated at the Droitwich Swan Centre alone. The Convention report that these casualty figures are the worst since lead shot was banned in 1987. They are calling a complete ban on the use of lead in fishing.

Pisces Magazine Summer '97

The hen harrier, once a common bird of prey, could be extinct in England by the end of the century because grouse moor managers are destroying its nests.

Observer 20.4.97

A study leaked to the press suggests that a large number of fish die after they are caught and returned to the water. The report was carried out by the National Federation of Anglers and the finding were so controversial that they were kept quiet for 20 months.

Pisces Magazine Summer '97

The two 'Country Field and Shooting Sports' candidates standing for parliament at the General Election managed to poll an impressive 329 votes between them! Perhaps they should have joined forces with the 'Space Age Superhero from Planet Beanus' Party who's leader, Captain Beany, totalled 341 votes by himself. Nah, Captain Beany wouldn't like to be classed among the joke candidates, I'm sure.

Results from Guardian 2/5/97

Alleged badger baiters appearing at Banbury Magistrates Court in Oxfordshire had to be protected by 5 police officers when escorted in and out of the courtroom. They all pleaded not-guilty despite being caught with bits of badger in their homes and over 30 prosecution witnesses. Their police escort was needed as two weeks before one had aggressively objected to his photo being taken by a anti-bloodsports protester, only to find himself 'arguing' with three (large) friends of the protester in question. The unlucky man had had to flee to the police station for safety!

London Animal Action Newsletter, July '97

NEWS IN BRIEF

John Lewis, the department store chain, has dropped its libel action against the National Anti-Hunt Campaign over a leaflet accusing it of being "wildlife killers". At the centre of the row is the chain's 3000 acre estate at Leckford Abbass, Stockbridge, Hants, where staff are invited to shoot game birds.
Anti-hunting protesters have been handing out the leaflets in protests around the country. Support from the McLibel campaign may have made John Lewis think twice about the cost of suing, and the bad press that was sure to follow, as happened with McDonalds.

London Animal Rights News, June 97

Did you know that Carlisle United football team (currently in the 2nd Division), as well as having the highest floodlights in the league, also have a 'monument' to fox-hunting? Apparently,before every game, a flea bitten old fox, is placed in the centre circle of the pitch as a monument to the more distasteful 'sport'.

'The Lion Roars', Millwall FC Supporters Magazine , No. 90

Paul Floskowski, of 16 Tarbet St Lancaster LA1 3DN, is asking for country land in Ireland to hunt his pack of Lucas Terriers.
The terriers "work well below ground and above" and one has caught 656 rabbits alone. The terriers are also adept at killing game birds. If he obtains permission to hunt on Irish land he plans to hunt a pack of 10 couple. Roskowski would like to work the dogs in conjunction with fox and hare drives.

Irish Hunting, Shooting and Fishing.

Just who do animal experimenters, hunters and polluters go to when things go wrong? Well, many go to Burston-Marsteller, a 'crisis management agency', who specialise in cleaning up the public image of firms that have become 'tarnished'. Included on it's books are McDonald's (now why could that be?), Phillip Morris cigarettes and Exxon. It is also responsible for the "communications campaign that changed the 'fur coat issue' ...from being one of 'animal cruelty' to one of the right to choose.'"
Burston- Marsteller's Uk office is based in Bloomsbury ; it's UK managing Director is Paul Philpotts. How does he sleep at night.

The Guardian, 13/8/97

SEA SHEPHERD FREED!

On 20 June this year in a court in Lelystad, Holland, magistrates released the President of Sea Shepherd, Captain Paul Watson, from custody after he had served over a month on remand pending an application for extradition by the Norwegian Government. He had previously been arrested, questioned and released by German authorities on the same charges.



These arose after he was found guilty in his absence of attempting to scuttle a Norwegian whaling ship on a remote island. The Norwegian authorities wanted him to serve a 4 month sentence in a gaol in the same region where the attack was said to have been planned. Friends and supporters of the activist were seriously concerned that if extradited to Norway, he stood a real chance of being murdered by the enraged locals - they had openly made death threats and vowed to carry them out. This was despite the Norwegian court admitting that Watson was not even in Norway at the time of the attack, but their view was that he helped plan it.

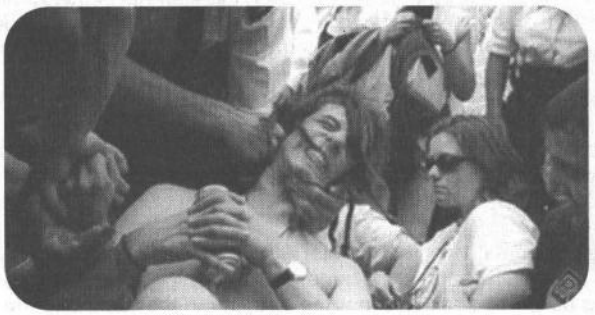
Paul Watson's release was greeted with delight and relief by all who know him and his work to directly enforce International law to protect marine life. Unfortunately, the case was not widely reported in the UK, and where it was, the good name of Sea Shepherd was smeared by (of all people) Greenpeace who condemned Sea Shepherd as using 'violent' tactics. Sea Shepherd have always been proud to publicise their direct action approach, knowing that it gets results. Not one of their many law-breaking opponents has ever been injured as a result of their actions.

This attack by Greenpeace was especially sad as Paul Watson was one of the co-founders of the original Greenpeace but left in 1977 to set up Sea Shepherd after becoming disillusioned with the lack of action and the direction being taken by the increasingly bureaucratic organisation.

Can you imagine the fuss if the head of Greenpeace was arrested and extradited for direct action? Probably more shocking would be the thought of the head of Greenpeace doing some direct action! What would the dry-cleaning bill be?!

We should all be rejoicing that Paul Watson is once again free to take on the whalers and others that rape the planet, and do what we can to support them. They are after all an International extension of the beliefs and tactics of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, only with better public relations!!

Contact Sea Shepherd Conservation Society at SSCS, PO Box 628, Venice, California, 90294, USA.



Left: The Met. showing us just how they used pressure - point persuasion, on the National Anti - hunt Campaign's march in London.

MINISTERS' LOSE ROYAL VENISON PERK BUT CULLS STILL GO AHEAD

Labour is to scrap the 900 year old right of top officials to claim two haunches of venison from the Royal Parks. The 'gift' from the Queen is currently claimed by 100 ministers, top civil servants and senior members of the royal household. In future the Queen will only be able to offer the meat (worth £450) to her closest 'admirers and friends (None for Ms. Parker-Bowles then !).
The meat comes from the twice yearly cull of deer in Richmond Park, Bushey Park and Hampton Court. There has been much public protest in the past over the cull of deer in these parks, with some animal welfare groups calling for contraceptives to be used on the captive deer thereby lessening the need for the culls.

Although the Queen officially 'owns' the deer, it is actually the taxpayer that has been paying for these gifts - and the culls. (That's bureaucracy for you!) However, instead of looking into the use of other methods to control deer numbers, Culture Secretary Chris Smith has instead decided that the remaining meat (after the Queen's lackeys have had their share) will be sold at the nations most exclusive butchers - including Harrods, where each haunch is expected to sell for over £225. This is part of his Ministry's efforts to save tax-payers money, and so impress the Chancellor,Gordon Brown.

Unfortunately, although Mr Smith is saving the tax-payers of Britain a paltry total of £5000 a year (by our reckoning), it will still mean the cull of healthy animals in the Royal Parks. Most tax-payers would probably be just as keen for Mr Smith to keep and use that amount (and, indeed, more) on the introduction of other ways to control the number of captive deer in public parks, rather than rely on culls at all..

HUNT HAVOC

A taste of some of the worst incidents of hunt mayhem in the countryside, from last season.

North Staffordshire FH: Hounds hurtled through a school playground terrifying staff and children. The kids had to be kept indoors while the hunt tried to round up the rioting animals.
Headteacher, Mrs Casserly said,"The only response I got from the hunting people was where they were from, I heard no apology.."

Surrey & North Sussex Beagles: Sheep, goats and piglets were left terrified after the hunt charged through a smallholding last November. Two goats and a piglet suffered minor injuries. The owner was told by the hunt that they had always hunted in the area and that she didn't have any right to stop them.

Cheshire FH: Hounds chased a fox into the garden at a ...League officers home! Luckily the garden had bolt holes for foxes in it, and the fox managed to hide in one of them. A huntsman trampled down a perimeter fence to gain access to the property.

Holcombe Harriers: Sabs rescued all but two hounds that had followed a hare out onto the ice of a frozen reservoir and fallen through. (see HOWL 64) Other hounds left in the charge of hunt followers strayed out onto a road and three of them were hit by traffic. The Master, Arnold Greenhaigh said, "I would like to pay tribute to everyone who helped with the rescue, including saboteurs."

South Staffordshre FH: Hounds invaded a garden chasing and injuring pet cats. Four cats were chased around the garden and one was bitten in the leg. There was no-one from the hunt was with the hounds at the time.

South & West WIltshire FH: A 75 year old woman was knocked to the ground by hounds tearing through her cat shelter at the end of October. Her 40 cats were sent fleeing up trees and onto roof tops. MIss White, the owner of the sanctuary, twisted her knee as hounds barged into her.

Old Surrey & Burstow FH: Eleven hounds were electrocuted and killed on a railway line between Godstone and Edenbridge. Fifteen trains were delayed.

South Devon FH: Hunt trespassed over land from which they are banned. The landowner found the huntsman and hounds in a field of pregnant ewes. She was met by "rudeness and arrogance" when she complained.

Mendip Farmers FH: The hunt rampaged through Dowlings Wood, a S.S.S.I., during last seasons cubbing, causing cattle to stampede through a fence. The herd was later found wandering down a track towards the main road. The local Wildlife Trust was also unhappy as the site was also part of a project to encourage dormice, which would undoubtedly have been disturbed.

Sinnington FH: Cat killed by hunt in December. Twiggy, a black and white seven year old family pet, was killed in her garden by the hunt. The Master of the hunt claimed the cat had been run over by a car (the local road was closed for repair!) and offered the family a new kitten. The family were horrified by Twiggy's injuries and are keen to take legal action against the hunt.

Tiverton FH: Hunt deny any involvement in the death of a fox found in a country lane just after they had passed down it. The incident happened just before Christmas and the fox was found hanging from the branches of a tree. It had been 'decorated' with tinsel and red tissue paper had been stuffed into it's eyes and rectum. Two children found the body. The hunt offered to cut the fox down, and left the body at the side of the lane.

HUNT ROUTED ON MOD LAND

Following a tip-off from the families of service personnel, hunt saboteurs from Portsmouth and West Sussex Wildlife Protection successfully disrupted a cub hunt by the Chiddingfold. Leconfield and Cowdray FH at Thorney Island, W. Sussex. Thorney Island is the base for the Royal Artillery and is situated a few miles east of Portsmouth.
Foxes and cubs are captive on the island as it is separated from the surrounding land by the 'Great Deep', a large water channel. Access to two public footpaths around the island is only possible through gates installed with video intercoms. All people wishing to enter must give their names and addresses.
Around twenty sabs split up and went to both sets of gates. Initially entry was refused because of the presence of the hunt on the island, so some sabs negotiated barbed wire to enter without permission. After a prolonged wait the others were allowed access.
Hounds were successfully distracted by the gizmo and hunting horns, and it was not long before about twenty soldiers started to throw their weight around, threatening and even punching people.
After a considerable struggle, the saboteurs were ejected from the island, but not until the hunt had started to pack up after a very disappointing day. One accusation of assault by a hunt supporter was made to Chichester police.
Afterwards, some soldiers claimed they had been 'forced' to evict the sabs, and that all of them hated the hunt as much as sabs do. They said they worst thing was they had to "thank the hunt for coming to the Island afterwards"
The tip off regarding the hunt meet also said local farmers were up in arms over the appearance of the hunt. Advice had been given to some service families on the use of scent sprays and unblocking earths to help fox cubs.

QUEEN VOTED WORST LANDOWNER

An independent panel of judges unanimously voted The Queen 'Britain's Worst Landowner 1997' for her poor management of Balmoral Estate and other Crown lands. The Crown continues to claim immunity from the Wildlife and Countryside Act and her lawyers have managed to successfully prevent her estates at Lochnagar and Ballochbuie from becoming S.S.S.I.'s. In 1992 the estate evicted the Scottish Wildlife from an existing 2570 hectare nature reserve.
Since many in the pro-bloodsports arena claim that they only have the countryside's welfare at heart, and that it is they that 'conserve' the land and its wildlife, it must come as a blow to see the biggest figure head of the bloodsports community embarrassed in this way..

NEIGHBOURHOOD'S FURY AT KILLING OF LOCAL FOXES

Residents of a housing estate in Ryde, on the Isle of Wight were shocked to find members of the Isle of Wight FH hunting hounds on foot through their back yards. The hunt had been called in by the owners of an eight bedroom house nearby, who claimed local foxes were messing up their back yard.
Tommy and Avril Tomlinson told the press that the foxes had an earth in their extensive garden and would bring back litter from the housing estate as well as fowling their lawns. They said they had called in the hunt just so the hounds could mark the ground, the smell driving the foxes away. (It seems the couple had no objection to hound poo on the lawn). Actually the huntsman (with eight hounds) managed to catch and shoot, two adult foxes before he left. The hunt admitted trespassing into other gardens.
Residents woke just after six to the sight of hounds running amok in their backyards. Several were worried about the risk to children,; most were horrified by the death of animals they had so enjoyed watching.
Retired headteacher, Colin Bass, whose home backs onto the Tomlinsons' summed up the neighbourhood's feelings by saying:"Everyone around here loves the foxes and feeds them. They should not have been killed - they are wild animals and should be shared among everyone."

buck off

The demise of the New Forest Buckhounds 1991-1997



Since 1991 virtually every meet of the New Forest Buckhounds has been attended by sabs. As the '97-'98 season dawns, this will no longer be necessary. Fallow buck will no longer be chased for up to five hours over miles of forest and moor, they will no longer be jumped upon by hunt thugs, or held with their heads under water, or savaged by hounds, or escape their tormentors only to die slowly from hypothermia and exhaustion.

This won't occur any more because the New Forest Buckhounds have disbanded.

In an historic announcement made by the Buckhounds Mastership this summer, they pre-empted their inevitable demise and called it a day voluntarily. The subsequent ban by the Forestry Commission of deer hunting on its land only reinforced the hunt's decision.

Sabbing of this hunt has a long history. Before '91, hits were small and infrequent. Not much was known about the operations of Britain's last remaining fallow buck hunt.

In the summer of '91, groups in the south were enjoying a fine summer trashing the Ytene Minkhunts. Mass hits were the norm, week in and week out. The courage, friendship and inspiration that was fostered there was carried on in the New Forest, with the Buckhounds receiving the Sabs attention.

Knowledge of the hunt's peculiar ways was quickly learned in the field and through old hunting literature. Sabs soon sussed out the whys and wherefores, and countless buck were saved by their actions. The hunt was followed by sabs entirely on foot. Open public access and a lack of roads made this the best way. Anti-mate, hunting horns and whips were all used in the traditional style; Cover the line of the buck with the spray, use of voice and whips to rate the hounds, then horn 'em off the other direction.

Sabs also organised kennel blockades. Hundreds of sabs turned out on these occasions and prevented the hunt from leaving its Brockenhurst Kennels. Sabs' vans would sandwich the hound van, making its progress impossible, and the day would be won! Strange Forest bye-laws meant that the Police were often powerless - the sabs were winning.

One hound van ambush that sabs executed for the opening meet in '92 resulted in criminal convictions for five of the sabs involved. The blockade was a huge success, with over two hours of hunting lost and no kills on that day. However, court appearances became more frequent.

New Forest bye-laws were again put to use. These prevented sabs from interfering with the hunt in any way. The Police and Forestry Commission keepers would be quick to report anyone seen sabbing. Although not serious, continual convictions for breaking the bye-laws were a pain in the neck.

It wasn't just sabs getting done though. John Stride, the huntsman was convicted of assaulting a sab by Southampton Crown Court. Sabs were empowered. Week in, week out, they were there. Sometimes in large groups, other times just one or two. Mondays and Fridays in the New Forest became a way of life for some.

The hunt were getting annoyed. The life-saving work of the sabs was attracting the attention of many hunt thugs. They were acting as all hunt heavies do, and were succeeding. The hunt themselves began to kill more buck. This was seen as a knee-jerk reaction by the sabs: the hounds would be taken off the line of a tired buck, only to kill a fresh one quickly. The sabs received this with utmost suspicion. Talk of chaperoning deer, and dodgy cowboy-style activities was rife. Something had to be done

Talk of chaperoning deer, and dodgy cowboy-style activities was rife. Something had to be done.

In '94 there were not many active sabs left concentrating on the Buckhunt. With a recent increase in hunt violence and buck kills, sabs were desperately looking for new tactics. The work of other anti-hunting groups in the New Forest was noted. These tended to simply monitor the hunt with video cameras. Their stand-offish, non-confrontational tactics afforded them some freedom from the heavies, and respect from the Police. In other words, they got away with it! However, no serious cases of cruelty by the Buckhounds had yet been recorded.

The remaining few sabs downed their traditional sabbing tools and purchased video cameras. The days were still spent on foot, running with the hunt. Now though, they would not interfere. The hunt was allowed to continue as normal. Of course this did mean that many buck were killed. There was much criticism of this form of sabbing at the time. It goes against the grain to stand aside while atrocities are being done to wildlife. For those sabs still in the New Forest, these were not easy days.

But their efforts were not in vain. Over the next four years the Buckhounds were to be exposed for cruelty time and time again.

In '94 three hunt followers were filmed standing on an exhausted buck prior to its death. After that, scenes of carve-ups were filmed, with money appearing to be exchanged for" trophies" Buck were held underwater in streams before being shot. Twice sabs filmed buck being savaged by hounds with no hunt personnel in attendance. Even the textbook kill, where a tired buck is held at bay by the hounds, then shot, was turning the stomachs of a nation of TV viewers who were seeing these scenes on local news and in documentaries.

The pressure on the hunt was intense. The Forestry Commission was forced to suspend the hunt twice after hounds were filmed savaging buck. Public opinion turned against them, and MP's clamoured to make their disapproval official. The sabs and their allies were all working together at this time.

When the Labour party announced its intention to ban hunting on Forestry land, the end was near. Despite rallying calls, the Labour landslide forced the buckhunters into submission.When they disbanded on Monday July 28th 1997, it marked a happy conclusion to the long and dangerous battle against the New Forest buckhounds.

Thanks must go to everyone who has been there over the years!

INVASION OF TH

...Or

THE DAY THE VILLAGE IDIOTS CAME TO TOWN!

**A personal view surrounding the BFSS rally in London, 10 July.
By HSA Press Officer; Paul Gammon aged 30 something!**

We all remember the whispers back in December/January that the bumpkins were planning to march on parliament if a new (Labour) government were to be elected, and thought about banning hunting. The rumours got stronger as the election approached, and the date for a rally was finally made public around the end of April.

After the election result was known, and the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) had lost most of its lackey MPs, the alarm bells started ringing, and they started to pull out all the stops to get anyone they could to come to London under whatever banner. If the rally was to defend hunting (as it was) they couldn't defend that publicly with any hope of success, so they decided on a more cynical approach.

They duped, and have continued to dupe, virtually everyone with a romantic idea of the 'countryside' into believing that if hunting goes, so will every other facet of country living. How people let themselves be fooled to come on this rally, only they know. There are many serious problems that need to be sorted about how things work in the countryside - as they highlighted: better bus services, more village shops and schools etc - no-one would seriously disagree that what has happened is outrageous, but these issues have absolutely nothing to do with the reason the rally was called, which was to portray support for hunting.

Anyone who went to the rally thinking they were standing up for rural, social or environmental issues are either stupid or not telling the truth. When pressed (and they rarely were) the BFSS were forced to admit the whole thing arose from the threat to hunting with hounds. In the run up to the second reading of the Foster Bill on 28 November, hopefully this will become clearer.

The BFSS have never before protested about the loss of large numbers of rural jobs or the other issues they have cynically hijacked because there has never been such a threat to hunting as there is now, and diversions are needed. More jobs have been lost every year over the last decade under current agricultural policies than will be lost if hunting is banned outright and the BFSS have said nothing. Could that be because the large hunting farmers and the country landowners that do so much for the BFSS coffers were the ones to benefit from the mechanisation and subsidies? They even had the front to dredge up a speaker from the scab Union of Democratic Mineworkers!

The big anti-hunting organisations had all blanked the rally for fear of attracting it more attention (naive? possibly) but seemed to realise too late that the media were in love with the countryside fad and were going to run big with it regardless. Whether it was a straight buy off, their gratitude at not having to work to get a story or simply a backlash against perceived political correctness we will probably never know, but the common strands in the reports and editorials were so obvious it was definitely more than coincidence.

With the Hunt Saboteurs Association's (HSA) experience of constantly being overlooked as an alternative view on hunting, we tried to ride on the back of the pro-hunting hysteria in the media, and basically take the piss where possible!

For this reason, I decided to take a stroll down to Hyde Park to take in the spectacle of thousands of bumpkins in London, many for the first time, wide-eyed (all 3 of them) and later on legless. Also, I lived not a stone's throw from the park, and this was my manor!

The HSA put out a press release prior to the rally to cover ourselves if there was any trouble - we would undoubtedly get the blame anyway, but this was damage limitation. That done, I was contacted by BBC2's Newsnight programme who wanted to do a short film on the day from two differing perspectives, followed by a studio discussion. Hoping it wasn't going to be with pro-hunting Jeremy Paxman, I agreed anyway and duly met up with the crew to do some preamble and get into the park.

Wearing a HSA logo sweatshirt probably wasn't most peoples idea of sensible attire, but as I said, we were aiming to take the piss and if I did get attacked / arrested at least it would be on film! On entering the park, we met up with Lyn Sawyer (ex Essex hunt follower and now an active sab) who was brave enough to climb up a tree behind the main stage with an anti-hunt banner. She kept her nerve despite the attempts of various ShowSec security guards, police and drunken thugs to take it down. Her main worry - that her (hunt supporting) parents would see her from the crowd came to nothing.

The banner served as a rallying point for the 80 or so sabs that came along for a laugh despite being outnumbered 1000-1! Given those odds, I was less than happy when the film crew suggested I go into the main crowd so they could get some more footage. Anyway, once in there,

Rogues Gallery

1. David Dunn (left) : Head of 'Countrywatch' security.
2. Assorted 'Countrywatch' scum.
3. Jamie Purser (left) & 'Spotty':Essex terriermen.
4. Some politician bloke and a has-been athlete.



1



2



it was full of every type of scumbag you could wish not to meet: Nazi terrier thug Keith Colbert (New Forest), a rag-bag group of CountryWatch security gorillas led by David Dunn (see below left). Then there were the 'celebrities' including dodgy David Bellamy, Jeremy Irons and alcoholic model Paula Hamilton who'd just been bitten on the chin by a hungry ferret! - All of which I hope live to regret giving their public support to bloodsports.

A lot of the day was spent cordoned off by the 'boys from the Met' whilst their Forward Intelligence Unit took every sabs photo and noted who they were talking to. Pity they missed / ignored the two shooters walking through the park with uncovered shotguns, but there you go. It was fun telling the bumpkins to 'get off our land', and when a HSA banner arrived draped over the side of a double decker bus, you had to laugh. The confused police wanted to nick the driver, but could only warn him for an obscured mirror (this apparently warranted sending two unmarked police cars to his house to take photos!)

A sab was arrested at the entrance to the park for wearing a HSA T-shirt which obviously threatened a breach of the peace. Released after 4 hours in the cells without charge or caution, we hope he sues the bastards. No mention was made in the papers of the 18 rally goers arrested for being drunk and disorderly (this number was confirmed in police radio traffic!).

After the double decker had to go back, it was back to Brixton with our police escort on the tube for a cool pint - best bit of the day! I had to stay sober-ish to do Newsnight in the evening, and boy, did it take some make-up to hide my sunburn!

The programme was probably the best press we got on the day, with me along with a Labour MP, and some academic from another planet representing the 'townies', up against the country folk comprising Janet (Jabba) George, Clive Aslett the Country Life Editor and the little Welsh Pinocchio character the BFSS have been wheeling out at every opportunity billed as a poor hill farmer when he was in fact the master of the Eryri foxhounds! If you saw it, I hope you thought the HSA came across well, and yes I did wear a tie (albeit a Dennis the Menace one) but not a suit as I don't possess one!

Press generally in the lead up to and shortly after the rally was the most pro-hunt I have ever seen. There seemed to have been a complete change around in the attitude of much of the media regarding hunting (despite public opinion polls going more in favour of a ban) and they are ready to fall for any tit-bit the BFSS throw them. It has apparently become the trendy view to support the poor oppressed hunters, championing their right to hunt whilst conveniently ignoring the rather untrendy and distasteful end result of their fun - the chase and the kill etc.

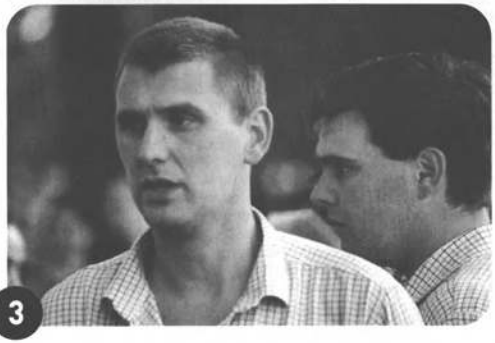
What's brought about this change of heart (sic) is unclear at the moment, but you know things are odd when the only editorial line journalists at the Guardian agree on is a pro-hunting one. At this rate, the paper will be carrying hunting reports for the Duke of Beaufort FH in the Sports section - Oh! But they did that last year, how silly of me!

A good example of the type of crap journalism we should expect to see in the coming months is the article John Vidal the paper's Environment Correspondent wrote just after the rally where he stated that he didn't hunt, shoot or fish now, but that he supported the right of others to do so - despite being blooded at the age of 9 which horrified him. Add us to the list of protest groups such journalists have used for their amusement, and who would relish a 'full and frank discussion' with them

Our best hope over the next season is probably to keep our heads out of the newspapers, ignore the bullshit spouted by the politicians and get on with the job in hand - **sabbing the bastards into oblivion**.

There are going to be occasions where we are set up by the BFSS and the hunts, and others where we just get the crap kicked out of us, we just have to be careful and alert. We have endured injury, deaths of friends and colleagues at the hands of the hunters, oppressive laws and complete ignorance by the media - yet still we triumph week in, week out.

PS. Total respect to Ruth from Brighton sabs who was in the front row at the rally heckling like a good'un, and to Mike Huskisson who was the photographer behind her ready for anything - try to get a look at the Guardian's front page picture the day after the rally!





feature

the case against fox control

Very little in the way of scientific data has ever been presented to support any of the excuses the hunting fraternity use to try and justify their 'right to kill'. Most simply rely on old (farmer's) wives tales and the rest will simply lie (who can forget the picture the BFSS used to 'prove' that foxes attacked chickens - they later had to admit the fox was stuffed and the chicken had been tied to the fence!). The anti-hunt movement has much more going for it - the truth.

Not content with the claims of the BFSS (and Janet George in particular), a review of fox studies published in the period 1986-1996, was undertaken by Prof. Cris Waller of the Predator Defence Institute in America. The studies themselves were any based on the red fox and indexed in various reference media (the papers used in the review are listed at the end of the article.)
In doing this review Ms Waller found no scientific data to support any of the pro-hunt theories, and considerable data to refute some.

Here, for the first time in British print is the case given by Ms Waller's review, against the hearsay and folk 'wisdom' of the foxhunting community. (Additional quotes are by foxhunters themselves.)

Hunting Claim No1: *Foxhunting controls foxes.*

Fox control is needed because foxes are lamb killers

The research done on foxes unanimously supports the idea that fox hunting at any feasible level does not reduce fox populations, especially in localised areas. [1,3,5,9,11,14,15] As Allen and Sargeant wrote in their paper on fox dispersal [3] "Annual harvests in localised area of one or more years...will have little effect on population size in subsequent years" . Ables (1] observed that [fox populations]"are resilient and increase their productivity when mortality increases... heavily hunted populations become more productive not less so."
Foxes have the ability to replace 60-70% of their population annually [12,7]. Thus, fox populations will not be decreased by hunting unless mortality exceeds this amount in the hunted area, and there are no surrounding lightly-hunted areas to provide dispersing foxes with new territory, to prevent re-colonisation. This is not known to occur even when deliberate attempts are made to reduce or eliminate fox populations [9,11,12].
Foxes compensate for heavy population loss in several ways. Fox productivity (number of cubs per litter and survival rate of cubs) increases as mortality increases [1,4,14]. Heavily hunted populations tend to have more females and can thus reproduce at a faster rate [1]. Many forms of hunting tend to select male foxes and thus exacerbate the increase of the female segment of an exploited population [7,12].
Field studies in areas of intensive fox control have failed to demonstrate a net reduction in fox population over time. As an example, in Scotland, fox populations in most study areas increased over a study span of 18 years, despite bounties, Forestry Commission killing, organised hunts, and the efforts of Fox Destruction Clubs. Fox population size was found to be regulated by the amount of food (chiefly voles) available rather than by intensive control [9]. The number of breeding dens remained constant and was also probably regulated by the amount of food available and not by control [11]. This occurred in a area where fox density was rather low, thus the effects of control in a more dense population are likely to be even less. Hewson concluded [11] "As the number of foxes has continued to increase except where influenced by food availability, it must be concluded that non-selective control, as currently practiced, has not been effective at preventing this increase. "

At best, fox control as currently practiced may serve to keep fox populations at a level somewhat below carrying capacity, although the evidence is limited [1,9,11,14]. Considering the effort and expense invested in control, it is doubtful that non-selective control is economically justifiable [14].

But do foxes need to be controlled anyway? The only excuse the BFSS et al give is that foxes kill livestock (mainly lambs) in considerable numbers; but is that actually the case? It is almost certain that the reputation of foxes as lamb predators is exaggerated. Several studies have been done



comparing the perceived threat of predator (wolves coyotes, carrion and hooded crows, and foxes) by sheep-men and the actual threat these predators posed [2,14,17]. All such studies have found the risks to be greatly exaggerated, and that predators took far less livestock than they were blamed for. Animal Damage control, a division of the US Department of Agriculture, presented a great deal of information on this in a 1993 report [17]. This report compared estimated costs of predation (by all predators) from a variety of sources (primarily state Crop and Livestock Reporting Services) with the actual cost of predation (in U.S. $) verified by ADC. The table below details the section of the report dealing with sheep

Sheep and Lambs			
State	Actual loss	Estimated loss	Difference
Colorado	157,903	1,873,000	+1186%
Idaho	72,450	1,749,000	+241%
Montana	148,420	1,375,000	+926%
Nebraska	20,004	384,000	+1915%
S.Dakota	95,534	509,000	+532%
Texas	133,490	2,432,000	+1821%
Utah	200,764	4,730,200	+2356%
Wyoming	122,350	2,468,000	+2017%

Average over-reporting across all states: +1374%

The same report (17) also had a detailed survey of livestock producers and their losses to both predation and other causes. It must be noted that as a producer survey , these losses were *not* confirmed and if anything are overestimates. The condensed data regarding sheep and lambs is presented as follows:

No. of States in the US raising sheep:	41
No. of these States with resident fox populations:	39
No. reporting any sheep/lamb loss due to foxes:	17
No. of States with > 100 sheep/lambs lost to foxes:	4
No. of sheep/lambs lost to all predators:	489,500
No. of sheep/lambs lost to other natural causes:	1,328,400
No. of sheep/lambs lost to all causes (inc. predators):	1,817,900
No. of sheep lambs lost to foxes:	12,800
No. of fox kills as a % of all predator kills:	2.6%
No. of fox kills as a % of all deaths:	0.7%

Thus in the United States, losses to foxes in the vast majority of states were trivial, and mortality due to foxes was at best less than 1% of total sheep mortality. This is despite the fact that almost no areas in the US attempt to control foxes in the way that many parts of England do.
The state of California is an interesting case. The native subspecies of red fox (Vulpes vulpes necator, the Sierra Navada Red Fox) is very rare indeed and found only in a tiny area of the state. However foxes that escaped from fur farms in the Sacramento area (near the state's centre) during the 1920's, have expanded their range to cover the majority of the

state, leaving California with a thriving fox population. Laws originally passed to protect the native Sierra Nevada red fox have never been amended, and thus red foxes are not legally hunted or trapped anywhere in the state of California and, in fact, are afforded total protection. Despite this, fox problems with livestock have been minimal. *Even though California is second only to Texas in the dollar value of sheep produced, fewer than 100 lambs were killed by foxes in the entire state.*



As for Britain, MacDonald (14) surveyed 400 lowland sheep farmers and found that 46% believed they had never lost a lamb to foxes and 62-74% had lost none in the preceding three years. Only 15% of those believing they had suffered fox damage claimed they had ever seen a fox attack a lamb. 83% believed they had lost lambs because they had seen foxes nearby, 80% because they had found dead lambs eaten by foxes and 46% because they found lamb remains at fox dens. Obviously, it is only in the first case that it is evident that a fox actually killed the lamb.

Although it is a broader social and agricultural issue, current sheep-raising practices, which make ewe and lamb health a low priority, need to be addressed. Predators tend to be most problematic in areas where sheep health is poorest. Little research has been done on what predisposes some foxes to attack livestock but there is general agreement that it is a learned behaviour. Even when given the opportunity, most foxes will not kill lambs, although they will happily feast on afterbirths and lamb feaces [14]. It is possible that foxes *may* become predisposed to attacking weak lambs by being fed lamb as a cub [1,14]. If carrion fed foxes are indeed more likely to kill lambs, then disposal of dead lamb carcasses becomes a priority. Presently, especially in hill flocks, little or no effort is made to dispose of dead lambs where foxes or other predators cannot get to them [1,14].

Since any lamb deaths due to foxes are caused by the very few foxes that attack lambs, and not by the fox population as a whole, it is easy to see that fox control is not an ideal deterrent to predation. Lloyd, in fact, stated 'losses in sheep rearing, however, cannot be prevented". As long as foxes exist, the risk of fox attack cannot be reduced to zero. Several alternative solutions, some widely used in the US, might provide better protection at less cost and effort, without killing huge numbers of foxes.

Livestock guard dogs (the Akbash, Maremma and Kuvasz breeds) are becoming widely used in the US. All are large and white in colour. Unlike herding dogs, the function of these breeds is to live with, and guard the sheep. Pups are raised with the lambs from early puppyhood and bond with their flocks. They present a formidable deterrent to any enemy of the flock. These breeds are not currently used in this way in Britain but there is no reason why their use in many situations would not be practical. Studies in the US have found the use of such dogs to be more effective in preventing predation than trapping or hunting.

"As regards foes killing lambs, there is a great deal of nonsense talked and misconceptions about it. That a fox will undoubtedly kill one, if it is very weak.. is a fact, but it is only when they are very small. The ewe is quite capable of defending her lamb... I do not say that foxes never kill lambs but I say that such an occurrence is rare."

The 8th Duke of Beaufort. "Hunting", published 1901

The biggest threat the fox faces is its own reputation. Mac Donald graphically depicted the hatred of a large segment of the British community towards the fox [14]. Unbiased information on the true status of the fox as a predator, and on the effects (or lack of effects) of control must be made available to the the public. Irrational hatred of foxes must be discouraged. Farmers should be educated on how to determine if a dead lamb was killed by foxes or died of other causes.

Hunting Claim No 2: *Cubhunting promotes dispersal of young foxes and thus prevents the fox population in an area from becoming "too concentrated".*

Fox dispersal is one of the more studied aspects of fox behaviour [3,4,9,14,1]. In general, most foxes disperse in the autumn after their birth. Studies in different areas have found varying percentages of foxes that disperse in the first year, with more male foxes dispersing than females. In North Dakota, 64% of males and 29% of females dispersed in their first year. In Wisconsin 95% of males and 58% of females dispersed [3]. In Bristol (UK), 73% of males and 32% of females dispersed. [9]

There seems to no one stimulus that triggers fox dispersal, and Harris warns against simplistic explanations for dispersal [9]. Stimuli related to whether or not foxes disperse include population density, territory size, food availability, sex and size of the fox, and litter size.[9,16]

Hunting and fox control may actually decrease the distance that foxes disperse by leaving more vacant territories to be filled [17].

Foxes are, in fact, efficient regulators of their own populations. Janet George has claimed that the fox population of Bristol, for example, was "too concentrated"; Stephen Harris, who has been studying the foxes of Bristol for 18 years, does not agree. Although fox density before mange in Bristol were very high, they were also lower than might be expected, given the situation[9]. Fox density is regulated by complex factors, of which food is most important [1,3,7,8,9,14,16] (fox population fluctuates along with the population cycles of their primary prey - voles in many cases [2,7,9,14]). Availability of dens and secure sites for laying-up is also important [8]. Foxes in Bristol had a very high amount of food available to them - about 50% of their diet came from food homeowners had left out for them. Buildings and sheds also provided a large number of secure den sites [8]. Thus their is no scientific basis for claims that foxes over-populate in any biologically - meaningful sense of the term.

In every hunt there are one or two people, particularly terriermen, who get a sadistic pleasure from tormenting foxes.

Paul Woodhouse, Huntsman to the Breas of Derwent FH. "News of the World", 1982

Fox-hunters assume that cubhunting promotes early dispersal of foxes, but no scientific research seems to support this claim. None of the studies cited mention hunting as a stimulus for dispersal, including Trewhalla's review of of the papers published to date on the subject [16]. The sole evidence that seems to support the foxhunter's view is the observation that escaping cubs flee in all directions. This observation is not in itself evidence for dispersal, especially since the direction foxes disperse tend to be non-random [3,16]. Nor does foxhunting literature indicate whether fox-hunters believe that all escaping cubs pursued during cubhunting actually disperse, or if cubhunting serves to stimulate dispersal in those animals that would disperse naturally. Even if foxhunting were to promote dispersal, it is difficult to see why this would be of any benefit to farmers. Dispersal dose not occur during lambing season and it does not reduce the number of breeding foxes in an area [3,14,16].

Hunting Claim No 3: *Foxhunting acts as selective pest control because it removes older, infirm animals, which are more likely to take lambs.*

The assumption that foxhunting acts as a pest control is based on two theories:

① That older or infirm foxes are more likely to be caught than younger fitter foxes.

② That older or infirm foxes are more likely to be lamb killers

It is possible that hounds do indeed catch foxes that are too slow or ill to escape, but these are not necessary the same foxes that kill lambs. Nor

Pain and suffering is inflicted on animals in the course of sport. Nobody who has seen a beaten fox dragging his stiff limbs into the ditch in which he knows he will soon die, can doubt this proposition.

Reginald Paget QC MP (later Lord Paget). "In praise of Hunting" Hollis & Carter 1960

are they necessarily older foxes. In the only published data found on the subject, Hewson [9] found that the foxes killed by the Lochaber and Sunart Farmer's FH during the lambing season (April - June) were composed of 20-52% adult foxes, with 48-80% of the foxes killed being cubs. Thus for every 1 adult fox killed by hounds, 1-4 cubs were killed. The ratio of cubs killed / adults killed was higher for the hunt pack than for Forestry Commission, Fox Destruction Clubs or NFU bounty killed foxes.

Although it could be maintained that the hunt pack data is skewed towards cubs because it is for call-outs during the lambing season, Fox Destruction Clubs also concentrate on killing foxes at dens during lambing and had much lower cub / adult kill ratios.
There is no data published to indicate that older or infirm animals are likely to prey on lambs. Despite 'folk wisdom', predation on livestock is not characteristic of old/ infirm individuals in most predator species. There are several reasons for this. Many predator species (and foxes seem to follow this pattern [1,14]) are very selective about what foods they will eat, and reject strange or new foods. This habit usually intensifies with age, thus older foxes who have never eaten lamb are unlikely to take up the habit. Also, live lambs of a size that foxes could conceivably handle are only available for a very brief period of time every year [1,14], and thus are not available to sustain foxes during most of the year. Finally, it is extremely unlikely that removing foxes that are ill or badly injured in the autumn and winter increases lamb survival in the spring, since injured or ill foxes would be very unlikely to survive the winter in any case.

Hunting Claim No. 4: *Foxhunting is not cruel because foxes either escape or are quickly killed.*

Janet George and others have argued that foxhunting is humane because the fox is either quickly caught or quickly escapes. In the only study available on this subject, Kreeger [17] compared the physiological stress responses in foxes pursued for approximately 5 minutes by dogs and then killed (whether the foxes were killed by the dogs or shot is not specified); foxes caught for 2-8 hours in leghold (gin) traps; foxes caught in cage traps; and shot foxes. Kreeger found that shot foxes showed no stress response. Foxes caught in cage traps showed far less stress than trapped or hound-pursued foxes. *Foxes caught in leghold traps and foxes pursued by hounds showed equivalent responses to stress, even though the amount of time spent being chased by the hounds was far less than the amount of time spent caught in the traps.*
On autopsy, the hounded foxes showed haemorrhage of the heart and lungs and congestion of adrenal glands and kidneys. Blood analysis showed high levels of enzymes that reflect tissue damage, and edema, discolouration, haemorrhage and inflammation were found in muscle tissue. Kreeger found that the foxes had a condition called "exertion rhabdomyolysis", also called 'capture myopathy"- a breakdown of muscle tissue caused by exertion that is often followed by brain damage, paralysis and death. Kreeger's report was the first to show capture myopathy in a canid.
The important implication of this for foxhunting is that capture myopathy is not apparent immediately, but develops *after* the stress of pursuit. Thus hunted foxes can appear normal but die after they escape. Kreeger also found that the foxes he autopsied had a high incidence of pneumonitis, gastritis and hepatius that, although not the direct result of stress, were precipitated by stress combined with pre-existing factors. Stress can also increase susceptability to disease. Red foxes seem especially prone to such stress [6]
A hunted fox that is killed thus experiences significant stress before death. If it escapes, it must then confront the possibility of heart and lung damage, capture myopathy, or lung, stomach or liver dysfunction. Thus, the argument that hunted foxes either are quickly killed or escape unharmed is invalid. This argument also ignores the significant stress caused to foxes by baiting them with terriers when they go to ground - a practice that claims about 505 of foxes killed by hunts [14].

Another curious incident happened when...hunting with the Quorn...hounds lost their fox in a drain...they had lost a fox in the same drain several times that season. So the Master had the drain opened up. Inside they found the skeletons of no fewer than ten foxes; all no doubt had died as a result of crawling into a damp drain when they were overheated, for in spite of their tremendous courage, tenacity and wiry energy, foxes are highly nervous, sensitive animals.

John Wentworth Day. "Country Life", 1947



Conclusion

There is **no** scientific evidence to prove that foxhunting or fox control are necessary. Arguments that cubhunting is needed to promote fox dispersal, and that foxhunting selectively weeds out troublesome foxes are unsupported by any scientific data and are unlikely at best. Despite being portrayed as a humane practice, foxhunting causes a great deal of fear, stress and pain to foxes.

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GROUP NEWS

Thanks to the groups who managed to get a bit of news in, considering it's the 'off season' as it were- and extra big thanks to the' group' who got it in before the deadline! Please send all future group news to Jon at the Brighton HSA address - and remember, the next deadline is **7 January '98**. And this time we really will stick to it. Honest. Happy sabbing- Jon. (G.N Ed.)

WALES

West Wales started the summer with a visit to the *Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire MH*, successfully following the master Richard Griffiths straight to the meet, where on recognising the sabs he phoned the cops. There then ensued a game of them watching us, watching them, until the cops tuned up, spoke to the master and then promptly disappeared, without even stopping to give sabs the obligatory producer.

At last the hunt moved off; the sabs could do their stuff from the road, and after half an hour the hunt gave in, in the absence of police, and called it a day. The following week saw sabs pay another visit. They suspected fishy business when it was easier than normal to follow the master to the meet and when cops turned up and then disappeared again, but nevertheless looked forward to an easy days sabbing. Sabs followed the hunt to the river on foot; after the two sab vehicles had done a circuit two riot vans turned up, blocking them in and both drivers were arrested for 'behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace'- funny considering that by now the hunt had packed up. The other 5 sabs were duly nicked for aggravated trespass. Everyone was released 4 to 5 hours later, after spending most of the time locked in the back of police vans at the back of the station. Bail conditions meant sabs have had to resort to pre-meet tactics, spraying anti-mate on riverbanks and such like.

Over the summer **West Wales** have also travelled to the *Ytene* hits, to London for the anti-hunt rally and to the shoot up North on the 12th.They have also spent time doing stalls to raise funds, and thank **Cardiff** for their help on the minkhounds.

NORTH WEST

Since the end of the last fox and hare hunting season, **North West** hunt sabs seem to have maintained a low profile, with only a brief outing to the *Ytene Minkhounds* and the shoots on August 12th, probably gone into better elsewhere. However, we haven't just been sunbathing, and amongst the usual summer stuff our private prosecution against the huntsman of the *Holcombe Harriers* for cruelty to a fox is now proceeding slowly with his 'Not Guilty' plea entered and a forthcoming pre-trial review. We'll let you know as soon as we've got the trial date. Sabs are out tomorrow on the first cubhunt of the season with *Cheshire Forest FH* - but sadly Group News deadlines means you won't know the result until the next HOWL.

WEST MIDLANDS

For **Wolves** sabs, last season ended and the summer began with the *Horse and Hound ball* at the Metropole Hotel- always a good opportunity to express your feelings to the elite of the hunting world and this year was no different with a good turnout of local activists as well as many who'd travelled quite a distance - so next year try and make it!

Due to the unusual number of excellent demo's going off around the country, mink-sabbing got off to a slow start, but when it did, it was excellent. Along with usual pals **Stoke,** Wolves joined **Hastings**, **Kettering**, **Coventry**, **North West**, **Cotswold** and **Bristol** sabs at a meet of the *Northants Minkhounds* just outside Rugby and found the hunt had cancelled, leaving them at a loose end.

After amicable inter-group discussions, most groups decided to go to Coventry to close down the drive-thru MuckDonalds by blockading it with vans and occupying the roof. This proved very successful and despite a modest police presence they only left after about 3 1/2 hours when MuckD's got in tow trucks to remove their vehicles. Unfortunately there was one arrest but not bad for an impromptu bit of direct action.

Next came the *Ytene MH* near Bath - but again the hunt got wind of plans and cancelled- this was a good start but soon a police task force arrived with the obligatory helicopter and increasingly popular pepper spray and riot gear combo. A couple of sabs were nicked and the **Wolves** van impounded (again!) leaving a motley sab crew stranded in the middle of nowhere. In the end, after an hour or so, good sense prevailed and they got their keys back.

Summer is the main fund raising time; this year has seen improved support and the day after the Countryside Rally **Wolves** had their best day ever! Which brings us to the anti-hunt rally in London: a large number of sabs, ex-sabs and supporters made the journey down from **Wolves**, **Stoke**, **Coventry** and **Birmingham** for an enjoyable day out with friends- they even recruited a couple of new sabs. Finally, a trip to help out friends in the north with the sadist infestation they have to suffer every August 12th. Another good(if tiring) day despite a high cop turnout- seems like they're taking a tip from London buses: you don't see a riot van for ages then six come along at once!

SOUTHWEST

South Dorset HSA have had as hectic a summer as is possible in their neck of the woods- joining with **Pisces** and the **Shark Protection League** in Poole for a very successful demo against shark fishing, taking part in numerous anti-vivisection demos and becoming part of a large collective of animal rights groups, SARC- the Southern Animal Rights Coalition.

After interrupting a ferocious and intensive letter-writing campaign to attend the Anti-Hunting demo in London, sabs have got into the swing of cubbing early, blocking in the *South Dorset FH* for over 45 minutes in late August before 2 riot vans, 2 dog sections and 4 cop cars conspired to let the hunt get out and away. Undeterred, sabs are intent on keeping up the pressure- as well as being prime movers in the campaign against T.T. Smith's notorious mink farm near Blandford. Oh-and congratulations to Neal, fuhrer of SDHSA, and Fran on their recent wedding!

SOUTH

Last season ended for **Southampton** sabs- last outpost of punk- with a big hit on the *South Dorset FH*, when all manner of unpleasant types from other hunts who'd already finished for the season were expected but didn't show - except for *Ytene MH* clown Cooper who was bravely mouthy from the safety of his vehicle. So no violence and very little hunting as the hunt vainly tried to outrun the sabs, who took the pack off them several times.

One supporter got so irate he tried to run down a nine year old girl: when this crime was reported by sabs to police, the force's considered response was to attack sabs. "Alright," quoth a PC, squaring up to a Portsmouth sab," I've taken me helmet off, I'm not a policeman any more: you and me now!" **Southampton** HSA also attended the farcical hit on the *Ytene MH* - a superb day out - NOT! Then in early June, sabs joined those from **Brighton** and **Dorset** in court to give evidence against one Adrian Thompson after an incident on the *Crawley and Horsham FH* in March '96 (see Legal News).

Later in the month, **Southampton** sabs braved mud and rain to bring a sab stall to the Glastonbury festival, raising a fine wad in the process; more cash was raised through a two day punk festival featuring all-girl punky sab 3-piece Haywire. The sabs report that they are looking forward to cubbing as much as they would look forward to drilling their own kneecaps.

SOUTHEAST

Ashford sabs joined others on an eventful day in June at the *Ytene MH*, and also report a great car chase with the huntsman of the *Kent and Sussex MH*, during which he led them to a previously unknown scumbags address, before running to Hailsham cops, who intervened to spoil the fun. **Ashford** sabs have also been collecting for a new van and much needed CB equipment. Finally, sabs report an interesting development: Michael Knight, leading MFHA solicitor allegedly most responsible for persuading cops to take no action over violent attacks on sabs, has become the new master of the *Ashford Valley FH*. Sabs look forward to the impartial policing that will inevitably result.

South Downs HSA launched into summer with the ill-fated attempt on the *Ytene MH*- despite careful security, sabs turned up at the meet point in Bath to find ruddy-faced and rotund Kennel woman Rose Witcomb perched on a deckchair noting down registration numbers. No surprise, then, on moving on to the hunt meet to find no-one there. Little could be done but paddle in the river and chat while scout vehicles went off to check possible alternative meets- alas in vain. A little later, the Ytene huntsman (and Captain Pugwash lookalike) drove past in a landrover, but the fact that the hunt had prior knowledge of the sabs attendance coupled with the fact that he seemed anxious for sabs to follow him led sabs to conclude that an ambush from the famous Ytene boys was in store and they gave up the pursuit. The boys in blue then turned up in strength and four arrests resulted.

South Downs have concentrated since then on fundraising (resulting in a new car and equipment), keeping the HSA office ticking over during the quiet spell and putting in appearances at a plethora of demo's before late August saw them launch into cubbing season with a vengeance. Kennel-watching outside the *South Down and Eridge FH* kennels on a daily basis has seen the hunt turn back on several occasions, and hound exercise has been severely disrupted on others. Sabs have also helped out **Maidstone** and **Hastings** sabs at the **Ashford Valley FH** cubbing meets, and **Chichester sabs** at the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH*. New members and old lags creaking out of retirement means **South Downs** prophecy a very active season lurking ahead.

Brighton have had a fun-filled summer out collecting for a new van (ever get that feeling of deja-vu?),A benefit gig raised more dosh, but more lucrative seemed the offer made to one sab from a local copper of letting them know about "physco-sabs...for some serious money mate." Finally **Brighton** would like to point out that some photos in Howl claiming to be **Brixton** sabs are, in fact **Brighton** sabs...[moan, moan, moan! - ED]

Croydon are one of the new breed of sab groups in the south-east. Loads of 'em, loads of back-up from a support group, loads of enthusiasm. And loads of hard work from "the Porn" (you know who you are!). They have been active since early August, staking out kennels and sabbing cubbing meets of the Old Surrey and Burstow FH.

GREEN ISSUES

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GROUSE 1997

A report by Yorkshire sabs on the successful (though somewhat painful!) disruption of the biggest day in the shooting year.

Hunt saboteurs from around the country met in North Yorkshire. There were sabs from England, Scotland and Wales, all determined to stop grouse shooting taking place. The presence of a shoot north of Reeth was detected fairly early on but it was more difficult to track them down to a particular moor, due to their sheer size, limited access and a limited view. There were many police in the area and the usual motley representatives of the B.F.S.S. and the B.A.S.C. They stated to the press that only two shoots were out in the whole of North Yorkshire. From the evidence on the day and information from sources, this could well be the case. Sabs should claim this as a victory. Due to our efforts over the last few years, shooters have been 'persuaded' from going out on the most important day of their shooting calender!

By late morning, sabs had got into position after the shoot was sighted on the moor. Several waves of sabs descended on the shooting party, which included several Americans. As sabs approached them, they packed up their guns and started to run away at the first sight of sabs. The saboteurs, being more nimble of foot, quickly caught up with the shooting party. The beaters and 'stewards', who did not appreciate our presence, started a vicious assault on sabs. One of the shooting party itself jumped on a woman from the North West, who sustained quite a serious injury. Another sab suffered injuries to her hand when on cowardly member of the shoot bent her fingers back. Sabs tried to defend themselves as best they could against shooters, beaters and their private army. When the police arrived they refused to arrange medical attention for the injured sabs and, surprise, surprise, proceeded to try to round up sabs for arrest (not the first time that people have been attacked and then arrested for the privilege!)

When sabs eventually got back to the road they were met by a welcoming committee - of over 100 police officers waiting in 22 vehicles ! (14 personnel vans, 4 landrovers, 2 dog vans and 2 cars, all full of coppers.) In addition there were 4 scrambler bikes, 2 prison vans and a spotter 'plane. All sabs were immediately arrested and the members of the shooting party were brought over to 'pick out' people who had allegedly damaged their property. All but 7 saboteurs were then de-arrested on the spot. Meanwhile a badly injured sab was still left stranded on the moor. Finally another saboteur managed to get her and whisked her off to the nearest hospital. She was then moved to another hospital for an X-ray and a broken collar bone was diagnosed.

From when sabs first appeared on the scene , shooting completely ceased and no further shooting took placed. One source claimed that the shoot had not killed all day!

It was rewarding to see that sabs won't allow parts of the country to be no-go areas when it comes to stopping all forms of bloodsports; as the police and the hunting fraternity would like. Grouse shooting is a horrible activity whose enthusiasts cause so much damage to the environment by encouraging the unnatural behaviour of animal and plant life, aside from violently cutting short the lives of thousands of individual grouse.

Yorkshire sabs are very grateful for the support that people gave in turning up on the 12th. Special thoughts and thanks go to those arrested and injured.The only overkill on the day was by the police! All officers were on £20 an hour overtime; combined with the extravagant use of vehicles and aeroplane, their costs must have been staggering. Hopefully locals in the two counties covering the moors will question the spending of police resources in trying to safeguard the wishes of a 'privileged' or perverted few who want to slaughter our wildlife.



LEGAL NEWS

Youngest ever 'sab' detainee finally compensated

Those readers with long memories may be able to recall the "Summer of '92" campaign against the Ytene MinKhounds; if fact some of you may still have the special edition "Ytene Minkhunt Busters T-shirts to prove it! A might fine season it was, with sabs from many regions collectively preventing this nasty little set-up from killing wildlife all summer long.

Six years later and some very good news has just come to four wrongfully arrested Ytene sabs, as police finally agreed to an out-of-court settlement totalling £4,250 for the wrongful arrests and false imprisonment.

The youngest of those compensated, Emily McNamara, was just two years old at the time. Both she and her badysitter, Anne Llewellyn, were playing pat-a-cake (!) in a sab van, about a mile away from the hunt, when they were arrested for "conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace". Miles Cooper and Deb Marsh (Emily's mother) had been arrested earlier for the same offense.

Incredibly, a custody record was opened for Emily; who was detained in the cells for around five hours with the other sabs. During that time, frequent requests for vegan food and drinks for the toddler were ignored.



Emily McNamara, now 8 years old, and still committed to sabbing.

3 Producers and a Speeding Ticket -
The Return of the Great British (Police) Farce !

It seems some sab groups had an eventful time on the 'glorious' 12th before they even reached the grouse moors.

Stoke sabs were stopped and given a 'producer' when some 70 miles and 1.5 hours from the meeting point on the 12th. An arsey officer from the West Yorkshire force stopped them on the motorway and hassled the driver, saying he was under orders to stop all vehicles and/or people looking 'dodgy' (contrary to PACE, which stipulates that no one should be stopped or searched according to their appearance).

Stoke's driver was questioned, and the copper got a bit perplexed when these questions were refused. He then attempted to detain everyone in the van for the purpose of getting their names and addresses. The sabs had on hand the HSA Legal Officer acting as a legal observer, and the officer was told in no uncertain terms that he was acting outside the bounds of his authority. Oddly enough, he then shut up and wished them good day, after handing out the first producer.

Once the shoot had been located, police blocked the road on the way and gave out what they termed "directions", but what were in fact legal information sheets. These were given to only sab drivers, foot sabs having departed quickly. The police seemed a bit confused as to the difference between the Public Order Act 1986 and The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Hey, some of the words are the same! Everyone moving then got producers, including Stoke; No. 2 of the day.

Policing of the sab was heavy - about ten riot vans, two dog vans, a control unit, off-road motorbikes, and finally a spotter plane for rounding up 'troublemakers'. A very expensive day for the taxpayer!

On the way to the police station where those arrested on the shoot were taken, Stoke's van was again pulled over, receiving producer No. 3 and a speeding ticket!

● Also on the 12th; sabs were subjected to a "block arrest", where people were held but not arrested - sabs were told they could not leave the vicinity and the shooters were brought up to ID people.

The whole incident was a legal sham; more like "pin the tail on the donkey" than any serious attempt at policing. The shooters could point to anyone, they didn't like the look of, it was so pathetic. Out of this improper ID they chose A, B,+ C, who were arrested. One protester was seriously assaulted by a shooter and had to be taken to hospital - the police didn't want to know and the incident went unreported.

● The HSA Legal Officer escaped injury by the skin of her teeth while walking along the public highway,, when a land rover, with 4 members of a shoot almost ran into her deliberately. When she flagged down a following police car (which had been directly behind the landrover), she was told the officers inside did "not see the incident". A complaint is under way concerning this.

● In total there were 7 arrests on the day, mainly Section 5's (Public Order), and alleged assaults and criminal damage. 3 were held overnight, 1 for the purpose of obtaining a positive ID, 1 to be charged with criminal damage, and 1 was remanded.

Brixton case dropped after Prosecution fail to supply evidence

A Brixton sab accused of attacking a hunt supporters jeep had his case dropped in October due to Prosecution incompetence. The case had been back and forth to court, as the prosecution 'gathered' evidence. When the sab arrived at court with all his evidence and witnesses at the ready, his defence counsel was amazed to find that the Prosecution still had evidence that had not been shown to the defence, including video footage. Fed up with the unprofessional attitude of the prosecution, the defence argued that the case should be dropped and the judge agreed.

The incident was alleged to have taken place last November. The saboteur was accused of being one of a group of sabs that were alleged to have attacked a jeep driven by an Old Surrey and Burstow hunt supporter.At the time of the alleged incident the saboteur had been turning the sabs' van around in a small private driveway The driver of the jeep claimed that the van was driven at 30mph and rammed into the jeep before the sab driver jumped out of the van and attacked the other vehicle. Defence evidence showed however, that it would have been physically impossible for the van to have been travelling at such high speeds while turning round an enclosed area . Witnesses claimed that the van was actually travelling at walking speed when the jeep drove directly in front of it, coming to a halt in the drive's entrance. Witnesses also stated that far from attacking the jeep, the driver had merely got out of the sab van to assess the damage.

It was no surprise to Brixton that the van's driver was accused of the 'attack'. A saboteur for for over 10 years, hunters would like nothing better than to see his 'sort' disappear by fair means or foul. Indeed, the driver of the jeep only had to give a sketchy description to Sophie Hill (BFSS 'intelligence'gather in the South East) before *she* 'identified' him. Regular readers of Howl will remember that Sophie has a rather affectionate (!) relationship with Brixton sabs, and they were pleased to see her at the court case - and even more pleased when she left in disgust!!

LEGAL NEWS



Legal Aid

A lot of people are under the illusion that when legal aid is granted the applicant receives free legal advice. In part this is true, but in essence legal aid is a loan. It is a system of government funding provided for those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice, assistance and representation. Traditionally legal redress was only available to those who could afford it; this school of thought still exists in part today because legal aid is assessed according to a person's means, (which is determined by a person's financial eligibility) and is based on "merits", which is determinable in criminal matters by a criteria such as whether a person may lose their liberty, etc., and in civil matters by whether a person has a viable chance of a successful outcome.

Legal aid is available, presuming a person qualifies for it, in both criminal and civil matters.

Green form advice and assistance.

This scheme may be used in order to give advice and assistance in any matter of law, for a person who qualifies financially. The current qualifying financial threshold is £75 per week disposable income; those on income support, family credit, disability allowance etc. qualify. Green form advice can be used for those involved in court or tribunal proceedings. In addition, a person may have a solicitor sitting with them in proceedings, and may be given assistance under a principle called McKenzie, which established that a person may have a person in court assisting them (ie. taking notes and quietly giving advice) to the person who is unrepresented, in the full sense. A general rule under the Green Form Scheme is that it does not extend to formal court proceedings or providing representation, but only to general advice, sending letters and providing help in completing application forms. The solicitor can do up to 2 hours work (or 3 in matrimonial cases).

Full Criminal Legal Aid

This applies if a person has been summonsed, or charged with a criminal offence. If this is granted it will cover legal representation in a magistrates court, crown court, court of appeal and the House of Lords.

This is again subject to a means test, where both disposable income and capital are considered. A person in receipt of benefit such as income support will qualify; if a person is outside the qualifying limit they may be required to pay a contribution to the legal aid board (LAB) in their area In criminal cases legal aid *must* be granted if a person is (amongst other things) committed for murder etc. The merits test is based on a list of criteria such as loss of livelihood or where witnesses may need to be traced, etc

Civil legal aid

This is subject to a means and merits test, and it is important for the applicant to be told about the "statutory charge". This means that the LAB has a legal charge over all money or other property recovered or preserved for the assisted person in the matter in dispute. In essence this gives the LAB power to deduct any subsequent winnings from an award of compensation. How much is deducted will depend upon how much your opponent pays toward your legal costs. If you lose, the LAB will not ask for any more money.

Civil legal aid is based on the prospect of whether the applicant has reasonable grounds for defending or being party to an action. This means the applicant must demonstrate that they have a reasonably good chance of success. Importantly, the LAB will consider whether the benefit to be achieved justifies the costs involved.

In some cases against the police legal aid has been refused, but there are avenues for appeal to the local LAB, and the LAB area committee officer will give their reasons for the refusal. As with any legal aid, eligibility is based on means, and a contribution will be payable for those who don't qualify financially.

Both civil and criminal legal aid are available for reference to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg under Article 17 of the Treaty of Rome. This enables national courts and tribunals to refer questions of community law that require to be decided in a case pending before them to the European Court of Justice for ruling; but it does not decide the final ruling in the case. There is no legal aid for cases in the European Court of Human Rights, or for bringing private prosecutions.

The green form scheme can be extended in some cases, and if a case is urgent, a person can apply for emergency legal aid, which is granted straight away, and only lasts until a decision has been reached on full legal aid.

Those detained in custody are entitled to free legal advice, and the solicitor will be paid from the legal aid budget. Legal aid is a complex area, and I've only touched on it, but if you feel you have a grievance and need legal advice, then legal aid subject to means is a worthwhile safety net to have.

Cheers, and happy sabbing, *Sam, HSA Legal Officer*

IMPORTANT NOTE

From next April Legal Aid is being scraped for civil cases. Instead you will have to convince a solicitor to work on a 'No Win - No Fee' basis; So get those claims in NOW!

Injured Sab hits hunter where it hurts!!

A hunt rider who deliberately rode his horse over a female saboteur four and a half years ago, finally found himself several thousand pounds worse off after a judgement at Chesterfield Crown Court on the 23rd of July this year. In what was proved in court to be a wholly unprovoked attack on a small group of Hunt Saboteurs, hunt rider Stephen Barnes, forced his horse over helpless Saboteur, Sarah Lloyd, who suffered a broken elbow and severe bruising in the attack. She was lucky to escape with her life.

The incident occurred at the South Notts Foxhunt meeting near Farnagh Green, Belper, Derbys on 14 January 1993. Unluckily for Barnes, Sarah Lloyd decided to pursue the matter through the civil courts, and her determination to see justice done resulted in a Judgement against Barnes; Damages of £2,500 were awarded against him.

Summing up the case, His Honour Judge Pugsley commented that all the witnesses for the plaintiff were consistent and very believable. Barnes, who did not attend court for the Judgement, was rebuked by the judge for being 'unconvincing' as a witness and this brought doubt on his version of events. He tried to make out that he was attacked by Saboteurs armed with staves, when even the hunt master (one of his own witnesses!) testified that nothing could be further from the truth. Barnes was apparently 'banned' from riding with the hunt after his behaviour.



LEGAL NEWS

Court Report: Adrian Thompson (Terrierman; Crawley and Horsham FH) Charged with ABH, Affray and Criminal Damage to Dorset Hunt Saboteurs.

On 10th June '97 after seven days trial at Chichester Crown Court, a jury unanimously acquitted Thompson of all charges relating to an incident in March '96 when the Crown alleged Thompson and another untraced man attacked hunt saboteurs and their mini-bus, near Sompting, West Sussex.

The Incident

The Dorset hunt sabs had joined about 65 other sabs in sending the Chiddingfold hunt home to an early bath, before moving on to the neighbouring Crawley & Horsham FH. In the mid-afternoon the Dorset sabs were isolated from the rest, in a private road called Lamley's Lane, just north of the A27. They were searching for the hunt, which unknown to them had in fact packed up and were looking to box up away from saboteurs. Dorset sabs saw the hounds going past in a horse-box and went to follow them, only to find two men armed with axe handles threatening and chasing them back to their vehicle. The mini-bus tried to reverse but got caught in a chain fence and ended up in a ditch. Meanwhile two sabs were subjected to a ferocious assault and several van windows and lights were smashed.

From an article entitled "Extremist Profile" in winter 96 HOWL ,the victims of this attack claimed they recognised one of the assailants as Adrian Thompson. They also managed to get a photo of an another man holding an axe handle; this man is known only as Wayne (see below), but the police have never traced him.

After much pressure, police arrested Thompson several weeks later. He claimed the sabs were armed with axe handles, had threatened "*you're dead, Thompson*", that he disarmed one and clutching the weapon had chased the sab, but had slipped over shortly afterwards.

He said the man in the photo was called Wayne and had helped him dig foxes on "one or two days previously". He did not known any more details and could not even remember hearing glass being smashed. Thompson claimed the axe handle he had 'retrieved' from the sab, was taken home by him and stored in his shed.

Another witness, the driver of the horse-box, said that he too had an axe handle and had "found it on the ground". The evidence therefore clearly showed, *by their own admissions*, that three hunt followers/employees were holding axe handles during the incident !



Prosecution evidence

The Crown prosecutor took a rather lacklustre approach, to say the least; not discussing the case with the witnesses and not even showing them the photographic evidence. This, and a lack of preparation by some witnesses, undermined the case, especially when a key witness identified his assailant as the man with the axe handle in the photo, while other witnesses described the man as assaulting another person.

Police video evidence from earlier in the day seemed to show one sab witness as drunk, which the sab candidly admitted was for "*Dutch Courage*", claiming he "*wouldn't go sabbing sober!*". Another was asked if he had drunk anything and he replied, "*half a bottle of cider.*" "Only half a bottle ?" asked the prosecutor, "*Well, half a two litre bottle,*" said the sab!

Defence Evidence

By comparison the defence had spent untold time and money on their case. They appeared to have a "silk", an ordinary barrister and clerk, and had even produced a video re-enactment, with Thompson racing along with an axe handle and then slipping up. Hardly an Equity card job, but a great opportunity for all Thompson's witnesses to conceivably get their stories married up! Things had looked grim after the inconsistencies of the Prosecution evidence and Thompson appeared relaxed. However, both he and his witnesses appeared very stressed as they gave their evidence and had some awkward explaining to do. Thompson appeared shattered after several hours in the witness box. To the watching sabs it seemed obvious the story was "unstable" at most, and they thought there was a reasonable chance of conviction.

However, they were forgetting that the presiding Judge was Eric Whintmore (see last HOWL), that the jury were totally ignorant of hunt violence, and despite having the evidence, the CPS had failed to produce photos of Thompson in a balaclava, clutching an iron bar from an earlier hunt.

Perhaps the most bizarre reason that the prosecution failed was that the police who were first on the scene following the assault, did not appear as witnesses. In fact, the only tangible police evidence were statements claiming the saboteurs were very "aggressive", "hostile" and that they (the police) "feared for their safety". These statements were mainly by police officers who had been with the main body of sabs elsewhere (who had just received news of the attack via the CB and were naturally peeved with the police's indifference to the attack) .

So - Adrian Thompson is an innocent man. The moral of this story is that preparation is the watchword, and forget it at your peril!!

Left: Have you seen this man? - this is the Photo Dorset sabs managed to take before this thug, known only as 'Wayne', set about them with a pick-axe handle, before smashing nearly every window of their Transit van.



LEGAL NEWS



What a gas!!

Over the past few years we have seen an increase not only in police powers to arrest / search / detain but also an increase in police armoury. First came the long handled baton from America, used on sabs for the first time in 1995 and more recently the standard issue of CS gas canisters. So far HOWL has only had one report of its (threatened) use on sabs from the Bristol area last season. This season however *may* see a increase in its use after it was used on Animal Rights demonstrators outside Consort Beagles (breeders of beagles for vivisection).
If it is the case that more sabs are threatened with CS gas then it is important that everyone in your group should know about its effects and how to deal with them.

Brief History

CS is short for O-chorobenzylidene malononitrile. Its properties were first discovered by American chemists in 1928 but it wasn't seriously developed as a weapon until the mid 50's. Not surprising its first widespread use was during the Vietnam war, both on the Vietnamese and the anti-war protesters back 'home'. It has remained a favourite 'toy 'of police forces and armies ever since.
Although riot police have had access to CS gas for years it is now on general issue to forces throughout Britain. It is carried in small cans the size of roll-on deoderants and is worn on the officers belt.

The effects

The canisters contain three ingredients; the active chemical (CS), a liquid solvent to dissolve and 'carry' it and an inert gas to act as a propellant. CS is one of a group of chemicals called lachrymators. These chemicals are tear-producing agents, (hence 'tear gas'). Exposure causes severe eye irritation, a profuse flow of tears, skin irritation (especially on moist areas of the body) and irritation of the upper respiratory tract, causing sneezing, coughing and breathing difficulties. Not surprisingly if you are sprayed directly these problems will be more severe than if you just get a whiff of the stuff. There has already been two CS related deaths of people in police custody.

What to do if sprayed

❶ If in the line of spray move away. Your eyesight may become blurred and you may lose awareness of what is going on around you. Do not run blindly away as you may be in danger of running into the police or traffic etc. Try to act calmly and stay aware of your surroundings while moving into a safe area.

❷ Stand upwind of where the spraying took place and expose the affected part of your body to the wind. This will help disperse the gas. Try to avoid confined places.

❸ DO NOT wash affected areas. The CS used in Britain is stronger than US types and comes out of the canister in a jet rather than a cloud. The CS particles will crystallise; adding water will cause the crystals to re-activate. Do not rub or itch as you will spread the chemical and rub it into your pores.

❹ Remove all clothing as soon as possible; if nothing else remove outer clothing immediately. NOTE; some people sprayed at Consort have had to shave off their dreads which were full of crystals.

❺ It is probably best to dispose of clothing contaminated but some suggest they can be hung in a well ventilated area to disperse any remaining particles. When they have hung for at least a day, wash twice in cold water, then again in hot and they should be okay to wear again.

❻ Even if slightly affected **SEE A DOCTOR**. (For legal reasons if nothing else. **If you are asthmatic see a doctor as soon as possible.**

❼ Report any use of CS gas (including its threatened use) to the HSA Legal and Press officers as soon as possible.

NB CS gas is fat and oil soluble, so never coat your face in petroleum jelly or similar substances for protection. On the same note do not treat the affected area with cream, jelly or ointment unless advised by a doctor, as this will spread the chemical and aggravate symptoms.

Protection

❶ The obvious one is a gas mask. Since these are expensive (only current ex-military designs are worth using), bulky and conspicuous they are not advisable for sabbing. However a mask and hood will offer some protection. An improvement is a cycle mask (around £10 from bike shops) as they contain activated charcoal which filters out CS.

❷ Goggles can help to protect eyes although again they are conspicuous, however the sort used for swimming could easily be carried. Even glasses may offer some limited protection.

❸ **IF YOU ARE ASTHMATIC MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN YOUR GROUP KNOWS!** CS can cause extremely bad reactions in some people, so others around you (even the police if necessary) MUST be aware of any medical condition so that they can react accordingly.

I originally wrote as a postscript to this article"..hopefully no sab will ever need this advice..'. How naive I was . Sabs from Croydon, Brixton, Dover and others in the South East were sprayed at a cubbing meet of the Ashford Valley FH. The incident was recorded by the sabs, and may feature in a forthcoming 'Undercurrents" video.

Kent Update.

The endless police harassment of **Ashford** sabs continues: the sab arrested and DNA tested after an alleged attack on an *Ashford Valley FH* ex-master (see HOWL 64) was recently questioned at home on suspicion of murder. The officers were surprised to hear that the sab had no convictions for sex offenses as they said they had been 'led to believe otherwise'. In answer to a written complaint, the superintendent of Kent police said that all people living in the vicinity who had violent convictions, or were on bail for violent crimes, had been visited. The sab was surprised therefore to learn that two of his neighbours were not questioned over the incident, despite one having just been released from prison for a violent crime, and the other having a string of convictions longer than the arm of someone with a very long arm.

At the court case for the above mentioned alleged assault, **Ashford** sabs found themselves photographed by a variety of cops- including one who was a prosecution witness. Complaints were made, the case was adjourned and a criminal investigation into contempt of court and perjury by Kent police may follow. After the adjournment, sabs were followed to the pub by cops and that evening one of the sab's supporters was sacked from his job after employers "found out" about a 12-year old conviction.The next night a defence witness had his car broken into and hunt-related documents stolen.

In August, **Ashford** sabs were up in court again - this time on feeble charges from Boxing Day such as driving without a petrol cap (stolen by a hunt supporter), driving with a defective exhaust (not mentioned by cops on the day), and overloading (carrying 10 people in a van built for...er, 10 people). A sudden rescheduling of the court appearance was accompanied by adding a dangerous driving charge! The case was adjourned. Also relating to the same boxing day demo, another Ashford sab has been summonsed under section 5 for having an 'offensive' banner (incorporating a cartoon of a cop glove puppet with a swastika on it), while another was summonsed for obstructing police, though this has since been dropped. Worth noting that at this meet a sab was ridden down and hospitalised by an *East Kent FH* whipper-in, something the boys in blue decided was unworthy of investigation.

Letters of complaint sent to the police complaints authority over these copious harassments has of course had little result; the sab questioned as a murder suspect was told nothing could be done as 'police hadn't recorded the complaint'! Civil actions for damages are under way, and hopefully when the pay-outs begin there may be a change in such 'overt' police action.

VERMIN PATROL

Cruelty Cases... in the Courts

badger

VERMIN

In April **Richard Lovett** (42) of Meysey Hampton, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (terrierman for the Vale of White Horse Foxhounds) appeared at Swindon Crown Court to appeal against his conviction for illegally blocking a badger sett. (See *Howl 62* for more details of the case). The Crown Court rejected his appeal and decided that Lovett had committed the offense.

A Halifax man, **Ronny Sanderson** was found guilty of possession of badger parts under the Badgers Act and for possession of a tawny owl under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Sanderson claimed the badger was a road casualty, however, it was found to have dog bites on its neck. The owl had lead shot injuries. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay £750 costs to the RSPCA.

Three men who admitted interfering with the set of a badger were described as "*blackguards*" by a judge at Trim District Court on 25/4/97. **Peter Maher** of Grangeclare, Robenstown, Co Kildare was remanded in custody for a seven days. **John Casey** (32) of Coolcarrigan, and **Patrick Mulligan jnr** (28) of Knockmore, Carbury, Co Kildare, were told they must pay £100 witness expenses each in addition to fines of £150 and £100 respectively. Casey was also disqualified from driving for 12 months for using his car in connection with the offense. All three also admitted interfering with/destroying the breeding place of a protected wild animal and carrying a spade and shovel capable of being used for the hunting of a wild bird or animal.

On 18/8/97 three men from Merseyside appeared before Stockport magistrates accused of badger cruelty offenses last February. **Steven Taplin** (28), **Paul Archer** (23) and **Stanley Young** (30) were all alleged to have committed a total of 13 offenses.

domestic

VERMIN

A man pleaded guilty to dragging a dying goat across a car park when he appeared before Lancaster magistrates on 30/1/97. **Nathan Brown** (22) of Neargates, Charnock Richard, Lancashire admitted the offense at Lancaster Auction Mart on 5/4/96. The goat's owner, **Craig Iveson** from North Yorkshire, also pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the animal. Iveson also admitted two related offenses of entering a pen at the market in which the goat had been detained by a county council officer after it appeared to be ill, and removing it. Iveson was fined £300 with £325.

The inspector saw the two men running along the car park dragging the goat between them. When they reached the end of the road the goat struck the edge of the kerb and flipped into the air like a rag doll. The goat died shortly after the inspector confronted the men. Brown was granted unconditional bail by the court to re-appear for sentencing at a later date.

A man who kept a jaguar and another wild cat in his garage has been jailed for three months for cruelty. **Derek O'Driscoll** (23) of Cross Wood Park, Eire pleaded guilty in Kilmainham District Court on 23/4/97 to causing unnecessary suffering and keeping animals in cruel conditions.

On 17/4/96 the police forced open the door of a locked garage while conducting a drugs search at O'Driscoll's home. Inside they found the African serval, about the size of a collie dog, in a makeshift cage 3' by 2' by 1'. There was no sign of food or water and there was a strong stench of urine. The 2 1/2-year-old female jaguar was in a 12' by 9' wire mesh pen which also contained a half-eaten pig's head but no water. There was no natural lighting in the garage which caused physical and mental distress to both animals. They were sedated and taken to Dublin Zoo.

A show judge and former leading breeder of West Highland terriers, was banned for life from keeping animals after being found guilty in her absence of nine charges of abuse against her dogs (10/12 96). **Frieda Cook** (76) of Wandlebury Hill, Cambridge sold dogs for as much as £1,500. The court heard how she administered dangerous prescription-only drugs to her animals. She even used toxic pesticides and flea sprays to treat skin conditions - resulting in two of the terriers losing nearly 80 per cent of their body hair. The filthy kennels had no running water or electricity.

More than 400 deer being bred for export became diseased, starved to death and were buried in pits after their owner refused to pay veterinary and feed bills. The deer, which had an export value of £110,000, belonged to Galtee Deer Farm Company, an Irish food company, but were kept on Tremoreland Farm, Cardingham, near Bodmin, Cornwall. The farm manager, **Robert Jasper** (40) was fined just £500.

A nurse who had 30 dogs living with her in a caravan at her self-styled sanctuary, set up with £60,000 left by her late husband,was jailed for six months and banned from keeping animals for life. **Jane Nichols** (50) of Cookes Wood, Broom Park, near Durham, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering (8/4/97). Her son **Kevin Nichols** (27) was also convicted but did not appear in court and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Five neglected cats, two horses, two donkeys and a Jack Russell terrier were found when the RSPCA visited the site following a complaint to the police in April 1996. A chestnut mare named 'Sunshine' was in such a bad condition that she had to be destroyed. The animals were moved from the site and looked after by the RSPCA. All were said to have made considerable improvements within a few months. The RSPCA has spent about £12,000 on the case, mostly on caring for the animals.

Ian Ramsden (34) of Tonfield Road, Sutton, Surrey admitted keeping dangerous animals without a licence and was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. On 17/4/97 the police and RSPCA officers found more than 60 deadly and dangerous snakes in an unlocked garage. They also found a price list and documents with the business name of Direct Reptile printed on them. Ramsden maintained he was not involved in the illegal trade of buying and selling snakes. He was fined a total of £350 and banned from keeping animals for ten years.

Nursing auxiliary **Owen Gibbs** of Crosslands Farm, Clay Lane, St Osyth, Essex was found guilty of six charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals at Colchester magistrates on 22/4/97. Six adults pigs and four piglets on his farm all suffering from mange. There was also an emaciated adult boar,which had seeping pores on its belly and ulcerated skin. One piglet was so small it was said to be "lucky to be alive". Gibbs was fined £50 on each charge.

Gamekeeper **Mark Fawcett** (18) of Moor Rigg, Frosterly, County Durham was cleared of deliberately shooting and blinding a cat. Fawcett, a YTS keeper on the 7,000 acre Bollihope estate, owned by the ruling Maktoum family of Dubai, was found not guilty by Bishop Auckland magistrates on 26/4/97 following a three day trial.

Fawcett claimed he had been firing at a rabbit he had seen running past his vehicle. The cat was left with nine pieces of shot in its body and had to have an eye removed.

Thomas Thompson (21) of Brookside, Raffles, Carlisle admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a dog (10/5/97). The dog was so emaciated she could hardly stand. When an RSPCA inspector found her she was just hours from death; a local vet concluded the only humane action was to have her put out of her misery. Thompson received three months in prison and a life ban on keeping animals.

A brother and sister were banned from keeping ponies and horses for life after admitting neglecting 20 Shetland ponies. **Martin Kivell** (63) and **Beryl May Kivell** (60) both of Carnforth Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, Cheshire pleaded guilty to eight counts of causing unnecessary suffering at Macclesfield magistrates on 12/6/97.

The pair were also given a two-year conditional discharge each and costs of £6,100. The ponies were handed into the care of the RSPCA. An appeal of the ban, on 2/7/97, was refused. The court was told Martin Kivell already had a conviction for a similar offense three years ago.

Andrew Noble (26) of Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport, Cheshire pleaded guilty to ill-treating his dog when he beat it to death because it had soiled the kitchen and ripped open rubbish bags. After Noble repeatedly hit and kicked the dog, it cowered in a corner; when he returned 10 minutes later the dog was dead. The following day (14/6/97) his girlfriend informed the RSPCA. On 2/7/97 Noble was put on two years probation and banned from keeping animals for life; he was also ordered to pay £52 vet's fees and £125 costs.

Darren O'Brien (23) of Claremont Road, Rusholme, Manchester said he had drunk seven pints of beer, smoked cannabis and sniffed turps before he set the family cat on fire causing £14,000 worth of damage. The cat had to be put down. On 4/7/97 Manchester Crown Court jailed him for two years after he admitted arson.

A champion sheepdog trialist, who starred in the television programme 'One Man and His Dog', was found guilty at Llandudno magistrates on 29/5/97 of five counts of causing unnecessary suffering to his collie dogs The dogs were found emaciated, dirty, with skin problems and in unhygienic conditions at the home of **Gwyn Jones** (52) of Penmachno, near Betws-y-Coed, Snowdonia.

Three of the dogs had to be destroyed and the other two have since recovered in RSPCA kennels. One animal was blind and so thin that he looked more like a greyhound and the two surviving dogs had to have four meals a day for three months to reach what vets regarded as a normal healthy weight. **Jones**, three times supreme champion and captain of the Welsh international team, was fined a total of £2,000 and ordered to pay £1,750 cost, but the court chairman would not disqualify Jones from keeping dogs because it would be almost impossible to run a hill farm without them. The sport's ruling body will have to decide whether disciplinary proceedings should be brought against him. An RSPCA spokesman said: *"This was a particular severe case of neglect. But we are disappointed that Jones has been allowed to carry on keeping dogs. He was convicted of ill-treating dogs but he can still go on keeping them."*

egg

VERMIN

A man who kept an illegal collection of wild birds' eggs in his garage has been fined £1,200. Police found almost 2,000 eggs, including those of peregrine falcons, merlins, red-throated divers, avocets and goshawks, when they raided the home of **Robert Crich** (48) of Brandon, County Durham. Crich appeared before magistrates in Durham on 31/7/96. Many of the eggs found were under a special protection order. A magistrate said: *"The bird population has been in decline for many years, not least because of the activities of people who collect eggs."* It was the biggest illegal collection ever seized in this country.

An illegal collection of 255 wild birds' eggs was discovered when police raided the home of a **Michael Dawson** (70) from Brighton. The eggs were from skylarks, woodlarks, nightjars and song thrushes. Police searching Dawson's premises on 1/11/96, also found 175 Ordnance Survey maps, two pairs of climbing irons and an alleged egg-blowing kit which consisted

of a syringe, drill bits and a fine wire hook.

Dawson denies illegally having the eggs and having equipment capable of being used to gather an egg collection. (If anybody knows the result of his trial can they please let me know via the HSA office).

A Sunderland University ecology lecturer (!) has been convicted of disturbing protected birds as they hatched their eggs. **Dr. Andrew Dixon** (31) of The Maltings House, Allendale, Northumberland visited bird reserves in Lancashire and nesting sites in Wiltshire and Devon. Entries in his diary, dating from 1994, showed that he approached the nests of black-tailed godwits and stone curlews during the breeding season, endangering each clutch by flushing away parent birds.

Dixon who has written papers on peregrine falcons, denied nine charges of disturbing rare birds and seven alternative charges of attempted disturbance. Salisbury magistrates on 25/1/97 found him guilty on one charge of intentionally disturbing black-tailed godwits, of which there are only 60 pairs nesting in Britain, and two charges of disturbing stone curlews. He was conditionally discharged for 18 months and ordered to pay £500 costs.

Falconer **Paul Noble** (33) of Sandy, Bedfordshire took eggs back to his aviary after they were stolen from cliff-face nests in Majorca, either by himself or an accomplice, Luton Crown Court was told on 4/4/97. Eight Eleonora's falcons were sold for a total of £4,000 to falconers who were told that they had been bred in captivity. When police and the RSPB raided Noble's house, they found another six young birds. Noble had claimed he had acquired them from a dealer in France who bred them in captivity. But the court heard that France had banned their export since 1992.

Police searching Noble's home found abseiling gear, airline tickets and hotel receipts for a trip in 1995 to Majorca - one of the few places in the world where the falcons breed. Shortly after Noble's trip, he had placed an advert for the falcons in a bird magazine. Noble was found guilty of offering the birds for sale, obtaining property by deception by claiming they were bred in captivity and keeping restricted birds. He admitted two other charges of selling a restricted species. He was jailed for eight months.

Falconer **Gary Job** (38) from Lampeter, South Wales was convicted of keeping wild peregrines, and aiding and abetting others to breach the Wildlife and Countryside Act. A BBC Crimewatch viewer identified him as the man captured on film at peregrine nests in Cumbria, equipped with climbing gear to reach the birds worth £800 each.

When Job was arrested at home they seized two rare peregrine falcons; DNA tests proved they could not have been bred legally from birds in captivity, as he had claimed. On 30/4/97 Lampeter magistrates fined him £450 and ordered him to pay costs of £700.

When the police and RSPB officials raided the home of **Alan Barrow** of Sumner Avenue, Ainsworth, Lancashire they found 129 eggs belonging to some of the countries rarest birds. Barrow pleaded guilty at Bury magistrates court on 2/5/97 to possession of 20 wild birds eggs under List A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as well as possession of 102 eggs under List B of the same Act. He also pleaded guilty to having in his possession a chest of drawers for storing wild bird eggs.

The court heard how Barrow admitted possessing the eggs, but he only played a small part in collecting them. The mastermind was **Brian Mortimer** (35) of Ribble Drive, Bury, who in court on 3/6/97 pleaded guilty to nine summonses under the Act. They included having in his possession 134 eggs including those of roseate terns, chough, golden eagles and hen harriers, and possession of items including egg blowing equipment and maps.

Barrow was given fines totalling £2,500 with £250 costs and ordered the forfeiture of the eggs. Mortimer was fined a total of £3,075 with £150 costs. In 1989 Mortimer was fined £850 by Stafford magistrates for stealing two stone curlew eggs.

Radivoj Jankovic (57) imported goldfinches, linnets, yellow hammers and bullfinches which had been illegally trapped and netted in Hungary was fined £1,500. On 11/2/97 Magistrates in March, Cambs, were told that 164 birds, worth £6,000, were found in a raid on the home of Radivoj Jankovic who runs the Golden Feather Company.

Jankovic admitted four counts of possessing wild live birds for the purpose of sale, in breach of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. The Act says that indigenous British birds can only be sold commercially if they are reared in captivity.

The RSPCA said the birds, which were on sale at £150 a pair, were being offered to fanciers and added that it was now hoped that the birds seized from the firm could be released back into the wild. Jankovic was ordered to pay £172 costs.

assorted VERMIN

A man from Surrey; **Alex Seldon** (52) of Sendholme, Potters Lane, pleaded guilty to three instances of permitting the use of traps for animals and one of failing to inspect an animal trap once a day.. The RSPCA had to amputate a young cat's leg, which had been caught in a trap near Seldon's home, as gangrene was too advanced. The injuries were estimated to be three-and-a half days old. Two further traps, designed to catch rabbits,were found where any animal could be caught. Seldon faced a joint accusation with his gardener **John Froggat** (46) of The Street, Compton of causing unnecessary suffering to the cat. Seldon took full responsibility for telling Froggat how to set the traps and for what had happened but claimed he did not intend for any animal to suffer!! Seldon was fined £50 each for permitting the traps use, another £50 for failing to inspect the trap and £600 for causing unnecessary suffering to the cat. He was also told to pay £500 legal costs and £392.68 preparation costs to the RSPCA making a total of £1,692.68. Froggat was given a formal caution by the police.

North Wales magistrates heard how **Huw Griffith Jones** of Brynaerau Farm, Rhosfawr, Pwlleli, Gwent had a total of 17 pole traps on fence posts on his farm. When his farm was searched by police and the RSPB in August 1996 they found the traps, a live crow, a dead crow still in a trap, ten dead crows with broken legs, a jackdaw with no legs and a partly decomposed thrush. Jones pleaded guilty to two charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 and was fined a total of £3,000 and ordered to pay costs of £54.

A farmer who was "*dedicated to killing creatures*" was fined a record amount for killing three birds of prey. **John Edwards** (87) of Cold Harbour Farm, Walingford, Oxon poisoned the red kites, a protected species, because he thought they were attacking animals on his pig farm. Magistrates at Thame, Oxon, heard that his farm was littered with the corpses of animals, poisoned bait and traps which had been banned for years. On 24/5/97 he was fined £13,500, the highest ever for a wildlife poisoning case, with £500 costs and an order that traps and poisons be confiscated.

George Thomas (60) from Andover, Hampshire was ordered to pay £1,000 and received two conditional discharges for shooting a protected bird. The griffon-vulture, blown off course while training for a flying demonstration landed in a field in which his son had been keeping hens. Thomas admitted shooting the bird and also confessed that he did not have a firearms licence.

Compiled by Paul T. HSA Fringe Bloodsports

Photos are very important for identifying these scumbags - but they must be your own original snaps. We cannot use photos from newspapers or other publications because of copyright. If you hear of a court case near you, get down there and if you don't do anything else, take some pictures.



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. Make cheques and PO's payable to 'ALF Supporters Group', can be sent to: ALF SG, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

Dave Callender HV3314
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham, B18 4AS

Rod Coronado #03895-000
FC1 Unit SW
8901 S.Wilmot Rd
Tuscon, AZ 85706
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Michael Green VA2923
HMP Ashwell
Oakham
Leicester, LE15 7LF

Gillian Peachy RL3415
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London, N7 0NU

Michael Roberts GE3743
HMP The Verne
Portland
Dorset, DT51EQ

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

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St Beades
Jersey, Channel Islands

Barry Horne VC2141
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Darren Cole XD2301
HMP Shepton Mallet
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Shepton Mallet
Somerset, BA4 5LU

Keith Mann EE3588
HMP Long Lartin
South Littleton
Evesham
Worcs, WR11 5TZ

PLEASE NOTE
There is a new address for the Justice for Kieth Mann Campaign:
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Po Box 3690
Bracknell
Berkshire, RG 12 8 NW

Karen Hannigan
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London, N7 0NU

Dave Palmer
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Frank Kocera
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Heerhugowaard
The Netherlands

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, cruelty-free traders and other useful contacts in the UK, and also in 70 overseas countries. 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.

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.

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 some of your hard earned cash on sabbing instead of extra-strong lager equipment. 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

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 bargain 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.

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.

NOTE NEW ADDRESS JFKM, PO Box 3690, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG 12 8 NW

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 Seth, via the HSA office.

Articles always needed for HOWL Send ideas to the HOWL Editor via the HSA office. News clippings, magazines etc also welcome! Good photos a bloody god-send!!

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!!!!



CLUB DRAW WINNERS

May

1st	H C Heady, Kent
2nd	P Fenn, Surrey
3rd	M Sutcliffe, Suffolk

July

1st	M Wishart, Cambs.
2nd	P Wibbery, Kent
3rd	W Penny, W Midlands

August

1st	PHutchinson,Derbyshire
2nd	J Cole, Middlesex
3rd	B Chapman, Cheshire

September

1st	H C Heady, Kent
2nd	S Fenner, Berkshire
3rd	P Frankin, Essex

CAPTION COMPETITION



Now come on - this has got to be a classic! Nothing too obscene please!
And I thought hound shows were dull.

The sender of the best caption will win £10 (donated by the photographer).

Last issues winner (photo right) was Mr.Rupret Peeting

He wins one of the new design HSA baseball caps. (So cool even William Hague will be wearing one soon.)



We can't wait



for hunting to be BANNED

The fox pictured above was taken literally from the jaws of death by a local group of hunt saboteurs. It had been caught by a hunt in Hampshire and was being mauled by the hounds. The saboteurs responded to its screams and went to its aid. If the saboteurs had not intervened, this fox would have been brutally ripped to pieces until dead.

Every year, thousands of animals are killed by fox, hare, deer and mink hunts. By supporting the Hunt Saboteurs Association, **you can help us stop this slaughter.** We believe hunting with hounds is cruel and barbaric and belongs in history, not in our society today. Hunt saboteurs take action where it counts - in the killing fields - using non-violent direct action. The HSA is the only organisation solely dedicated to saving hunted animals in this way. We endeavour to intervene at hunts all round the country. We use various tactics including: using hunting horns and voice calls to distract the hounds at foxhunts; standing in front of the guns at shoots; and wading through rivers at minkhunts. 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.

The overwhelming majority of the British public recognise bloodsports are cruel and abhorrent and over 80% want an immediate ban. Unfortunately, parliament have seen to it that time and time again efforts to achieve a ban have been scuppered. Promises from politicians of action "sometime" or "maybe" are of no use to a fox that tomorrow will be hunted for several miles then cornered and ripped apart by up to forty hounds.

That's why we need hunt saboteurs - Please help us to save lives!

You can join the Hunt Saboteurs Association and become an active or simply a supporting member. Don't delay, join today - all members receive our magazine *HOWL* four times a year and a free car sticker and badge. Simply fill out this form and send it to us at the address below.

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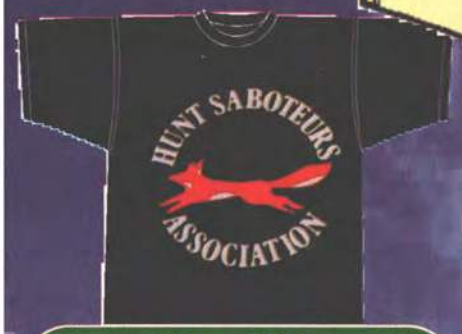


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