Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer '99

HOWL 68

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

SABS SAVE 'COPPER' THE FOX | 20 YEARS OF HUNT VIOLENCE | HOW TO HANDLE HORSES | GOOD RIDDANCE WEST KENT FH | GROUP NEWS ROUND UP | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



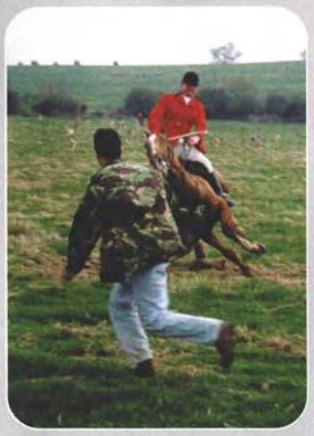




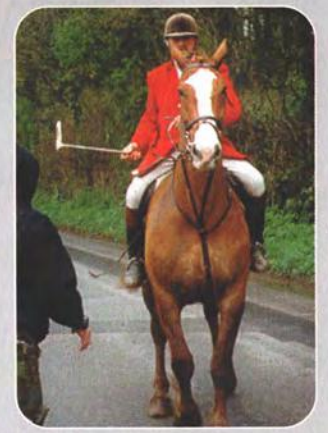














"Tolerance, understanding and dialogue are what we all seek.

Indeed, confrontation is *not* the country way."

Countryside Alliance January 1999



FOX RESCUED FROM THE JAWS OF HOUNDS

PROVIDES LIVING PROOF THAT HUNTING IS CRUEL



A sab makes use of an unlikely piece of equipment



.... and gets firmly in place



Copper is coaxed out of the burrow....



....is wrapped in a coat to keep him calm...



...and placed in a travelling cage.



Copper's cage is carried to a waiting vehicle

In February sabs hit the headlines by doing what they always do - saving the life of a hunted animal. However the rescue of a fox by West Sussex Wildlife Protection was slightly more dramatic than the usual sabotage, and the aftermath of the rescue caused shock-waves throughout veterinary science and the pro-hunt press.

Around 15 members of the West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group (W.S.W.P.G.) were in attendance at a meet of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray Foxhounds at Upperton Common, near Petworth when the incident happened at around 1.30 pm on the 6th February. Hounds had been on the trail of a fox for over an hour, and the exhausted animal, about eighteen months old and the size of a terrier, had tired to such an extent that the lead hounds were almost upon him. Just as they caught up with the fox, biting at its hind legs, one gutsy saboteur waded into the pack and managed to pluck the fox from the very jaws of death.



The fox, obviously terrified, unfortunately turned on his rescuer and bit him on the hand which caused the sab to drop the animal, but the fox had been given the break it needed and managed to seek refuge down a rabbit hole. As its tail was still visible saboteurs sat in the hole to prevent the hunt gaining access. The hunt then approached with the intent of digging the animal out. (In the ensuing fracas one saboteur was assaulted by a hunter and later attended Petworth police station to report the incident.) However, police present intervened and advised the hunt that they could not dig out, in order to prevent a breach of the peace. Unbelievably (for this *is* Sussex police we are talking about - a force usually shamefully biased towards the hunt), one policeman then lent sabs his helmet so that they could block the burrow with it and prevent the fox escaping without treatment. An hour passed until the fox re-emerged, an sabs then managed, with the help of West Sussex Badger Protection Group who were also out monitoring the hunt, to place the animal in a cage and take it immediately to a vet.

Richard Edwards, a vet specialising in the treatment of injured wildlife, first administered antibiotics and put the fox (by now named 'Copper' after the policeman who aided the rescue) on a drip. Mr Edwards later described 'Copper's injuries in the veterinary press: "On presentation, the animal was semi-conscious, hypothermic, profoundly shocked with multiple bite wounds to both hind legs and exhibiting haematuria..[*'Copper' had begun to bleed from his penis, probably due to kidney damage caused by the prolonged chase* - Ed]", he reported, " There was no evidence of any other internal or external injuries, " he continued, "Within two hours the fox was conscious and sitting up. Within eight hours, it had torn its drip out and tried to bite me!' Mr Edwards also stated that 'Copper' would have undoubtedly died from shock without treatment. "I have never seen such trauma in a dog, even a badly injured one," he added.

The media lapped up the story, along with its daring rescue (much of which had been videoed!), the intervention of the policeman who lent his helmet and of course, the vet's findings. Professor Patrick Bateson, the animal physiologist who found that deer suffer severe stress while being hunted, told reporters that it was the first hard evidence that foxes were similarly affected. "This is an important first step in getting the evidence that fox hunting is unacceptable too," he said. Michael Foster, the MP who tried to get hunting banned last year was also interviewed, saying that the incident showed that the claims made by the hunt that foxes suffer a quick and painless death when hunted, were wrong. "It is cruel and brutal and should be stopped" he said.

Desperate, the pro-hunt lobby wheeled out some pro-hunting vets that claimed that the fox's stress level had been caused, not by being hunted at speed for over an hour by a pack of baying dogs, but by the actions of sabs in rescuing it! Bob Baskerville, a vet and member of the Countryside Alliance, made this preposterous claim to several newspapers (the only one to take it seriously was, of course, the *Daily Telegraph*!), whilst other pro-hunt vets with racing links carried on in this vein in the *Veterinary Record*. Of course, none of them could explain why an animal that had been caused so much suffering by the humans who rescued it, could then recover from this stress *whilst being treated by humans*!

After three days at the vets, 'Copper' was making an "uneventful" recovery and was well enough to be moved to Hydestile Wildlife Hospital at Golming, Surrey, where he continued recuperating from his ordeal. In March, he was released, fit and well, into a non-hunting area to live out his life free from the persecution of 'sportsmen'.

Jaine Wild, the W.S.W.P.G. member shown carrying Copper to the travelling cage in the videos stills was ridden over a week later whilst at a meet of the neighbouring hunt, the notorious Crawley & Horsham FH. Jaine suffered serious head injuries and was knocked unconscious. X-rays later revealed she had suffered a fractured skull. As Howl goes to press, the trial of the huntsman of the C&H, Andrew Philis, regarding this incident, has just started, so we can't say much more. Look out for a follow up next issue....

THE HUNTING MYTHS THAT COPPER'S CASE DISPROVES

"The chase itself does not cause the fox any stress; many actually seem to enjoy it."

Mr Edwards has claimed that no-one has been able to come forward with any other satisfactory alternative explanation for the degree of shock displayed by Copper, other than it was caused by almost total exhaustion by the hounds' chase. As to the fox enjoying all the symptoms displayed by Copper...frankly it's just ridiculous!

"Hunted foxes are either killed or get away unharmed"

Copper's case shows that foxes which escape the hounds after a chase may be suffering from such extreme stress that they may die a lingering and painful death anyway.

"A hunted fox is always killed by a quick nip to the back of the neck by the lead hound"

Copper *had* been bitten by the lead hounds - on his back legs! The lead hounds had bitten whatever part of Copper they could reach first, which of course were his back legs, so that they could bring him down. Once 'bowled over' Copper would have been disembowelled. Mr Edwards is quoted as saying about the old 'quick nip'; "Given the relative size and strength of a foxhound and fox, I think it is almost physically impossible for this to be the case."



HOWL 68

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX
Tel/Fax (01273 622827)
e-mail info@huntsabs.org.uk
www.huntsabs.org.uk

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 H.S.A. committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non-voting posts. All committee members are active hunt saboteurs and all posts are voluntary. **No-one at 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 directly helping saboteurs in the field.

Editor	Roe
Reporters	Roe, Dawn.
Group News Editor	Roe
Subbing & Layout	B.T
Photos	Rob Todd, Paul G, Croydon collective, NorthWest Sabs, Craig Redmond, Rupret Peeting & W.S.W.P.G.
Legal News	Rob, Del, Roe
Features	Shaun, 'Vince', Roe, Dawn, Paula & Gooner Rob.
Vermin Petrol	Paul T.
Distribution	A.K.Press and H.S.A.

Thanks also to: Croydon sabs and the lads at the office.

CONTENTS

regulars

News round up.....2
Letters.....8
Hunt Havoc.....9
Huntsman's Balls.....10
Group News.....18
Countryside weaklings.....23
Legal News.....24
Vermin Patrol.....26

features

"They think it's all over"
game over for a hunt.....12

Handling Horses.....12
advice for in the field

Cover Story -
20 years of Hunt Violence.....14

Pressing the
Message Home.....29
using your local paper

EDITORIAL

Well, will he, won't he?

Has Tony Blair finally realised that there are more votes (and ready cash) in banning hunting than in appeasing bloodthirsty toffs that have never supported his party anyway? Because, lets face it, 'Tone' has never given a damn about the misery caused to wildlife by hunting with hounds - if he had, he would have backed Michael Foster's bill a year ago and this hunting season would never have been. All 'Tone' cares about is staying in power and thankfully enough of us have finally got it into his thick head that we would do everything we could to ensure that his power base would be eroded, come the next election, if he didn't keep his pre-election promises on this issue at least!. And I'll still believe it only when I see it. (Hopefully my cynicism will be proved wrong this time round, but I'll keep practicing my horn-blowing in the meantime!)

On a much brighter note, much respect must go out to West Sussex Wildlife Protection for their amazing rescue of *that* fox, 'Copper'! Not only was the rescue itself unbelievable, they showed their usual professionalism in the handling of the injured animal afterwards (lets face it many others might have panicked!) and in their dealings with the media. It nice to be able to tell you that this has also been recognised by other animal organisations, and that they have been awarded one of Animal Aid's "Animal Pride Awards" for their actions. It couldn't have gone to a more committed group of people. (And unusually I'm going to say well done to the policeman who lent sabs his helmet - undoubtedly he'll be past over for promotion during the rest of his career!)

Finally, I have to say bye-bye's, cos I'm out of here! This is my last stint as Howl editor - although I should hopefully be continuing to write and help design future H.S.A. leaflets and promotional items. The committee are still looking for a replacement so if you're daft enough to want to give it a go, get in touch with the office now. Happy sabbin'

Roe xxxx

TWO 'HIT AND RUNS' INJURE SOUTH DORSET SABS

An ambulance was called to attend the injuries of a saboteur that had been stuck by a hunt supporter's vehicle whilst sabbing a meet of the Cattistock FH near Bridport in February. The sab had been trying to prevent hounds from crossing over a busy road where they could have caused an accident. A known hunt supporter then appeared to deliberately swerve to hit the sab, who was hit by the front side of the car. The force of impact was enough to snap of the wing mirror. Other sabs who witnessed the incident believe that it was entirely the intention of the driver to deliberately hit the saboteur. Thankfully he only suffered bad bruising and a fractured finger. It could have been much worse. Video footage of the whole incident has now been passed to the police.
This attack came only two weeks after a saboteur was knocked down and had his leg driven over by a hunt supporter's vehicle whilst sabbing the South Dorset Foxhounds.

Hunt violence (towards protesters rather than animals!) is not a new thing. Check out our diary of hunt convictions on starting on page 14.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 17th July 1999 2pm -7pm
+ party afterwards

@
Jackson Lane Community Centre
Archway Road, opposite Highgate tube station



As well as the usual reports by committee members and discussions,there will also be:
an animal first-aid demonstration,
a talk by a ex-gamekeeper turned A.R. campaigner
& screenings of various videos from the last season.
Free packs of our new leaflets, posters and Howls will be available for local groups and anyone who can use them.

All Welcome

Bar 'til Midnight plus vegan cafe
Dogs Welcome (apart from in cafe area!) and there is a park nearby for do-do

NEWS IN BRIEF

The ceremonial slaughter of a bull to improve the fortunes of a football club in the Brazilian town of Olinda was called off at the last minute thanks to animal rights groups who managed to get an injunction against it. Police ordered Umbanda priest Father Edu, to call off the ritual which would have also involved the killing of four goats and eight cockerels. Edu had claimed that the Nautic football team would be pulled out of a 30-year rut if the team supplied him with the animals to appease the gods.
The Guardian, 11.3.99

The Royal Mint will escape prosecution over a chemical leak from one of its plants that killed 1,400 fish because it is protected by Crown immunity. The Environment Agency traced a sulphuric acid spill in a stream in South Wales to the Royal Mint's plant at Llantrisant. A clean-up operation will cost £10,000. A spokesman, who confirmed that the agency had planned to prosecute, said: "There have been six pollution incidents in five years at the Mint but this is the most serious."
Paul. T. Feb 99

A rare wolf was found dead beside a Norwegian railway track, just one day after it was given legal protection from farmers, who had claimed that if the wolf and its mate bred, a growing pack could threaten livestock and people.
The Guardian, 15.3.99

Following on from our report in Howl 67, Rodney Ellis (57) from Malborough, Wiltshire a joint master of the Tedworth Hunt appeared before Devizes magistrates on 10/12/98 after an Appeal Court ordered him to be re-sentenced, after being found *twice* over the legal limit whilst driving home from a hunt function. He was disqualified from diving for three year. (He was originally given only a £450 fine, by magistrate Lady Belinda Johnson, who it is believed received a 'smack on the wrist' for her blatant act of snobbery and cronyism.)
Paul. T., Feb 99

The Eire based Association of Hunt Saboteurs and the Irish Anti-hunt Campaign handed in 100,000 signatures to the Irish Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage & the Islands, on the 3rd of February this year. The petition, which called for a total ban on Hare Coursing, once again showed that the majority of Irish people feel that the spectacle of live hare coursing is unacceptable.
'Escape', A.H.S. Newsletter Winter, '98-'99

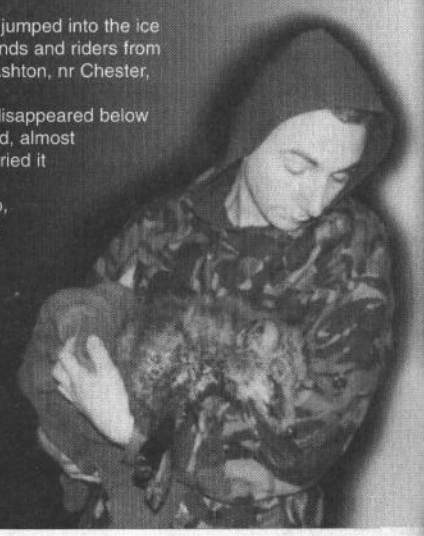
The British Association for Shooting and Conservation was not amused to hear that wildfowl shooting had been banned by Sefion Borough Council. The Council decided in October that shooting should no longer continue over its land and the B.A.S.C. reportedly 'slammed' the decision after 30 years of wildfowling in the area. A B.A.S.C. spokesman stated that the area itself was managed by the local wildfowlers and that "..the taxpayer would become responsible for (the) upkeep". Strange that this seems to indicate that the shooters aren't prepared to continue to look after the area once you take their sport away... and after they claim to be conservationists as well!
H.S.A. Press Office, January '99

According to the French National Hunting Office, a record 269 people were hit by stray bullets in the six month 1997-98 shooting season - 45 fatally. Ninety-one per cent of the dead and injured were huntsmen.
The Guardian, 2/11/98

An American hunter was so well camouflaged that a 13 year boy mistook his head for a squirrel and shot him dead.
London Animal Rights News, Dec '98

SAB RISKS LIFE TO SAVE DROWNING FOX

During a hunt of the Cheshire Forest Foxhounds a plucky sab jumped into the ice cold waters of a flooded pond to rescue a drowning fox. Hounds and riders from the hunt had been chasing the terrified animal across a field at Ashton, nr Chester, when it jumped into the pond to try and escape.
The fox, too exhausted to swim and frantically thrashing about, disappeared below the surface but Bolton sab Mark Davies leaped into the water and, almost submerged, plucked the fox from the bottom of the pond and carried it to safety.
Another sab who witnessed the incident said "Mark is a real hero, without a thought for himself but only for the fox he went straight in and pulled it out The fox is now being cared for at a wildlife hospital and it looks as though it will survive the ordeal.
Mark is suffering a bit from the soaking he got in the freezing pond, but he is determined to be out at the next Cheshire hunt meet to save more wildlife from the torture and abuse that the hunters inflict'.
The fox, a young cub, was extremely lucky - the hounds had almost caught it and they would have torn it to shreds if it had not jumped in the pond. Throughout the whole incident hunt followers and supporters laughed and jeered at Mark from the banks of the pond.



CHEERS! - SHEPHERD'S MIX-UP ALMOST KILLS FOXHUNTER

Scottish wildlife had reason to celebrate last Christmas, when a huntsman was hospitalised after a seasonal swig from a whiskey bottle full of ..... sheep dip! Raymond Shiels, fieldmaster of the Jed Forest FH was handed the drink by bungling bumpkin Robin Grieve, a man who obviously believes that storing highly toxic chemicals in unlabeled empty liquor bottles is a safe and responsible thing to do! Shiels, by contrast, did have enough sense to spit out the mouthful he took while hounds were drawing a wood, but started hallucinating and feeling increasingly unwell after about quarter of an hour. In fact he was so ill that when he reached hospital he had to be sent to intensive care, where he spent the night. Doctors told his family that "his body had closed down" - at one point his heart stopped beating and his lungs, kidneys and liver all stopped functioning (hardly surprising as sheep dip was originally developed from a nerve gas!). Gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "quick nip to the back of the neck"!
Poor old Robin, a local shepherd, had two whiskey bottles in his Land Rover, one containing the sheep dip and one still containing whiskey, which he "got mixed up"....he was, of course, "terribly upset" about the whole incident - especially when he calculated the money he had wasted by washing his sheep in single malt!!

● Ironically, back in November 1991 *Horse & Hound* (which covered the story of Raymond Shiels' deadly tipple), contained an advert for an 8 year old pure Malt Scotch Whisky called....'Sheep Dip'!!!!

CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUNTED ANIMAL

LAUNCH 'DEADLINE 2000' CAMPAIGN

The Campaign for the Protection of the Hunted Animal, an umbrella organisation comprising the RSPCA, International Fund for Animal Welfare and League Against Cruel Sports, unveiled its new campaign video and literature in London at the end of November 1998. 'Deadline 2000' aims to persuade the Government to make a commitment to introduce legislation to end hunting with hounds by the turn of the century. The Campaign literature states; 'Few people now seriously believe that hunting can survive for much longer. It simply has no place in modern Britain. One more concerted push can bring an end to this cruel and outdated activity. That is why a number of animal welfare organisations and prominent individuals have come together to form a broad-based campaign to end hunting by the end of the millennium'. For more information on 'Deadline 2000' contact any of the three organisations involved.
Despite hunt saboteurs saving lives in the killing fields for over 35 years, our invite to the launch must have got lost in the post... but we managed to sneak in anyway - as did *'Horse and Hound'*! Funny how you don't get an invite but once you're through the door so many people seem soooo pleased to see you! As all H.S.A. reps were perfectly behaved (house-trained every one!), and *even* respectfully dressed, we can only hope for an invite - personally delivered - to the next event. Could we suggest at least veggie food next time? There is a link between animal cruelty and meat ya know!

HUNT NUISANCE - IN THEIR OWN WORDS

A hunting report in the January 28th edition of Horse & Hound, gives readers a pretty good picture of what disruption a hunt is capable of. The Hampshire Hunt is described leading hounds "fast across the A272" then doubling "back over the A272" further down the road, followed by the hounds and field .The fox then "took another sudden turn back across the A272....with hounds still in fast pursuit and in full cry. Then time for another turn, again over the A272". Shortly afterwards the hunt was called off due to lack of light.
So, in the space of one afternoon a fox, a pack of hounds and a large number of galloping horses all crossed the same busy road a total of FOUR times! According to H&H this is neither dangerous, arrogant or disruptive to the local community; it is, in fact, "an excellent meet".

DISGUST AS FOX HUNT GETS 100% COUNCIL RATE RELIEF

Local people and hunting opponents have both condemned the 100% rate relief granted to College Valley and North Northumberland FH by its local council - more relief than charity shops and locally-based holiday caravans for disabled children are allowed.
The aid to the hunt kennels was renewed by Berwick borough councillors, who for years have treated the hunt as a 'sporting organisation' and as such receives the same benefits as football and cricket clubs, for example. The League Against Cruel Sports, said it had never come across a hunt receiving so much rate relief. Thanks to the council's policy, the hunt is spared a £377 rates bill for the kennels at Mindrum.
The 100% relief is more than some holiday caravans occupied by charities, such as the Scottish Spina Bifida Association, Morpeth Mental Health Group and Sunderland Society for the Mentally Handicapped, which receive only the mandatory 80% to which all charities, including charity shops and the National Trust's Lindisfarne Castle are entitled. In contrast, neighbouring Tynedale Council in Northumberland gives no rate relief to the four hunts within its boundaries - the Haydon, Braes of Derwent and Tynedale foxhounds, and the Newcastle and District Beagles.
Regional rent-a-quote for the Countryside Alliance, John Haig, said, "It is a legal sporting activity and therefore should be categorised with other legal sports", not a view shared by the L.A.C.S., local sabs and undoubtedly the vast majority of the voting public in the area. Hunt Saboteurs' spokesman Ben Ponton said: "It's completely unacceptable that they should be getting more rate relief than charitable premises. I'm sure that the people who pay their council tax to Berwick Council would be a bit surprised." They may also be surprised to hear their Deputy Mayor, Bill Ferguson's take on the whole affair: "*I don't feel very strongly about it...*" he said, "*...I think in this area there is probably some sympathy for hunts.*"[!!]



If you disagree with Councillor Ferguson (Lib. Dem), of Wooler, on whether council tax payers are quite happy subsidising the slaughter of wildlife by the richest sections of society, then take heart at his following comment:
"If there was a groundswell of opinion, I would respond to that."
So let Mr Ferguson and the council as a whole know *exactly* what you think before the relief comes up for renewal next November. MAKE THEM PAY!!

M.A.F.F. IGNORE T.B. IMMUNITY TESTS AS CULLS GO AHEAD

Government scientists are claiming that M.A.F.F. are so keen to prove a link between TB in badgers and cattle that it has failed to fund research into potential methods of reducing outbreaks of the disease in both animals by feeding them with increased levels of trace elements. A proposal to study the connection between access to trace elements and TB resistance was made in 1993, but was rejected by MA.F.F. officials. Since then the scientists have conducted secret tests, analysing the trace element content of 250 badger livers, at M.A.F.F.'S veterinary investigative centre at Sutton Bonnington. The results have been kept under wraps at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Surrey for the past year. M.A.F.F. have refused to say whether the tests' findings will *ever* be made public. This stance by the government agency makes a mockery of the pledge made by junior farm minister, Jeff Rooker, to "explore every opportunity" to see how TB could be prevented in cattle. Meanwhile, Care for the Wild International, is raising money to fund its own study of on-farm trace element levels, a project co-ordinated by Chris Fairfax, chairman of the Countryside Protection Group.
Meanwhile the government has ploughed on with its single-minded commitment to a cull of up to 20,000 badgers, as an 'experiment'. The first phase of the cull in Devon was completed quickly, because of the difficulty for Animal Rights activists of finding the traps. However some farmers themselves have refused officials access to land, allowing badgers to disperse to outlying setts - possibly invalidating the results! The current killing zone is around Ross on Wye on the Heredfordshire/Gloucestershire border. M.A.F.F. officials believe that this phase will be far more more difficult to undertake due to being within easy reach of activists from Bristol and Gloucester. Experts overseeing the cull are also worried that the results of this phase will also be invalidated as some farmers are illegally killing badgers in 'control areas', where animals are supposed to be left alone.
The cull is still going ahead despite representatives from the National Federation of Badger Groups persuading a meeting of the Berne Convention to call for the trial to be stopped. Because of this breach of an international wildlife treating, the British government is now acting illegally by continuing with the trial. Environment Minister Michael Meacher stands alone within his own government by leading demands for a moratorium on the trial.

- Contacts to research the possibility of a vaccine for Tb in cattle, (said in 1985 to be 15 years away), were never issued. As a result, a vaccine is still said to be 15 years away.



Contact the N.F.B.G. for a factsheet on how to write to your M.P. demanding an end to the cull, petitions against the cull, leaflets etc.

N.F.B.G., 2 Cloisters House, Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG
Tel: 0171 498 3220

For more information about the cull, see Howl 67

The H.S.A.'s web site address and e-mail address has now changed to:

www.huntsabs.org.uk
e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk

It couldn't be any easier!

NEWS IN BRIEF

A North-east farmer died from gunshot wounds on 18/6/97 after setting out to settle the same fate on wildlife. Alan Fettes (77) was found dying on the doorstep of his home at Glass, near Huntly. His family believe he shot himself by accident while leaving his home to shoot foxes on his land at Lower Gordonsburn.
Paul. T. Feb 99

A joint case was brought to the Secretary of State, by the Broads Authority, the R.S.P.B. and English Nature, which has prevented shooting near the R.S.P.B.'s Mid-Yare Nature Reserve in Norfolk. The area is reported to have large flocks of widgeon and sees the only regular flock of bean geese in the country. The Broads Authority originally put an end to shooting on a nearby farm that was disturbing the birds, and the farmer concerned then took the case to the Secretary in an attempt to overturn the decision. However it was ruled that due to the impact of the shooting on the nearby nature reserve, planning permission is required in order to continue shooting at the farm. As such this has brought an end to shooting in the immediate area.
H.S.A. Press Office, December '98

Oh deer....Matthew O'Shea, a 72 year old venison farmer from County Clare, Ireland was found dead in a field in late October after apparently being gored to death by a stag as he was attempting to feed a herd of deer.
Paul T. January '99

According to a statement given by department store John Lewis, for a forthcoming court case, the company are no longer breeding pheasants at their shooting estate at Leckford Addas. Exactly what this means is unclear as yet, given that they say they'll carry on organising shooting parties for its staff at the estate. Presumably, it means they will start buying birds in; maybe a consequence of having their breeding pens trashed last year by A.L.F. activists.
London Animal Rights News, May '99

The British Horse Society may soon be needing a name change to the British Hunt Society after Horse and Hound editor,and B.H.S chairman, Michael Clayton has been joined by old chum Janet George (ex-British Field Sport Society/ Countryside Alliance Press Officer) as B.H.S. Press Officer,
Countryside Protection Group Newsletter, Xmas '98

Deer poachers in the UK are feeling the pinch of the Asian economic crisis - thanks to cheaper imports of farmed New Zealand deer. The collapse of the New Zealand deer farmers usual trade with the Far East has led them to seek new outlets in Europe, and the increased supply of legal deer has meant that the poor old poachers are left out of pocket and, if things continue, hopefully out of business. A spokesman for the National Game Dealers' Association stated "Last year we paid 80p per pound for carcasses which we collected. Now we're paying 50p and estates deliver to us. Poachers will be hit as badly as anyone". And who ever said that economics was a load of old b*ll**ks??
H.S.A. Press Office, January '99

In 1998 the Forestry Commission stated that any culling of deer on its land would be undertaken by trained marksmen. In February 1999 it was revealed that the Forest Enterprise (the F.C.'s business wing) is actually selling permits to shoot deer to foreign tourists for up to £600. The only 'marksmanship' skills the tourists have to prove is the ability to shoot a stationary target at 100 metres.
A.R internet page, March '99

NEWS IN BRIEF

150 anti-hunt protesters picketed the annual 'Horse & Hound' Ball on Sat 17 April. Until a few years ago it was held at the Grosvenor Hotel on Park Lane, London but possibly due to the large number of protesters this event invariably attracted, it is now held in the more down-market Metropole Hotel in the lovely surroundings of the N.E.C. near Birmingham.
London Animal Rights News, May '99

Beware of your organic veg! You may be horrified to learn that organic farmers can permit hunting on their land - therefore allowing the real possibility of hounds 'dumping' on the very produce that you are purchasing in the belief that it is healthier and better for wildlife. A request by the Countryside Protection Group to the Soil Association asking for a ban on hunting on organic farms was met with assurances that a "final decision, following consultation" would be reached by this summer. The C.P.G. are keeping up the pressure until then!
C.P.G. Newsletter, Xmas '98

In his continuing quest to carry the animal rights torch left by late wife Linda, Paul McCartney is believed to have donated £5,000 to Avon and Somerset Constabulary to enable them to purchase specialist night vision equipment. The money was requested by one of the officers investigating organised deer poaching and is to be used to buy infra-red optical binoculars which will give officers a clearer view of the poachers night activities. PC Jolliffe, the officer who faxed McCartney's office with the request, stated "I think Sir Paul's response is absolutely brilliant. It is really generous and it is going to make a big difference to our work". (He most definitely did not add "...in arresting bloody hunt saboteurs")
HSA Press Office, January '99

The League Against Cruel Sports has a new Chief Executive, Douglas Batchelor.
Mr Batchelor who took over the post in April, has a background in agriculture, most recently as Head of Business Development with N.M.R. plc., which was until 1997, an operating division of the Milk Marketing Board. He has also worked as an agricultural business consultant, and managed a group of five farms for the magazine 'Farmers Weekly' [*I think its safe to assume he's not veggie! - Ed*]. Still, with a background like that, at least he's in no danger of being called a 'townie', right?
Lets just hope Douglas doesn't fall foul of that dreaded 'League'-ionaires Disease that afflicted past Chief Execs., Richard Course and James Barrington, who both defected to the dark side, and former Joint Chief Officer John Bryant, who still insists on lambasting ordinary people who take direct action to save the lives of hunted animals [*see Huntsman's Balls*]. Hopefully Douglas'll have the sense to realise that, on the hunting issue at least, both the H.S.A. and the L.A.C.S. are working for the same thing, if in different ways.
L.A.C.S. Press Release, 22 April 1999

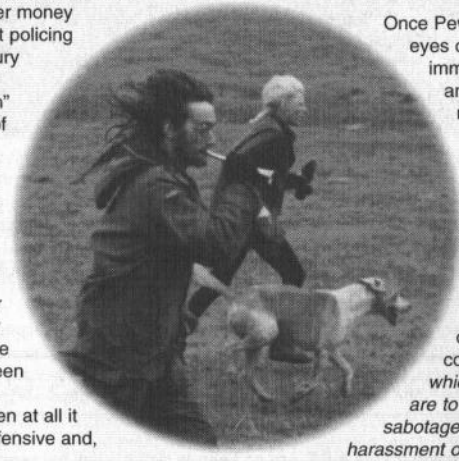
Three horses were killed during the Alphameric Red Onion Novice Chase at Sedgewich, after a head-on collision involving six horses.
The Daily Telegraph, 17/2/99

John Lewis is not the only 'top' company to take clients and staff on killing sprees. Sir Graham Hearne, chairman of Enterprise Oil came under fire from shareholders over 'entertaining' clients at Six Mile Bottom (one of Britain's largest shooting estates). Other companies, such as Bass, the brewer, Allied Zurich, insurance giant, and Bilton, a property company, also own fishing or shooting grounds for corporate use.
London Animal Rights News, Dec '98

M.O.D. HUNTING AGREEMENT

BRANDED "LAUGHABLE" BY SABOTEURS

If, towards the end of last year, you heard of the ground-breaking agreements hammered out between hunt saboteurs, huntsmen and police recently, don't believe what you read in the papers! December saw various right wing, pro-hunt news papers print items on the 'code of conduct' set out by up-and-coming Wiltshire Ministry of Defence policeman PC Steve Coppard, the newly appointed hunt liaison officer. PC Coppard told the press that his 'working agreement' 'discussed' by local representatives of the HSA (Pewsey Vale Hunt Saboteurs), the League Against Cruel Sports , the Royal Artillery and Tedworth Foxhunts, would save the taxpayer money which is currently spent policing the foxhunts on Salisbury Plain. "Lengthy consultation and liaison" had produced a code of conduct for hunt protesters, which, he claimed "everyone involved agreed was the way forward." The pro-hunt press lapped it up ("Hunters and saboteurs meet for peace talks" - the Daily Telegraph); at last those nasty saboteurs had seen sense; in future if any protesting had to happen at all it would be nice and inoffensive and, if ever an individual protester stepped out of line by actually causing any inconvenience to the hunt, the saboteurs would 'police themselves' by banishing the offender from their ranks. Of course, the truth was somewhat different. While PC Coppard had already press released the news of the meeting as blueprint for future anti-hunt policing, implying that agreement to the code was on the cards, in actual fact the meeting was the first time sabs had been asked to discuss the policing of hunts in the area. When the local sabs, who were obviously interested in the subject since it is invariably them that become the victims of over-zealous policing, arrived at the meeting they found that instead of any discussions taking place, PC Coppard had already drawn up the 'Code of Conduct for Persons/Groups opposed to Foxhunting', with the enthusiastic help of the Countryside Alliance and Master of Fox Hounds Association 'advising' the MoD on the specifics of the agreement. Not surprisingly the code presented to sabs as a *fait accompli* was just a tad biased towards the hunt, ie.:



...and you can cut that out for starters young man!

"Do not attempt to interfere with the hunt, engage in any form of sabotage be it direct action or subtle tactics (i.e. use of whips, horns, sprays, shouting/yelling or the use of your vehicle in any manner to obstruct/cause nuisance to the hunt)." Paragraph Three of the Code;

"In the interests of safety should an injured fox be required to be dug out and humanely destroyed a 50 metre exclusion zone will be in force." Paragraph Six. (This would not only prevent sabs from stopping a dig-out, it would also prevent hunt monitors filming the incident. Badger groups too, would be unable to check that the dig was not happening illegally at a badger sett.)

Once Pewsey Vale sabs actually set eyes on the document, they immediately refused to take part in any future discussions on the matter, as did the L.A.C.S. The sabs then informed H.S.A. Press Officer, Dawn Preston, who branded it "laughable". Since paragraph three basically ruled out any form of sabotage, it was beyond belief that anyone could ever think saboteurs would agree to it. In fact, the code is in direct contrast to the H.S.A.'s constitution: '*The Objects for which the Company is established are to oppose and undertake sabotage, where practicable, the pursuit, harassment or killing of any sentient creature for sport, pleasure, profit or population control... until such time as these practices cease to exists...*' and as far as the dig-out section was concerned this was seen as an attempt by the hunts to widen the circumstances in which a dig-out could take place. (A far cry from the Labour government's initial proposal, in force up until August last year, when it was illegal to dig out foxes on Ministry of Defence land. A U-turn not unlike their other promises relating to hunting - in September Elliot Morley MP claimed there would be no cubhunting on MoD land; that same week an article appeared in The Field magazine reporting on a day's 'autumn-hunting' with the Royal Artillery Foxhunt!) It would also mean that the hunt, of all people, would decide whether or not a hunted fox is injured. (Although surely both the C.A. and the M.F.H.A. have assured the public time and again that a hunted fox is "either killed by a quick nip to the back of the neck or he gets clean away" - in which case, a fox which is dug-out after being hunted should never *be* injured! Sabs were also quick to note that although the Countryside Alliance and Master of Fox Hounds Association had been invited to attend the proposed meeting on the 'Code for Persons/Groups Opposed to Fox Hunting', the H.S.A. were never invited to a meeting to formulate a code for the foxhunters!

On the 19th of January, after the MoD had rather stupidly invited the H.S.A. to a second meeting on the subject (which would be filmed by ITN, no less), a succinct letter was sent back from the Press Office which, by outlining in detail why hunt saboteurs would never agree to the proposal, basically told PC Coppard wear to stuff his code of conduct.!

The whole sorry episode should be seen for what it was: a cynical act of self promotion and publicity for the MoD Police, and PC Coppard in particular, and an attempt to make embattled foxhunters appear reasonable when they are not prepared to compromise anything despite huge public disapproval. The H.S.A. instead suggested that the MoD (a public body) address the real problems of £1000s of taxpayers money being spent on policing and supporting military hunts at a time when the vast majority of the public want, and expect, to see hunting banned.

HOWL 69 DEADLINES

The deadlines below are the latest dates to *guarantee* inclusion into the next issue of Howl.

Please help the next Editor to get Howl out on time and vaguely interesting by sending news clippings in now!

News/Letters:
24th Aug 1999

Group News:
31st Aug 1999

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

All contributions should be sent to HOWL Editor,H.S.A., PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

BIASED REPORT SHOWS HUNTING ONLY NECESSARY FOR HUNTERS

A recent report which claimed that the abolition of hunting would result in mass unemployment in rural areas has been dismissed by anti-hunting groups as untrue and biased. The Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals said that the so-called 'independent' report, carried out by the Centre of Rural studies based in Cirencester, failed to take account of research by other experts in the field.



A spokesperson for the C.P.H.A. also revealed that the data used in the report came from the area where the Devon and Somerset Staghounds are based. In fact, the village used to calculate the effects of a ban on employment was actually the very same one where the hunt had its kennels!!

The report said that hunting was popular in communities where it took place and that it "played an integral part in keeping those communities together" by providing "widescale employment vital to communities". The C.P.H.A. have pointed out that this research directly contradicted recent studies from respected academics and that it was carried out in one of the most fervently pro-hunt communities in Britain. As such it had no relevance to the country as a whole. Research carried out by academics elsewhere in the country looked at the wider, nationwide picture and their findings showed that the economic value of hunting was "insignificant". Businesses such as farriers and saddlemakers would continue to get work from non-hunting clients, and not end up on the dole as pro-hunt campaigners claim.

MIGRATING BIRDS FACE FRENCH 'CURTAIN OF FIRE'

In Britain, we are incredibly lucky to enjoy not only a vast array of resident birdlife, but also visits from many migratory birds, some of which fly from the Arctic to overwinter in the (slightly!) milder British climate, and some of which enjoy our summers and then quite sensibly wing it out to Africa when the weather gets a bit chilly. Unfortunately for these birds however, taking the shortest route south involves a flight over France....and that could mean death.

France allows its hunters to shoot more species of birds than any other country in Europe - 64 altogether, including many songbirds such as thrushes. The European Union Bird Directive currently only allows the killing to take place in Autumn and early winter, with the season ending on the last day of January, thus allowing most migratory birds flying north in early Spring a safe passage to their breeding grounds. However, caving in to intense pressure from the powerful hunting lobby, the French Government has now sanctioned the hunting, snaring and trapping of birds for an additional month, an action which, according to R.S.P.B. estimates will cost the lives of an extra 1 million thrushes (including blackbirds and song thrushes). Other birds, such as scarce lapwings, curlews, golden plovers and redshanks will also be slaughtered in their thousands. Even the rare garganey duck, which only numbers about 300 pairs in the UK, is on French hunters' hit list. The R.S.P.B. have described the shooting as a " curtain of fire stretching from the Mediterranean to the coast of the English Channel". Of course, the fact that the French government has so blatantly ignored an E.U. directive, has led to calls by hunters in other countries to get rid of the directive altogether, so that they can share in the bloodbath.



Copies of the petition can be obtained by writing to:

R.S.P.B. Admail 975, Freepost Ang 6335, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL

For a European slant on the issue look up 'Vogelbeshermingmn Belgie',the Belgium bird society's webpage at : **http://www.surf/to/vogelbeschermingpetitie**

COURT RULES THAT HUNTING FOXES CAN BE CRUEL TO DOGS

In September of last year, Teeside Crown Court made the historic legal ruling that hunting foxes with dogs can be cruel to the dogs. As a result, two terrier men, Stuart Bandeira (35) of Templar Street, Stockton and Darren Brannigan (25) of Archibald Street, Middlesbrough were sent to prison for 60 days. The court dismissed their appeals against both sentence and conviction for a charge alleging they cruelly ill-treated a black Lakeland terrier by putting it down a hole where it met up with an unspecified wild animal'. A police spotter plane had filmed both of the men digging and filling in a large hole. Closer inspection revealed the men had been using spades, nets and dogs to interfere with the hole and did not have permission to be on the farmland. The court were told of the injuries to one of the three terriers with them - cuts and scratches to its face - were a result of ill-treatment by putting the dog 'head to head' with a wild animal such as a "fox, badger or other carnivore" in a tunnel. The decision to ban the pair from keeping animals for three years and the confiscation of the terrier was also upheld.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish President Mary McAleese declined an invite in August to present a prize at the hunt riddled Dublin Horse Show. By refusing to attend, as is the custom, she showed that she was not afraid to stand up to the hunting lobby in Ireland - Tony Blair TAKE NOTE!!
'Escape', A.H.S. Newsletter Winter, '98-'99

Four teenage boys saw more tackle than they had bargained for when they watched an instructional fishing video brought from Argos. When the film, entitled 'Fishing Made Easy', finished, the tape cut to a pornographic video involving four women and one man [*now don't all rush out and buy it! - Ed*]. One of the boys' mothers said,"The camera kept zooming in on private parts." Argos refunded the £42 price (!!) and confirmed "the presence of some unexpected footage" at the end of the film!
News of the World, 6/12/98

The Tarr Steps Hotel, Hawkridge, Near Dulverton, Somerset (Tel: 01643 851293) advertises itself as 'A Sportsman's Paradise' in its latest brochure. Its own grounds offer fishing and shooting, and staff are more than happy to arrange hunting with one local Staghounds pack, three packs of foxhounds, as well as Harriers, Minkhounds and Beagle packs.
Tarr Steps Hotel Brochure, 1999

Two lampers who cornered a fox fell to their deaths in a freak car accident in North Mayo. Intent on blasting their victim, they and another man drove the car down a slipway to an estuary, where two of them got out of the vehicle to aim their rifles. As they did so the car moved forward, sweeping them, and its driver into the estuary, which has the second strongest currents in the seas around Ireland. Paddy Doherty and Declan Sweeney were both drowned. Wesley Henry survived the incident. So, apparently, did the fox.
The Irish Times, 26/11/98

After their excellent stance on staghunting, the National Trust have taken a step backwards by lifting its nine year ban on falconry. The ban was originally introduced as it was feared public displays of falconry encouraged illegal breeding of rare hawks and falcons. New advances in DNA testing allowing birds in captivity to be distinguished from wild ones, has led to the Trust lifting the ban in areas where it didn't conflict with its other objectives (ie. nature conservation) and where falconry had been traditional.
The Daily Telegraph, November '98

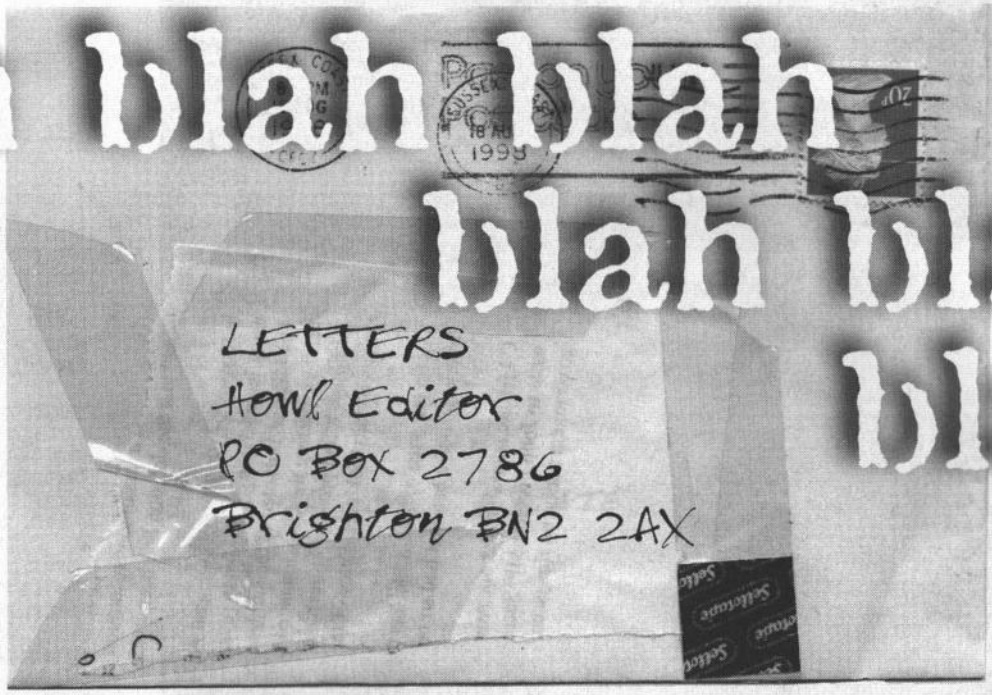
According to 'Angling Times' the three year study carried out by the by Cowx and Feltham on behalf of M.A.F.F., will show that cormorants do not pose a significant problem to fish numbers. The research, hampered by the fact that the scientists couldn't find enough birds to study in some areas, suggests that cormorant numbers have levelled off and have actually decreased by 20% in some areas, compared to last years count. The results came as a blow for 'Angling Times' who have led the campaign to have the birds' protection under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act removed so that they can be shot. The campaign is now almost certainly on the rocks.
Pisces, Winter '98/99

Cheeky sabs were ready to bare all and chain themselves to a bed inside a Glasgow branch of John Lewis to highlight the company's involvement in shooting. The protest coincided with the grand opening of the Buchanan Galleries shopping Mall. Foiled by security guards noisy protesters instead hung a banner from the roof all day. 2 were arrested and held over night.
The Mirror, 1/4/99

blah blah blah blah blah blah

PLEASE NOTE:

THE ADDRESS FOR PLYMOUTH SABS IS IN FACT PO BOX 129..... AND NOT BOX 126 AS STATED IN THE LAST ISSUE OF HOWL. OOPS!! THEY STILL HAVE COPIES OF THEIR FAB BENEFIT TAPE FOR SALE SO IF YOU WANT ONE, WRITE NOW - TO THE RIGHT ADDRESS!



A victory for free speech

Dear Supporters,

VICTORY!!!

Monday 11 January 1999 was the day when the state finally suffered the last in a long line of humiliations, as their final desperate attempt to resurrect charges against A.L.F. Press Officer Robin Webb and Green Anarchist General Editor Paul Rogers was rejected by the High Court. I will attempt to summarise the incredible lengths the Crown went to, and the complex legal proceedings that ensued, as briefly and simply as possible. It is not going to be an easy task.

Long-suffering readers of these mailouts will remember that in July 1998, Saxon Burchnall-Wood, Noel Molland and Steve Booth finally won their appeals against convictions for conspiring to incite others to cause criminal damage. Lord Justice Henry described the case against them as "fatally flawed" and refused to order a retrial.

Despite this the Crown Prosecution Service proceeded to amaze everyone - including the trial judge, Major-General Selwood - by announcing that they intended to press ahead with the case against the remaining two defendants. Adding insult to injury, the Crown continued to argue that the two had conspired with Noel, Saxon and Steve, despite the Appeal Court Order that their convictions be considered quashed.

The Court of Appeal, argued the C.P.S., hadn't really meant to acquit the three defendants, it had meant to "annul" their convictions; the trial was void and in effect had never happened. If the trial had, legally, never happened, then they couldn't have been found 'not guilty', and if they had never been found not guilty, there was nothing to stop them being named as co-conspirators with Robin and Paul!

Judge Selwood, normally utterly hostile to the defendants, listened to this argument with what can only be described as incredulity and in no uncertain terms warned the C.P.S. that they were pushing their luck. He agreed, however, to ask the Appeal Court whether they had intended to acquit or simply annul the convictions of Noel, Saxon and Steve and adjourned the trial.

Within days, the Court of Appeal looked at the case 'and announced that, as the Crown had contended, it had not intended to quash the convictions, simply to annul them. Just as it began to look as though the Crown had won its attempt to continue their case, that Robin and Paul had conspired with the other three, Robin's barrister, James Wood, saved the day with a typical stroke of genius.

If the trial of Saxon, Noel and Steve was null and void and had effectively not happened then, by definition, so were the committal hearings which had sent not only them, but Robin and Paul, for trial in the first place. And if Robin and Paul had, in effect, not been committed for trial - the judge had no right to try them!

Selwood by this time, we suspect, anxious to get rid of this continuing nightmare of the case in any way he could, agreed and dismissed the cases against Robin and Paul. In November of last year, the Gandalf Defendants Campaign finally settled down to produce its long-awaited Victory mailout. We were rudely interrupted in the middle of this task by a phone call from Robin Webb. Two minutes later the first draft of the Victory mailout was in the bin.

Not content with having wasted a phenomenal £10,000,000 pursuing the case well beyond the point where it could, have had any chance of success, the Crown had, in a final act of desperation, applied for the charges against Robin and Paul to be reinstated using a little known and rarely used procedure. They applied for a "Voluntary Bill of Indictment" in the High Court which, had it succeeded, would have enabled the pair to be tried without having been committed to trial by a magistrates court!

Finally, on January 11 of this year, the High Court put to an end, once and for all, to this attack on our basic freedoms, and refused the Crown's application.

This time we have completed the Victory mailout without interruption. The state has played its last hand and has lost. Thanks to the help and support of people like you, the horrendous consequences for free speech, freedom of thought and freedom of association which would have flowed from a conviction in this case, have been avoided.

Everyone who supported this campaign in any way can feel proud that they played a real part in that victory. On behalf of all the defendants, the G.D.C. thanks you all.

Yours sincerely
Neil Hanson
G.D.C., Po Box66, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2TR

Many thanks to the friends of

Nigel Anthony Ford
who died on 12th September 1998

for the donation made to the H.S.A.
in remembrance of
Mr Ford's strong political and environmental beliefs

A man with too much time on his hands!

Dear Howl,

Browsing through the 7th January edition of *Horse and Hound* in my local newsagent I noticed an interesting little article. The magazine were claiming that there were over 200,000 supporters watching the 300 hunts that supposedly took place on Boxing Day, with over 90% of the hunts seeing no protest whatsoever. Being an inquisitive sort of person I decided to do some mental arithmetic....

Now, 200,000 divided by 300 - hmmm... that means every hunt had an average of 666.67 supporters. Now the 0.67 might not be hard to find in bumpkin land, but over 650 supporters at each hunt.? I was at the Ashford Valley on Boxing Day and their *total* support was very low, probably 100 at the most. I have also spoken to sabs who were at the East Kent, and West Kent foxhunts and they report a similar low turn out, 150 being the highest quote. Is a pattern emerging here?

It would be interesting to hear from other sab groups about their local hunt, but lets be generous... lets say that most hunts had a maximum of 200 supporters, that makes the total number of support nationally 60 000, if we assume that 300 fox hunts were out on Boxing Day. Where were the other 140 000 supporters? Well, obviously they were at the 90% of hunts that didn't have demonstrators. That is the 270 hunts that weren't hit. Hang on a minute, only 30 hunts had demos, either by sabs, the L.A.C.S., Animal Aid and all other local or national anti-hunt groups? In Kent 3 out of the 4 hunts had both sab and L.A.C.S. presence and Kent isn't really a particularly active area. So 3 hunts hit in Kent, which leaves only 24 hunts picketed in the rest of the UK and Ireland.

I think not.

Perhaps someone should suggest that *H&H* go back to basics and learn to count. And maybe this creative accounting' goes someway to explaining a few other figures/stories put about, such as the numbers of people who would loose their jobs if hunting were to be banned, the number of horses that would be shot etc.etc.

Food for thought? No..?. OK sod it then, lets just continue sabbing the bastards!

Neil
Ashford Sabs

HUNT HAVOC



Hampshire F.H. huntsman Bob Collins; caught red-handed, red coated and red faced with hounds on railway tracks during a January '99 meet. Doh!

Pathetic polls

Dear Editor

Between the end of November and December 1998, my local newspaper, *The Chester Chronicle*, ran its own survey of whether hunting with hounds should be banned or not.

The poll finally closed in Xmas week and it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that the massive majority of people who filled in poll forms were firmly in favour of hunting, whereas the so-called anti-hunt lobby just could not be bothered to fill in the poll forms.

How can the anti-hunt lobby claim that 80% of the population are against hunting, when anti-hunt supporters can't even be bothered to get off their backsides to fill in a simple poll form run by a local newspaper, whereas the pro-hunt lobby got supporters from Shropshire and all over Cheshire and Wales, to fill in these forms. In light of this how on earth will a proper national poll succeed in banning hunting with hounds (an idea backed by the L.A.C.S. and thought up by that traitor of the Labour party, who takes more notice of Tory voters who turn up for a march in London, than he does for the Labour voters who actually voted for him) ?

Your sincerely
Bernadette Hardern
Cheshire

Leather loathing

Dear HSA letters

It seems that many vegan hunt sabs find the wearing of leather to be acceptable. The justification is often that they've bought it second hand (though it should be thought of as 3rd hand as the original 'owner' was the unfortunate animal who was killed for it among other things).

Surely the wearing of leather should be repugnant to vegans and hunt sabs? It is, after all, skin; the skin of an animal that has suffered a cruel death after a cruel life. Would these same sabs be prepared to wear second hand fur coats? - if not why not? The arguments against the wearing of fur hold true for the wearing of leather. Fur is, after all, leather with the hair still on.

Sabs who do still wear leather should seriously think about what leather actually is, acknowledge their hypocrisy and stop using leather P.D.Q.

Yours in hope
Elsa Roberts
Liverpool

Thanks to the bungling incompetence of many hunts this column is becoming a regular feature! Since the HSA does not believe in spending ridiculous amounts of cash on a news clippings service we are often only aware of these incidents after someone has sent in a local clipping or noticed something on the internet. Please continue to send in such snippets; they are not only interesting for Howl, they are also invaluable for our records and allow the Press Office to put greater pressure on the hunts.

September 1998

- A pet cat is torn apart in front of two young children by the hounds of the South Pembrokeshire FH.

October 1998

- Ten hounds from the South Pembrokeshire FH killed by a train after running onto a railway near Tenby

November 1998

- A blind cat is killed by hounds from the Wheatland FH in Shropshire
- Two hounds from the Brews of Derwent FH are killed after being hit by a lorry at Tow Law near Durham whilst out of control on a road.
- Two hounds of the Cheshire FH are killed by a train at the exact spot between Manchester and Crewe, and a year to the day after a hound from the same pack was killed in the same way.
- A hound from the York and Ainsty South FH is killed by a car near York.
- Two hounds from the South Shropshire FH killed on the railway at A ll Stretton.
- 35 hounds from the Lanarkshire and Refrewshire FH chase a fox over the busy Bieth road, forcing cars to swerve and brake to avoid them, before following it over a nearby railway line where one was killed under a passing train. One witness described the hunt as seemingly "leaving them [the hounds] to their own devices." 24 trains are delayed by over 3 hours.
- Four young foxes recovering from hospital treatment are almost killed when hounds of the Woodland Pytchley FH invade an animal sanctuary on private land.

December 1998

- A pet cat is killed by hounds in Llanbister, Powys.
- When the South Devon FH run across the busy A38, two hounds die after being hit by cars. Police consider bringing charges of failing to keep animals under control, against the hunt master Patrick Cooper who said "..it was a hound that strayed onto a road, That was all."
- Hounds from the Warwickshire FH disrupt a funeral service as they chase a fox through the grounds of a Warwick crematorium.
- The Cattistock FH lose their hounds on a railway while the huntsman is changing horses.
- An 11year old cat is killed on Boxing Day in its owner's garden in Kirkby, North Yorks. The Sinnington hunt suggest that the tabby would not have been killed if a car hadn't been parked in its way!

January 1999

- At least five hounds are killed on a railway line after being hit by the Manchester-Penzance train (after first running over a main road). The only hunt in the area at the time are the Llangibby FH. British Transport Police have opened an inquiry.
- Two hounds belonging to the Heythropp FH are killed by a train at Tackley, Oxon. They had been pursuing a fox well ahead of the huntsman.
- Hounds from the Hampshire Hunt are witnessed trespassing on rail lines near Ropley on two separate occasions [see photo]. The huntsman also rides at speed through a railway tunnel.

February 1999

- Eglinton hunt followers and hounds gallop full tilt down a bus lane in an Irvine housing estate in pursuit of a fox.
- Leyburn town council looks into banning hunts from The Shawl, nr Darlington, after a mother and two young children find their way down a public footpath blocked for over three-quarters of an hour, by members of the West Yore or Beadale hunts.
- Four Hurworth foxhounds run onto the A19 near Crathorne, which has a 70mph speed limit, and are stuck by vehicles. Three vehicles are damaged and three hounds die.
- Two riders from the Heythorp Fh trample over the recently restored grave of Winston Churchill, leaving hoof marks on the grave at Bladon, Oxford.

March 1999

- Pupils aged 7 to 11 watch in horror as a stag is cornered in a school playground by the Devon & Somerset Staghounds. From its position in an alcove by the school doors the stag manages to fend of the hounds, which are jumping and snapping at it; it is later shot after another chase. The headmaster describes it as "traumatic" for the children; in contrast, a hunt spokesperson claims that the hunt will not offer an "automatic apology when the children witnessed something that is normal in the countryside"!!

there's some people on the pitch...

...they think it's all over...

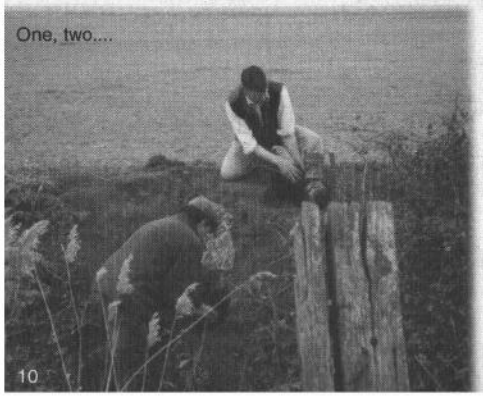
...IT IS NOW!!

It's not often that a hunt closes down, so when the West Kent FH announced that they were 'merging' with the Old Surrey and Burstow FH after 250 years of terrorising wildlife, local sabs decided to make the most of the hunt's last ever season. A West Kent sab tells the season's story...

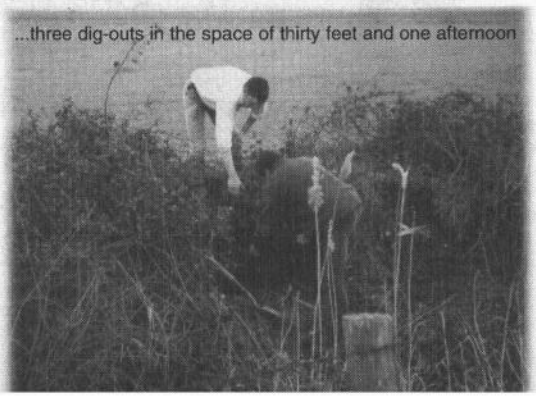
Its been some time since the West Kent FH had been regularly sabbed, so when 30 West Kent and Croydon sabs turned up at a cubbing meet in early September 1998 near Dartford, they were taken completely by surprise. The hunt were out on foot, outnumbered and outclassed, so immediately lost their whole pack to sabs.
The rest of the cubbing season progressed in a similar vein; the hunt would stay close to their kennels, and usually pack up a couple of hours after sabs made their appearance.
The opening meet of the main season saw 7 West Kent sabs out in torrential rain; however, once again the meet was held at the kennels and the hunt packed up after a couple of hours.
Two weeks later the hunt met at the Swan public house at West Peckham [*not the London one! - Ed*], and failed to come close to a chase possibly due to the efforts of 16 West Kent sabs who had pre-sprayed the surrounding area.
Sabs then managed to stop hounds on a scent 5 minutes' ride from the meet; in fact although sabs saw and sprayed over the lines of 6-8 foxes that day the hunt were unable to pick up any of them and finished the day in a foul mood with their huntsman riding into a couple of sabs.
The next fixture was a rain soaked joint meet with the Ashford Valley FH, where the hunt killed right next to the Ashford Valley's terrier van - a bit suspicious that! Undeterred, the following Saturday we were out again, accompanied by a contingent of Old Surrey and Burstow supporters and their usual threats. Even with the air of menace wafting from some of these lovely country folk, sabs still managed to stop the hounds twice with sprays and calls, and on another occasion 'gizmo-ed' the pack off another fox. The hunt packed up early after spending their last 40 minutes trying to round up their split pack.
Our next day with the hunt was spent on the Isle of Grain, and even though the hunt itself packed up at 2.30pm we were kept busy until gone 6 with dig-outs. The terrier boys, showing more wily cunning than usual (you couldn't call it 'intelligence'), decided to go for 2 foxes that had gone to ground at the same time, which left the 4 sabs out only being able to cover one.
The hunt's 3 Christmas meets passed quietly; come New Year's Eve however, we had a particularly bad day when the hunt killed twice. Their next Saturday meet was behind the kennels again, where we found ourselves defending a badger sett in which a fox had taken refuge. The terriermen were sizing up the situation when the sight of reinforcements, in the shape of 25 Brixton and Croydon sabs running up the brow of the hill towards them, made up their minds fairly sharpish and they disappeared from the scene! After this incident, even though the hunt had a large crowd of Burstow supporters to back them up, they sensibly decided to pack up at 1.45pm.
The next couple of weeks passed without much to note - lots of running around in big woods and a weekday excursion to a joint meet with the East Kent FH along with Hastings sabs. Things hotted up on the 27th of February when, after meeting near Sevenoaks, the pack went out of control; at one point half the pack were streamed out along a busy main road. Doubtless the hunt and the Countryside Alliance would have liked to have put the blame on saboteurs, but luckily we had the local press out with us that day and it was the true story that hit the local headlines.
The season had been a disaster for the West Kent, and by their second-to-last meet, they were getting desperate and tempers were running high. It took place, once again, on the dreaded Isle of Grain, and the hunt had attracted a larger field than before and more support, including the Ashford Valley's Joint Master, Matthew Knight. Unbelievably they ran a fox to ground in exactly the same ditch as on their last Grain meet. Thankfully sabs and the police arrived at the same time and made it obvious that they would not be allowed to dig as the earth was on a public footpath. Even so, the terrierman hung around so half of the group stayed at the earth while the remainder left to follow the hunt. When these sabs caught up with them, police informed us that the hunt had just killed in front of them. Twenty minutes later another fox was spotted and sabs successfully sprayed over its line so when the inept huntsman put the hounds onto it, they ran back down the line in the wrong direction! Shortly after this, we found ourselves back in that ditch where *another* fox had been run to ground. A sab was quickly in the hole, and despite outnumbering sabs 3:1 the hunt seemed reluctant to remove him. Hounds were moved off, where they quickly picked up another scent, heading back towards the sabs at the ditch in full cry, with the fox 100yrds in front. It headed straight towards a small group of riders, and the terriermen started shouting and cheering anticipating an easy kill; the animal had other ideas however, and bravely shot past the riders into the ditch. Sabs split up and sprayed its line and tried to prevent the hounds from following, all whilst being pushed and shoved around by foot and mounted followers. During the commotion, the fox ran the length of the ditch and into a group of terriermen, who turned it back again; it finally went to ground 30 yrds from the first earth. That left us with 2 potential dig-outs in one small area and an increasingly irate hunt. Eventually 2 landrovers full of police turned up and threw us sabs off the earths to allow the dig-outs to proceed but thanks to the negotiating skills of one sab, who pointed out that sabs had not caused any trouble for the whole season, the joint Master called the digs off. Not bad going - stopping 3 dig-outs and ensuring that the terriermen burst a few blood vessels.
Throughout the whole season, the West Kent FH had been scratching around for meets, often hunting behind the kennels or travelling miles to joint meets with surrounding hunts. Make no mistake; hunting is over on the western side of Kent. The kennels are closing, the hounds have been packed off to other hunts, or come to an untimely end, and the Old Surrey and Burstow will not gain anything apart from a couple of measly meets from the 'merger'...oh and another two words to add to their name.
Hopefully the West Kent have set an example for the rest of the hunts in the South East - don't be shy, who's next?.....
.....The Surrey Union perhaps??!!!"

By Shaun, West Kent sabs

If you are not already an active hunt saboteur and Shaun's account of the 1998-99 season has inspired you to give it a go, get in touch with your local sab group now. If there isn't a local groups' contacts list inserted into this copy of Howl, please leave a message on the H.S.A.'s 24hour answer-phone and one will be sent to you. Even better, leave a contact number which will be passed onto your local contact who will get back to you as soon as possible.



One, two....



...three dig-outs in the space of thirty feet and one afternoon

A report of the last ever sab of the West Kent FH.

On Saturday 20th March '99 The West Kent Foxhounds held their last ever hunt meet. According to the hunt they had folded due to the severe reduction in huntable countryside...and nothing at all to do with the 'antis.' Of course this being such a memorable occasion Hunt Saboteurs were out in force to ensure this would be a miserable day for the hunters and a safe day for local wildlife.

The day started with a hilarious show of contempt for the 300 or so, hunt scum who'd gathered from hunts across the South East of England. Sabs from the Croydon collective, Brighton, Hastings, Maidstone and Dover decided to gate-crash the hunt's party. About 50 saboteurs exploited a footpath leading..wait for it!... straight through the meet, to heckle and generally spoil the hunt's celebrations. Many hunters were heard to complain "What the bloody hell have they been allowed in for?".

During the time we were amongst the hunters' celebration we sneaked in on all the photos the pro-hunt press attempted to shoot (if you saw the following week's *H&H* you'll have noticed that the pictures weren't up to the rag's usual quality - many photos seemed strangely chopped!). The *piece de resistance* came as the hunters' tannoy crackled into life with the mournful words "Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the sad duty to welcome you to the last ever meet of the West Kent Foxhounds" - a huge cheer was heard to come from within the massed ranks of the hunters as saboteurs revelled in the moment. Whilst all this was happening the police simply looked on in awkward silence, powerless to prevent sabs from using a public footpath!

Once the hunt moved away from the meet and tried to start their bloodsport, sabs immediately stopped them by calling the hounds away from the foxes they were chasing. During the course of the day sabs prevented the certain deaths of at least two foxes by ensuring that they were in the right place at the right time to allow the beautiful creatures to escape.

Unfortunately for one of the hunt saboteurs, they were almost too successful, as one of the hunt staff in a fit of anger rode his half tonne of horse full pelt into a group of sabs. One woman sab didn't manage to jump clear in time and was taken to hospital as her arm had been broken in four places.

Despite this the day finished with not a single animal life lost. As one sab present on the day vowed: "Today was a great victory for the anti-hunt movement. Due to our constant pressure during this hunting season and many previous ones, this hunt has been forced to close down. We will, of course, continue to harass other hunters and save foxes every week until there is not one single hunt left in this country"

And then we'll really show 'em how to party!



Cheeky Croydon sabs pause briefly to record a historic moment before returning to the important business of ruining the hunt's lavish photo shoots.



A female sab lies with her arm broken in several places after being ridden into by a member of the hunt.

HUNTSMAN'S BALLS

"I may not be the world's greatest intellectual, but I do have a large amount of energy"
Sam Butler, Chairman of the Campaign for Hunting and Joint Master of the Warwickshire, Horse & Hound, 29/10/98. Obviously you wouldn't want someone with an ounce of sense to head such an organisation, would you? They might be in danger of working out that there is no justification for their 'sport'.

'I believe that if the Trust does not listen, the farmers patience is going to run out and they will end up shooting all the deer'
Brian Palmer, neighbouring tenant to National Trust land, voicing his anger over the NT ban on deer hunting in the Daily Telegraph 2/11/98. Bearing in mind that this whole article related to how the hunt ban has seen deer numbers decrease, you'd have thought that was a pretty stupid thing to say... unless, like Brian, and indeed Sam before him, you realise that these kind of people don't actually think at all.

"If the Trust do not see sense I can see civil war breaking out. I can see some of the trust's properties going up in smoke"
Another farmer as quoted in the above Telegraph article - although funnily enough s/he didn't want to be named. All HOWL can say is come on people, make some new threats! We've heard this all before - bringing London to a standstill with horseboxes, forests burning, water supplies being poisoned,..... ....blah, blah, blah... strange what the supposedly staunchly law-abiding will dream up, isn't it!

"I defy Mr Sheehan a more hare friendly place than Altcar"
Robert Tucker, Ytene MH, Dorset Evening Echo. Hummm...., and Howl defies Mr Tucker to find a more huntsman-friendly place than the H.S.A. AGM.

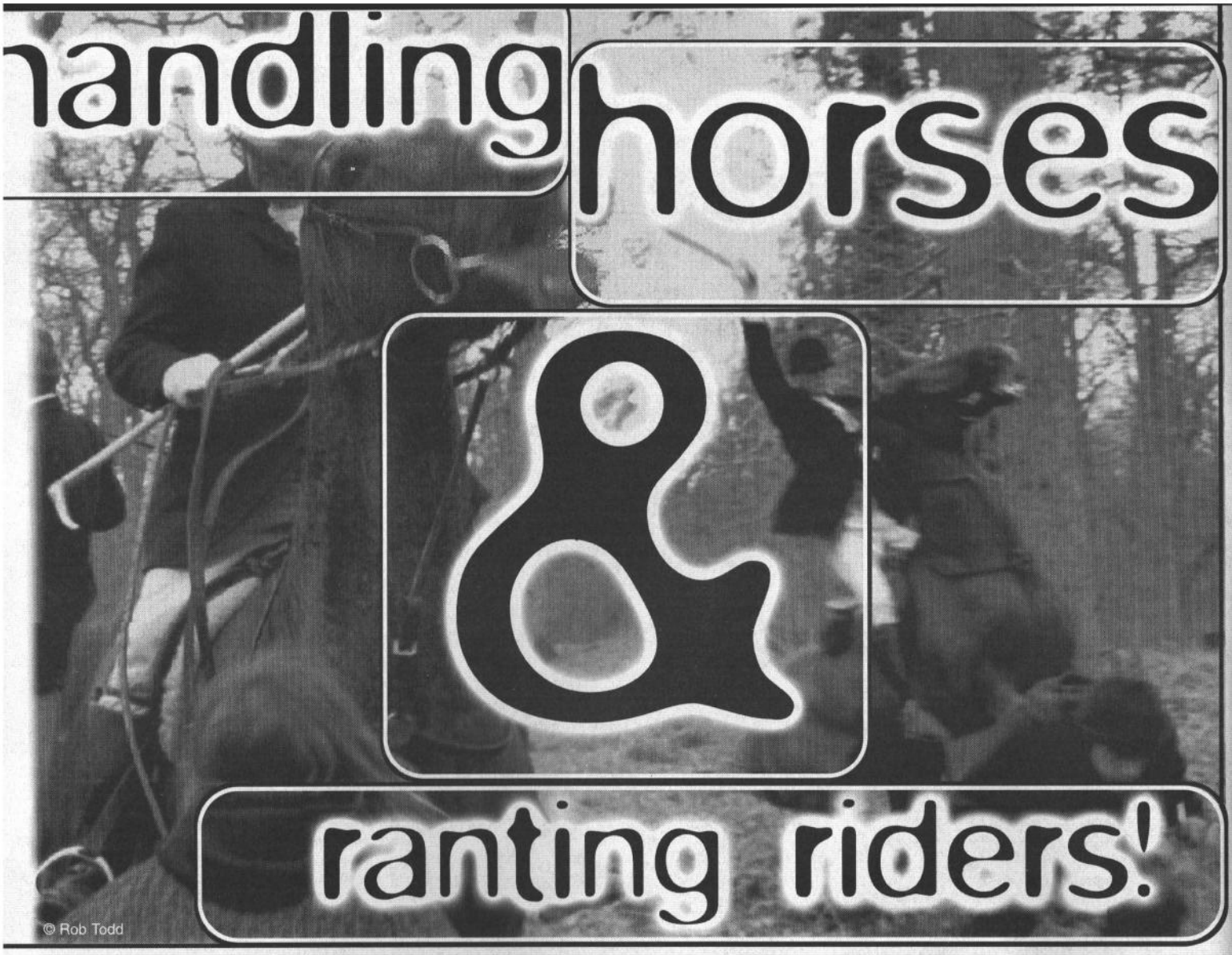
"When you're out there on a chilly day with a bellyful of sloe gin and you blow a high bird clean out of the air with a single shot, it awakens the hunter-gatherer that lurks in all men."
'Top Gear' Presenter Jeremy Clarkson, Sunday Times 10/1/99, freely admitting to being drunk in charge of a firearm. Don't know about the rest of you girls, but there's something about the sight of the repulsive Mr Clarkson that awakens the Loretta Bobbit in me!

"I'm not having anybody on my land in any event...I have been picked on by these disgusting people who have nothing better to do. They are people who don't have any stake in society. They are not walking in the countryside, they are hell bent on trespassing on private property."
No, not sabs...it's those well known anarchists which go by the name of....RAMBLERS!!! Quote by Nicholas van Hoogstraten who is currently in dispute with the Ramblers Association over a footpath through his estate. The Daily Telegraph, November 1999

"The ramblers are just a bunch of the dirty-mac brigade. The great unwashed... Would you have a lot of herberts in your garden?"
'Nicky Van' again. As recalled in the Weekend Guardian 19/12/98 - which also featured a full page ad by the Ramblers Assoc stating their aim to fight the case to the end - go ramblers, go ramblers! [OK, so he's not talking about sabs or hunting, but he's a rabid landowner just the same! -Ed]

"The anti-hunt movement has campaigned peacefully for decade after decade.....short of turning to terrorism, there is only one thing left for us to try. We have to show Tony Blair that breaking promises costs votes."
John Bryant, former Chief Officer of L.A.C.S. and a founding member of P.O.W.A.. (Protect Our Wild Animals), P.O.W.A. Newsletter. Right, so sabbing just doesn't come into the equation then, John. Unless, of course, sabbing is the 'terrorism' you mention; after all, as you've said before, sabs are just a "bunch of skinheads who pull people off their horses." Protect our wild animals? Sabs have been doing it for 35 years!

handling horses & ranting riders!



© Rob Todd

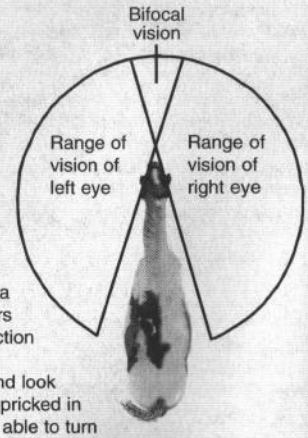
For many people one of the most intimidating aspects of sabotaging a hunt for the first time is not the threats from terriermen or the attitude of the police, but the presence of large numbers of one of our largest domesticated animals - the horse. Its not surprising; the average horse used for hunting will be large, spirited and ridden by someone who hates your guts! However despite their size; there is very little to fear from the horse itself, providing you know the warning signs and can act accordingly.
The rider however, may be another matter...

What is a horse?

Yep, sounds stupid, but before I start on how to behave around horses, it's important to understand what they are, and how their basic instincts and training will lead them to react.
Horses are animals that rely on the presence and watchfulness of other horses (their herd) and their own speed to escape predators. Thus the horse is, by nature, highly strung, sensitive and quick to react to stimuli around it. Due to its herding instincts it is also effected by the temperament of others surrounding it - whether people or other horses - but these same instincts also mean it is a highly sociable animal that enjoys, and feels secure in, the company of others. They are generally willing to please, but it can be a struggle to make them understand what is wanted from them. It is very rare indeed to find a horse that deliberately tries to hurt people, and it would be highly unlikely that anyone would try to take such an animal into the hunting field, where it would be a threat to others. However, it should be noted that a horse does not understand its own strength and size and it is this, coupled with its highly strung temperament, and the attitude of its rider that makes them potentially dangerous in sabbing situations. However, the basic instinct of a horse when rattled is 'flight not fight'. When over-wrought it is far more likely to put itself in danger by panicking and taking to its heels than attack a person.

That said, a horse that is being ridden will not act exactly to type, due to the fact that it may be given messages from its rider to act contrary to its instincts. For instance, a horse will not naturally run at people and knock them down, but if that is what its rider is telling it to do, then it may do so. A rider controls the horse by using several different 'aids'. The most obvious are the reins which connect the rider to the horses head, via the bit and the bridle (more on these later). In addition, the rider will use his or her legs, voice and weight in the saddle to control the horse. 'Artificial' aids, such as crops, spurs and martingales (a strap that connects the bridle to the saddle under the horse's neck) are also used. Generally speaking the worse a rider is, the more artificial aids they will use.

A horses senses



A horses' eyes are on the side of its head and work independently of each other, giving it excellent peripheral vision with only a very limited area of bifocal vision in front of its nose. However, as can be seen by the illustration, there is also a 'blind spot' directly behind the horse. Since this is where its powerful hind legs are situated this is also the most dangerous area of a horse. In addition, a horse can move its ears independently of each other, to pick up the direction of a sound. When a horse hears a sound that interests/worries it, it will naturally lift its head and look towards the source of the sound with both ears pricked in its direction. Since the ridden horse may not be able to turn its head, it may become nervous of such sounds, particularly if the source is out of range of vision. Horses also have an acute sense of touch all over their bodies. If you touch it with out warning it will be startled.

A WORD OF WARNING

Apart from situations where you genuinely feel that your life is threatened, you should never deliberately frighten a horse
A frightened horse may take flight, and is liable to injure itself.

HORSES WITH BROKEN LEGS ARE ALWAYS SHOT

Anyone who deliberately puts a horse in danger when not really threatened themselves, has no place in a sab group.

General behaviour around horses

Due to the nature of the horse it is important when around them to approach them in a quiet, gentle, yet controlled and confident manner, which the horse will pick up on and feel at ease with. Do not shout and scream around horses or make sudden movements or act aggressively; this will unnerve the horse, making it more of a threat. However do not be tempted to be absolutely silent around horses. If a horse does not hear you approaching and you are in its 'blind spot', your sudden appearance will startle it (and may lead to a hefty kick). The best way to approach a horse, particularly from the rear is to appeal to as many of its senses as possible.

Move slightly to one side of the horse as you approach it from behind (no smutty jokes, please), so that the horse will be able to see you as soon as possible. Your heavy boots struggling through the grass will probably alert it to your presence, but if in doubt speak to someone in a normal voice or even to the the horse itself, to confirm your position. As you come up to the horses rear legs, do not sheer away. This may unnerve the horse and actually puts you in a more dangerous position as far as a kick is concerned. If a horse does kick with its hind legs it is better for you to be very close to the horse rather than a few feet away. This is because if a horse kicks someone near to it, it will not have had time to get real momentum and power into the kick; plus it will only hit you in the shins (very painful all the same). However, if a horse kicks out at something a few feet away from its body, the full power of the kick will hit you and possibly in a more valuable (!) area of your body. If a very spooked horse actually chooses to buck (kick out with both rear feet while keeping its head and forelegs down) when you're behind it at that distance, then you may even find yourself with serious head injuries or worse.

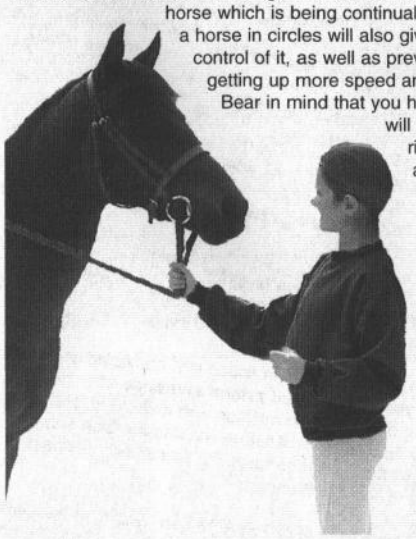
As you come level with the horse's rear flank, you could also lay your whole hand, gently but firmly, on the horse's side. This will give the horse your exact position and reassure it. (Horses are not usually as spooked by people passing them head-on. This may because once you have passed its head without threatening it, it does not consider you a danger).

TOP TIP:
A horse with a **RED** ribbon tied around the base of its tail is liable to kick. Always avoid the back end of these animals whenever possible.

Taking control

Much of the control a rider has over his horse comes from the rider's grip on the reins which in turn are connected to both ends of a 'bit' (a metal bar) in the horse's mouth. A rider gives the horse the signal to turn, stop and move on by varying the pressure on the bit via the reins; pressure on the left or right rein will indicate that the rider wants the horse to turn in that direction, pressure on both, plus a shifting of weight in the saddle will tell a horse to slow down or stop completely. In many of the threatening situations described, the best method of taking control of a horse is to intercept the messages coming from the rider's hands, by taking hold of the reins yourself (see picture). If you grasp both the reins firmly, just under the horses mouth, and then loosen the pressure on the bit by moving your hand slightly forwards, the rider will then be tugging at your hands rather than at the horse's mouth. As you hold the reins move in front of the horses head and slightly to one side. If the horse is freaked (a good indication is that you will be able to see the white's of its eyes), or tossing its head etc. hold on to the reins firmly and talk to the animal in a soft but confident voice.

Using your grip on the reins to turn the horses head one way or another, will stop the horse from moving forward, as horses will always try to travel in the direction its head is facing. This can be invaluable in stopping a horse which is being continually ridden at you. Turning a horse in circles will also give you more time to get control of it, as well as preventing the animal getting up more speed and momentum.



Bear in mind that you holding on to the reins will *really* piss off many riders. However, if you are near their horses head, they are unlikely to try to hit you with whips etc. and they will find it very hard to continue to use the horse as a weapon. Of course, they may decide to dismount and deal with you face-to-face; in that case, the danger from the horse has been eradicated.

As for the rider.....

NOTE: Obviously, responsibility for the horse is ultimately that of the rider, but given that many hunt riders don't give a damn about their horses safety, in many of the following situations it may be up to you to ensure that horses, as well as you, are as safe as possible.

Dangerous situations

General intimidation
You're at a gate and, although the horses are only milling around the riders are deliberately moving the horses round to face you and push you around. The horses seem calm but you feel threatened. Here the best tactic is to move out of the way and ignore them; to be honest its not worth doing anything in this situation as it will probably only annoy the hunters and escalate the situation. Just carry on sabbing.

Getting squashed
You're on the side of a track and a rider deliberately brings his horse alongside you and tries to manœuvre you into a ditch/squash you into a hedge. Here it's important to understand that the horse doesn't realise you have a problem with this - so let it know! Put (not slap) both hands onto the horses body (its shoulder if possible) and push it back - you will not hurt it. You will have to be quite firm about this so the horse gets the message that you do not like what it is doing (the same goes if a horse accidentally rests it weight on your foot - just push it off!). If the rider continues with this behaviour, just take hold of the reins, and dip under the horses head so that you are away from the hedge/fence/ditch, and then let go of the reins. Don't worry about the horse biting you. Most horses don't bite, and if you have hold of the reins in the correct way it will be very difficult for it to do so anyhow.

Being Whipped
A whipper-in is not happy that you've just blown a horn right next to her, so she's ridden you into a corner and is attempting to beat you with her whip. This is a situation when other sabs are handy. You should take hold of the reins, which will prevent the horse from pushing you anywhere further, and in your position near its head the whip cannot reach you without hitting the horse first. While you have control of the horse, other sabs can explain to her the errors of her ways (ahem).

Rearing
Thanks to you, the hunt haven't killed and now the Master's really annoyed. He's riding at sabs on a road and his frightened horse is rearing up. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION. The full weight of a horse hitting you in this way will break bones - at least. If possible move out of the way - but if not it's best to try and take control of the situation *before* the horse starts to rear, by taking hold of the reins and trying to calm it down. If it still attempts to rear try to keep constant pressure on the bit whilst keeping your hand forward. It is important to keep as calm as possible. In any situation where a horse is rearing around people with no escape route, grabbing the reins between the horse and rider is possibly the only chance you have of calming the animal down (once a horse starts to rear, the rider also begins to lose control). Calming the animal is paramount; if you further frighten the horse at this point it will become an even greater risk so do not shout or scream.

Being Ridden down
Its been a successful day for sabs, but the hunt still want blood - yours! In an open field riders are continually galloping their horses at sabs in an attempt to knock them over. This is another VERY serious situation and the only one that may justify unnerving the horse to escape injury. A horse will 'shy' away from things that seem out of place to it and dislike confrontation (highly trained police horses are an exception). Turn to face the oncoming assault, shout and wave your arms or something like a white handkerchief. *HOWEVER*, BEAR IN MIND THAT HORSES MAY INJURE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY SHY AWAY FROM THINGS. DO NOT CAUSE IT TO DO SO UNLESS YOU FEEL IN REAL DANGER! *Never* deliberately frighten a horse in any other situation. Remember, the horse is not deliberately running at you (or chasing you), the *rider* is. As far as the horse is concerned, its rider has given it instructions to travel in a certain direction; there just happens to be a human in the way! (By-the-way, do not believe the myth that if you lie down in front of a horse, it won't step on you...it probably will!)

Loose horses
Occasionally, sabs may come across a loose horse that has lost its rider. If it is on a road some sabs should try to stop traffic coming from both directions, whilst others try to catch it (if there are members of the hunt around let them try to catch it). If however, only sabs are present the best way to catch a horse is for one person to approach it from the front, although slightly to one side, talking quietly and reassuringly to it. This is also when a packet of mints (not extra-strong ones!) comes in handy. Place some on your outstretched palm keeping your fingers together. It may take some time for the horse to come to investigate but persevere. As the horse is taking the mints, take hold of the reins in the usual manner, and if in immediate danger, lead it to safety. If not, first take the reins from around its neck to prevent them dangling down and tripping the horse up. To do this hold both the reins under the horse's chin with one hand, whilst bringing the rest of the reins up its neck and over its ears with the other. Once the reins are over its head, stand on the left side of the horse with your right hand holding the reins underneath its chin, and the left holding the slack, preventing them from dragging on the ground where they could trip up you or the horse. If leading a horse on a road travel in the same direction as the traffic, putting yourself between the the two. The best idea is to try to return the horse to the main body of the hunt. After all, it is more their responsibility than yours. (If the horse seems injured in any way, only move it to get it out of danger and stay with it while someone else gets help.) Try not to let it feed, as some plants are poisonous to horses (eg. yew, privet and ragwort).

And one last thing. Don't decide that just because you once had a couple of lessons, or sat on a donkey at Weston-Super-Mare, you will be able ride the horse to safety. There is a world of difference between a riding school hack and a horse bred for hunting. You will be putting yourself *and the horse* in even greater danger. Even if you are an expert rider, its doubtful you'll have a hard riding hat to hand, and riding an unknown horse in open country without one, is at best, foolhardy.

This article has been written by the Editor in a personal capacity, and does not constitute H.S.A. policy.

Thanks to Paula for her help.

1979 1999 two decades

When I started collating the research for this article, my intention was to make it slightly light-hearted, and treat the subject flippantly. However, the more I thought about it, and the more information I received, the less I was able to do so. After all, two people have *died* due to the actions of huntsmen, and countless others have been seriously injured. Hunt violence is no joke. The following cases are actual convictions of hunt supporters - you could multiply the number of these by 50 and still get nowhere the true number of incidents of violence against hunt protesters. This article is also a damning indictment of the legal system. Even though many of the hunt supporters listed were found guilty of violent offences, only a few have been jailed. In what other section of society would someone get a community service order after attacking, and wounding, several people with a a scythe?

1979 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

IAN RANDELL, the son of the Badworth FH's huntsman, was convicted of **Actual Bodily Harm** to a Sheffield sab.

ROBIN FOYD, LENNOX FOYD, KENNETH LUXTON and IRENE LUXTON were each fined £100 for **Affray** after they attacked a L.A.C.S. monitor who was trying to film a kill.

1980 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Supporter of the Enfield Chase FH, GEORGE ADAIR convicted of **Criminal Damage** to a sab vehicle and ordered to pay a £100 fine and £60 costs. On a charge of **Assault** on sabs the jury were unable to come to a unanimous decision so Judge Hickman decided for them, finding ADAIR Not Guilty despite the evidence of six sab witnesses, a detective constable, a sergeant, an inspector *and* a superintendent regarding his alleged violent behaviour. To cap it all the Judge ordered all the sab witnesses to return the next week where he bound them all over to keep the peace for a year - refusing them permission to offer any defence!! (Judge Hickman refused to comment on the nature of his own recreational pursuits!)

MARTIN PHILIPS', "sympathies" towards the hunt were so inflamed by the sight of two H.S.A. sweatshirts, that he attacked the people inside them, leaving one requiring stitches to his face. PHILIPS was fined £325, and ordered to pay £25 to each of of his victims, as well as £19 damages for breaking a pair of spectacles.



1981 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

MAURICE BELL, Master of the Wensleydale FH convicted of **Assault** and **Actual Bodily Harm** on two saboteurs, one of which he knocked unconscious and needing stitches. A female sab was also dragged over a barbed wire covered wall. BELL was fined a total of £150.

ANDREW SMITH, a senior civil servant with the Dept. of Agriculture, his daughter LORNA and son DEREK, all members of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH (now defunct due to sab pressure), along with ANDREW CROWE and MALCOLM DICK, were all convicted of charges of **Breach of the Peace** and **Assault**. Each of the five was fined £400. At a failed appeal, Lord Wheatly deplored the way the hunt members had acted as 'self-appointed vigilantes'

Courser KENNETH ALSOP is bound over for a year after a sab was assaulted at the National hare coursing event at Swaffam.

1984 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Supporters of the Puckeridge FH, RONALD EDWARDS and his son STEVEN, bound over for a year by the sum of £200 after an incident in which a sab was beaten unconscious. Another hunt heavy was also fined £100 with £303.41 costs and compensation for damage caused to a saboteurs car, when he crushed it with his own.

WILLIAM BOLTON, PAUL HAWKES and DAVID LYNNE, supporters of the Tyndale FH, all bound over to keep the peace for 2 years in the sum of £200, after a vicious and unprovoked attack on a Tynside sab. BOLTON also admitted a further charge of **Criminal Damage** for which he was fined £50 with £24.41 compensation.

ROGER HOWARTH, a whipper-in for the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire FH found guilty of damaging a CB radio belonging to Edinburgh sabs. He was ordered to pay the group the princely sum of £10 for a new one.

Albrighton FH huntsman, NIGEL COX, (in action left) convicted of firearms offences and given a **3 year suspended prison sentence** after he blew a hole in the radiator of an occupied sab minibus with a shotgun. He was also given a conditional discharge for **Assault** (he had struck a sab with the gun) and **Criminal Damage** to a camera. No damages were paid to sabs after police 'forgot' to ask for them!

South Dorset kennelman NICHOLAS STEVENS and two of his henchmen all bound over to keep the peace after an incident when 3 sabs were cornered in a field and attacked.

PAUL CONNELLY attacked a sab with a pick-axe handle, beating him [illegible] on the ground. Fined £500 for **Assault**.

# of hunt violence



1990 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant
Complainant
Prosecutor

THOMAS SMITH and JEFFERY COOK, supporters of the Bicester & Whaddon Chase FH bound over for 1 year for Breach of the Peace after an incident which left the back window of a sab's car completely smashed. The prosecution dropped charges of **Criminal Damage** and **Section 4** after a mysterious 30 minute adjournment of the court...

ROBERT ROUS, Master of Hounds and DAVID TROTMAN, kennel huntsman of the Waveney Harriers both bound over to keep the peace after an incident when a hunt saboteur had to be taken to hospital following repeated lashing from a riding crop. The C.P.S. attempted to drop the case after medical evidence was 'lost', and witnesses weren't called....

DENIS LOUGH-SCOTT, a Heythrop FH supporter fined £50 for **Actual Bodily Harm** on a hunt protester.

NEIL COLEMAN, first whip and kennel hand of the Cottesmore FH, fined £300 and £10 cost after knocking an old lady off her bike, breaking bones and failing to stop, whilst driving the hunt fleshwagon back from an evening down the pub.

By Order of the Court







Hunt saboteur, Mike Hill, was killed on the 9th of February 1991 at a meet of the Cheshire Beagles. Towards the end of the day's hunting, with no kill under his belt, the huntsman boxed up his hounds in a small blue trailer being towed by an open-top pick-up truck. The kennel huntsman, ALAN SUMMERSGILL, with another man, jumped into the pick-up and, on impulse, three sabs who were nearby, jumped onto the back of it to prevent them driving the pack to another location to continue hunting. Summersgill drove off at high speeds down winding country roads for 5 miles with the terrified sabs clinging onto the back. It is thought that Mike, jumped from the pick-up as it slowed to take a bend. He failed to clear the truck properly, and was caught between the truck and the trailer, which crushed him. Mike died where he lay on the road.

Despite the thud, and the screams of the other sabs, Summersgill continued driving for a further mile. The truck only came to a halt when one of the sabs smashed the rear window of the cab. The sab was hit with a whip as he tried to stop the truck. Once it had stopped one sab ran back to Mike's prone body while the other ran to a nearby house to called for an ambulance. Summersgill drove off. He later handed himself in at a police station. No charges were brought against him and in a travesty of justice, a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was brought at the inquest. Summersgill is still hunting hares.







1991 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant
Complainant
Prosecutor

EDWARD VICKERY, of the Quantock Staghounds, convicted of **Assault** after riding down and attacking a saboteur. Fined £600

DUNCAN BRANCH, a subscriber to the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH found guilty of attacking 2 saboteurs with his fists and a riding crop. Fined £400 with £250 costs and was ordered to pay £50 compensation to each of his victims.

MARK EVANS, whipper-in to the Hampshire Hunt, loses a private prosecution brought by a saboteur he had beaten with his whip. Found guilty of **Assault**.

Bloodsports fanatic JIM NEWBURY STREET jailed for nine months after planting a bomb under his own landrover in an attempt to discredit sabs.

FRANICIS MOMBER, the former master of the Hampshire Hunt, given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £175 compensation for smashing the windows on three sides of a saboteur's vehicle. Flying glass cut the drivers hand and another occupant's mouth.

JUSTIN ELLIS, MATTHEW JONES and CHARLES PEACH, all supporters of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH, found guilty of **Affray** after Ellis rammed the back of a sab landrover, and Jones and Peach attacked it, breaking several windows. Ellis was fined £400 and banned from driving, while the others were each fined £250.

Holderness FH's huntsman, WILLIAM DEAKIN, convicted of **Criminal Damage** to a sab van and given a condition discharge.

GARY WHELBRAND, an Albrighton FH supporter, found guilty of fracturing a saboteur's jaw in two places and perforating his eardrum, after Whelbrand jumped the sab from behind, dragging him to the ground in an unprovoked attack. He was convicted of **ABH**, and was fined £250 with costs and £75 compensation.

Atherstone FH supporter convicted of **Assault** and fined £200, with £138 costs and £60 compensation.

Vale of White Horse FH whipper-in, MATTHEW CALCOT was ordered to pay £130 compensation and was bound over for a year for the sum of £100 after the windscreen of Oxford H.S.A.'s van was smashed.

The South and West Wilts. FH's kennelman sacked after being convicted of **Section 4** of the Public Order Act. He had violently rocked a sab's car with people inside. He was also convicted of **Drink Driving** at the time.

STEPHEN THAYNE, whipper-in to the Chiddingfold FH, convicted of **Assault and Battery** after riding down a group of saboteurs. Given one years conditional discharge and ordered to pay £170 costs.

New Forest Terrierman, KEITH COLBERT and hunt supporter ADRIAN BUNGAY, both given conditional discharges after a hunt saboteur was attacked during a meet of the hunt. At the time of writing Colbert is wanted by police for an alleged racial attack on a mixed- race hunt monitor.

3 hunt thugs convicted of **Affray** and **Reckless Driving** after they had chased sabs around fields before attacking them.

NIGEL TREVITHICK-WOOD, husband of a Old Surrey and Burstow FH Joint Master, received a 6 month suspended sentence for punching a sab in the face at a cubbing meet. In a related incident 1st whipper-in (*now huntsman*) MARK BYCROFT was also found guilty of **Assault** and ordered to do Community Service.

KIETH NOBBS, New Forest FH terrierman and NICK STEVENS, South Dorset FH's kennelman, both fined £200 for **Criminal Damage** to a sab vehicle. The car, with sabs inside it, had been overturned at a meet of the South Dorset FH.

1992 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

CLIFFARD LARTER, a gamekeeper, found guilty of **Assault** on a Notts sab and causing **ABH**. The sab's nose was broken and more serious injury was only prevented by the intervention of two other saboteurs. Fined £200 and £75 costs.

JOHN FUNNELL, Master of the Surrey Union FH found guilty of **ABH** on Brixton saboteur. The sab needed stitches to a serious head wound and was left scarred for life after Funnell rode his horse over him *twice*. He was given a 2 month prison sentence, suspended for 2 years.

KENNETH BANKS, foot follower of the Old Surrey and Burstow FH received a 12 month suspended sentence for punching a saboteur in the groin.

FRANCIS MOMBER(again) found guilty of **Criminal Damage** to a Portsmouth sab Landrover. He was given a 1 year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £500 costs and £175 compensation.

2 followers of the South Dorset FH convicted of **Criminal Damage** after over-turning a saboteur's car - with sabs inside it! They were ordered to pay compensation to the car's owner

Hunt supporters ADRAIN BUNGAY and KIETH CORBETT, both given conditional discharges for 1 year after an attack on two Southampton saboteurs. Both men had to pay costs and compensation to their victims.

Quorn FH employee TIMOTHY TAYLOR found guilty of possessing an unlicensed shotgun. Fined £100 with £37 costs.

Pro-hunt farmer, MARK FULLER, attacked an Anglia TV reporter out with local saboteurs, at a cubbing meet of the West Norfolk FH. After assaulting the reporter, FULLER proceeded to destroy two video camera and smashed a van's windscreen. He was convicted of **Affray** and 3 counts of **Criminal Damage**. He was ordered to pay £1050 in fines, £1463 in compensation and £150 costs - a total of £2663.

RICHARD and THOMAS CHESHIRE, both hunt marshals, found guilty of **Affray** and **Assault** causing **Actual Bodily Harm** after they attacked a car containing observers, smashing the windscreen before overturning the vehicle down an embankment. Two of the passengers were repeatedly punched and an attempt was made to drag one man through the broken windscreen. They were fined a total of £2049, including £100 towards the repair of a damaged video camera.

RICHARD CHESHIRE, (again) and Biscester & Whadden Chase FH kennelman, MICHAEL SMITH both sent to **prison for 2 months** after a sab was pushed in front of a speeding quad bike. The case was successful because for the first time, sabs had video footage of the incident.

By Order of the Court

Clerk to the Justices







1993 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

WILLIAM HOWELLS, Forestry Commission worker and supporter of the New Forest Buckhounds found guilty of smashing a video camera belonging to the New Forest Animal Protection Group. (He actually twisted the camera in his bare hands until the casing snapped!) Ordered to pay £443 compensation and given a 12 month conditional discharge.

38-year-old KENNETH MANSBRIDGE, a supporter of the Hursley Hambledon Foxhunt, convicted of **Unlawful Wounding** on a Green Party researcher, who needed hospital treatment for serious head wounds after being kicked and beaten by a group of hunt followers 1991. MANSBRIDGE admitted kicking the victim in the groin and punching him to the ground. (On the same day, another protester was beaten around the head with a spade, and left needing 10 stitches and a 6 and a half months pregnant woman was hit on the head with half a brick, needing 4 stitches). Mansbridge was sentenced to 140 hours community service and ordered to pay costs of £150.

JOHN STRIDE, a rider with the New Forest Buckhounds, found guilty of **Assault** on a saboteur (with his whip). Also convicted on a related charge of **Criminal Damage**. Fined £25 for the assault with a further £25 for damaging a map.

CHRISTOPHER R G NICHOL, hired Steward, admitted **Assault** on a female Pickering hunt sab, who suffered cuts and bruises. Fined £370 after admitting in court that he "lost his temper".

EDWARD LYCETT-GREEN MFH of the Portman FH, was given a 12 month conditional discharge for **Criminal Damage**. Originally 5 hunt followers including LYCETT-GREEN were charged with various charges of **Affray**, **Violent Disorder**, **Assault** and **Theft** after an incident when a blocked-in sab landrover had its windows smashed, a camera was smashed and stolen and the occupants, including a local reporter, were attacked. Unbelievably, at the trial the CPS refused to offer any evidence for the Affray and Violent Disorder charges and only LYCETT-GREEN was convicted.

PATRICA HARRIS, a rider with the Portman FH, convicted of **Criminal Damage** to sab property and given a conditional discharge.

ROGER WAKEFIELD, Essex & Farmers Union terrierman, given 160 hours community service after being found guilty of **Violent Disorder** and **Affray** against saboteurs. Hunt supporter, BRYN CHITTENDEN was also convicted of the same offences and given 120 hours community service.

1994 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

A supporter of the Cumberland FH attacked a photographer with a spade handle, after the photographer took the balaclava-wearing thug's picture. He was fined £200 for **Assault**.

The chairman of the Essex FH and two of his hired stewards paid a total of £1053 in damages to three L.A.C.S. officials, after the stewards had forcibly removed them from land. The L.A.C.S. people were pushed around and threatened by the hired thugs, whom PAUL DIXEY, Chairman of the hunt, was thought to have organised.

PAUL MARTIN attacked a sab repeatedly at a joint meet of the South Dorset FH and the Cattistock FH. He pleaded guilty to **ABH** and was only given a **Conditional Discharge**, as no medical evidence was given. During the trail he claimed to have been acting as a steward for MFH the Hon. Charlotte Morrison. More on Mr Martin later.....

ANDREW PEARCE head-butted the camcorder being used by a L.A.C.S. monitor because he mistook him for a sab. The monitor receives bruises and a swollen lip as a result. PEARCE was convicted of **Assault** and given a 2 year conditional discharge.

Bramham Moor FH supporter RAYMOND WALKER attacked saboteurs with a scythe, leaving two with head wounds, and a van's windows smashed. He was convicted of **Affray** along with two other hunt supporters MR & MRS WINSTANLEY, and **Criminal Damage**. All three were given community service orders.

On the 3rd of April 1993, Tom Worby, a 15 year old saboteur attending his first foxhunt protest, was crushed under the wheels of the Cambridgeshire FH's hound van in an incident all too reminiscent of the killing of Mike Hill two and a half years before.
After a successful days sabbing, the hunt had boxed up and sabs were making their way back to the meet down a narrow lane. As the hound van came up behind them, revving its engine, sabs scrambled for the roadside; however Tom's jacket became snagged in the vehicles wing mirror and he was dragged some distance before he managed to gain a foothold on the van's running board. Although he banged on the window the van kept going, and when Tom finally lost his grip, he fell onto the road and under the truck's wheels. His head was crushed by the rear wheels of the vehicle and he died shortly afterwards.
No action was taken against the driver of the hound van, 53 year old huntsman Alan Ball.







1995 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

Leading supporter of the Surrey Union FH, NOEL CAHILL, arrested in November after an attack on saboteurs left one hospitalised. Police searching his home found a death threat ready to be posted to the HSA Press Officer

ANTHONY KIRKHAM, supporter of the Cheshire FH, received a **12 month prison sentence** (suspended on appeal) for attacking a lone female sab who had gone to get help after the sab van had been attacked by hunt heavies. When Kirkham caught up with her, he beat and kicked her to the ground. More on him later...

Amateur Whip of the New Forest FH, JOHN MITCHELL found guilty of **Careless Driving** after sandwiching a Southampton saboteur between a van and a landrover, running over the sab's foot and hitting him with the wing mirror. A police officer witnessed the incident. Fined £180 and £150 costs and 7 penalty points on his licence.

JOHN EDWARD WEDMORE, terrierman for the Mendip Farmers FH found guilty of 3 counts of **Assault** after he launched an attack on three L.A.C.S. monitors. (Unbelievably, a L.A.C.S. monitor's tabard was shown to the court to prove that the monitors could not have been mistaken for hunt saboteurs - implying that WEDMORE might have had justification for attacking sabs!)

1996 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

Surrey Union FH supporter, GARY JOHN MOORE, pleaded guilty to to charges of **Common Assault** and **Affray** after an unprovoked attack on local saboteurs outside a pub. At the time of his arrest police had to drag him off his victim, who had already been beaten to the ground. Even while he was restrained MOORE attempted to kick the saboteur in the head. He was fined £500

DAVID WOOLLEY, Joint Master of the Cheshire FH, cautioned after making a 2am phone call to the NW Regional Rep. of the L.A.C.S.. He was said to have threatened "I'm going to kill you, Bitch!"

3 supporters of the Vale of Clettwr FH bound over to the keep the peace for a year after an incident when a sab van was surrounded and the driver dragged out and held upside down. Terrierman EMYR DAVIES and supporters JOHN GALMORE JONES AND JOHN GERAINT OWENS denied **Violent Disorder** and the **Theft** of 6 items of sab equipment.

By Order of the Court







1997 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

DEAN JOHN RICHARDS a supporter of the Tiverton Staghounds, pleaded guilty to two counts of **Assault** against a hunt monitors and a L.A.C.S. sanctuary manager. He hit both around the face before damaging a camera. He was Fined £50 for each assault plus £25 compensation to each victim and £69 costs.

A Master of the Cotswold Vale Farmers FH **cautioned** by police after an indecent assault was made on a young female saboteur.

STEPHEN BARNES, a rider with the South Notts FH, found to have deliberately ridden over a female saboteur, breaking her elbow and causing severe bruising, in a civil case brought by the saboteur. She was awarded £2500 compensation. BARNES was apparently '**banned**' from riding with hunt after the incident in 1993.

Notorious terrierman, ADRIAN THOMPSON,was found Not Guilty of being involved in an attack on Dorset H.S.A.'s van while they were attending a meet of the Crawley & Horsham FH. Two sabs had been subjected to a furious assault and the van had been pushed into a ditch and its windows smashed. During the trail Thompson seemed to lay the blame firmly on a mysterious acquaintance 'Wayne' who has never been traced.



1998 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

Pro-hunt farmer, ROBERT VENNER, ordered to pay £4000 compensation to the L.A.C.S. after he broke an awning and smashed a windscreen at the Leagues stand at the '97 Devon show.

Member of the Vale of Alyesbury FH, GEORGINA BLUNDELL, **cautioned** by police after a hunt monitor was ridden into by BLUNDELL's horse.

CLIVE D WENHAM, joint master of the Bolbroke Beagles convicted of **Assault** and **Abusive Behaviour** on a 63 year old woman, when she encountered the beagles on a road. WENHAM coshed the woman over the head with his whip, knocking her to the ground. He was fined £1000 for the assault and £600 for the abusive behaviour.

ANTHONY KIRKHAM [see 1995] finally jailed for his part in what the Judge described as the "cruel beating" of a L.A.C.S. monitor. The man was chased across a field, sprayed in the face with a liquid, hit over the head with a bottle and repeatedly kicked in the head when he fell. Kirkham told the man, "We've got you now; you're dead" as he pulled him to his feet and ripped a camera worth £1,300 from his neck. KIRKHAM was **jailed for 15 months**.

Another old face PAUL MARTIN, [see 1994] and his father BERNARD MARTIN convicted of **Affray** and Paul's uncle COLIN MARTIN convicted of **Section 4** after they broke into the back of a sab van and attacked the occupants with spades and wooden staves. A sab photographing the event was dragged from the van and beaten while the family of thugs tried to remove his film.

SIMON WILLIAMS, kennelman of the South Devon FH, bound over for a year after being charged with **Threatening Behaviour** towards a sab (the kind of threatening behaviour that involves a 5 foot metal pole.)

The Huntsman of the North Norfolk Harriers, BOYCE KEELING successfully convicted of **Assault** on a local saboteur, whom he beat with the handle of his whip.

Supporter of the Dunston Harriers, PATRICK EVERETT managed to get the hunt **banned** from one village after he viciously attacked a party of 1 man, 2 women and four children who had stopped to watch the hunt pass by. He was fined £800.

By Order of the Court

1999 COURT ORDER

Court Code | Date of Hearing

Informant/ Complainant/ Prosecutor

JOHN WILLIAM BERE and DEAN JOHN RICHARDS **jailed for 4 and 6 months** respectively after pleading guilty to **Assault** and **Theft**. The two Quantock Staghounds supporters had punched L.A.C.S. cameraman Kevin Hill to the ground before stealing his camera. The judge jailed the pair as an example to others saying, "In my judgement, these are light sentences."

At the time of going to press there are a number of hunt staff and supporters "helping police with their enquires" regarding violent attacks on saboteurs, some of whom sustained serious injuries. Details in the next 'HOWL'

Please remember that information on hunt violence is always needed. Send clippings/court reports to the H.S.A. Research Officer at the office.

By Order of the Court

GROUP NEWS

IRELAND

Dublin's **Association of Hunt Saboteurs** began the season by shamelessly harassing members of the *Louth Hunt* at their annual ball at Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel. The usual fox and hare were present to chat up the drunken revellers whose numbers have dropped in the last four years (while sabs have been 'attending') from about 600 to under 300. Not only were numbers pathetic, so too was their meagre meal of melon balls and chicken! Dec. 26th was marred (for the hunts) by heavy rain and storms. Scenting conditions were bad and no incidents or kills were recorded at any of the hunts visited. Most hunts were called off and those that did venture out finished early. The day was only improved for sabs when one *Ward Union* member was witnessed staggering out of the pub only to find a fallen tree imbedded in his jeep. Why were fellow drinkers cheering....?!

Waterford sabs continue to suffer threats, intimidation and man-handing by their local hunts; one sab being told he was "a marked man". Taking a leaf from the book of the Crawley & Horsham FH [see H67 - Ed], the No. 1 terrierman with the *Waterford FH* is now on horseback, never a very good sign for sabs. However, it appears the hunt is disgusted by the amount of information that **Waterford** sabs are receiving about them. Info started flooding from disgusted locals after an ambush on visiting British sabs two years ago.One female sab had to have 10 stitches to a head wound as a result of being ridden down. Obviously the hunt is not as popular in the area as it likes to think it is!

Resisting impulse-spending their donation from the HSA, **Belfast sabs** have hoarded it away with the rest of their hard-earned cash and should hopefully be getting that longed for van in the near future. Despite having to rely on people to chauffeur sabs around, and not being able to get out with their usual regularity, they have nevertheless had a good season.

In February **Belfast** visited the *Killultagh, Old Rock and Chichester FH*, made up of only ten mounted field and a few following landrovers. Sabs had a great day, with no police, and the hounds responding well to horn calls. Not so much as a chase all day and sabs got no hassle. Pukka!

Almost a year to the day since their last visit to the *North Downs Harriers*, **Belfast** sabs set off in 3 cars to the meet which the hunt had been only to happy to supply over the phone the night before. From the first draw sabs were able to get control of the entire pack - despite the hounds being right beside the new English huntsman, they flocked to the sabs' horn, much to the surprise of sabs and hunt supporters alike. The desperate huntsman leapt from his horse while the support shouted futiley at the approaching hounds. Bellows of laughter prevented further horn calls, so **Belfast** sped off when the hounds were nearly upon them and the support started waving sticks in their direction. It wasn't long before the R.U.C. arrived and, while taking names, informed sabs that any horn blowing was an offence. With the same breath they went onto say they were completely against hunting. Ahh, police impartiality....

After 40 minutes the bored police went home and the hunt didn't bother doing any hunting proper for the rest of the day - maybe after the embarrassment of losing the entire pack, the 'professional' huntsman didn't fancy losing his job as well! The peeved support rounded the day off by boxing sabs into a narrow lane. Six unsuccessful attempts were made to kick off a sab car's side mirrors, and sabs were challenged to get out of the cars so the hunt could sort them out. Declining this tempting invitation, sabs were forced to reverse down the entire lane as riders blocked all turning places. Still, with no kills and the hunt's childish tantrums - "Mummy, that bad smelly man won't let me kill foxes!" the day was judged a success, and the hunt was deemed worthy of a return visit...real soon.

SCOTLAND

Still van-less, so still forking out £85 per week to go sabbing, **Clydeside** sabs had a bit of a hit-and-miss start to the season. The first *Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH* meet of the season, started with sabs being read the riot act by coppers before they had even seen a hound. Despite the unrelenting aggro some sabs managed to break away and continue sabbing; at the end of the day no kills and no arrests, a result that was to become common for **Clydeside** sabs. Unfortunately, the week after sabs were too far away to stop hounds running straight over a main road and railway track [*see Hunt Havoc*], which didn't stop the local C.A. rep. Doug Ross, trying to blame sabs to cover up hunt incompetence.

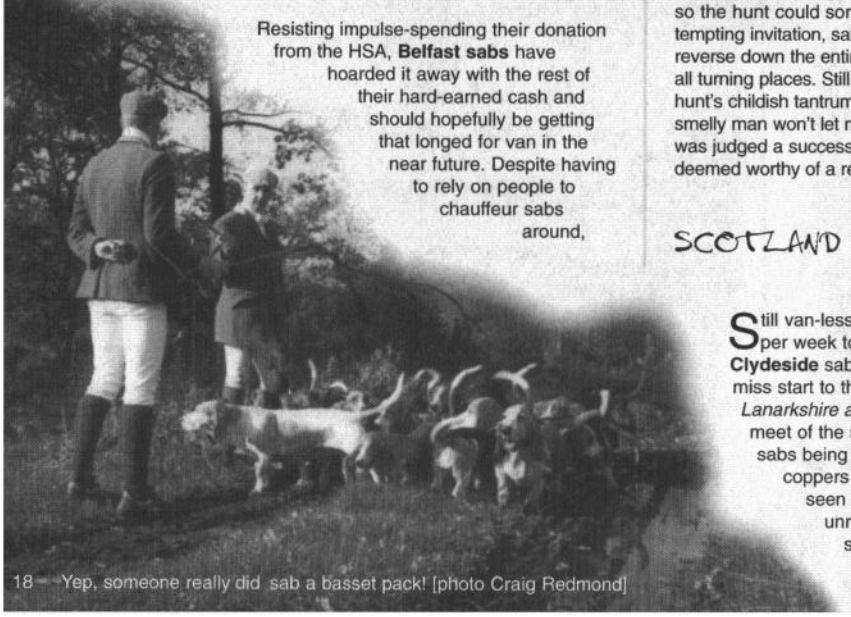
In mid November **Clydeside** had a double date with **Edinburgh and Borders** sabs at the *Dumfries FH* (a.k.a. the Black and Tans), who jibbed it and packed up early. However, on the same day two **Clydeside** sabs ventured back down south to see if they would once again, be invited to bend over in a police cell so that policemen could check their bottys for stolen vehicles etc [*See Howl 66*]. Failing this, they did managed to help sab the **Surrey Union FH**, which proved a great novelty for the Clydeside Two, as Surrey police a) don't bother with the C.J.A., and b) ran with sabs in the field (most policemen in Scotland being too lazy and/or fat to even get out of their cars). A good days sabbin' was had and the two proceeded to drink everybody in London town under the table from that night onwards. Again! [*But not without making considerable idiots of themselves in the process- Ed*] Back home the reunited group met up with **Aryshire** and **Edinburgh** in Scotland's holiday country for a joint hit on the *Eglington FH*. Despite going to the wrong meet and a heavy police presence sabs were able to take the hounds away using good horn and voice calls. £85 well spent.

Just before Christmas two sabs were arrested at the *Fife FH* for Section 68 of the C.J.A.. However charges were later (April!) dropped.

NORTH WEST

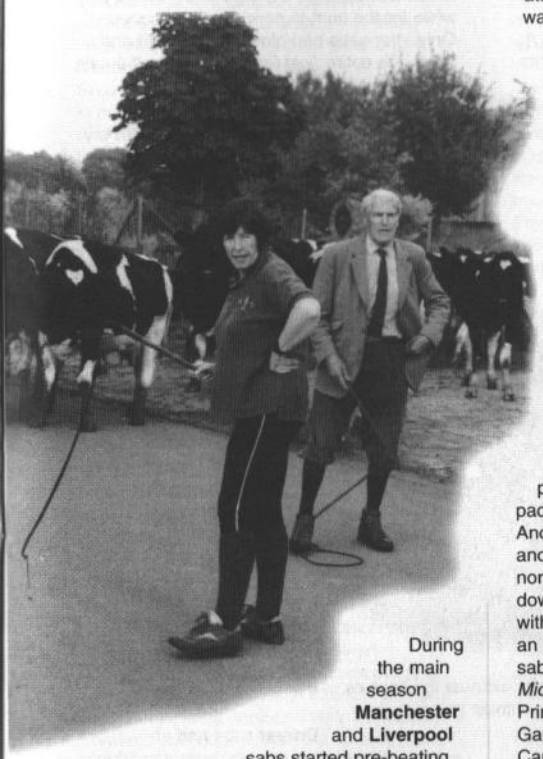
By the time November came round, after 8 weeks of incessant sabbing two or three times a week, the *Cheshire Forest FH* were reduced to only two known kills, and relations between new huntsman, "call me Matthew" Puffer, and **Manchester** and **Liverpool** hunt sabs had became decidedly frosty.

In the meantime, **Bolton** had successfully been beavering away at the *Holcombe Harriers*, getting super fit and experiencing some of the worst weather known to man on the open moors. Other hunts visited by **North West** sabs this season were the *Cheshire Foxhounds*, the *Royal Rock Beagles*, the *Forest and District Beagles*, the *High Peak Harriers* and the travelling *Albany Bassets* (bet no-one else can claim a basset pack!).



Yep, someone really did sab a basset pack! [photo Craig Redmond]

Below: Disappointed with last years pack, the Royal Rock Beagles' experiment using an altogether different species has yet to result in a kill.



During the main season **Manchester** and **Liverpool** sabs started pre-beating the *Cheshire FH* to great effect, before setting off to see Matthew at the *Forest*, whilst **Bolton** continued to get wet at the *Holcombe*. At this point the *Cheshire Forest* began generating a lot of a bad publicity (for themselves!)[*see Press Article - Ed*]. Boxing Day saw another sad incident at the *Forest & District Beagles* when one of the hounds died after getting caught in a snare. The lack of remorse shown by the hunt staff was beyond belief to **Manchester**, **Liverpool** and **Stoke** sabs present. The *Holcombe Harriers* also got their usual visit from **Bolton** sabs on the 26th Dec; thankfully the appaling weather actually did sabs a favour by cutting the day short. Apart from an unknown thug throwing a brick through the windscreen at the *Forest*, the North West's first half of the '98/'99 season was both trouble free and very successful.

NORTH EAST

Despite the premature death of the sab vehicle at the start of the season, and involvement in the Barry Horne hunger strike vigil, **York** sabs still managed to regularly visit local hunts, often teaming up with **Leeds**. The result has been the pleasure of watching the *Middleton FH* getting more frustrated and progressively more aggressive as we've sabbed the pants off them (oo-er!) time and again. On the other hand, the *York &Ainsty South FH* have been found to be as dull and crap as ever with virtually no chance of catching anything unless its dug out. **Leeds** and **York** have also teamed up at joint meets of the *York & Ainsty North* and *South*, plus the *Bramham Moor* and *the York and Ainstey North* foxhunts none of which saw any kills.
December saw effective pre-beating/spraying leave the *Bramham Moor FH* without a single scent all day, and despite threats of arrest for action likely to cause plod to get out of warm cosy car, **York** stuck it out to the end.
The predictablity of Boxing day meets meant sabs were able to split up and heavily pre-spray the *York and Ainsty South* before strong winds and rain finished the job, while a 'York Anima l Rights' banner was raised on a flagpole at the *Middleton* meet, before effective use of voice calls ruined their day.

Following the **Sinnington FH**'s altercation with a pet cat [*see Hunt Havoc*] on their boxing day meet, all Yorkshire sabs attended a demo at their Gilling meet, which was covered on the local news. Bad coverage and a strong presence of nearly 30 sabs meant the hunt bottled it and refused to unbox their hounds. At a loss for something to do the sabs then wandered off to visit the elusive **Farndale FH**, who hide out in the North York Moors and whose field and supporters can be counted on one hand. Honestly.
Late Jan/early Feb saw a hit on a joint meet of the *Barlow FH* and *Woodland Pytchley FH* with **Nottingham**, **Sheffield** and **Manchester**. Losing their hounds early on made the hunt a bit aggressive, with Billy (a particularly unintimidating individual) making numerous threats to all and sundry. Even so, the combination of this, and coppers on cross country motorbikes couldn't prevent a successful day with the hunt packing up early.
Another link-up with **York** in late Feb saw another visit to the *Middleton FH*. The normally tolerant Humberside Police came down heavily early on, and this, combined with the fact that the support seemed to have an inordinate amount of walkie-talkies made sabs suspicious. And righty so; the *Middleton* were entertaining our beloved Prince Charles and his horse Camilla at Garrowby Hall, source of the infamous Camillagate Tapes and scene of an assault on a York Sab during another royal visit a couple of seasons ago [see Howl 64].
Despite many threats of arrest to prevent a breach of the peace and several denials that public footpaths existed, the police then followed Prince Charles example of leaving early, giving sabs a good couple of hours to make up for the delay. Not that there was much to be done; the huntsman's early attempts to show off had left half the pack scattered around Yorkshire.
Leeds also made the annual visit to the *Waterloo Cup* followed by trips to the *Cheshire Forest FH* and the *Cheshire FH* later that week, alongside sabs from **Manchester**, **Sheffield**, **Wolves** and **Nottingham**. **Leeds** also packed up the *Royal Rock Beagles* after just 1 hour.
An arrest-free season came to an end in March when **Leeds** and **Sheffield** teamed up for the *Badsworth FH*'s final Saturday meet. As soon as sabs stepped out of the van several members of the hunt attempted to ride them down, and this continued as sabs and riders were scattered round nearby fields. When sabs eventually got back in the van they were stopped and arrested to prevent a breach of the peace. Sabs weren't surprised when police back at the station informed them that the officer responsible was a member of the hunt. All were released without charge a couple of hours later, albeit £100 worse off after the police had the van towed away. Legal action against the police is now underway regarding a number of issues.
Leeds very last outing of the season was an Easter weekend visit to the *Middleton FH* alongside sabs from **York**, **Sheffield**, **Manchester**, **Derby** and **Nottingham**. While most sabs were in the field the **Leeds** van was attacked, the two occupants assaulted, keys and equipment stolen, two tyres slashed and petrol poured around the van. Returning sabs were attacked by a large group of heavies. Sabs defended themselves without any weapons - contrary to the hunt's version of events which claimed that twice the number of sabs actually present, attacked *them* with "assorted sticks, chains and iron bars". This, of course, was the version the papers ran. Later in the day sabs were alerted to a dig out and an attempt to intervene resulted in one arrest and the fox being shot in front of sabs. The hunt packed up soon afterwards.

This season **Leeds** have gone from being a small group of die-hards, to a large and active group sending out at least a full van every week, and frequently sabbing mid-week. Other sabs have included *Holdemess FH*, *Hunsley Beacon Beagles*, and both hits at the *Albrighton FH.* A big thank you from **Leeds** sabs to **York HSA** for the big pile of wonga that helped alleviate their temporary cash flow problems.

MIDLANDS

After getting themselves sorted out over the summer, **Derby** sabs now consists of 5 sabs, all with the sabbing experience of a potato... occasionally mashed. [*Oh dear -Ed*] Being skint, fund-raising has been a big priority with sabs, even doing a stall at the local Uni. in a feeble attempt to recruit more cannon fodder and at Christmas, **Derby** went over to Nottingham and nicked all **Notts** sabs money (ta Notts!). Sabbing wise, **Derby** have been pretty active despite not having transport for much of the season. Sabs have got around this by skanking lifts and catching trains at insane times in the morning to join up with **Stoke** and **Wolves.** Sabs have been out and about at the *Albrighton FH*, *North Staffs FH* and the Boxing Day do at *Forest and District Beagles.*
On arrival at one mid-week *Albrighton FH* meet, sabs were met by a riot van (?!), police car and the ace comedy duo of PC Flowers and Sergeant Aldritt. Throughout the whole 60 minutes the hunt lasted (ha!) the police set about staying as close to sabs as possible with PC Flowers getting out and actually running side by side with the sab kids! A man of true grit..
One dedicated **Derby** sab managed to go out with **Stoke** sabs on Boxing day. A demo took place with about 30 other people at the meet of the *North Staffs FH.* 'Nightclub' style bouncers were laid on by the hunt to apparently 'scare' people. There was a little bit of shoving sabs about by the heavies and the usual police action of mumbling "If you've got a complaint to make you'd best go down to the station...". Later on (after a brief detour to a fur farm) **Stoke**, with **Derby**'s heroine in tow, joined up with **Manchester** and **Liverpool** sabs to do the *Forest and District Beagles.*
After Christmas a mid-week meet of the *Albrighton FH* with **Stoke** and **Wolves** had about 12 sabs out in total. No Flowers or Aldritt this time and the 2 West Mercia replacements just seemed content to let sabs do what they wanted... so they did.
Horns and a gizmo were used all day by sabs out in the field (much to the hunt's annoyance!). At about 12pm the hunt, clearly annoyed, sent a terrierman on a Quad bike to try to mow sabs down, smacking one Wolves sab with a stick. At the same time a **Derby** sab was caught in the face by a hunt official's whip which smashed his glasses. After making complaints to the police and one van taking the **Wolves** sab to hospital for a X-ray, it was decided to all pile into one van and carry on sabbing! A just payback was taking the hounds from under the huntsman's feet from three fields away as he tried to take them home! No kills again.

Stoke, together with regular pals **Wolves**, had an active season up to the new year. Their favourite hunt of choice, the *Albrighton FH*, had been getting even worse since ex-huntsman Ian Starsmore was replaced by Gary Williams, a former whip until a brief, unsuccessful holiday North of the border last year. By January, the hunt hadn't killed on a Saturday all season, and, as a result, lost their rag in the first week of the new year (see above). In response to the unacceptable violence, a regional hit was organised two weeks later and was a great success. The hunt are now very meek & mild (surprise, surprise). Thanks and respect to those groups who turned out (**Liverpool**, **Derby**, **Sheffield**, **Nottingham**, **Northants**, **Wolves**),

GROUP NEWS
Deadlines:
Howl 69

31st Aug 1999

IMPORTANT
All Group News must be typed, on white/pale paper and kept to a maximum of 350 words.

Longer reports may appear as a group feature (as Scooby's has done in this issue). Please separate longer pieces from your regular group news.

DO NOT send items on disc without prior arrangement

Groups who keep in regular contact with the HSA and *Howl* may be given priority when money is distributed. [Besides you know you love writing your exploits up really!!-Ed]

After this the Albrighton were sabbed twice a week. Add to this the loss of hunting country due to a change in ownership, and the hunt are in big trouble - having to sell property to stay afloat. Sabs can't wait to see them go down! **Stoke** also visited the *High Peak Harriers*, and on Boxing day attended the sab of the *Forest & District Beagles*.

East Northants sabs regularly sabbed the *Woodland Pytchley FH*, the *Pytchley FH*, the *Grafton FH* and and *Oakley FH* all season, squeezing in a couple of trips up to Leicestershire for the *Fernie* and *Quorn* fox-hunts. Hard work but effective. During the first weekend of the new year **East Northants** also sabbed the *Fitzwilliam FH*, where a large turn out of hunt supporters were treated to some good sabbing action.

WALES

Vale and Valleys HSA report a good, well supported season with new and 'older', more experienced sabs joining the group from Newport, Cardiff and surrounding areas. They regularly visited the *Curre* and the *Tredegar Farmers* fox hunts and occasionally spent a day with the *Llangibby FH*. The *Tredegar Farmers* regularly sabotage themselves before sabs get a look in; hounds generally split up into three or four ineffective packs - after much to the annoyance of the huntsman who has to gather them up.
The *Curre FH* are not the killing machine that they were last season after a member of the hunt's staff was convicted of not disposing of carcasses correctly. Not so dramatic itself except that it would appear that when he left the hunt, he generously gave all the hounds away! The *Curre* also managed to obtain two new 'followers' on New Year's Day - two very unbiased uniformed PCs being driven around in the Master's 4x4. How cosy!

Newport and Cardiff sabs have had some 'happy sabbing' before and after the new year, doing the *Curre*, the *Tredegar Farmers*, the *Monmouth* and the *Llanggibby*. Some of the sabs are getting to know the field and support more than they'd like to - although **Newport and Cardiff** sabs have no intention of exchanging birthday cards with their new friends, just visiting them more often!

SOUTH WEST

Cornwall sabs have been busy sabbing (wait for it)...the *Devon & Cornwalll Minkhounds*, the *Western Hunt*, the *Four Burrows FH*, the *Cury FH*, the *Taw Vale Beagles* (on their unwanted trips to Cornwall), the *Bolventor Harriers*, the *North Cornwall FH*, the *South Cornwall FH* and the *Constantine Beagles*. Phew! This workload has been made possible by the purchase of a 11 seat freight-Rover mini-bus, made possible by a £500 donation from the H.S.A. and a further £1000 raised by Animal Rights stalls in the region. Many thanks to the hundreds of people who made this possible, because of their generous support many lives have already been saved.

Torbay sabs' first day out in their new van, was to sab a meet of the *Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers* in November. Sabs called the hounds from across a field, attracting most of the pack. For the rest of the day the hunt kept on the run, never really stopping to hunt, so the day ended with no kills.
On Boxing day sabs braved the *East Devon FH*, who, in addition to a large number of car support, had also bused in two coachloads of foot followers. Joined by two vans from **Bristol &Taunton**, **Torbay** sabs managed to flank the hunt with the vans on either side of the covert while foot sabs followed the hounds. The hunt moved off quickly, losing all the groups in the curtains of rain. After splitting up, **Torbay** sabs found the hunt in a quarry, where horn blowing brought the pack over to sabs. The police showed up, as did the red-coats, and tempers got rather heated, especially when one hound decided it had had enough and jumped into the back of the sab van and refused to come out despite the Master's orders! This proved the final straw for the hunt, who headed home. After such a good day, imagine sabs' surprise when the local paper ran a press release from the police, saying that sabs had been unable to affect the hunt, as efforts by the local plod had contained them in their vans all day!
After a detour to the *South Devon FH*, where 6 sabs were arrested but no kills occurred, **Torbay** sabs returned to the *Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers*. Unfortunately, so did the police who were on their tail for most of the day, but there were no kills again, despite one hare across the path of the hunt.

With the purchase of **Plymouth**'s Landrover, they moved straight into the season with gusto, hitting the *South Devon*, the *Dart Vale and South Poole Harriers*, the *North Dartmoor Beagles* and the *Spooners and West Dartmoor FH*. It was the first time in ages this last pack had been visited by sabs, which was blatantly obvious when it took a while for the hunt to notice their presence. Only after sabs had blown to move off and taken the entire *field* (and support) half a mile into the nearest village did they realise it wasn't the huntsman's calls they were following and the antis' were back in town.
Not best pleased, a redcoat called 'Diddy' completely flipped out after sabs pulled a dozen hounds from right under his nose. He then proceeded to have a game of tag around the only 2 trees in the vicinity with the three sabs responsible for hound stealing. 1999 continues to look promising with more fund raising afoot and **Plymouth**'s numbers swelling. Research on the *Devon and Cornwall Mink Hunt* is an ongoing project with **Plymouth** already planning summer activities. They want closure. Watch this space.


Dorset sabs exhaust themselves dealing with all that plough!

Dorset sabs had an encouraging start to the new year acquiring not only a new van, but also enough new members to double their number. Any empty seats are filled by regularly teaming up with **Bath** and **Taunton**, and also **Torquay** - and so doing a thoroughly successful job of spoiling the fun of scumbags in Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Wiltshire. They have recently attracted the attention of Dorset police's latest and high-tech surveillance operation, which consisted of a video camera so huge it seemed to challenge the word 'portable', and had to be lifted onto the copper's shoulder by one of his chums. Guess it takes a while for the newest gadgetry to reach bumpkin copland.

The *Marlborough College Beagles* were attended by unwanted guests, **North Dorset H.S.A.** over the Xmas period. The young toffs had a invitation to hunt part of the *New Forest Beagles*' country near Fordingbridge in Hampshire. The three sabs attending saved a hare after hunt supporters spotted it in a large acreage. The beagles hit the hare's line well, only in the wrong direction! And sabs were in exactly the right spot to hunt the eager hounds on the wrong way. Initially all the pack followed, but hunt staff regained some in a country lane. Undeterred, sabs kept going with the remaining dozen or so hounds, fording the river Allen and then running off for over an hour!! Eventually the exhausted sabs decided to leave their charges to the call of the distant huntsman, and left the area safely (despite a pathetic attempt to citizens' arrest two of them.) Home was blown as police finally turned up, with the hunt scattered far and wide.

SOUTH

Reading hunt saboteurs' cubbing season got off to its usual start with the *Garth and South Berkshire FH* being their normal slippery selves. The *Hampshire* proved to be a little more sporting and were honoured with our presence. After one particular cubbing meet sabs had the pleasure of bumping into the *Sandhurst Beagles* just as they were leaving the meet. Sabs decided to stay for the afternoon; it would have been rude not to.
Since the end of cubbing **Reading** and **West London** joined forces almost every week


The 'Guardians of the Land' evidently don't live in Dorset. [photo: Dorset Sabs]

with the occasional help of sabs from **Southampton** and the **New Forest**. At the opening meet of the *Garth* sabs had their suspicions concerning the huntsman confirmed - Big Nose is back!!! For those sabs who have never had the pleasure of meeting this idiot - Big Nose (a.k.a. Peter Swann) has been at various times a whipper-in on the *Hampshire*, the *Garth* and the *Vine and Craven FHs* before disappearing out of the area. It now appears that the *Garth* are desperate enough to employ him as their huntsman. However, he has to do better than the last clown, who had trouble remembering where he had left his hunting horn, never mind blowing it! [*See H67 - Ed*]
The reappearance of Big Nose has made the *Garth* a far more entertaining prospect this season and as a result **Reading** and **West London** have visited on many occasions with a large amount of effective sabbing interspersed with much hilarity at Big Nose's expense. The sabs have had to put up with the usual nonsense from the Garth's Hunt Protection Squad -otherwise known as Pangbourne police but this has done nothing to dampen spirits. Time has also been found to visit the *Radley College Beagles*, the *Hampshire Hunt*, the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH* and the *Surrey Union FH*.
New Year's Day saw **Reading** sabs travelling north to join **Nottingham** and **Leicester** sabs on the *Quorn*. This visit provided an unexpected bonus of getting to sabotage a hunt with Prince Charles in attendance ('Big Ears' ... not to be confused with 'Big Nose'). Charlie's bodyguards tried but failed to stick to the pace set by the **Reading** group and some useful sabbing was achieved.
The New Year has seen **Reading** and **West London** back on the *Garth*. A trip was also made to Salisbury Plain with **Southampton** to sab the *Wiltshire Infantry Beagles* at their joint meet with a visiting pack from Dartmoor.

As can be seen **West London** teamed up with **Reading** most outings this season and successfully sabotaged predominantly the *Garth & South Berks FH*, the *Hampshire Hunt*, the *Surrey Union* and various beagle packs.The *Marlborough College Beagles* packed up 5 minutes after releasing the hounds when they saw the grand total of 2 West London sabs approach them one rainy day in February. A policeman at the scene tried to talk the students into continuing, but the kids knew better and went home.
Highlights of the season included an away day with the *Garth* and the *Banwen Miners FH* in Wales - alerted by the cheerful greeting of "Big Nose!" the Garth huntsman realised that there is no escape from **Reading** and **West London** sabs and, alas, did not return greetings.

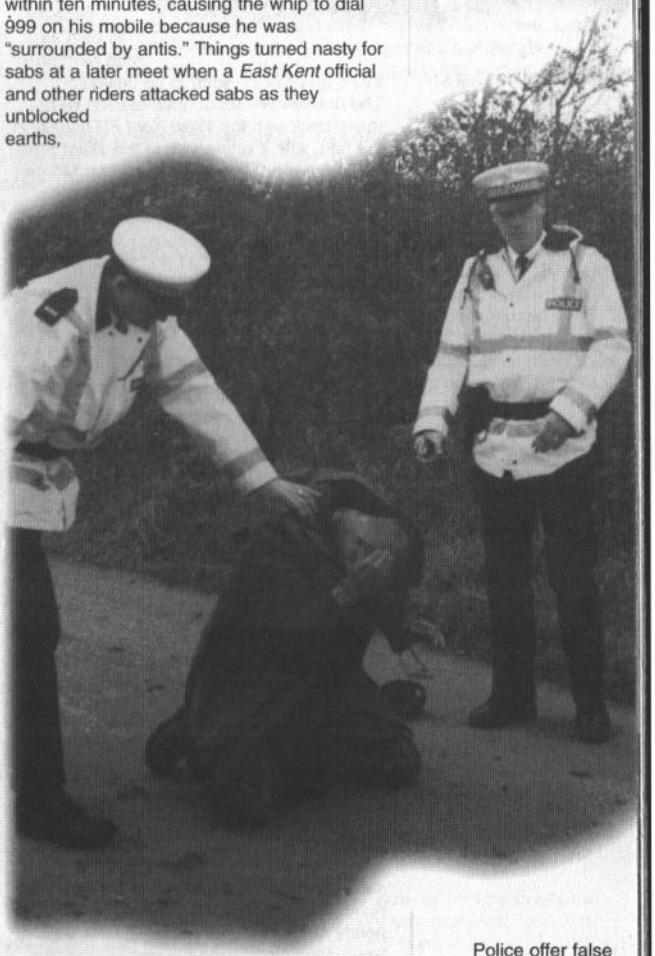
Apart from paying the *Surrey Union FH* a visit on their 200th anniversary **Chiltern Sabs** have focused solely on the *Vale of Aylesbury FH*. The press made a big fuss over Roderick Wilson, a gamekeeper injured after a clash with sabs at the end of last season, after he tried to pick off sabs on their own *[If you went to last year's AGM you'll remember him! - Ed]*. What the papers failed to report was that far from being the innocent victim he was made out to be, at the time of the incident he was on bail for assaulting a local sab and had threatened sabs throughout the season. Mr Wilson has kept a very low profile this season, having only been seen on one occasion where he kept very quiet and out of the way of any sabs present. Wonder why?
From the very first cubbing meet **Chiltern** sabs have been successful at stopping kills and taking control of the pack. During cubbing they were joined by two reporters from the Big Issue who wrote a corking piece about their actions against the hunt.
Police presence has been ridiculous with van loads of cops called when only 3 or 4 sabs have been in the area. On one occasion two sabs were arrested whilst the rest of the group hid in bushes as the Thames Valley Police helicopter buzzed overhead.
Gary, the ex-whipper in, provided sabs with many a laugh, hobbling around on crutches after falling off a horse in the summer. His new position within the hunt has been to video the antis but the only footage he's got so far is of cheeky sabs winding him up.

Due to the fact that the infamous *New Forest Foxhounds* are no longer allowed to dig out foxes on Forestry Commission land, the kill rate has dropped by around 80-90% [*see News]* Therefore **New Forest** sabs have been on their travels paying visits to the *Crawley & Horsham FH*, the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Crowdray FH*, the *Garth*, the *Portman* and the *South Dorset* foxhunts plus the *Radley College Beagles* and *Marlborough College Beagles*.
Due to a lack of active sabs they have been teaming up with **Southampton** sabs on many occasions. Anyone reading this from the New Forest area that fancies some good days out, please get in touch via the HSA P0 Box. **New Forest** sabs are now going out midweek as well as Saturdays (as are **Southampton**).
A memorable day was had with the *Marlborough College* when 2 sabs [*must be this pack's tolerance level! - Ed*] managed to lift the entire pack for over an hour, ruining the hunt's entire afternoon. The last thing sabs heard were distant cries of "Stop you bastards!". Disgraceful language from the prime of our youth. Needless to say there were no kills.

Following last seasons successful collaboration with other groups (such as packing up the *Valley MH* which didn't make their report last time) and due to the "Southampton Van Curse" (they never stay on the road for very long...), **Southampton** sabs have also benefited from teaming up with **New Forest** sabs. From the start of cubbing up until the end of 1998 visits were made to the *Southdown & Eridge FH*, *Chiddingfold*, *Portman FH*, *Garth & South Berks* and the *Surrey Union's* hilarious opening meet.
National Beagling Day saw them rival the *Valley Minkhounds* for quickest pack-up time of the year when **Southampton** paid a visit to the *Radley College Beagles* with **Reading** and **West London**. Maybe next year they should call it National No-Beagling Day as they spent more time attempting to pack up than they did drawing for hares.
A couple of weeks later, travelling to a meet of the *Chiddingfold* with **Portsmouth** and **Chichester**, sabs found a shoot and packed it up before moving on to the meet. The hunt had decided not to turn up where they were supposed to, but after relocating them sabs got busy, stopping hounds marking to ground on arrival. Despite over-zealous policing the hunt were stopped marking to ground again and the scent of a fox was successfully covered with spray just before the pack trundled over the line. In disarray (as ever) Bionic Rob (the huntsman with the cyborg hips) took them back to the meet early.

SOUTH EAST

Despite not having a vehicle this season **Ashford** sabs have still managed to get members out most weeks, usually accompanying **Dover** and occasionally **Croydon**. The early part of the season saw them concentrating on the *West Street and Tickham FH* and the *East Kent FH*, with some visits to the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH*.
The New Labour, New Policing policy in Kent became apparent in November. Redcoats off the *West Street and Tickham* made allegations that a member of **Ashford** Sabs had threatened to pull them *all* off their horses. Former Kent police procedure would have been to arrest said sab, lock him or her up for 8+ hours and then get their story straight with the hunt before pursuing all the way to court. But it looks as if something's been slipped into their donuts. Police spoke to the sab concerned, who denied everything, and let him on his way. Later the same day they also bothered to question the new huntsman over allegations that he had tried to ride a sab over with his horse. Wonders will never cease.
Another first happened in November. An **Ashford** sab's appeal at Maidstone Crown Court on the charge of assaulting *Ashford Valley FH*'s joint master, and Cuntryside Alliance solicitor, Matthew Knight, (he who likes to sue old ladies for writing to their local paper) was upheld. This is probably **Ashford**'s first ever victory in Kent Courts.
Boxing Day saw **Ashford** visit the *Ashford Valley FH* at their usual meet at Tenterden. The field was noticeably small, and the foot support pathetic, despite 3 coach loads of tourists been brought in. A January meet of the E*ast Kent FH* had sabs taking the pack within ten minutes, causing the whip to dial 999 on his mobile because he was "surrounded by antis." Things turned nasty for sabs at a later meet when a *East Kent* official and other riders attacked sabs as they unblocked earths,

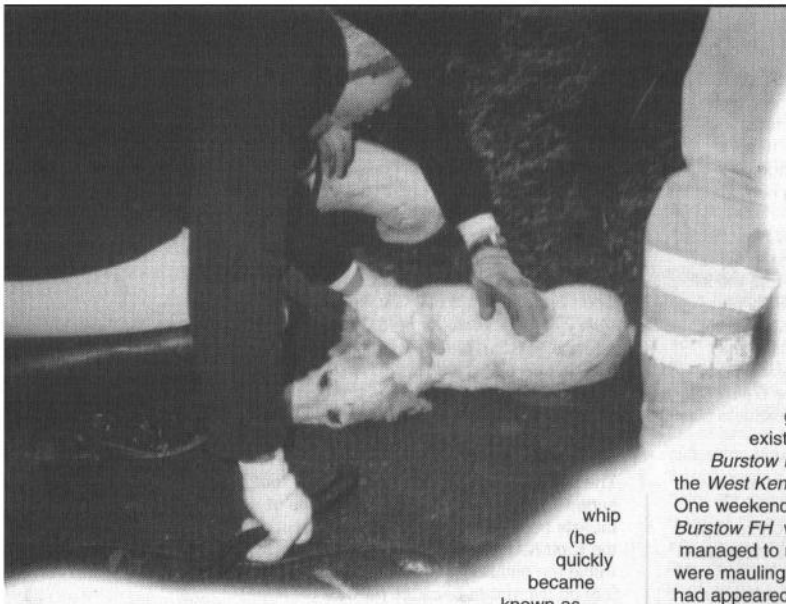


Police offer false sympathy to a Torbay sab after CS-gassing him (but *before* handcuffing him).

whipping one and riding other down. Still, as a result of sab attention the hunt spent the rest of the season running away - sabs once kept up for 15 miles on foot!
February saw a large demo at the *Wye College Beagles* hunt ball in Dover, and the *West Street and Tickham* provided entertainment again at a joint meet with the *East Kent*. 60 sabs had the pack all day, just slightly annoying welshman Allen Morgan and his wife [*see below*]. At one point the Master of the *Tickham* even pretended to blood himself for the benefit of sabs. Anything for a laugh, eh? Thanks to **Wealdon**, **Croydon**, **Brixton**, **Hastings** and **Brighton** groups for their help.

During cubbing **West Kent** sabs, with a bit of help from cuddly neighbours **Croydon**, stuck mainly with the *West Kent FH* with considerable success, causing them to pack up early on several occasions. They also found time to visit the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH* and *West Street Tickham FH* where sabs met loony new Welsh huntsman, Allen Morgan, who soon lost his rag after sabs took his hounds off for a walk and treated them to a close up view of his

➲



Another of hunting's victims: a West St. Tickham hound after being ridden over by mounted follower

whip (he quickly became known as "Mad Morgan"- this man must be seen to be believed!). The first few weeks of main season were spent back with the *West Kent FH* usually in the rain, with a return visit to the *West Street Tickham* with **Dover** sabs where Mr Morgan was heard saying that he wanted to put a few miles between himself and 'those louts' before he tried hunting again - so he rode around the lanes for half an hour and then packed up. Sabs also visited the *Essex Farmers and Union FH* and the rarely sabbed *Bolbroke Beagles*. **West Kent** sabs had a busy Christmas sabbing the *West Kent FH*, spending 3 hours at a dig out on the Isle of Orain and organising a demo at their last ever Boxing day meet, which around 30 people attended. Sabs also had the pleasure (once again) of hearing the rough side of a Welshman's tongue after stopping the *West street Tickham* hounds on a scent 5 minutes out from the meet (A fox appeared just seconds after the hunt crawled away from a good noisy demo, right from the terrier men's vehicles - what a surprise!). Several other foxes were also saved that day, whilst the small group of sabs nimbly dodged the fuming vigilante redcoats, who now ride at sabs on principle, when not busy abusing the police! Things nearly came to a sticky end when sabs discovered the van had been sabotaged - wheel nuts had been loosened, resulting in a very near accident (the sabs were still in a quiet lane when the wheel first nearly left the van but it happened again later, on a busy main road) Police reaction was general amusement, but this cowardly act wont stop **West Kent** sabs returning next season to save more lives.

Kent sabs joined up with *South Downs* sabs to pack up a pheasant shoot on Xmas bank holiday Monday before returning to the soon to be defunct *West Kent FH* on New Years Eve and then joined up with **Croydon** and **Brixton** for a sab on the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH* where sabs prevented 2 dig outs. New years day saw the *West Street Tickham Foxhounds* with no policing, so they stayed at home (spoilsports!), and re-arranged an 'extra secret' meet the next day "to avoid the antis" - who were there to meet them! Again, the police allowed sabs access to land, and liberal use of Gizmo and horn, so sabs very quickly saved a fox - much to the distress of our favourite Welsh nutter. Just when sabs thought it was all over, he was discovered hiding in a wood, off his horse; "having a fag break, Boyo!". The police didn't believe this bull anymore than **Kent** sabs, and threatened him and the terriermen with arrest if they didn't leave. They did, leaving sabs to unblock an earth, and save yet another terrified fox. seriously demented, and their psychotic threats and violence are being taken very seriously - anyone fancy helping out next season?.

Brixton and **Croydon** sabs have spent the season steadily grinding down the futile existence of the *Old Surrey & Burstow FH*, the *Surrey Union FH* and the *West Kent FH*.
One weekend meet the *Old Surrey & Burstow FH* went apeshit when a sab managed to rescue a fox which two hounds were mauling.They had good reason. The fox had appeared from nowhere and looked decidedly sluggish. On the way to the vet's sabs noticed it had a broken tooth presumably where a terriermen had stunned it. It died in the vet's arms of a punctured lung. Sabs took some meagre consolation by using the gizmo to pull hounds off two other foxes. A good turnout of local people ensured that the Boxing Day meet of the *Old Surrey and Burstow FH* (at the 'Star' pub, Lingfield,Surrey) was the usual display of ceremonial finery. All attempted speeches were drowned out, and the hunt barely got onto a scent all day!
Sabs also played a part in the farcical "carry on" that was the *East Kent FH* and *Ashford Valley FH* joint meet. Two dig-outs were stopped and by early afternoon the pack were everywhere in Kent, apart from with the huntsman!
Brixton and **Croydon** sabs would like to say a big "thank you" to the dumb-arse at the *West Kent F.H* , who kindly erected the Marquee (celebrating the hunts last ever meet), with a public footpath almost running through it. You made our heckling far easier and we were only too pleased to ruin every photo opportunity.



Kent cops find potentially fatal sabotage of sab van no cause for concern

EAST ANGLIA

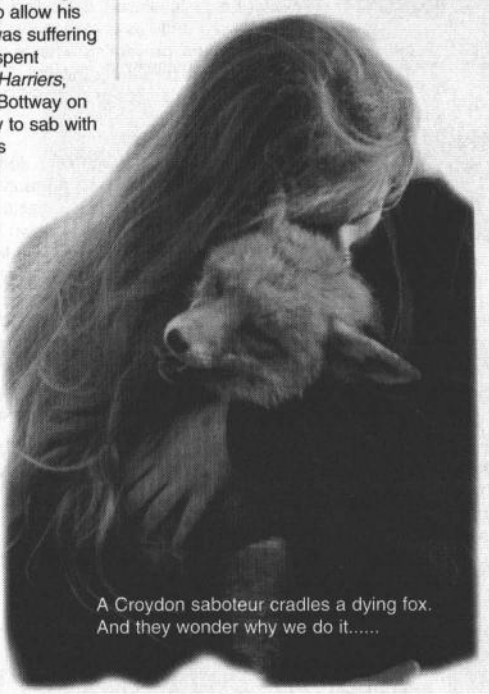
Essex and Suffolk sabs spent rainy day in Norfolk lending a hand to the **Lowestoft** and **Norfolk** groups sabbing their local harrier pack. It ended with sabs getting drenched whilst trying to fix the electrics on the Essex van, after discovering the hunt had gone out earlier in the day to avoid the predicted downfall. Doh!
A second visit was more successful, with the *Waveney Harriers* packing up after an hour due to sabs keeping them on the move. **Lowestoft** sabs then returned the favour by joining **Essex and Suffolk**, **East London**, **Cambridge**, **Basildon** and **Kent** sab groups in disrupting a joint meet between the *Essex Farmers and Union FH* and the Kent-based *West Street Tickham FH*. Unfortunately for the *'Farmers*, the away team didn't turn up, and one hunt was left to deal with around 60 sabs. After realising that confrontation wasn't a good idea the hunt spent the rest of the day on the run with no pretence of hunting, despite heavy (Essex) police numbers.
Joining forces with the **Colchester** group, **Essex and Suffolk** have successfully sabbed the *East Essex FH* and at a meet of the *Essex and Suffolk FH*, split back into two groups so half could drive to Tendring and spoil the *Sproughton Foot Beagles*' fun. **Essex and Suffolk** have also been poking their noses into the business of old favourites, the **Puckridge FH**. By New Year there had been no arrests and no kills in their presence.

Essex Hunt Sabs enjoyed a surprisingly good start to the hunting season; in the main targeting hunts in Essex, Herts., and Suffolk. Sabs first day out in Essex coincided with Essex Police apparently receiving a tip off from the B.F.S.S. that there was going to be a mass hit on the *Puckeridge FH*! Hence, the 20 odd sabs expecting a fairly low key start at the *Essex & Suffolk FH* near Clacton-on-sea, found themselves the target of a massive police operation. Still, if Essex Police want to waste taxpayers money this way, with the force helicopter waking up local residents at 6.30am, some of whom feared that armed robbers were on the loose in the vicinity, that's up to them. In spite of the huge police presence, sabs weren't denied access to private land, neither were they prevented from blowing horns. The following week, sabs had a near perfect day at the expense of the *Puckeridge FH*. In the past, the gizmo has only achieved moderate success with this pack; but on this occasion sabs were able to call the hounds away almost at will. Not best pleased with the sabs' success rate one elderly gent offered to ram a gizmo down a sabs' 'f...ing throat' Destined to go home without a kill, the hunt sadly still had one trick up their sleeve; they went straight for an artificial earth. By the time sabs could intervene, what were believed to be fox remains were already being lobbed into the back of the terrier wagon. Intestines were later found strewn around the top of the artificial earth.
The gizmo made another successful appearance at a meet of the *Essex Farmers & Union FH* and the hunt responded with their usual courtesy. One notorious huntswomen gave a sab van 'a damned good hiding' with her whip in true Basil Fawlty style, whilst other sabs were ridden at and threatened, one being subjected to a torrent of racist abuse. Of course, in true Essex style, police then decided to arrest as many sabs as possible (seven - the last of whom wasn't released until 9.00pm despite the fact the hunt had packed up at midday). In response **Essex** sabs held an impromptu demo outside Rayleigh Police Station, where they received fantastic support from local shoppers and passers-by.
Essex's first excursion into Suffolk proved to be another memorable day out. Although the three Suffolk coppers present confiscated several gizmos and various other sabbing tools, sabs were otherwise unhindered, and as usual, the *Essex & Suffolk* hounds were soon rioting after the gizmo. Sabs' best moment came when they beat terrierman, Les Wooley, to the scene of an intended dig out.

Mr Wooley's efforts weren't helped by the stand-in huntsman who apparently didn't know the horn call for 'gone to ground'. When the bemused terrierman finally realised what was going on, sabs had occupied all the entrances to the large earth, and after making a few disgruntled noises the hunt decided to abort any attempt at a dig, and packed up shortly after.
A number of **Essex** sabs attended the successful regional hit on the notorious *Crawley & Horsham FH*, before paying another visit to the *Essex & Suffolk FH*, who were still upset over that botched dig out on the last visit.

Waveney sabs had a particularly good day out with the *Waveney Harriers*, joining forces with **Essex** and **Ipswich** hunt sabs. Their combined skills managed to reduce the Harriers to a quivering wreck. Within a few minutes of setting out a local promptly forbade the hunt from riding down a footpath and it was downwards from then on. The hunt were soon contained within a field of stubble, resembling a scene from Custer's last stand so turned belly up and packed up. Well, sort of....believe it or not they actually demanded police protection, first to escort the huntsman and hounds back to the meet, and then a second trip by the police to bring back the 'helpless' riders - now frozen after a good half hour's wait in a sodden field!

Norwich HSA were able to ignore the *North Norfolk Harriers* at the start of the season on a tip that alleged that the hunt had lost a whole month's hound-training due to the huntsman refusing to allow his whip to hunt hounds while he was suffering from a bad back. Instead they spent several days with the *Dunston Harriers*, who with a new whip and Rob Bottway on the horn, were ridiculously easy to sab with a small group of sabs ie. 2 sabs splitting the pack twice within 5 minutes of the hunt taking off, saving two hares.
A mid November meet of the *Waveney Harriers*, proved that 8 sabs' pig-headedness, sheer bloody-mindedness and general lack of regard for private (pro-hunting) land were more than a match for the hunt. Two female sabs also braved a shoot and disrupted them for a short while before being pelted with rocks and mud. For the first time police got arsey...with sabs, of course.
2 weeks later the hunt had a taste of what larger numbers of sabs can do when groups from **Waveney**, **Essex** and **East London** joined **Norwich**. [*See Essex report - Ed*]
On Boxing Day, the *North Norfolk Harriers* encountered a group of about 25-30 local demonstrators in Aylsham Market Square. 7 sabs had an excellent day; no hares and only one fox was put up, which escaped when sabs distracted hounds.
The last of the area's harrier packs, the *Easton Harriers* finally got a visit by **Norwich** in the new year. 5 sabs played 'ping-pong' with hounds and huntsman. No kills at close of play.
At the next visit the hunt changed tactics and greeted sabs with friendly faces, port and sausage rolls (yuk!). Unfortunately, their friendliness didn't extend to the hare they chased and killed despite sabs best efforts. Two others were spared the same fate though.
The 23 January was disastrous for a joint meet of the *Norfolk* and *Dunston Harriers* who rioted after a deer; chasing it onto the main road, stopping traffic and causing chaos. At the end of the day hounds rioted again and scarpered for miles, leaving the rest of the day devoted to finding them again. Life wasn't any easier for the *North Norfolk Harriers* a month later; unattended hounds hunted a fox over a railway line, rioted onto a bird sanctuary, across a private airfield, finally coming to rest in a R.A.F. radar station. Oops.
At the *Dunston*'s final meet, the 25 sabs split the pack so much they almost had a hound each. The hunt crumbled before **Norwich**'s very eyes - and to cap off the season huntsman Bob Bottway announced his retirement, illiciting cheers...from the hunt?



A Croydon saboteur cradles a dying fox. And they wonder why we do it.....



North *and* South
DON'T FORGET THE TWELFTH!!
Get in touch with the office now.

It's a miracle anyone reads this crap

The COUNTRYSIDE WEAKLINGS



FREE*FOR EVERY READER
"JANET" - FULLY LIFESIZE RUBBER 'FRIEND'
*with ten coupons + £128 P&P (needs airhose to inflate)

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN WHO FEEL THE NEED TO PROVE THEMSELVES BY KILLING SMALL ANIMALS

Our regular feature written by Gooner Rob. Edited highlights of the most-definitely-not bestselling, 'I love blood, me!' magazine, so you don't have to waste your money on such toss.

Part 2: Views on Antis and Hunt Saboteurs

Hunt saboteurs, busy shoplifting, drug taking and indulging in general debauchery, may not have had the opportunity to appreciate the finer arguments and objections to their campaigning activities, so eloquently set out the by the contributors to Countryman's Weekly, the magazine for Britain's wildlife killers. Read on and learn.

'Gunner' gave the philosophical argument on 7.11.97; "Cannibalism is fine. Let the members of the RSPCA eat members of the League Against Cruel Sports. [*Aeugh, far to bland for my palate - Ed*] If animal rights and human rights are one and the same, why the hell not?". Well argued, sir!

21.11.97 and 'Nimrod' is unhappy. Fieldsports supporters have not been writing enough letters but, "...as usual MPs have been inundated with drummed up letters from the antis". Why ? The answer lies in a readers letter "..the antis have nothing to do with their lives." Nothing as productive as killing animals we assume!

But then, Nimrod does seem to find it difficult understanding others points of view. In the 23.1.98 edition he refers to people offering homes to the Tamworth pigs as the "moronic great British public. ..the truth is that the British public is now so divorced from the facts of life and death in the countryside that one almost despairs of ever trying to make them understand the realities of farming, of field-sports or even of practical conservation." Well said, Nimrod! "Doubtless thousands of dippy teenage girls will have taken a vow never ever to eat pig meat!" he spits. Shame on them.

But wait! It seems that one such "dippy" creature has sullied the pages of the holy tome itself. Thankfully, it is Gunner and not Nimrod who offers some serious words of advice to a 12 year old vegetarian girl who objects to her father reading the Countryman's Weekly; "..things are never as black and white [*ie. well argued - ED*] as they appear in professional animal rights propaganda," he advises in a fatherly manner, "... one of the finest traits in human nature is tolerance and respect for the views of others....." !!!! Obviously one of the reasons the B.N.P. newsletter circulated at the Countryside March went down such a treat.

Unfortunately, as already suggested, fellow wordsmith Nimrod does not seem to have these traits. On 2nd January he tells a tale of how hunt saboteurs - "seventy ring nosed scum hiding their identity behind balaclavas" (presumably the rings were so large they protruded through the balaclavas) - attacked and abused children! Really? Given the media line on hunt saboteurs this must have made the front pages, but, alas, Nimrod does not provide any details of *exactly* where and when this atrocity took place. (In fact he seems rather careful not to do just that!) However, Nimrod does put forward his ideas about what to do in such a situation; "It may mean a pitched battle... fieldsportsmen and women are decent citizens but if goaded too far will not stand idly by." [*As demonstrated on pages 14-17! - Ed*]

Of course Countryside Weekly would never condone violence and the cartoon in their 3rd October 97 edition featuring a grave of a hunt saboteur must have just been an example of their own particular brand of 'ironic' humour.

By the 9th January edition Nimrod had calmed down a little; instead of pulverizing the opposition, he simply advocates mass infiltration of the RSPCA "to change the organisation's anti-hunting policies". But such a languid temperament must have been a temporary state due to the excesses of the festive season. By the 6th February, his blood is up again and he doesn't disappoint; "The Countryside March on March 1 will be the last peaceful demonstration, the last warning to Blair and his Government." he threatens. In his opinion bloodsports supporters should adopt the tactics of French farmers and applauds the British farmers for "picketing superstores importing foreign meat and preventing its import via Ireland". Hmm... for a countryman, Nimrod doesn't seem to grasp the irony of applauding the tactics of both sets of farmers (the French farmers fighting imports from Britian and the British farmers fighting imports from, er, France among other places) in the same sentence. Ah, but those hunters understand the ways of the countryside!!

There are lessons there within those pages for us all. We should all hang our ring nosed heads in shame and vow to ignore the crys of fear and pain of thousands of animals and never again upset those upstanding (and knowledgeable) "decent citizens" in the bloodsports community.

PICK OF THE ADVERTS FROM COUNTRYMAN'S WEEKLY: NO.2

Hunting U.K., a large stalking agency run by Somerset based Colin Foster. Stalking available in Hampshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. For further details and colour brochure, tel/fax 01458 850035, or write to Pilgrims Way, Stile Way, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9SH.



Legal News

Legal Briefs

A Chichester sab arrested at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH for aggravated trespass was given the most ridiculous bail conditions: he could not take part in any sort of anti-hunt activity whatsoever! Outraged that the police would try to impose such drastic measures, the sab involved researched the law and how he stood legally. In court his solicitor stated that the conditions restricted the sabs personal freedom and were totally unfair: the magistrate agreed and gave the sab unconditional bail.
Unbelievably, the same sab was arrested the next week *at a police station* for throwing a plastic seal used to seal property bags at the custody sergeant. This, apparently, was seen as an assault but no action was taken when the sab and the policeman agreed to apologise to each other. However, a high court injunction stopping the vicious plastic wielding sab from going within 1 mile of Cowdray house is still in place. Thank goodness for British justice and the way it deals with serious crime in this country!

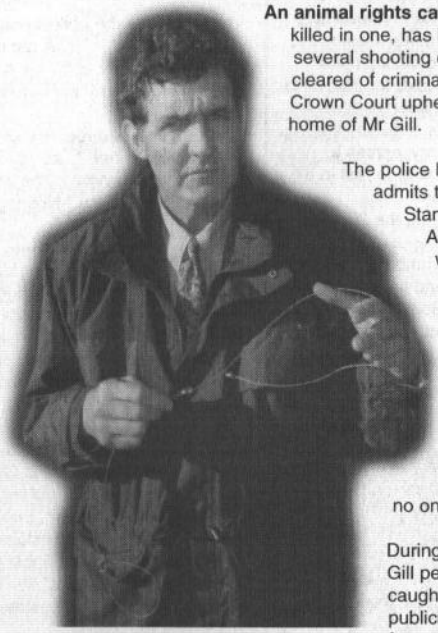
The HSA has been given offers of help from lawyers who are willing to prosecute hunts, landowners and even the police. We all know that hunts constantly break the law; when they use violence to intimidate sabs, when their hounds riot after domestic animals, when they trespass on railways and cause mayhem on the roads. It's taken for granted that gamekeepers and landowners often break the law by using illegal traps or interfering with badger setts. It also doesn't take much for the police to lose control or act unprofessionally. Asking sabs for fights 'one on one' (it has been known!) for example is not likely to be in the official home-office guidelines on how to police hunts.
If you think you have some evidence of law-breaking by any of these parties, be it video footage, photos, witnesses or anything else, please do contact the office straight away. We can then liaise with our legal experts and hopefully prosecute the real criminals.

A sab from Cornwall was searched during a meet of the Western FH and a spray was taken from him. Despite the liquid stinking of citronella, the police derided that the contents were in fact ammonia! (Acid/alkaline, its so hard to tell!) This was actually recorded on the record sheet.

Congratulations to the Ramblers Association for their victorious 'right to Roam' campaign. Who would have thought that the Labour Party would have fulfiled any of their pre-election promises; Blair & co actually doing something positive comes as a great shock! Its not likely that sabs will benefit much from the new legislation but its sure to annoy plenty of greedy hunt/shoot supporting landowners, which can only be a good thing.
More power to the Ramblin' Posse. Yo!

Complied by Rob, H.S.A. Legal Officer

ONE MAN'S MISSION TO STOP THE SNARING OF WILDLIFE GOES ON DESPITE CONVICTION



An animal rights campaigner who has been waging a war on snares after his dog was killed in one, has been given a conditional discharge after admitting destroying snares on several shooting estates across Northumberland. John Gill, 50, had previously been cleared of criminal damage by Bishop Auckland magistrates, but a judge at Newcastle Crown Court upheld further charges after over 60 destroyed snares had been found at the home of Mr Gill.

The police had searched Mr Gills home after the former Consett steelworker, who admits to destroying every animal snare he can, cut up 11 snares on the Stanhope estate and took the remains to Durham Police.
At the Bishop Auckland trail, expert witness John Bryan, an animal welfare consultant, told the court the snares in question were illegal. "The only snares allowed by the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 are free-running ones. These do not kill or maim", he said, "The snares destroyed by Mr Gill are self-locking ones. These were outlawed in the 1981 Act". The Stanhope estate's head gamekeeper David Dixon claimed that as far as he was aware the estate used the correct traps. Solicitor Kevin Tomlinson, defending, said: "The law says: 'A person may use such force as is reasonable in preventing a crime'. He [Mr Gill] was, in fact, preventing, what is quite clearly, a criminal offence." He said Gill had petitioned Durham Police, Northumberland and Durham county councils and the RSPCA over these illegal snares, yet no one had taken any action.

During the trail at Newcastle Crown Court, Judge David Hodson refused Mr Gill permission to show a video of the horrendous suffering inflicted on animals caught in snares, and said the the case was an "exercise to gain as much publicity as possible". Adding that "the Crown Court was not the appropriate forum for such causes", Judge Hodson gave Mr Gill a two year conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £1,597 costs on two charges of theft and four of criminal damage.

Mr Gill, although disappointed with the second verdict is determined to carry on his one man mission to stop the snaring of wildlife. He has no intention of paying the court costs despite the threat of prison. "They are a nightmare and I will continue to remove them whether or not they are illegal" , he said. Cool!!

● After the case was publicised in the local press, John recieved the following letter:

"Mr Gill. I would like to give you a warning. Do not pick up a fox snare on any Estate in Northumberland or Durham. I was in a large pub on Thursday night and there were thirty gamekeepers and about fifty farmers, their sons, estate workers and land owners. they have all promised to shoot you down or blast your legs with their guns. You won't see where the shot came from because he will be hidden behind a hedge or stone wall, or may be in a parked vehicle. They all have walkie talkie radios or mobile phones. I heard one woodman say that he would put you in Mounsett Crematorium so beware your days are numbered.

Hmm, nice people! Wonder if the Northumberland police are taking this death threat as seriously as they did John's actions?

CROYDON CASE HIGHLIGHTS DUTY SOLICITOR DANGER

At the end of the season, a Croydon sab was arrested whilst driving the group's van to a meet of the Portman FH. Police claimed that a small glass-hammer (used for shattering the windscreen in the event of an emergency) was an item being carried "to cause criminal damage" and not a tool you might reasonably carry as the person responsible for the van and the safety of the people travelling in it. The sab was promptly carted down the cop shop. Silly, but not that surprising given the nature of the police in the South West. However, what happened next was more alarming. The duty solicitor, when called to give assistance, *refused* stating that the sab was "liable to be guilty" and "a waste of Legal Aid money"! Thankfully, a decent solicitor of the sab's own choice was contacted over the phone and acting on this solicitor's advice, the sab gave a written statement, the police dropped the charges and the hammer was returned.
The sab in question was luckily clued up enough on legal matters and dealing with the police to get out of this situation unscathed. It is frightening to think of what could have happened to anyone less experienced - and what the police must get away with when dealing with the rest of the general public.

Lessons to be Learnt!!
- Duty solicitors HAVE to attend people in custody when they are requested.
- BUT be very wary of duty solicitors; they are generally viewed as friends of the police.
- Get the number of a decent solicitor beforehand (contact the office for list/info.), and always carry it with you.
- Always phone your solicitor when arrested (this does not count as your phone call), and certainly before making any sort of comment/statement.

Legal News



And the winner of our prestigious award for **CRAP POLICING LEVEL OF THE SEASON** goes to....
Thames Valley Police

Following a successful days sabbing at the Garth & South Berks Foxhunt on 9th Jan by 9 sabs, the following Saturday (16th Jan) 3 sabs were met with a total of.....60 coppers!!! That's 20 each! Mind you, those Reading sabs....they're a hard bunch!!(?)

The runners up were ... also Thames Valley Police! 6 Chiltern sabs attending a meet of the Vale of Aylesbury FH were greeted by police dog handlers, at least 5 police vehicles and a helicopter. Why? Because a member of the hunt had "seen a Chiltern sab shaking hands the week before with a member of the 'Hunt Retribution Squad' - identifiable 'cos they had it tattooed across their forehead no doubt!

SCOTTISH JUSTICE FAILS SABS

Two Clydeside sabs had to be taken to hospital with severe bruising and lacerations after their van and its occupants, were attacked by a club-wielding Lauderdale hunt supporter. The man had laid in wait for the saboteurs' vehicle before smashing the hire van's windscreen, clubbing three of the passenger and running off. One sab did manage to take a photograph of the assailant as he ran towards the van brandishing the club, but unfortunately, the sab was one of the three attacked and his camera was damaged.

The police did seem to take the matter seriously and started a investigation, but it wasn't until the story appeared in the Scottish edition of The Big Issue, that a breakthrough was made. It is understood that another hunt supporter, shocked at the violence involved in the attack, actually rang the police with the name of a likely suspect. Paul Murray, a farm labourer, was arrested a few weeks after the attack and charged with Assault, Breach of the Peace and Malicious Mischief (later dropped). Clydeside sabs were interviewed by the police and a photograph of the offender that had been salvaged from the broken camera, was redeveloped by police experts in an attempt to make the image clearer. Sabs waited expectantly for the trial ahead, but it never came. Finally sabs rang the prosecutor's office to find out what was going on. To their amazement they were told that the 'case' was over and had not even been taken to trial. Murray had been given want the Scottish courts describe as a Fiscal fine. This fine would not go on Murray's record, so that if he was ever convicted of any crime, it could not be brought up and affect his sentencing. In fact if he was ever convicted of an offence it would still be treated as his first. Nor would a Fiscal fine affect any job applications. The disgusted Clydeside group contact described it best as 'like a parking ticket'! To rub even more salt into the wound the fine was for a paltry £100 - £50 less than the damage to the hired van cost sabs! Nice to see justice is as far and impartial above the border as it is below.



Legal Briefs

On the 8th of January, a Cornish hunt saboteur was arrested for failing to give his name and address to police; once in the station he was then re-arrested "on suspicionof causing cruelty to animals... causing suffering to animals by noise"!!!! Acording to the police the sound of the hunting horn may have been distressing for the hounds (yeah, and what does the huntsman used to control the pack - a kazoo?) Could we soon see huntsmen falling foul to similar 'interpretations of the law? We think not. (Not surprisingly, the charge wasdropped a week later.)

South Dorset sabs had reason to call for the police themselves whilst out sabbing in April. Threatened by hunt heavies they rang 999 in panic but despite dialing a total of three times, no police showed up. Their emergency calls, which police are oblidged to answer, were ignored. In reply to a written compliant by sabs a police spokes person claimed police had 'responded' to the calls (despite not showing up!) and then slammed sabs for their 'attitude and demeanor" when they had complained at Dorchester police station. The writer of the police reply was the Dorchester Section Commander....the appropriately named 'A. Mason' !!

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 most 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 A.L.F. Supporters Group, who can provid ei fnancial help for these prisoners.

Make cheques/P.O's payable to 'A.L.F. Supporters Group'. Send to A.L.F S.G., BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

SUE AMOSS DT4388
HMP Eastwood Park
Falfield
Wootten-under-Edge
Glouscester GL12 8DB

MEL ARNOLD DT4543
HMP Eastwood Park
Falfield
Wootten-under-Edge
Glouscester GL12 8DB

STEPHEN GREENWOOD DJ5857
HMP Wood Hill
Tattenhoe Street
Milton Keynes
Bucks. MK4 4DA

GEOFF SHEPPARD MD1 030
HMP Parkhurst
Newport
Isle of Wight PO30 5NX

PAUL HOLLIDAY BV6387
HMP Spring Hill
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks. HP18 0TJ

DAVID LAKEMAN BV6386
HMP Spring Hill
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks. HP18 0TJ

STEVEN MASSEY DJ5855
HMP Spring Hill
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks. HP18 0TJ

GILLIAN PEACHY RL341 5
HMP Winchester
Womns Annex
Winchester S022 5DF

PETER MERSON-DAVIES BV6385
HMP Spring Hill
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks. HP18 0TJ

BARRY HORNE VC2141
HMP Full Sutton
York Y04 1PS

TIM SENIOR BV6384
HMP Bullingdon
PO Box 50
Bicester
Oxfordshire OX6 0PR

THOMAS MONAGHAN BV6144
B Wing, HMP Bullingdon
PO Box 50
Bicester
Oxfordshire OX6 0PR

TONY HUMPHRIESAP7965
HMP Swaleside
Brabazon Rd
Eastchurch
Sheerness
Kent ME12 4DZ

SUE McCROSKY X0110135
DeKalb County Jail
4425 Memorial Drive
4SE 403 Decatur GA 30032
USA

ADAM TROY PEACE
Cornell Corrections
1585 West 2100 South
Salt Lake City UT 84119, USA

JACOB KENISON 3148 S
1100 Salt Lake City
UT 84119, USA

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

wildlife
VERMIN

John Richard Oswin (31) and **Martin Scott Kendall** (36) both of New Street, Southowram, West Yorkshire appeared before Calderdale magistrates on 29/5/98 charged with unnecessary suffering to a fox. The court watched a video showing two lurchers repeatedly attacking a fox which had been released from a sack.The defence claimed the coursing session had been organised to 'train' Oswin's young lurcher. They also claimed the fox was dead or deeply unconscious after the first attack and therefore had not been in any pain. Sadly magistrates acquitted them both after the case was not proven.

A butcher has been fined £1,000 for helping to drag away a poached deer off National Trust land. **Barry Moore** (37) of The Corn House, Westcott, Doccombe, Moretonhampstead, denied moving the remains of the deer but was found guilty by Teignbridge magistrates on 1/4/98. Moore, who runs a butchers shop in Moretonhampstead was cleared of a second charge of pursuing or searching for a deer. The deer had been shot by fellow hunter **Kevin Coak** who admitted three charges at an earlier hearing. Moore claimed he was not with Coak when the deer was shot and had not realised it was on National Trust land. Moore was told that he could keep his gun licence but was fined £1,000 with £200 costs.

bird
VERMIN

Roy Allen (19) of Stoneyfield, Spitals Cross, Kent appeared before magistrates on 11/9/98 charged with criminal damage, killing a wild bird and possessing a firearm and ammunition in public. A young boy saw Allen shoot a swan in the beak, neck and wing because he said it had attacked him. Allen was fined £300, ordered to pay £165 compensation, given 100 hours community service for criminal damage and 100 hours for the firearms offence. Allen who became the target of hate mail and was even assaulted in the street has since left to live in Devon. Allen was also due to appear at Sevenoakes magistrates on 29/9/98 charged with common assault.

Andrew Voisin-Young (20) of Seale Hayne College, Newton Abbot, Devon left a family devastated when he killed two of their pet geese. He ate one and left the other hanging dead on a garden fence. Teignbridge magistrates heard on 29/5/98 how Young targeted a farm next door to the University of Plymouth complex outside Newton Abbot. The two geese were killed by Voisin-Young who was "ashamed and embarrassed" by his actions. He admitted two offences of burglary and was ordered to pay £555 in fines, costs and compensation.

RSPCA inspectors called to a muddy allotment found hen carcasses dumped in a make-shift incinerator with a sole surviving hen crouched in mud, too weak to move. Houghton le- Spring magistrates were told on 18/9/98 that when the hen was given food it ate so ravenously a vet feared it could choke to death. **Paul and Barbara Anderson** both 35 of Pine Avenue, Fencehouses, Tyne and Wear each pleaded guilty to three charges of causing unnecessary suffering to hens. Magistrates fined them £1,500 and £438 costs each and banned them from keeping any animal for five years, with the exception of their three pet dogs!!!

On 12/5/98 **Dennis Dowson** (41) of Sandyford Road, Newcastle and **Lesley Massey** (37) of Ridley Avenue, Howdon, Walisend pleaded guilty to two charges under the Wildlife & Countryside Act by disturbing or being near the nests of peregrine falcons when one contained three eggs and the other three chicks. The men were fined £5,000 each for disturbing nests of the peregrine falcons in 1997 and given just six months to pay. Pleas of not guilty to taking or destroying three eggs and injuring, killing or taking three chicks were accepted. Both men had previously been fined £1,000 for offences three years ago.

Michael Moore (49) of Maismore Road, Woodhouse Park, Manchester appeared before Manchester magistrates on16/7/98 and was fined £1,035 after admitting possessing a total of 179 eggs in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. (The eggs contained samples from nearly 30 protected species). Moore was also fined £80 with £38 compensation after pleading guilty to three further charges of stealing petrol and gas.

farm
VERMIN

Two farmers have been sentenced to three months in prison, suspended for three years, on charges relating to breaches of the Animal Remedies Act. **Noel Carter** (54) and his son **Wesley Carter** (24) of Ballyhagen House, Carbury, County Kildare, pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to give information to Department of Agriculture officials about the location of animals on their farms in 1996. The special sitting of the District Court in Tullamore, Co Offaly on 28/4/98 were told that the men, both prominent cattle dealers, had previously been fined £12,000 arising out of a raid on the family home on 25/6/96. The offences related to the possession of hormone implant guns and hormone implant cartridges as well as obstruction charges. The judge also fined each man £250 and ordered each to pay £250 witness expenses. He said if they were convicted on any offence in the next three years they would serve the sentences.

Unemployed gamekeeper **Colin Eddy** (36) of 88 High Street, Stetchworth, Cambridgeshire appeared before Newmarket magistrates on 30/4/98. Eddy had denied charges of causing unnecessary suffering to sheep and nine ferrets. Eddy already has a conviction from three years ago for neglecting 40 chickens.

Carlisle magistrates heard on 19/5/98 how **John Leggat** (65) of Larkhall, Carlisle had taken a bull nearly 100 miles to an abattoir while it was suffering from crippling arthritis and not fit for travelling. A vet stated that its front feet were splayed apart and the back ones were close together and could only move a few inches at a time. Leggat admitted transporting an animal when it was unfit for the journey. He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £130 costs.

Brian Smith (45) of Bridge House Farm, Wark, Northumberland allowed sheep scab to infest his flock and failed to get veterinary help. As a result more than 350 sheep either died or had to be destroyed. Trading standards officials were called in and found 200 carcasses left to rot in a barn. Smith admitted eight cases of cruelty to sheep and four of charges relating to procedures during an outbreak of sheep scab. On 7/11/98 Tynedale magistrates sentenced Smith to four months in jail, and banned him from keeping animals for life (except the family dogs and cat!!!). He was also ordered to pay £2,500 costs.

A farmer with previous convictions for cruelty to animals escaped a jail sentence after prosecutors failed to tell a sheriff of the man's earlier offences. The SSPCA demanded an investigation into why the sheriff was not informed that **John Harper** (56) of Barrodger Farm, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire had been prosecuted before at the same court. On 5/8/98 Harper was fined £1,000 on each of two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to cows in May 1997 by failing to provide adequate care and veterinary treatment. It was later revealed that Harper had been fined £3,000 at Paisley Sheriff Court in June 1995 for similar offences.

Graham Luscombe (40) of Stone Farm, Ugborough who refused to use organo phosphate dip on his flock (for his own health reasons) was banned from keeping sheep for two years on 29/7/98. One in ten of his flock were found lying dead in a field at his South Hams farm. Two more were so close to death the vet had to put one down while the second died before he had a chance. Half the remaining flock were under nourished with many of them suffering from sheep scab, and showing lesions and hemorrhages. Luscombe, who has farmed sheep and cattle for 20 years, was banned from keeping sheep for two years, which was suspended until the end of October 1998 so he could take his animals to market. Luscombe was also fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 costs. He admitted permitting unnecessary pain and distress to 58 sheep under the Agriculture Act and permitting unnecessary suffering to a ewe and a ram lamb under the Protection of Animals Act. He further admitted failing to dispose of 11 sheep carcasses.

equine VERMIN

Last October **Mervyn Frederick Jones** (68) of Hollies Farm, Hyssington, near Minsterley was jailed by Shrewsbury magistrates for 6 months for 13 charges of causing horses unnecessary suffering. Jones, a breeder of shire horses, kept 25 horses in the worst conditions an RSPCA vet had ever seen. One filly was discovered dead in a barn and a further two had to be put down a few days later. Another died shortly afterwards, despite efforts to save it. The emaciated animals were kept knee-deep in mud in the barn, and had cut themselves on farm machinery in a bid to reach their feed. Jones, who helped transport the horses of the British Olympic showjumping team during the 1940s, admitted 13 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to horses between October 1997 and January 1998 by failing to provide necessary care and attention. On March 9 1998 Jones had also been given a conditional discharge for three years, also by Shrewsbury magistrates, on unrelated charges of causing unnecessary suffering to a horse which had broken a leg. He had been banned at that time from keeping animals for life.

On 28/9/98 former actress **Olive McFarland** of Creeting St Mary, Suffolk was convicted by Newmarket magistrates of 14 charges of cruelty to horses. She received five one-month suspended prison sentences to run concurrently, ordered to pay £10,000 costs and banned from keeping animals for three years. The RSPCA seized 14 horses from her stud farm; one died shortly after and three had to be put down as they were in such a poor condition.

Diane Patricia O'Sullivan (29) formerly of Burton Street and now of Green Lane, Morecambe, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a foal, which was given less than a 50% chance of survival by a vet. The foal was found collapsed in the back yard of a terraced house in Pishton, where it was being kept without shelter. O'Sullivan was banned from keeping horses for 10 years by Hyndburn magistrates (28/8/98), ordered to pay £200 towards the £800 RSPCA costs and conditionally discharged for two years.

A man was banned from keeping horses for life after his malnourished pony died of hypothermia after falling into a canal. Stoke magistrates heard on 7/8/98 how the 16-month-old horse was kept on a sparse field by **Roy Woodall** (60) of Farrington Place, Fegg Hayes, Staffordshire. It was suffering from severe neglect and malnutrition - its spine, haunches and ribs all protruded through its hide. When RSPCA officers returned to collect the animal they were met by a passerby who said it had fallen into the canal. With the help of members of the public, the pony was hauled out but it was so weak it could not stand. It was driven to a riding school stable for care where it died shortly afterwards. A post mortem revealed the animal's body was riddled with parasites. Woodall admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the animal and ordered to pay £391.53 in fees for the animal's care before it died and £75 costs.

domestic VERMIN

A lurcher-type dog, grossly underweight and suffering from severe hair loss was rescued from **James Meins** (62) of Northfield, East Sleekburn near Ashington. The dog had not been properly fed, weighed just over 11kg, was seriously infested with fleas and had overgrown claws because of a lack of exercise. After being given veterinary treatment and moved to a new home, the dog is now fit and healthy. Meins admitted cruelty to the dog in October and November 1997. As well as a 10-year ban on keeping animals, he was ordered to pay £250 costs by Bedlington magistrates last May.

Denise Hunt of Canberra Road, Marsh Green, Wigan was sentenced to 90 days by Wigan magistrates on 23/5/98 after admitting unnecessary suffering to her two dogs. Hunt had left the animals to fend for themselves in a house she used to occupy. The carcass of one dog was found in the kitchen; the other was dead in the front bedroom. She was also banned for life from keeping any pets.

David Palmer (31) of Palmer Grove, Semington Wiltshire and **David Brown** (33) of Methuen Avenue, Melksham, Wiltshire both admitted cruelty and causing unnecessary suffering to a cat at Chippenham magistrates on 25/2/98. The pair lost their appeal at Swindon Crown Court on 17/4/98 and the judge said their sentence of 160 days was entirely justified. However, he reduced their life ban on animals to only 10 years.

The national pet 'superstore' **Petsmart** formerly Pet City Ltd, has been prosecuted by the RSPCA for cruelty to a lizard. An RSPCA inspector visiting the Pet City branch at Lyme Green, near Macclesfield, Cheshire, noticed a lizard that she thought was either dead or barely alive. After being examined by a vet, dehydration and starvation was diagnosed. The lizard was put on a drip, but sadly died the next day. Pet City was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay the RSPCA's £7,500 costs by Macclesfield magistrates.

A puppy was throttled, crushed, burned with electric wires and immersed in cold water before dying in agony at the hands of **Gary Devine** (23) of Hanson Street, Redcar, Teesside. Two days after he was given her as a Christmas present Devine broke five of the Staffordshire bull terrier's ribs, which punctured her liver and lungs. He also admitted giving the pup electric shock treatment and a cold-water ducking under a tap instead of taking her to a vet. Devine claimed in court that he broke the pup's ribs trying to resuscitate her when she suddenly collapsed, and had used two speaker wires slotted into a mains socket (and the cold-water treatment), in desperate attempts to revive her. Devine was found guilty of cruelty and jailed for six months in June '98. Hearing the case the chairman of Teesside magistrates told him: "This serious offence was aggravated by the level of violence which resulted in the death of a defenceless pup.' Devine was also banned from keeping an animal for life.

A vicar and his wife who took in scores of stray cats found themselves in court on 1/6/98 accused of cruelty. The **Rev Victor Dickinson** (50) and his wife **Judith** (40) both of Lowick, near Berwick have shared a succession of vicarages with up to 100 cats. But when an RSPCA inspector found 76 of them suffering from cat flu; ear infections; gum inflammation; diarrhoea and dehydration, all of them had to be destroyed. The couple also lost the rest of their family pets because they were banned from keeping cats and dogs for five years. They must also pay the RSPCA's £500 legal costs.

Kevin McVey (32) of Surrey Place, Elswick, Newcastle left a German Shepherd locked in his house with just water and bones to eat while he went on holiday. He was fined £150 and ordered to pay £50 towards the costs by Newcastle magistrates on 26/8/98 after admitting to being cruel to the dog over a three-week period in 1998. He was also banned from keeping dogs for 10 years. An inspector who found the dog, said it was one of the most neglected pets he had seen in his 12 years with the RSPCA: "The animal was skin and bones. In fact his ribs were visible through his fur".

A couple who starved their faithful pets for almost two months have been banned from keeping animals for 10 years. Two emaciated dogs were found in a room full of excrement and urine at the home of **John Stone** (21) and **Marie Stone** (23) in Birchvale Avenue, Blakelaw, Newcastle. The black-and-white collie crosses had wasted away to half their size and it took almost four months before they were able to recover full fitness. Stone and his wife Marie claimed the dogs had 'lost their appetite' because they were terrified of the noise of fireworks outside their garden. On 2/7/98 Newcastle magistrates banned the couple from keeping any animals. The couple also pleaded guilty to cruelty to animal charges but will face no criminal charges if they do not offend in the next year. They were ordered to pay £100 in costs each.

Julian Sanders (29) from Torquay, who forgot about one of his own greyhounds while watching others racing was fined £3,000 and also banned from looking after dogs for 12 months. Sanders, the director of a recycling company, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the dog when he appeared at Brighton magistrates court on 12/6/98. A passers-by heard whimpering in a car and alerted security staff to try to save the animal. They broke into the car to rescue her while her owner was traced to the stadium's restaurant. Sanders, who has five greyhounds in training and helps care for 20 retired greyhounds owned by his family, was ordered to pay £730 costs. The two-year old dog had been left in the car for nearly three hours on 13/5/98, when temperatures reached 85F at lunchtime, wearing a muzzle, and unable to stand up because her lead was trapped in the rear door of the car. The stadium's vet gave the dog, whose temperature reached the highest point on the thermometer of 108F, a cold water bath. Despite attempts to save her, she died some time later of heatstroke.

Jennifer East (53) and **Sarah Jane East** (33) both of Lambeth Street, Blackburn, admitted cruelty to a dog when they appeared before Blackburn magistrates on 1/7/98. The vet who operated on the dog after it was taken into RSPCA care removed a growth weighing *2kgs* from between the dog's foreleg and ribcage. The vet's report stated the swelling must have been growing for two to three years and was affecting the dog's gait. The dog was also suffering from a long-term flea infestation, which had caused it to lose most of the fur on its rump. Both women declined to say anything in their defence and were conditionally discharged for a year. Each was ordered to pay prosecution costs of £310.

Andrew Cork (30) of Rochester, Kent admitted causing a cat unnecessary suffering when he neglected to treat his cat's infected wound for so long that its leg had to be amputated. Medway magistrates banned him from keeping any animal for ten years, fined him £1,000 and ordered him to pay £533.72 in costs. Intially, Cork had taken the cat to a vet to treat a wound, but failed to return for further treatment. When it was finally re-seen by a vet the leg was beyond repair. The cat had to be anaesthetized before the old bandage could be removed. Underneath, there were live maggots in the wound whiched oozed pus. In places the bone was visible. The rehomed cat has since made a full recovery.

RSPCA inspectors twice visited **Tracey Bailey** (33) of Shafto Street, Scotswood and found pets in her home, despite being banned from keeping them, Newcastle magistrates heard on 23/7/98. First disqualified from keeping pets for 10 years in 1992, after being found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog, in 1997 inspectors found two kittens and two dogs at her flat in Gerald Street, Benwell, Newcastle. Then when they called at her new home in Shafto Street in February '98, they found three adult dogs, one puppy and a cockatiel. (On this second visit **Raymond Bailey** (51) had left his animals in his daughter's flat directly above his own.) Tracey Bailey pleaded guilty to two charges of keeping animals while disqualified. Her father pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting her. Raymond Bailey was fined £50 and Tracey Bailey £100, plus £75 each costs.

On 28/9/98 **Catherine McBride** of 134 Hoel Frank, Penlan, Swansea was given two six months suspended sentences, fined £100 and banned from keeping animals for life following a conviction for letting a dog die of starvation and dehydration.

Former butcher **Colin Bainbridge** (35) of Dene View Drive, Cowden, Blyth was convicted of two charges of cruelty to his black and white bull terrier Zera, who suffered horrendous injuries, including a cut throat. Bainbridge denied the charges but was found guilty of both at a resumed hearing of Bedlington magistrates heard on 24/8/98. The attack happened the night before he was due to appear at Newcastle Crown Court for sentencing on a charge relating to the care of the dog in the weeks before its death. Initially he told the police: "I cut its throat, I used to be a butcher, so it died straight away. I had to kill it, I had no choice." Later he denied that and said he had found the dog dead, killed in a vendetta against him. Then in court, he admitted he had lied to the police and claimed he had found Zera terribly injured but still alive, and had "dispatched her" to end her suffering.

Michelle Clarke (20) of Whalley New Road, Blackburn has been banned from keeping animals for ten years after being found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. She was also conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered pay £200 costs. Her cross-bred lurcher was so weak when first taken in by the RSPCA that it could barely stand, infested with fleas and covered in sores Blackburn magistrates heard on 19/8/98. Inspectors also found a 10-week old puppy in her home which was also thin and suffering from fleas. Clarke eventually signed over both dogs to the RSPCA. Both dogs are now fully recovered at new homes.

A couple were each fined £100 and banned from keeping animals for 10 years after RSPCA inspectors described one of their dogs as a skeleton. So thin its ribs, spine and hips were showing through skin, sadly the bitch had to be destroyed. **Andrew Hopkins** (29) and his wife **Ann** (57) hoth of Athol Road, Hendon, Sunderland admitted to causing unnecessary suffering to the animal. On the10/9/98, the dog had been suffering from a liver and stomach condition which had become untreatable because of the couple's inaction. Andrew Hopkins claimed he did not have time to get the animal treatment but that it was fed three times a day. His wife said she did not have the bus fare to take it to the vets.

Derek Pritchard (23) of Greenwood Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire pleaded guilty to attacking his one-year-old mongrel terrier, Susie, at his home in 1997. Crewe Magistrates heard on 14/10/98 how neighbours were alerted by loud yelping from the house and went to investigate. Pritchard was seen waving around a hammer in his hand, saying Susie had attacked his other dog and needed killing. Pritchard was jailed for three months and banned from keeping animals for 10 years. Susie had been re-homed since the attack and is happy with her new owners.

Denise Parker (40) of The Grove, Ashbrooke, Sunderland told RSPCA inspectors she had been trying to "get herself motivated" to take her emaciated dog to the vets when the animal was eventually rescued from her rented flat following a complaint. Weighting just 10.5kg, its weight shot up within weeks after it was given treatment and fed properly. On 23/10/98 Parker admitted cruelty to the dog and was banned from keeping an animal for 10 years and ordered to pay £150 costs. Sunderland magistrates ordered that the dog should remain in RSPCA care. Interestingly, magistrates also heard that Parker had a three-month sentence for child cruelty suspended for two years, in 1993.

Jason Roberts (27) of 8 Chapel Court, St Vincent's Road, Torquay, Devon was convicted of cruelly ill-treating a kitten. The kitten had suffered a fractured pelvis, which left it barely able to walk, fractured ribs, a tear to its jaw, and the tips of its ears had been burnt. Roberts said he did not know how the injuries had been caused, but insisted he was not responsible for them. The court also heard there were signs of "abnormal interference" around the cat's rear. On 18/11/98 Torbay magistrates sentenced Roberts to 60 days in jail and banned him from keeping any animal for the rest of his life. The court was told that Roberts was given a 15-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, at Reading Crown Court in June 1997 for the possession of controlled drugs. The kitten has since recovered from its injuries, and has been rehomed.

Sick pervert, **Keith Charles Toogood** of Highley, Shropshire pleaded guilty to knowingly importing obscene material, was fined £2,000 by Telford magistrates and ordered to pay £250 in costs on 31/7/98. The fetish 'Squish' videos showed animals being crushed to death by women in stilettos, then crushed into the ground. Mice, frogs and baby chicks were among the animals attached to floors and other hard surfaces and trampled to death.

various
VERMIN

Runcorn magistrates heard on 4/12/98 that **Mark Anthony Quinn** (31) of Cambridge Street, Widnes buried his dog alive after hitting it twice across the head with a spade, when it attacked customers in his local pub. Assisted by his friend **Christopher Syze** (29) of Margaret Court, Widnes, Quinn struck the dog on its nose and on the side of its face before burying it in a grave in the garden of his home. Both men who pleaded not guilty, were convicted by magistrates at an earlier hearing of committing unnecessary suffering to an animal. Quinn was sentenced to a six months in prison and banned from keeping animals for life. Syze was given a two-month prison term and banned from keeping animals for 12 months.

A couple whose two emaciated dogs were driven by starvation to eat their own parents were jailed on 30/11/98 for subjecting their pets to "appalling" cruelty. Sunderland magistrates heard how black and white cross border collie, Lady, and cross-bred mongrel, Chubby, were so hungry they had even started chewing away at the walls of their kennel. **Stephen Woodnut** (32) of Athol Road, Hendon denied the two charges, claiming he had been separated from his wife, but was found guilty at an earlier heating and was jailed for six months. His wife, **Kim Woodnut** (38) also of Athol Road pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering and was jailed for five months. The pair were both disqualified for life from owning any animals. The four dogs had been kept in a yard, surrounded by rubbish and their own faeces. When
discovered by the RSPCA, the half-eaten pelts and skeletal remains of the parent dogs were rotting in a shed in the yard. The live dogs were emaciated and in a filthy state, with soiled and matted coats and bones protruding from underneath their skin. Magistrates ordered the dogs to be confiscation and ordered that £4,443 costs be paid out of central funds. Both surviving dogs are now on the way to recovery.

Ian Stroud (42) who worked at Crow Hill Farm, Pingwood, Hants admitted six charges of causing avoidable suffering to mink and was ordered to serve 150 hours community service by Lyndurst magistrates on 2/9/98. The court watched a video of Stroud, whose job was to gas the mink, actually swinging mink by their tails or heads and hitting them against cages or on the floor. Stroud is still employed by the farms owner **Terence Smith** but at another farm. (You might recognise the name of this farm, it's where 6,000 mink were recently released).

Pet food makers who plagued residents with foul smells after leaving piles of animal bones in a yard have been fined £2,500 with more than £500 costs. **Dugdale Davies Ltd,** who admitted five offences under the Environmental Protection Act, left the bones outside at its Whitebirk site at the height of the BSE scare. On 31/3/98 Blackburn magistrates fined the company £500 for each offence and ordered it to pay the council's costs of £517.06. The previous week the company had fines totalling £10,000 imposed by magistrates for other offences under the same act reduced by Preston Crown Court to £7,000. Blackburn and Darwen Council had received complaints from people living near the Whitebirk plant, which buys animal carcasses and renders them down for pet food. The court were told that in the summer of 1996, the company was handling 15 tons of bones a day - almost four times the amount it was authorised to process. In 1997 an officer visited the factory five times in nine days and on each occasion she found between 5 and 13 breaches of conditions.

A circus worker employed by **Mary Chippertield** was jailed for four months on 19/11/98 for brutal attacks on elephants. **Michael Gills** (64) of Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hants used an iron bar, a broom and metal chains to beat four animals. Basingstoke magistrates were shown video featuring some of the attacks. The offences were committed at Croft Farm in Over Wallop, near Andover the home of Mary Chipperfield. Gills admitted 11 charges of cruelty to animals. (In 1996 Gills was released from jail after serving 15 years in jail for manslaughter.)

Thanks to all those who have sent in cuttings of cruelty cases . More please!!
Send to: North West H.S.A., PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT or main office.

21ST CENTURY FOX
the only calendar for the year 2000!

This beautiful calendar has been jointly produced by the National Fox Welfare Society and The Fox Project. The A4 calendar features *thirteen* stunning, full colour, professional photos of foxes looking their beautiful best, and has been designed to give you lots of room to note down your hectic schedule!

At only £4.95 (inc. p&p) these perfect gifts are selling fast - order your copies soon to avoid any disappointment.

And since all profits from the calendar are split equally between the N.F.W.S. and the Fox Project (both voluntary organisations) you'll know that your cash will be going towards saving the lives of these incredible creatures.

Make Cheques/PO's payable to 'N.F.W.S.' and send, with your details, to: N.F.W.S., 32 Bradfield Close, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0EP



Pressing the message home

Between the start of the main fox hunting season in November, and the start of the new year, the Press Office team had sent out five press releases as a matter of course. All five related to main events in the hunting calendar, encompassing the opening meets in November, a pre- and post-National Beagling Day release and a pre- and post-Boxing Day release. All five where sent out to the national papers and the Press Association, and at a time when hunting was still very much a hot issue - what with the reported split at the League, the issue of local referendums and media attention on Labour's failed election promises. Despite this interest the H.S.A. probably only gained coverage of about four or five column inches in the nationals - if that. And the reason why? Because the nationals, for the most part, either have people in high places who display Countryside Alliance stickers in the rear window of their Discovery or find us too radical/extremist/violent to report. To see how bad this rot has set in simply refer back to your last issue of Howl and the refusal of even the N.M.E. to carry our ad! But do not despair! Out there is a whole heap of people who can't get enough of us - as I've experienced with just a couple of incidents in the North West. Who are they? Local and regional press!

Two incidents occurred in my local stomping ground of Cheshire within the same week that generated more press in the Cheshire area than the H.S.A. would probably achieve in a full season. This press coverage was achieved quite simply with a couple of press releases, good timing and a person at the end of a phone for further comment to the press.

The first incident took place at the start of November when two hounds from the Cheshire Forest Foxhounds where killed after being struck by a train whilst crossing a main railway line in pursuit of a fox. This in itself was obviously a tragedy which should have been press-released, but another point which only served to reinforce the 'senseless deaths' message of the story was that a hound from the same hunt had been killed at exactly the same spot a year to the day previously. At the time the then Master, Peter Hunter, stated '*it is.. .very rare for this to happen. ...I think it is of great credit to the hunt staff that this does not happen very often*'. Luckily, we keep track of news reports and the like on our local hunts, and this enabled us to drag this little beauty up without much trouble. This quote, together with a quote from a named sab spokesperson - '...mirror image of what happened previously.. highlights the hunt's blatant disregard for life - whether it be fox or hound'...etc, etc' and a few 'facts and figures' such as the known number of hounds killed nationally on the railways this season, and a brief note on a previous successful prosecution against the neighbouring Cheshire Foxhounds meant that just one A4 sheet gave the press all they needed for an excellent story. North West sabs achieved two front-page banner headline stories from this one press release, and it also helped to spark a four week debate on hunting in another paper. The combined readerships of all three papers total something along the lines of 307,000 - not bad for about 2 hours work, I'm sure you'll agree. A couple more things to give you food for thought on this one - firstly, these papers are published and read in hunting areas, and as such can only serve to get our message to the potential rural anti-hunt public out there. Secondly, it allows sabs to annoy the hell out of the hunt concerned and also maybe to see something positive come out of the death of two innocent hounds.

The second incident at the Cheshire Forest FH occurred just four days later, and involved something that happens quite often - sabs rescuing a fox from the hounds and getting it quickly away to safety. Now you and I know that this is what sabs do, it's what we're all about from A to Z, and an opportunity to demonstrate this was too good to miss. In this case the story was a bit more dramatic as a sab had to jump into a frozen pond to rescue an exhausted and quickly sinking fox from the ensuing hounds. Rather than having previous events that we could link it to, in order to give the story more of an edge, this time we had a photo of the sab with the soggy yet safe fox to accompany the press release (yes I am going to use this opportunity to remind you of the need to take out video/still cameras with you!). Again, a simple four-paragraph press release giving the basic facts, including a quote from a sab who witnessed the incident and a phone number and name for further comment got excellent local coverage. The national press actually picked up on this one, and the story appeared as an addition to a large two page article on the New Forest in The Express, earned us a 'Sun Spot' in The Sun, and had The Mirror clamouring for a feel-good photo of the recovering fox and rescuing sab together again. However, we had to decline the latter as it was thought the fox, now safely tucked away at a local sanctuary, had gone through enough.

The effort expended by sabs to get that sort of coverage boils down to around a couple of hours spent researching background, writing the release and then faxing it to the local papers in the area concerned. All that's required after that is a person to take and deal with any resulting press calls (use a mobile number if you want) - any generated normally involve journalists simply trying to get another quote on the incident so that their story looks a bit different from their competitors paper. The whole process is so easy it's stupid not to make use of the ready and waiting column inches - simply take a note of the tips below and get writing!

Tips:

- **Make it look professional** - create headed paper with your local sab group name and also a logo.
- **Give the release a strong title that states the major incident**, e.g. 'Hunt Carnage - but this time the hounds are the innocent victims' and 'Hunt Protester risks life to save drowning fox'.
- **In the first paragraph give the facts** - who, what, where, when, how and why.
- **If background info is relevant then give it**, e.g. similar past incidents.
- **Give a quote from a named sab/protester** - this makes the journalists job easy and they like that!
- **Have a named contact and phone number for further comment**.
- **Ensure that the release is dated as at the date it is faxed out**, and state if it is for immediate release or is to be embargoed until a certain time.

Still want more help on the matter? You can check out the H.S.A.'s press releases on our website at **www.huntsabs.org.uk** If you need the contact names and fax numbers for the papers in your area the H.S.A. can provide that information. Please write to the H.S.A. office stating the area concerned and we'll get the details back to you as soon as possible. It's so easy to do you'll amaze yourself with the results. Go on, those column inches are just waiting for you...

Dawn Preston, H.S.A. Press Officer

Thank you!

The H.S.A. (and the *Howl* team in particular) would like to thank former H.S.A. Press Officer Paul Gammon for all his hard and thankless work in the past decade (frightening isn't it!)

Don't worry, he's been put out to pasture, not taken round the back and shot in the head!

Paul has been a constant contributor to Howl in the last couple of years and his photos have brightened many an otherwise dull page. His work for the Press Office, for the most part unaided and undoubtedly the hardest job within the H.S.A. has also been brilliant, particularly his ability to piss off *The Daily Telegraph.*

For that alone, we thank you Paul. XXX

USEFUL ADDRESSES

A.L.F. Press Office
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX

A.L.F. Supporters Group
publishes ALFSG Newsletter
BM116O, London, WC1N 3XX

Animal Rights Coalition
publishes ARC News
PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV1O 7BZ

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
publishes Pisces
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade,
publishes Anti-Fur News
PO Box 38, Manchester ,M60 1NX

Countryside Protection Group
Oakliegh House, Oakleigh Court, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Earth First!
publishes EF! Action Update
Dept 29, 1 Newton St, Picadilly, Manchester, M1 1 HW
also *Do Or Die, c/o PO Box 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT*

The Fox Project
The Old Chapel, Bradford St, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1XY

Green Anarchist magazine
BM 1715, London, WC1N 3XX

Genetic Engineering Network
publishes Genetix Update
PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY

London Animal Action
publishes London Animal Rights News
BM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. 0171-278 3068.

National Anti Hunt Campaign
PO Box 66, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2TR

National Fox Welfare Society
publishes Vulpine Observer
c/o 32 Bradfield Close, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0EP

Portsmouth Three Defence Campaign
PO Box 1119, Dorchester, Dorset DT11ED

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
Web: http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/

Sea Shepherd
UK (mail only - not an office):
35 Vicarage Grove, London SE5 7LY
USA (International Headquarters):
PO Box 628, Venice, California 90294, USA

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports.

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, who produce leaflets and adverts and salesgoods, who staff stalls, who give advice to other sabs and deal with the press. And most importantly of all it depends on the dedication of the men and women who, week in, week out, defy the hunts on their own turf, and in the face of increasing violence and police powers, *still* manage to save the lives of thousands of hunted animals every year.

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office on 01273 622 827) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Phone the office if you don't already have a salesgoods order form.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1 A 0AA

HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

❒ £7.50 unwaged ❒ £10 waged ❒ £100 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the H.S.A.'s work

Name (Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr) .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

❒ I wish to pay by Visa / Delta / Mastercard / Access

Card Number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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

Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Return to HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

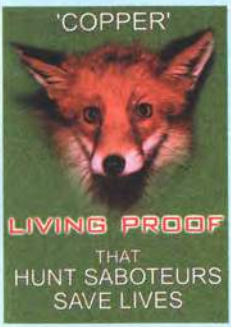
For a standing order form or more information phone 01273 622 827

☆ WINNERS ☆ CLUB DRAW ☆ WINNERS ☆

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
1ST R HORSEFIELD	1ST M CLARK	1ST T McELWEE
2ND S FENNER	2ND F MARSHALL	2ND M CLARKE
3RD D SMAILES	3RD S FENNER	3RD E MILES

AS PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THE HSA OPERATES A CLUB DRAW. IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE PART FILL IN THE LEAFLET WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ISSUE OF HOWL. IF THE SLIP IS MISSING, JUST WRITE TO THE HSA OFFICE AND REQUEST AN ENTRY FORM.

HSA PROMOTIONALS



Its our boy again!! Yep, Copper the fox has now been immortalised in a superb HSA full colour A5 leaflet which describes his rescue, treatment and the vet's findings. And has lovely piccies of him too!

Please help us to publicise Copper's story as the hunting debate heats up again, by ordering and giving out as many of these FREE leaflets as you possibly can.

NEW 'Copper' leaflet ..... **FREE!** (+p&p)

The HSA also has a range of leaflets which are available to sabs, other animal rights/welfare organisations and individuals. Each A5 leaflet, printed in two colour, gives a brief outline of how a hunt operates, how it is sabbed and well-researched arguments against that form of hunting. Types of hunting included are: Foxhunting, Hare hunting, Hare Coursing, Game Shooting, and Mink Hunting.

These leaflets are available as a 'mixed bag' (ie. equal numbers of each leaflet making up your order) or you can order each type of leaflet separately. (It is strongly advised to have some of all the leaflets on a stall - game shooting is as cruel as fox-hunting!) Unfortunately, as the range of these leaflets is so large we can only have each leaflet printed in relatively small numbers which keeps the cost of them high - that's why it is necessary for us to charge a nominal amount for them.

Price per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets ..... £10 plus p+p **NOW HALF PRICE!**

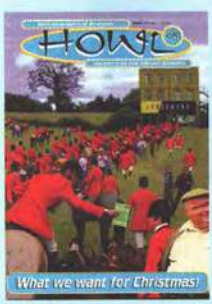




The HSA also has the first of a series of posters available. (Size A2)

Featuring the advert that appeared on the back of Howl 66 ("411 Mps, 2,000,000+ signatures on one petition, 80% of the population....and still the only people saving lives are hunt saboteurs"), and as seen in the Big Issue, these high quality, glossy, two colour posters can be purchased in large or small quantities.

Price for 1 - 5 posters .... 20p each (+p&p) **NEW LOW PRICE!**
Price for 5+ posters .... **FREE!** (+p&p)





BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 67 and Howl 65 available from the office.

Individual back issues ..... 50p each **NEW LOW PRICE!!**
Bulk orders (over 10 copies)....**FREE!** (+p&p)

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

You can also order more copies of this Howl to give to friends etc for the price of £1.50 per copy (+p&p).

YOU CAN ALSO AFFILIATE TO THE HSA FOR £30 FOR 4 ISSUES OF HOWL. AFFILIATED GROUPS WILL RECIEVE 10 COPIES OF EACH HOWL IN THE COURSE OF THEIR SUBSCRIPTION (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

NB: **All sab groups also receive a discount of 20% when ordering (cost price)**
Please quote the name of your group contact when making your order.

POSTAGE AND PACKING
To keep most of the leaflets etc. free we would ask you to make a donation to at least cover postage.
To give you some idea of the size of donations needed, 1 Howl costs 38p to send as do 5 posters.
250 leaflets cost approx. £3.50, 500 leaflets £4.00 and 1000 leaflets £6.00.



Young foxhounds need to be taught how to kill.



Here's their first lesson.

Cub hunting starts in August. What will **you** be doing about it ?

Support The Hunt Saboteurs Association
HSA PO BOX 2786 Brighton BN2 2AX. Tel/Fax (01273) 622827
www.huntsabs.org.uk
e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk