HOWL

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Hounds off our wildlife

MAGAZINE OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 19 TONBRIDGE KENT

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

SABS 'BITTEN BY OTTERS'

On the 19th of June this year (the day of the AGM) while peacefully trying to prevent the death of an otter 7 members of the Mid-Wales Wildlife Conservation Group (HSA members) were set upon by 20 hunt thugs, supporters of the Border Counties Otterhunt.

5 HSA members were subjected to a violent ducking in the river while 2 of their children (5 & 6½ years old) looked hysterically on. One woman, a semi-cripple using sticks, and an elderly man were thrown down a 10ft bank into the river.

On the following Saturday, the 26th, approximately 90 members of the HSA from all parts of the country held a banner demonstration at the Llandinam meet of the BCOH. It was easy to tell the two sides apart. The sabs were half the size in stature of the otterhunters; the sabs wore plimsolls, the 'heavies' steel-tipped boots; the sabs looked apprehensive, the hunters leered. There were at least 60 of these beefy lads; not all were local—some had come down from Lancashire and at least one was from Newmarket. The two policemen on 'duty' requested that the sabs keep it cool and were told that protesters would certainly be peaceful but had the otterhunters been given the same advice?

The hunters got off to a 'Le Mans' start and despite the fact that they met within a few feet of a large otter-bearing river they disappeared into the hinterland to a wide lake for the first 'cast' of the day. (They later returned to this river, so it was no love of the otter that made them move away). The antis did *their* first 'cast' of the day and after an hour's delay the hunt was located and the sabs followed on.

Keeping to a line above the lake the antis made an attempt to get in front of the hounds and spray ahead of them and possibly draw the hounds away. At a point above the lake the sabs split up, about 40 going down through the trees to the edge of the lake and the rest walking on down the path to reach the shore further round. Suddenly screams and shouts could be heard and a near massacre ensued. The scene is graphically described by eye witnesses:

"Some of our members started to blow hunting horns and to holloa. The hounds immediately came bounding over to us and I could see our leading members patting them."

Was this enough provocation for what happened next?

"To my horror about 40 young heavies came rushing out of the bushes, shouting and screaming and flailing their poles about. Our members backed away from them but they rushed in amongst us and started hitting people from every angle."
"About 30 heavies charged from where they had been hiding and attacked us without any hesitation. They attacked us with long poles, they used them like two-handed broadswords."
"About 20 to 30 heavies, plus a boy of about 10, came running out of the trees shouting and waving poles . . . the boy of 10 started hitting anyone he could."
"We heard noises resembling the noise Red Indians make on TV. The people who were screaming were brandishing long stout poles, some with metal tips. They started hitting our members with poles and when they knocked them down they kicked and punched them."
". . . the heavies came down out of the woods and started beating us up; they were hitting anybody they could, there was blood everywhere."

then the injuries:

"I saw one of our members being held on the ground whilst another hit him with a pole and yet another aimed kicks at the back of his head."
"He [heavy] dived and grabbed me in a headlock, knocking me to the ground . . . he was screaming 'I'll kill you, you bastard' ".
"The heavies kept kicking and hitting sabs until about 6 of our members were covered in blood."
"G . . . was smashed across the arm, he didn't defend himself and the heavy hit him again, this time across the shoulder and back."
"I was kicked several times and had an otterpole in my stomach."
"I saw V . . . smashed with an otterpole."
". . . one sab was there with blood on the front of his teeshirt and his ear."
". . . the heavy punched S . . . in the face knocking him to the ground, he then came up to me and said 'the girls aren't going to get away with it this time'. I put my jacket to my face and pretended to cry, he swore at me and let me go."
"I saw V . . . with blood pouring down his face."
". . . three heavies were waiting for us. One of them lifted his pole as if to hit me in the stomach. I told him I was pregnant. He said he didn't care and if he saw me again, anywhere, he would knock my f . . . head off."
"Many of our members were bleeding about the face and neck:"
"I saw a hunter punch a young sab in the eye, he fell forward with blood streaming down his face. One female sab was knocked to the ground as she was trying to get away, her husband ran to help her up and as he was bending over a hunter hit him on the back of his head with his pole."
"The heavy punched S . . . 3 times in the side of the head and kicked her several times in the groin."



Vic Ware after the fracas



'INCIDENT, OFFICER! WHAT INCIDENT?'

There was no retaliation from the antis and they still had to run the gauntlet of huntsmen to get back to the cars. When they finally reached the road in a confused and bedraggled state it was discovered that 3 members had lost their glasses and one a watch but were prevented from going back to look for them by hunt followers. In order to save his camera another had forfeited a film showing shots of the violence.

An ambulance arrived on the scene having been called by the first sabs to reach the road. (Later it was found that the driver of the ambulance had misheard the message of "sabs beaten with otter-poles" as "sabs bitten by otters"!) The injuries were examined and assessed and 3 protesters were taken to hospital. One was later released—he'd suffered a split ear—the other 2 were taken for x-rays. It was later confirmed that one had had his nose broken in 3 places and had suffered 2 broken teeth. The other had a cut above the eye requiring 5 stitches, a fractured cheekbone (the pieces of which had to be poked back into shape) and a fractured and displaced jawbone. The two policemen arrived on the scene after the ambulance and the hunt had gone. (They had followed the saboteurs to the lake but arrived too late there as well!) When asked if they were going to take statements the reply was, "We're only local police, we don't want to get involved." (?) Sabs were told that they deserved all they got and should clear off.

It was apparent that the police were not going to act so after a roadside conference the antis dispersed to find the hunt again. It took some while and during this time a CID man turned up from Newtown. He'd probably been aroused from his sunny slumbers by the ambulance crew's call to their HQ. He turned out to be more co-operative than the earlier 'upholders of the law' and eventually the police were persuaded to go with HSA members to identify the assailants and take statements.

The hunt (in both senses) was over.

We cannot close without quoting Simon Murray-Wells, the master of the Border Counties Otterhounds, in the papers the following week: "These people are paid professional saboteurs. They are ill mannered and provocative and they were determined to incite a breach of the peace. We are indulging in a perfectly legal sport and I do not see why our day out should be spoilt by hooligans." **Wolverhampton & Staffordshire Express and Star.**

"I didn't see what was happening but it was quite clear who did the provoking—the saboteurs. I think the hunt followers were very restrained . . . The saboteurs designed the whole thing for publicity."—**Brighton Evening Argus.**

"None of the hunt staff was involved. But the followers will not be bullied."—**Daily Express.**

"They are ill-mannered and provocative and will go to any lengths to get a story into the papers."—**Birmingham Post.**

Last but not least we have a signed letter from Murray-Wells from which the following quotes are taken:

". . . our followers are not prepared to be bullied or intimidated by a crowd of town-dwelling, paid-off students." "As far as I'm concerned, I am prepared to condone any action in the defence of my hounds." (Do we presume that he includes murder in this defence?) "We had no 'hired heavies' we do not need them, although I gather that you do." "You will not stop our sport; *you have not yet felt the edge of our anger.*" (Our emphasis)

Simon Murray-Wells lives at: Back Lodge, Doughton, Tetbury, Glos.
Tel: Tetbury 52112

FARMER JUMPS THE GUN

Yugoslavian farmer Milo Georgovic reached for his shotgun when he saw a big dog worrying his sheep. But the blast from the first barrel missed the dog and killed his prize ram. Milo was so annoyed that he hurled the gun to the ground and jumped on it. That's when the second barrel went off—killing the angry farmer instantly.

SEAL MASSACRE

Seals are still being killed on the Wash, regardless of the Home Office ban for the past two years.

Local people have seen buckets of seal guts being tipped into the sea from a Scottish-registered fishing boat *Welfare*. Orphaned seal pups have had to be rescued by holidaymakers at Skegness.

Vigilantes from the self-styled Save Our Seals campaign immediately set out to find the vessel in the motor dinghy bought by HSA supporters. They caught the pirates literally red-handed, skinning a seal on a butcher's block on deck.

The *Welfare* hurriedly packed up and was last seen heading up the Caledonian Canal back to its Kilmarnock base. The seal pelts are worth between £15 and £30, making it financially worthwhile taking the risk of getting caught.

Meanwhile in the North-East, activists are carrying on the campaign to bring to an end the annual seal cull on the National Trust's Farne Islands. Readers should contact the Seal Preservation Action Group, 2 The Cottages, Merrington Grange Farm, Kirk Merrington, Spennymoor, Co. Durham.



Dear Editor

I have read in our local press that the Economic Forestry Group, which owns thousands of acres of forestry are no longer going to bother with fox control and are banning from their plantations those bodies which do promote fox control. Apparently the new breed of forest managers are no longer interested in the fox but more concerned with the growing of trees.

Malcolm Douglass
Mid-Wales HSA

Dear Editor

I'm sure you will be glad to hear that *Howl* is now being placed in the reading room of the British Museum (Natural History) library in Cromwell Road, London SW7–probably the biggest natural history library in Europe. If you can spare two copies of each issue I'll put the other in the Science Library.

Ms Kathie Way
Department of Zoology

You can have as many copies as you like, Kathie. Perhaps other readers could follow suit and ask their local library to put it on their racks. We will supply copies free to libraries, institutions, schools and universities–Ed.

Dear Editor

My family farmed for half a century, a medium-sized mixed farm in Somerset. Brought up to hunt and support blood sports unthinkingly, the war helped us to "grow up". There are many other forms of sport which do not necessitate a sentient animal being used as a sporting accessory. Eventually we had two families of foxes on the farm and we never lost a lamb or a hen to them, though during the severe winter of 1963 they did kill pigeons weakened by cold. But we watched them round the byres and in the orchard, mousing more efficiently than any cat, and they cleared the place of rats. We have heard the same thing from other farmers who have not allowed hunting on their land.

Monica Hutchings
Scotland

ALTCAR 7

Ormskirk Magistrates Court–4th July 1976



From left to right: Mike Wood, Mike Huskisson, Mary Herd, Robin Howard, Sue Hough, Pete Bailey, Dave Hough

10 am. Accused stand in a row in front of magistrate like naughty boys and girls in front of headmaster. Magistrate has two cronies, one male one female, and the three of them sit on nice soft seats on a platform called a bench which makes them higher than anyone else. From this elevated position the magistrate peers from sunken eyes over the top of his specs at what has been delivered up to him this morning.

Supporters of the accused are allowed in but are made to sit on hard wooden seats at the back, where they are eyed with considerable suspicion by assorted policepersons hanging around the door.

Some delay while court usher attempts to shuffle accused into same order as names appear on charge sheet. Consternation when it is discovered that only six accused present instead of seven, and whole thing ends in confusion with accused standing in more or less the same order as they started. Clerk of the Court fawns to the bench and announces in hushed tones that one Mary Herd is absent. The magistrate, who has been looking merely seedy, now appears downright sickly and is barely able to suppress the tremor in his voice as he calls for her immediate arrest.

10.30 am. The magistrate agrees to proceedings being started *sans* Mary and the assembled policepersons are bundled out of the door. They are then let in, one at a time, to relate, in policeperson language, the events at Altcar on Friday, February 13th, which led to the arrest of the accused.

11.30 am. The second account is very like the first, and the third sounds much the same, so everyone is beginning to doze off.

11.55 am. Many people stir as WPC 6241 takes the stand, but there is nothing new in her account and they settle back to ponder fitfully on how anyone can be so astonishingly ugly.

12.20 pm. Eighth policeperson is halfway through his evidence when Mary walks in and wakes everyone up. P.C. Earp is telling the court how the sudden shortage of hares was upsetting the beaters, but is making heavy weather of it under defence counsel's questioning.

12.30 pm. It's getting near lunch-time so everyone stays awake while the ninth (and last) policeperson says his bit. He tells his tale with gay abandon *sans* notebook and it doesn't seem to match up too well with previous accounts–so he's asked how he can remember such things. He says it's all written down in his notebook which he seems to have mislaid but it doesn't matter coz he's absolutely sure of his facts and so he doesn't have to refer to it anyway. Further cross-examination reveals he can't even remember what he said when he first stood up. Everyone looks at the magistrate, expecting him to disallow the evidence but he just sits there like he's playing with something under the bench.

12.45 pm. Court adjourns for lunch.

2.00 pm. Court reassembles–defence counsel submits that there is no case to answer and prosecution counsel says there is.

3.00 pm. Magistrates go off to deliberate for a while (just so nobody thinks they haven't already made up their minds) and then come down on side of prosecution.

Accused take the stand one at a time and prosecution council does his thing . . .

To **Robin Howard** . . .
"You went to disrupt?"
"No–to save hares"
"You hoped the coursing would be cancelled?"
"Yes"
"Would you do the same again?"
"Yes"

To **Mary Herd** . . .
"Did you antagonise the crowd?"
"No–I was only there to save the hares"
(question and answer repeated several times while prosecutor tried to think of something else to ask).

To **Mike Wood** . . .
"Why did you use smoke bombs?"
"To scare the hares away"
"Would you do it again?"
"Yes"

To **Dave Hough** . . .
"Why did you let off fireworks?"
"To divert the hares away from the coursing field"
"Didn't you think that if you scared all the hares away then there would be no hares for coursing and that would make the coursers angry?"
"That's their problem"

To **Sue Hough** . . .
"You were attacked by the coursers?"
"Yes"
"Because you were disrupting their sport?"
"No"
"Then why did the coursers attack you?"
"Because they are violent people"

To **Pete Bailey** . . .
"When you ran on to the field did you not think that your action would be disruptive?"
"No"
"Will you be coming again next year?"
"Yes"

To **Mike Huskisson** . . .
Before being questioned Mike made a long statement in which he recounted that when he ran on to the field, the slipper recognised him from a previous encounter at Oxford and said, "Not you again!" . . .
"Would you do the same again?"
"I would do the same again and I would hope that you (prosecuting counsel) would too"

4.30 pm. Prosecution and defence counsel sum up and bench retires to consider!

4.50 pm. Magistrate returns to deliver harangue in which he refers to a concerted effort by a well-organised (?) group to disrupt legal proceedings. Each accused bound over to keep the peace for 12 months in the sum of £25. Costs set at £70 (£10 each)

5.15 pm. Mike refuses to be bound over and magistrate threatens him with 6 months jail.

5.30 pm. Mike's friends finally persuade him to consent and court case is over.

VERDICT: HSA members have the same rights as the hunted animals they try to save . . . NONE!



The Vancouver-based Greenpeace Foundation has been involved in two more hunt sabotage projects this year.

SEALS

In March, Greenpeace activists flew to the Newfoundland coast where they were joined by officials of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which has offices in New Brunswick, Canada, and Missouri, USA. The object of the exercise was to effectively sabotage the season's harp seal hunt, carried out by Norwegians, but with full Ottawa approval.

The activists planned to land on the ice floes from the IFAW helicopter and spray the seal pups with an organic green dye, which would render their pelts valueless to the hunters, but would cause the seals no harm. However, pre-hunt publicity had panicked the Canadian government into passing an emergency regulation forbidding any aircraft from going near the seals. In a macabre irony, the regulation was passed as an amendment to the so-called Seal Protection Act.

The government had also succeeded in so orchestrating the media that the local Newfoundlanders displayed vehement hostility to the West Coast Greenpeacers. Even the supposedly 'progressive', left-wing New Democratic Party openly denounced the project nationally. The local fishermen opposed the project because they too hunt the seal, but not just for their pelts, but for the meat too. Faced with such unsurmountable difficulties, the activists compromised, and agreed that they would not spray the seals after all, they would just attempt to obstruct the Norwegian huntsmen on the ice.

This climb-down had the effect of swinging the local fishermen's union behind the campaign, at least nominally, if not in terms of practical support. So, for several days in March, a handful of intrepid saboteurs clambered out of their helicopter onto the ice two miles away from the nearest seal (in deference to the government's new regulation) and trudged across the floes to the Norwegian boats.

The sabs had several engagements with the hunters. In one encounter, sabs prostrated themselves over the helpless victims, to prevent them being mercilessly hammered to death with the vicious hak-a-pik–a club with an iron spike in the end of it. The Norwegians were under orders not to retaliate, and responded only with verbal abuse.

In another run-in with a gang of Canadian hunters on the ice, the sealers waved their bloody skinning knives threateningly, but again, appeared to be under instructions to keep cool. Government officials had told them to immediately stop killing seals if there were any cameras around, and to resume as soon as the coast was clear.

The most hair-raising incident of all was when a group of sabs were deliberately charged by one of the hunters' vessels, the **Arctic Endeavour**. The sabs held their ground, and the massive bows of the ice-breaking ship came to a halt only five feet away.

Throughout the exercise, the Greenpeacers were continually harassed by Government Fisheries officials. One sab was arrested for picking up a seal and moving it out of harm's way–an offence unless one has Fisheries permission (in other words, unless you are a huntsman). On another occasion, the RCMP impounded the two helicopters, on Fisheries instructions, after it had been alleged that they had flown inside the Government's new "Seal Protection" limits.

Eventually, severe blizzards curtailed the sabotage, and by the time the weather had cleared up the sealers had gone.

WHALES

As last summer, Greenpeace also mounted a concerted expedition in the Pacific to sabotage the Soviet and Japanese whale-hunting fleets. This year, Greenpeace had the use of a converted minesweeper, which was much faster and more manoeuvrable than the whaling vessels. Last year's Greenpeace ship, the *Phyllis Cormack*, was loaned to a California-based eco-group, the Mendocino Whale War, which also joined in the sabotage campaign.

For more information on Greenpeace Foundation, write to their office at **2108 W4th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.**

BOOK REVIEW

The River People
by Philip Wayre

This book provides a fascinating insight into the daily life of the otter. The individuals described come not only from Britain, but from all over the world. That they are now in captivity is disturbing but the reader should bear in mind that they were all rescued from some fate, be it coypu-trap, parental abandonment or whatever. The frequency with which the otters breed bears testimony to the consideration that is shown for their ecological needs, so there should be no doubting that they are well cared for in captivity.

The author has a deep-seated dislike of hunting, having observed one young bitch pursued to her death he makes the telling remark, "To me it was all rather pointless; the otter was so much more beautiful and interesting alive".

BFSS FAIR FLOPS

This year's BFSS Country Fair was a dismal failure. That is the verdict of the hunting fraternity themselves, as voiced through the august columns of their weekly mouthpiece *Shooting Times.*

According to their boozy hack "Turnstone", "Attendance on the Saturday was, to put not too fine an edge upon it, "lamentable". Indeed, although the two-day event was anticipated to attract 20,000 plus, only about 14,000 actually materialised. No doubt the BFSS is at last beginning to realise that the dismemberment of innocent creatures is not such a crowd-puller as it was in times of yore.

One factor involved with the low attendance figures may well have been the appearance in local newspapers of Cancelled notices. These later turned out to be bogus. Some potential customers for the Fair may not have been able to get there: the night before the event all the direction signs mysteriously fell down. Also, 100 yds of electric cable mysteriously snaked its way out of the show ground.

Obviously the BFSS have given up trying to combat these ubiquitous poltergeists. Next year's Fair, scheduled for Shifnal in Shropshire, has been called off. (Although, you never know, this might be another of the BFSS's hoaxes!)

POINTS YOU SHOULD NOTE

Barclays Bank handle both the BFSS Fighting Fund and the Wildfowlers Association of Great Britain and Ireland (WAGBI) bank accounts. The ordinary BFSS account is with Nat West.

Emperor Roscoe was DJ at the Curre Hunt Barn Dance in May 1976. Ray Ellington and Mac & Katie Kissoon appeared at the Dewlish Ball in June, in aid of the BFSS Fighting Fund and the South Dorset Hunt.

The main guest at the WAGBI AGM this year was Clement Freud, the Liberal MP.

Hunt Chaos

RARE HORSES ATTACKED

Last October hounds of the Hambledon Hunt ran amok amongst a herd of extremely rare Przewalski horses at the Marwell Zoo Park near Winchester. There are only an estimated 230 of the horses left in the whole World—there are none left in the wild whatsoever. As a direct result of the incursion, one of the mares aborted a few days later. Thus the hunt, who are continually whining about how concerned they are over conservation, have through their own stupidity driven another nail into the coffin of this unique and beautiful creature.

FARMERS ATTACKED

Members of the Oxon-Berks and White Horse branches of the National Farmers Union are extremely concerned at the escalation of attacks on farmers by coursing maniacs.

One Oxfordshire farmer was kicked by a gang of hare-coursing roughs when he caught them trespassing on his land. On another farm, the owner only avoided a similar assault by speeding off in his Land Rover.

But now farmers are determined to take action against the coursing yobbs, most of whom come from London, it is alleged.

FORUM

FORUM is designed specifically for individual members to express an opinion about subjects that interest them and the views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those held by the Association.

Fox Rehabilitation

—John Hicks

Some cubs are found after being abandoned due to the death of the vixen. The majority however are picked up by well-meaning people when in fact the cub has momentarily strayed from the earth; sometimes they are wrongly sold as pets by dealers.

weeks is no more difficult than rearing an abandoned puppy or kitten. The fox is by nature more like a cat than a dog, and the eventual degree of tameness does not seem to depend on the age it was found. Some bottle-reared cubs remain wild, and others found older become tame. However the tamer it becomes, the harder it will be to find somewhere safe to release it. You should have your cub innoculated as you would a puppy at approximately 12 weeks.

Foxes do not make household pets, they are at best noisy, destructive, smelly, escape artists! The ideal must always be to return the fox safely to the wild, which thanks to the hunts is not easy.

From the age of approximately 12 weeks you will need to provide an outside run and kennel, as the fox grows it will chew through wire netting, dig under it and climb the highest wire. Assuming you have built a weld mesh or chain link run with concrete base and wired in top, bearing in mind when siting it, the considerable and alarming noises and smells you can expect, the next problem is diet. Although foxes will readily eat tinned meat and dog biscuits, it will probably grow into a mangey and unhealthy adult. The most natural diet possible must be given, road accident victims can be collected in the early mornings in depressingly large numbers, rabbits, birds, squirrels and hedgehogs can be obtained this way. A sympathetic paper boy, milkman or postman can be an easy way of getting a supply. Failing this a butcher will often supply chicken and rabbit heads and scraps. Worms, slugs, beetles and other large insects, fruits such as blackberries, apples and pears should be given occasionally. Most foxes enjoy some green stuff, and different common wild plants in the area should be tried. A supplement of cod liver oil daily will help with general health as will regular worming.

Undoubtedly the most difficult problem will be finding a suitable place to release the fox. Anywhere that is hunted is out; every year well-meaning fox owners supply easy fodder for the hunts while convincing themselves that at least the fox is free. Any fox that has had contact with humans, or has had an unnatural upbringing is obviously going to be the first to be killed.

Presuming you have found somewhere where hunting and shooting are not allowed i.e., a large estate or farm, ideally 200 acres at minimum, rehabilitation can begin. If trained from an early age a fox will accept a collar and lead although you will have to follow where it wants to go and at its own speed. Frequent walks should be given in the area of release to familiarize the fox with scents and landmarks. Ideally a pen should be built there, the fox can then be fed at the same time of day for several weeks then the door can be left open, or the fox can be allowed to dig its own way out, feeding should continue for several weeks in or near the pen until the fox has adapted into the wild. If it is not possible to build a pen, a suitable earth can be found or built, food can then be left outside in the same way to encourage it to stay in the area.

The best time for release is April-June to allow it time to find its feet before the hunting season, should it stray. If release is not possible, a large run must be provided with plenty of logs and playthings, also frequent long walks should be given. Do not be tempted to have it de-scented, a pet fox can live 14 years, and should you find somewhere to release it safely in the future, it would not be able to live a natural life.

Your fox's droppings and bedding should be kept for laying false trails. If you are interested in fox rehabilitation and have facilities, or if you have a pet fox problem please contact John Hicks at P.O. Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent.

SIR, — The traditional country sports of England, hunting, fishing and shooting, are under fire from the left wingers.

Let it be clearly understood that these people are motivated by envy, and their activities are built on ignorance of the sports which they condemn.

These voices are the same voices which will condemn private beds in hospital, public schools, the armed forces of the Crown, and even the Crown itself.

They come from men and women who wish to eradicate from our society all those qualities on which a healthy democratic system thrives.

Now they want to remove one of man's most basic instincts, that of hunting game. Nobody condones the killing of rare wild animals, but the pursuit of wild creatures is as basic an instinct in man as tilling the soil.

By these actions they are serving one purpose only, the sovietisation of our society.

None of us would change our way of life in England for that of Soviet Russia.

As one of the local honorary secretaries of the British Field Sports Society, I am asking your readers to contribute generously to our fighting fund at local point-to-point races, or to send me a cheque to the address below.

MICHAEL BARLING (Dr)
Hon Local Secretary BFSS

—no comment

"ANIMAL AUSCHWITZ"

The militant Animal Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a raid on the premises at Shepreth, Cambridgeshire of Col. Peter Storie-Pugh, a prominent vet who breeds sheep and pigs for use in vivisection. The words "Animal Auschwitz" were daubed in the road at the entrance to the breeding farm, anti-vivisection slogans were sprayed on the walls, and the colonel's office ransacked.
—Animal Liberation News Service

EAGLES POISONED

Gamekeepers are spreading poisoned meat on some Scottish moors in an effort to kill birds of prey—including rare golden eagles—which attack the grouse.

Apart from the fact that it is illegal to kill protected birds—there are thought to be only about 250 breeding pairs of golden eagles in the whole of Scotland—the method of poisoning is wildly indiscriminate. Other rare mammals, such as the pine marten and wildcat, can easily eat the poisoned bait.

Yet again we find another example of the widespread cruelty and destruction caused directly by the hunting and shooting fraternity. Their Big Lie technique of pretending to be actually concerned about conservation is wearing very very thin indeed.

When the RSPB investigated this affair they found that there were other factors involved too. A stuffed eagle can fetch several hundred pounds at an auction it seems, and the RSPB reckons that gamekeepers may operate a lucrative sideline in selling dead birds to taxidermists. The penalty for killing eagles is a maximum of £25.

COUNTRY LIFE

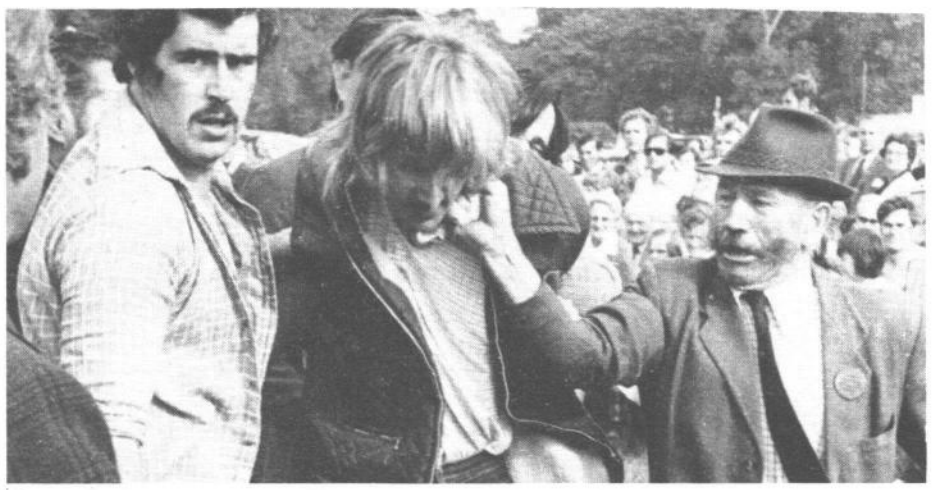
As the Autumn tints light our woods and a chill is felt in the morning air a strange rumbling can be heard from the bowels of the earth. It is the sound of *huntus heavicus* (species—Vulpes) awakening from its Summer slumbers.

He is a dull creature, lacking in brightness and interest, which no amount of careful grooming will change. A typical *huntus heavicus,* or *heavi* (as it is more commonly known), stands about 5' 9" high and weighs an average of 210 lb. It walks with a shambling gait and its voice can cover a wide range, from piercing shrieks ('holloas') to, in old males, a thunderous roar. Drumming on car tops with clenched fists (known as 'bunches-of-fives'), with or without verbal accompaniment, is used to intimidate its foes.

It is confined to those areas where foxes abound where it lives almost wholly in the woods, only venturing out occasionally to drink at local watering places. Despite their great strength *heavies* are devout cowards and need to travel in groups of 5 or over for protection. Indeed, they have been observed in groups of 30 or more!

In recent years groups of *heavies* were only sighted occasionally but of late numbers have been on the increase and it is believed that this winter they will be spotted in many parts of the country. Extreme caution should be exercised in their presence as their behaviour is known to be erratic. Normally they will give you a playful nudge in the ribs but occasionally they may become over-excited and may trample on you in their anxiety to make friends.

Although the *heavi* is a protected species conservationists agree that because of its increasing numbers the law should be changed to allow culling which may assist in a recovery of the balance of nature.



Edenbridge & Oxted 'heavies' welcome a sab to the Show—see this issue

Run on and on and

In the Summer months when otterhunts are few and far between a young saboteur's fancy turns to the showground.

Demonstrations during hound parades at County Shows are one way of getting the message over to a captive general public and reactions from the crowd, police and hunt supporters vary considerably.

The run-on by 17 sabs at Ardingly (South of England Show) in June was similar to a gladiatorial spectacle when some members of the crowd encouraged the huntsman of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray Hunt with yells of 'Ride 'em down' and cheered when he actually attempted it! However, the stewards were more diplomatic and allowed the banners to remain aloft for the duration of the parade. A show official said, "We may not agree with the viewpoint of the demonstrators . . . but so long as they do not interfere with or injure the animals our stewards will not touch them".

Contrastingly, at the Kent County Show in July, when the infamous Tickham Hunt was confronted by 9 sabs the crowd remained silent. The sabs, unfortunately, were escorted off after only 3½ minutes by the police but were allowed by them to keep their banners up outside the ring. Not a ripple of applause for the hunt when they left the arena but support for the sabs was evident. Could this lack of support for the hunt be attributed to the adverse publicity they had received after the Detling affair last season? Curiously enough the Kent showground is adjacent to Detling airfield.

In comparison to the police reaction in Kent, our North Wales group got a different reception at their demonstration at Gyrn Castle, Llanasa in June at a fair where the Flint & Denbigh Foxhounds and the Royal Rock Beagles were parading. The group, consisting of young people, led by a 13 year old girl, decided to have a banner demo on the road outside the showground but were immediately told by a policeman to "Bugger off" and threatened with police action.

tribute leaflets to the crowd.

Different tactics were employed at the Essex County Show in June where the sabs remained outside the ring. When the Essex Union came into the arena they unfurled their large banner amongst the onlookers at a point near the BFSS caravan and set up a chorus of boos which were echoed by some of the crowd. Unable to contain himself a BFSS official ran from the caravan and attempted to pull the banner down whereupon a member of the public incensed by the sight, dragged the BFSS man to the ground and they had to be separated by the police. The 'sportsman' was later seen limping back to the caravan!

August Bank Holiday Monday saw the worst eruption of violence by hunt supporters at any show to date. 9 sabs ran on during a parade by the Old Surrey & Burstow at the Edenbridge & Oxted Show and within seconds a mini traveller containing heavies drove onto the field. The sabs were subjected to brutal man-handling, which a show official described as the "minimum of force" to get them off. It included striking a sab in the face and genitals, kicking another in the face and knocking others to the ground. One was carried off by *five* heavies. The crowd reaction was appalling—they actually cheered the heavies on.

As a result of the demonstration, committee member John Hicks, who was not at the show, received two telephone threats from Old Surrey & Burstow supporters (his local hunt). "We got you good this afternoon", they said and went on to threaten him with physical violence and his wife Jo with acid in her face. Later another caller told him, "Sleep tight. We know where you live. We're going to fix you!"

Supporters of bloodsports pooh pooh the opinion that indulgence in such practices encourages aggression on the part of the participants. But from the reports of crowd- and supporter-reaction it would seem that such an opinion is ratified.

HSAAGM

A successful 1976 AGM was held at Aston University, Birmingham on the 19th July. The country was well represented and a strong contingent naturally turned up from the surrounding area. Approximately 135 members attended. We had two apologies for absence; one from the Mid-Wales Wildlife Conservation Group who were 'doing' the Border Counties Otterhounds (see this issue) and one from Spike Milligan (who wished us success for the day).

Reports on the previous year's work of the HSA were given by the Secretary, Treasurer, Press Officer and **HOWL** Editor and all spelt out the same message—that the HSA was at last on a sound footing and our future as an established animal welfare pressure group was assured. Topics and motions under discussion from the floor included the HSA Constitution & Rules; the contents of **HOWL**, the feasibility of appointing a paid secretary, a re-structuring of the organisation on a regional basis, otter-hunting, rabies, the law of trespass, the size and operation of the Committee and the budgeting of national funds.

Talks were given during the afternoon. Richard Ryder, RSPCA Council member, spoke about the RSPCA and its new hunting policy and about vivisection, Mike Huskisson (HSA Committee member) on the ICI Beagles and our attitude to animals, and Cliff Goodman (ex-Committee member) expressed his thoughts on our ability to put successful pressure on animal exploiters in all fields.

The day's proceedings finished with the Committee election results and a re-screening of the 'Open Door' programme.

Members afterwards retired to the Common Room with attendant bar (unfortunately the Disco had to be abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances) but a 'good time' was had by all!

(A full report of the entire proceedings can be obtained, upon request, from HQ. Please enclose a stamp!)

SALES

(Members snould take into account a possible delivery delay of 7-21 days when ordering due to availability of stock).

Only the background colour of sweat-shirts and tee-shirts is quoted, lettering is in a contrasting colour. Please state chest size and 2nd & 3rd colour choice.

Sweatshirts £3.30 inc p&p (except where stated)
Long-sleeved, thick cotton
'Hounds off our Wildlife' lettering plus illustrations.
Colours—green, yellow, red, brown.
Extra large (42" upwards) available in crimson, green, yellow at **£1.50** inc p&p;
'Hunt Saboteurs Association' (motif as badge).
Colour—dark blue.

Tee-shirts £1.50 inc p&p
Short-sleeved
'Hounds off our Wildlife' lettering plus illustrations.
Colours—red, yellow, white.
'Hunt Saboteurs Association' (motif as badge).
Colour—white only.

Badges 10p each
'Hounds off our Wildlife'; 'Hunt Saboteurs Association'

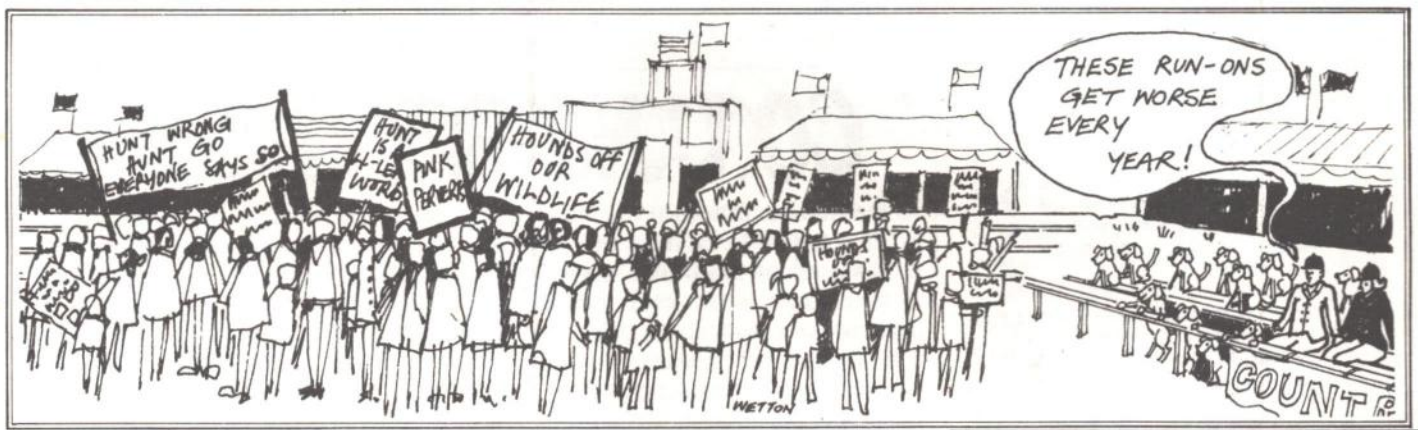
NEW!—'Only Rotters Hunt Otters'; 'Hunt is a 4-letter word'

Biros 5p each
Blue ink—'Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.' plus address.
Black ink—'Hounds off our Wildlife—Abolish Bloodsports' plus name and address.

Posters 2p each
'Hounds off our Wildlife' lettering plus illustrations and address.

NEW!
Hunting horns—good quality tone and excellent value at **£2.50** inc p&p

(Where no postage is shown it would be appreciated if members would enclose an 8½p stamp).



They moved further up the road where they were subjected to verbal and physical insults by the passing public until a police inspector arrived and said they could demonstrate where they pleased and posted a constable to keep an eye on things!

Police were again in evidence at the Surrey County Show in May where 15 sabs managed to stay in the ring until the hounds of the Surrey Union left. Eventually they were escorted off by the boys in blue but were allowed to dis-

Are primitive instincts aroused in the minds of onlookers when confronted by the sight of hounds and huntsmen galloping around the arena? These very people, who would probably be the first to condemn Christians being thrown to the lions, suddenly condone, and even encourage, the violence shown towards peaceful demonstrators who are objecting to the glorification of 'killing for sport'.

What in indictment of our so-called civilized society!

ROTTERS ROUTED

An entire community made sure that an otter hunt was seen off, when the hunt descended on their Scottish island.

The hunters, led by London property developer Michael Farrow, arrived on the island of Mull with a pack of 24 hounds in August, for the fourth year running. Angry locals recalled that on previous occasions, not just otters but ducks, moorhens and other wildlife had been slaughtered in an orgy of destruction.

Local people spontaneously boycotted the vandals. Hotels and restaurants refused to serve the hunt. Landowners refused permission for them to cross their fields. Sugar was put in petrol tanks. Tyres were let down. The Bishop of Norwich, who happened to be on holiday on the island, spoke out against the hunt dilettantes.

After an incident in which police had to be called, Mr Farrow and his party packed their bags and retreated to the mainland.

What is so odd about the affair is that the officials of the hunt are stationed in different parts of the Kingdom and the pack has no recognised hunting country. Undoubtedly the hounds were bought on whim, with the intention of playing the country squire. If any reader spots this rogue pack causing havoc (especially in Scotland) please write to us.

ANIMAL WELFARE YEAR

Dozens of animal welfare societies have come together to launch Animal Welfare Year; designed to reach out to the public at large and involve them directly in animal welfare campaigns.

The project, presided over by Lord Houghton, and organised from 6 Dorset Street, London W1 and 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh provides a comprehensive list for would-be organisers. Although it has refused official affiliation to both the HSA and the parallel Animal Activists (on the basis that our "extremism" may deter "ordinary" people from supporting the campaign) it is however prepared to accept our contributions as individuals rather than as a participating organisation and one or two sabs have managed to secure regional posts within the campaign. The Midlands section is being run by HSA local organiser, Derek Carroll of 86 Alexandra Road, Birmingham 5. HSA members who would like to help should get in touch directly with Derek.

Meanwhile, in East Anglia the orthodox Otter Hunters have given up their self-imposed fast. HSA has managed to intercept the Spring 1976 bulletin of the Eastern Counties Otterhounds, which makes it quite clear that the hunt has gone back to its policy of killing otters, rather than just "counting" them. We quote the relevant part of the bulletin, "Help me to kill a few otters this season and I think that next year we will shake the pessimists by showing just how many there are about. We have been keeping a low profile for too many years now, and there is nothing quite like a pack of hounds that is catching otters, to show sport every day we go out. I am taking steps to bring this about . . ."

WE NEED HELP!

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

TO: HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION PO Box 19 Tonbridge Kent

I enclose my donation of £_____/I enclose my membership fee £_____

I wish to be active/non-active Date _____ (50p min.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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