Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Winter 2002

HOWL 77

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

BUMPKINS MARCH REPORT | NATIONAL NEWS ROUND UP | MADONNA, GUY RITCHIE & THE PORTMAN F.H. | GROUSE SHOOTS SABOTAGE | GROUP NEWS ROUND UP | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



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RS1


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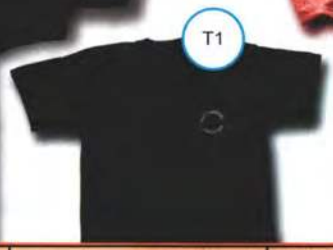

SW2



PC2


BLU

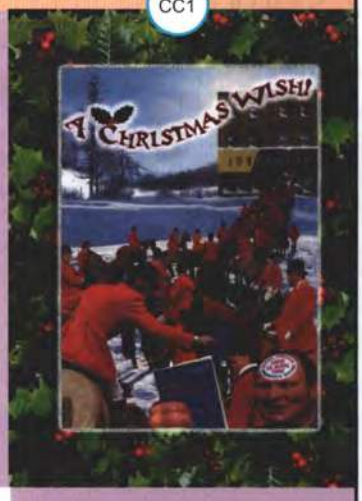

WMN


T1

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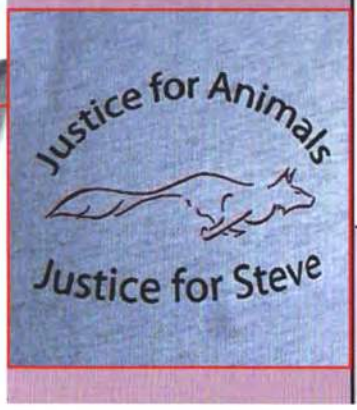
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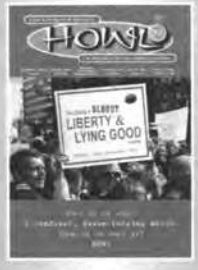
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HOWL 77

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 30 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to effectively prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year.
The 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.

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big taverymuch to: the office crew, & anyone else who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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

EDITORIAL

Proposals announced by Mam in November to reform the Criminal Justice system, allowing retrials where compelling evidence appears, and a jury to hear about defendants previous convictions, sounds all well and good to me if it gets violent people off our streets, but if Surrey Police's recent track record is anything to go by, these powers will only be applied in the cases of anti-hunting campaigners!

Political rhetoric this might seem, but consider the scenario of a couple of months back, where around 50 police officers from Surrey and other neighbouring counties, joined forces at the opening meet of the Surrey Union Hunt. Why so many agents of the law present anyone? Any passer-by could be forgiven for thinking that there were armed gumboot-bombers at the scene, judging by the military zeal with which all ranks of officer pursued a handful of hunt protesters that dared to show up. On calculation there were about six police personnel for every one protester! Later in the day three of the protesters were pounced on, bent-over and handcuffed. Moments before they had been trying to film members of hunt digging out an animal that have gone into hiding into what may well have been a badger sett. And while there were six police officers to every one protester, the cowering fox was considerably worse off. He/she had 10 men, 10 shovels, 3 or 4 dastardly terriers, and of course the 50 or so police officers acting as security against anyone who tried to take a peek even, let alone help the by now whimpering fox. Needless to say the fox didn't stand a chance. Neither it seems did the 14 year-old girl who was raped on the same day and at around the same time in a neighbouring county. Any police officers that might have otherwise been deployed to patrol our civilian areas, were at the Surrey Union Hunt ensuring that no one intercepted a bunch of non-taxpaying redcoats and terriermen from torturing a wild animal before killing it. This is the country that my Granddad died in his Lancaster bomber for.

This is also my last stint as editor of Howl. Long-term appointments always carry the risk of repeating oneself, getting bogged down in the subject matter, and in the case of this subject matter, too often mistaking hunters and crooked police officers for human beings, leading me to believe that everyone else on the planet is as selfish, sadistic and ultimately pathetic.

So, my best wishes to the next editor. Hopefully they will live to see this most unnecessary and avoidable cruelty wiped from the face of the English and Welsh countryside.

Elise has lost her fur. God knows what happened to Mat!

OBITUARY: SUE SMITH



Sue Smith, one of the pioneers of direct action for animal liberation, died recently at the age of 55.

Sue was involved in the early days of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, and Served as its Hon. Secretary and as a committee member during the early seventies. She was one of the founder members of the Band of Mercy, which later became the ALF, and took part in many raids against the vivisection industry, hunt kennels, factory farms etc. when these groups were in their infancy. These included the famous action against the notorious ICI laboratories in Cheshire, when two of the "smoking" beagles were rescued from horrific tobacco experiments.

In the mid-seventies, Sue moved from the London area down to the West Country, where she worked at several sanctuaries, devoting herself to Animal rescue and the treatment of sick and injured creatures, using herbalism and other natural methods. Eventually, she bought a dilapidated farmhouse, which she renovated for use as an animal sanctuary and natural healing centre for both animals and people. Many creatures, rescued from the nightmare of vivisection or factory farming, found care and comfort at her hands.

Sadly, Sue became ill during the past year and eventually her condition became so bad that she was admitted to hospital in Taunton. Doctors at first thought she was suffering from lupus, but tests showed this wasn't the case and they were never able to determine the cause of her illness.

After slipping into unconsciousness, she died on July 29th and was buried, a week later, in the grounds of her beloved sanctuary and healing centre, in a very moving ceremony which combined elements of pagan and American Indian funeral rites.

She will be sadly missed and the world is a poorer place without her.

Ronnie Lee

As Mad as a March...

in September

Pictures: Paul, Steve & Matt

Remember the march a few months back? Not the one where 200,000 gathered in protest at Government plans for "pre-emptive" military strikes on Iraq; no, the other one; where double the numbers bayed for their right to draw recreational blood from thousands of Britons. (I must add at this point that the thousands of Britons to which I refer are non-human therefore one realises they don't count as such, and neither does their suffering to any significant extent, at this point in time.)

Structural arguments withstanding though, if this were 1872 someone called Dickens might have been compelled to say: "It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness", but in 2002 we no longer have the reach for Dickensian paradox and optimism, only the knowledge that the Age of Reason and unprecedented leaps in the fields of industrial, info, and bio technology haven't made us better human beings or less prone to spilling blood.





And if anyone in the year 2002 was in any doubt about just how gormless, inconsistent and selfish to the core human beings are - they had only to witness the London-based spectacle of 22nd September where 400,000 (allegedly) stomped for the right to pursue wild mammals with packs of dogs as part of a day's entertainment. (Okay, so September's gathered a bit of crazy reputation in recent years and we shouldn't raise our expectations unduly. I reckon it calls for a new simile at least. Never mind as mad as a March hare, what about as mad as a September march?)

Liberty, Livelihood, and ...the Media

Carefully branded as a march for "Liberty and Livelihood", the bloodsports-friendly media did more than their fair share of up-talking during the run up to what was promoted as the biggest 'civil rights' demonstration in recent history. Critics begged to differ and hailed it the biggest march against democracy since ... the last one in fact!

Reportage of the day was almost unanimous in its summing up of a flawlessly managed and all together civilised day out. Over "400,000" marchers from a "broad cross section of society" - we were told - were counted by the Countryside Alliance's peopleometer. The media washed down the information with obsequious enthusiasm, and then fed it to us by the bale load. The police reported no trouble, and many of them even shared a joke with the well-mannered, Barbour-collared marchers for "Liberty and Livelihood".

The Celebrities (Ducthess of Bedford (left), Dribbling John McCririck & Jim Meads: H&H photographer (right).



A hint of stardust amid the sea of hunting greens and banners came in the form of your Anthony Andrews, Jeremy Irons, celebrity chefs (whose names I don't care to remember), ex-footballers with very big chins, and ageing Australian super model Elle McPherson. Paparazzi were quick to zoom in, and if nothing else, these B & C category celebrities helped to break the monotony of the otherwise ruddied complexions and crooked features that comprise the membership of the Countryside Alliance.

Surprise (but not surprising) Guests!

Also making a strong presence at the rally - yet not so well publicised - were members of the BNP, who circulated copies of their most recent manifesto and glossy newsletter. For anyone who doesn't know what BNP stands for, it's the British National Party - our very own version of the Ku Klux Klan. Attempting to understand the nature of this unspoken alliance, one imagines, what with the ongoing persecution of 'white landowners/ farmers' in Zimbabwe, and Countryside Alliance supporters over here making ludicrous analogies and accusing our Government of behaving like Robert Mugabe over the threat to ban hunting, that now has never better time to appeal to the sensibilities of die-hard white imperialist and landowners, with racist literature and ideas of a common and unchangeable enemy. Whatever the reason, the BNP was made very welcome according to our sources!



Police



The police were out in force that day - no failing in their duties as far as numbers speak: riot squads, back-ups, spotters, evidence gatherers, video cameras - all the south-east constabularies put together it seemed, lingered, hid and waited on hot standby for the first signs of trouble.

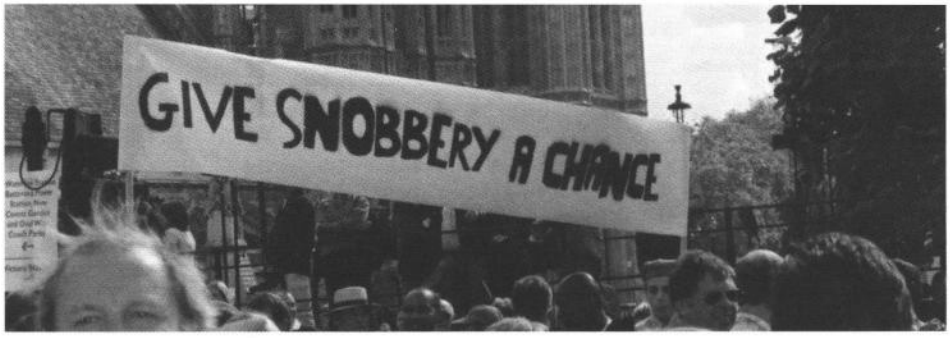
Intelligence Gathering ?

Evidence gatherers we know turn up at the majority of demonstrations where numbers exceed a hundred, the idea being to gather past and pre-crime intelligence with a view to bringing perpetrators of crime to justice, or intercepting where it is thought crime may occur. Bothered or not by EGs, they'll usually stick a camera lense in your face at some point during the day – with or without your knowledge.

What was acutely noticeable about the "intelligence" gathering at this event however, was where the efforts were focused. One would assume that at a pro-hunting critical mass like this the police would be exercising a keen look out for untold members of the lawless Real Countryside Alliance: the ones responsible for tens of thousands of pounds worth of criminal damage to national monuments, motorway signs, and MP's constituency buildings, for instance; or even those who've expressed a taste for dumping the mutilated remains of animals at the homes of known anti-bloodsports campaigners. But no - and neither they appear to be concerned by the turnout from the BNP.



The beautiful people of the countryside bring some much needed colour to the capital



Unless the reports we received were unrepresentative of wider activity that day, the sights of our intelligence gatherers seemed firmly set on the identification, observation and extraction of any free-moving 'antis' in the crowd! (A possible explanation for this preoccupation with antis, is that perhaps some of the Met's "special needs" recruits put a literal spin on the term 'intelligence gathering' and spent the whole day



looking for 'signs of intelligence' amongst the 300,000 strong Countryside Alliance gathering – an impossible task by anyone's standards!)

"Fifth Columnist"

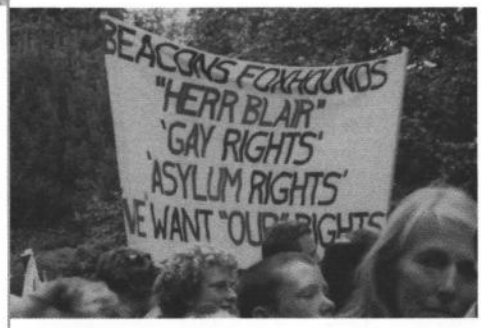
The few anti-bloodsports campaigners to risk moving alongside the marchers - for the single purpose of getting photos for campaign literature - were singled out by police spotters, promptly surrounded, and then threatened with arrest before being accused of being "fifth columnists". Whether this was in the interest of preserving the fragile sense of calm amongst a monstrous crowd, boiling below the surface; or because the police were effectively serving as club "bouncers", turning away any undesirables at what was otherwise biggest right-wingers picnic in the park for years, depends on where you sit with conspiracy theories.

400, 000 (if you double the numbers!)

According to the Countryside Alliance's crowd counting device, strategically positioned at Whitehall, there were over 400,000 marchers on the 22nd. However, in addition to the "fifth columnists" whom the police were so busy weeding from the hordes that day, one should also discount the thousands of marchers that were seen finishing at Parliament Square, walking up Horse Guards Parade and back down Whitehall to get counted again! (Was there anything honest about this event we ask ourselves?)

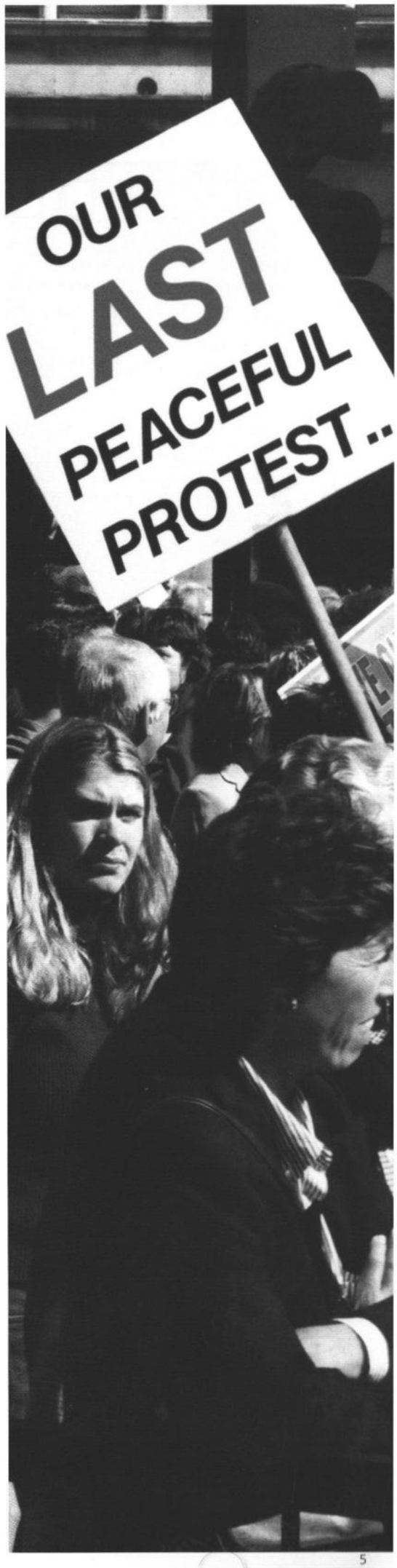
One hell of a day!

The Liberty and Liars march may not have attracted the numbers the organisers were hoping for in the end - which may account for all double-backing among marchers. What is certain however, is that 22nd September must have been one hell of a day for British wildlife (and a few European cousins I suspect), as their usual tormenters deserted the killing copses to board planes, coaches and trains destined for London. That said, I've no doubt the blood junkies compensated for their missed fix when they got back.









thugs, wreckers & bullies

ON 22nd September a few of the Liberty and Livelihood marchers in London were only too keen to get their pro-hunting points across to the Daily Mirror. What they didn't disclose, the Mirror subsequently published - and these were only the few that were interviewed!

PETER KANABUS, West Grinstead, West Sussex, 52, admitted 43 charges of cruelty to cattle in 1998. His wife, Annabel, 54 - sister of supermarket tycoon and science minister Lord Sainsbury - admitted 22 charges. Their son Jason, 26, admitted 43 charges. In a raid on their farm, RSPCA inspectors found starving cows crammed in a shed, which was a foot deep in manure and littered with carcasses. Horsham magistrates ordered the family to pay fines, costs and compensation totalling £44,000.

FRED HARBER, Smallfield, Surrey, was jailed for eight months in January this year for cruelty to four horses.

RICHARD PORTER, South Warnborough, Hook, Hants, 60, was fined £15,000 at Winchester Crown Court in November 2000 for fiddling milk production records amounting to £700,000.

PETER RAYMOND JONES, Brixworth, Northants, huntsman in charge of the hounds for the Pytchley Hunt, is cited in the BSE report of November 2000 because he broke laws designed to stop the spread of disease. He was fined £2,000.

BERNARD FOX, Akeley, Bucks, In June this year Fox was fined £4,000 for polluting a tributary of the River Ouse at Akeley with farm effluent.

Sir HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Landowner Sir Henry, 56, caused fury with proposals to build 2,000 homes on green fields by the West Sussex village of Southwater.

BEN PAYNE, Fakenham, Norfolk, A worker at Payne Bros (East Anglia) Ltd, Mr Payne's animal feed factory had an arm severed above the elbow in May 1999 while cleaning a conveyor belt. The firm had no written safety procedure, there was no guard over the trough and the employee had to stand on a girder just three inches wide. The family firm admitted the offences and was fined £13,000 by King's Lynn magistrates.

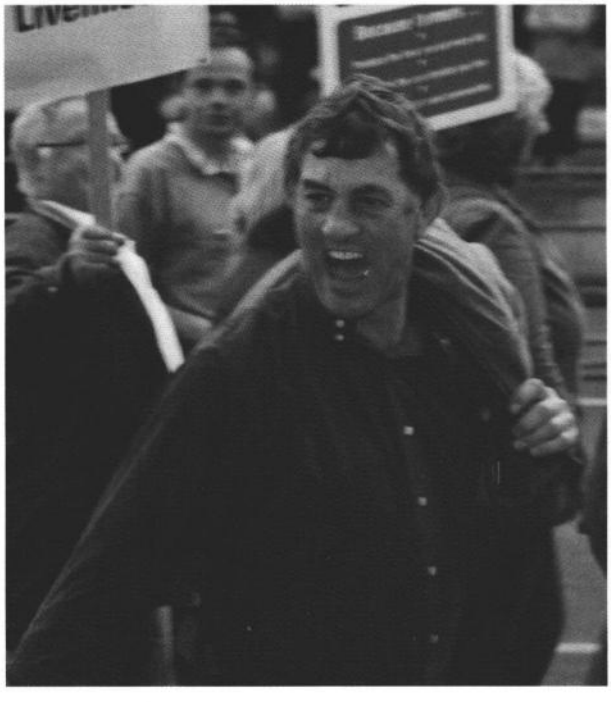
OWEN G OWEN, St Asaph, Anglesey. Last month (August) abattoir operator Owen. 51, was fined £2,000 for pollution. Environment Agency officers found a stream near the abattoir was reddish brown and stank of slurry.

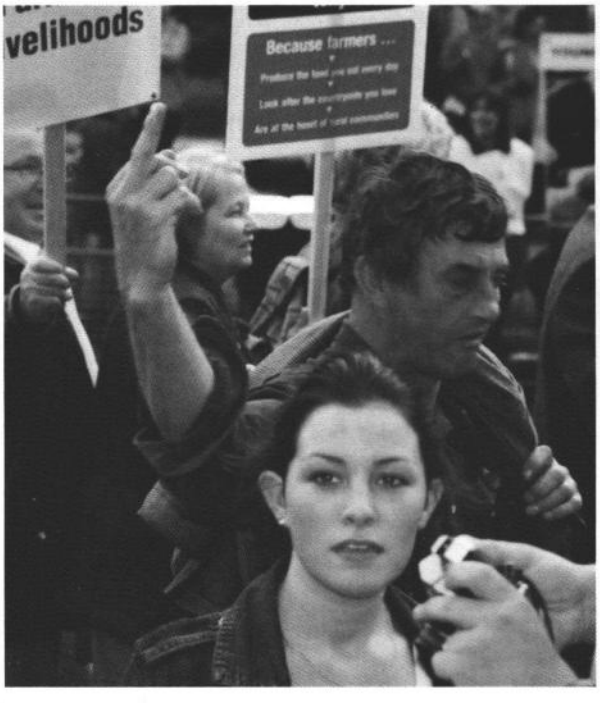
DIANE COLE, Orsett, Essex, was fined £5,000 by the Health and Safety Executive for keeping an illegal pesticide.

MARK GREEN, St Owen's Cross, Hereford, was fined £1,600 by the Health and Safety Executive after an employee was trapped in a potato harvester. The worker injured an arm, a leg and his genitals in the accident in 1999.

VERA READMAN, Whitby, North Yorks, admitted five offences of failing to dispose correctly of sheep carcasses at Whitby magistrates in October 2000. She was fined £500.

September 2002





Dont make hunters into criminals, urge the Countryside Alliance. Too late, they already are.

Last hunting season, many incidents occurred in which hunt supporters and officials attacked individuals opposed to their idea of a good day's sport. Some of the perpetrators got away scot-free, while others went to court and received a slap on the wrist and minimum penalty. Attacks on hunt protesters are frequent and vicious, yet don't seem to receive the same column inches or response from the courts as huntsmen who whinge about the 'danger' hunt saboteurs pose by blowing a hunting horn.

Here are just a few of last season's violent incidents:

January

Two hunt supporters punched a hunt protester to the ground and then smashed his CB radio at the Woodland Pytchley hunt in Northhamptonshire. An unemployed gamekeeper, Mr W Playford, was given a 6-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs at Corby Magistrates Court.

February

Hunt supporters with the Cheshire Fox Hounds broke a man's leg after they held him down and smashed a concrete boulder down on to him.

March

A SUPPORTER from the Suffolk Hunt attacked a female hunt saboteur. When a policeman intervened to halt the attack, he too was assaulted. The incident at Wepstead near Bury St Edmunds was captured on video. A man named Martin Nunn was given a 12-month bind over for the attack at Bury St Edmunds Magistrates Court in June.

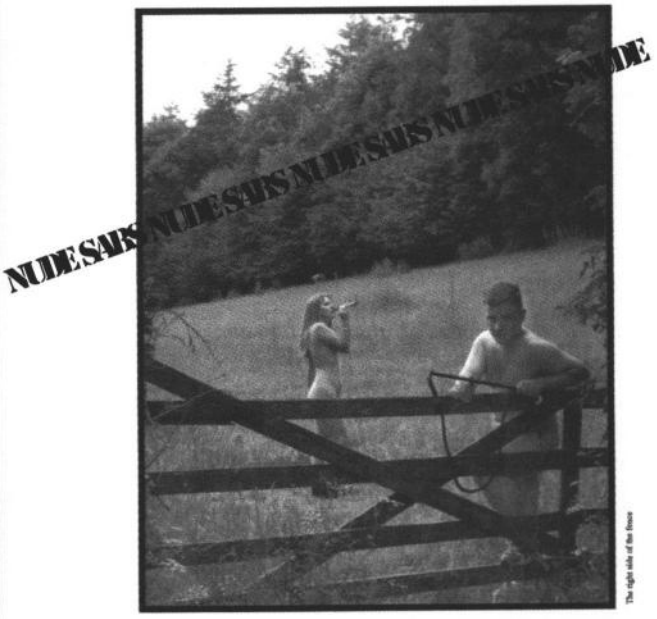
Hunt supporters from the Western Hunt in Cornwall smashed up a female protester's car. They used a wrecking bar on the body and put a pickaxe through the bonnet. The woman, accompanied by two other females and a man, was absolutely terrified by the ordeal. The men responsible were no doubt angry because the protesters had managed to stop the hunt from killing that day.

A huntsman was arrested on suspicion of causing Actual Bodily Harm and Assault after a series of violent attacks on demonstrators at the Essex Farmers & Union Hunt. One protester was hit over the head with a baseball bat, 3 others ridden down, and 6 whipped by hunt riders. At one point, a terrierman pulled out a knife and used it to threaten hunt protesters. One eyewitness said that when police arrived and attempted to halt the attacks on protesters, they too were ridden at.



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February 2002

1st. M. Wishart
2nd. T Cullen
3rd. B Chapman

March 2002

1st. R. Banham
2nd. J. Robertson
3rd. B Robbins

April 2002

1st. J Insley
2nd D Wetton
3rd B Mayo-Turner

May 2002

1st R Wilson
2nd J Robertson
3rd P Fenn

June 2002

1st D Dunbar
2nd H C Heady
3rd M Creed

July 2002

1st S Burge
2nd M Fleming
3rd J Insley

August 2002

1st M Huggett
2nd F Ford
3rd B Chapman

NEWS IN BRIEF

A FORMER huntsman turned anti-hunt protester helped drum up support for a bloodsport ban when he held a demonstration in Worcester in March. Mr Britton said he spent many years hunting before changing his views. "I was around 24 when I stopped hunting," he said. Having gone to some terrible hunting events I stopped. I found out hounds are put down at the age of five and you see the worst side of people because they get pleasure from killing."
Reported by This is Worcestershire 23 March 2002

A pro-hunt Conservative MP was been sacked from the Conservative front bench in May of 2002 after she made a racist joke at a rugby club dinner in her constituency of Congleton, Cheshire. Mrs Winterton, the shadow rural affairs minister, apologised after referring to Asians as being "10 a penny" in Britain during a speech.

In June 2002 Germany became the first European Union country to award animals basic rights in its written constitution. Switzerland, a non-EU member, amended its constitution in 1992 so that animals were acknowledged as "beings" rather than things.

A mother otter and her two cubs were killed by an illegal eel net found in Dorset's River Stour.
This is Dorset, May 2002

A manager of a McDonald's branch chased a rat round the shop then beat it to death. The rat ran round the burger bar after being brought in by a gang of young pranksters, newspapers were told. Customers jumped on chairs and screamed as staff chased the rat around the restaurant in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. The rat was finally cornered and battered to death with a broom by a manager. A grandmother who was in McDonalds with her three-year-old granddaughter said: "I couldn't believe my eyes when the manager took a broom and beat the rat to death in front of the children. The last thing I wanted my granddaughter to see was an animal being clubbed to death." When hunting is banned, perhaps bloodsports enthusiasts should take their children to McDonald's instead, as unlike most people, they clearly ARE keen, for their children to see animals meet a deliberate and brutal death.
The Mirror, April 2002

A Scottish teenager has won her battle for a ban on fishing at her local loch. The 19 year-old was horrified by the number of deaths to swans caused by fishing lines and hooks on Gun Knowe Loch in Galashiels. Her three year fight involved braving abuse from anglers and getting local councillors to listen.
August 2002

SO WHO WAS ARMED AT THE THREE COUNTIES MINK HUNT!

Funny how hunt saboteurs were reported in the pro-hunting press to be "brandishing hammers & lengths of copper piping" at this meet, yet the hunt supporters all seem to be carrying wooden staves - one guy even has a gun slung over his shoulder. Of course none of these items could possibly be used as weapons!

No prizes for guessing that the media's source of reliable information on this occasion was a Countryside Alliance press release

(By the way - Fantastic use of a busy main road, the ensuing traffic jam gained you even more support amongst the public.)



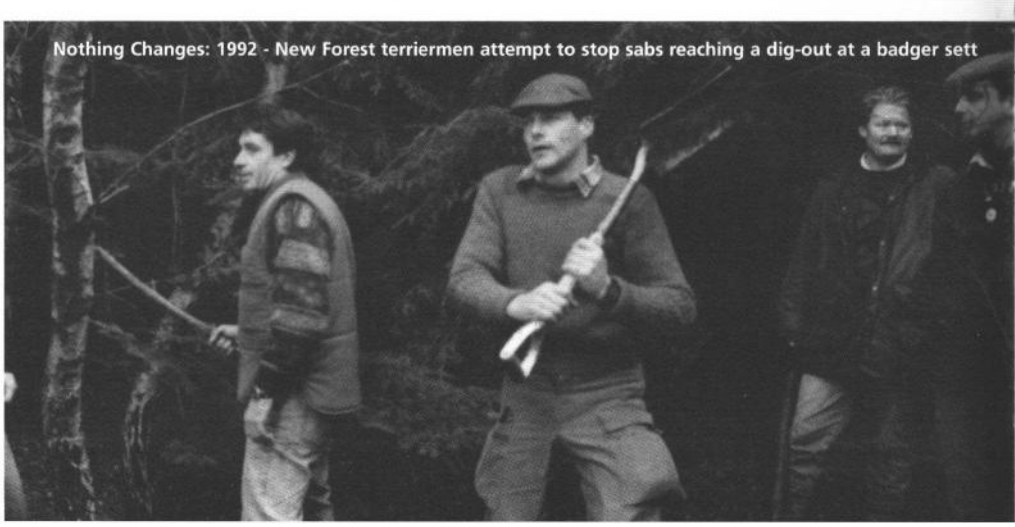
NEW FOREST HUNT DIGGING FOR BADGERS?

The Forestry Commission (FC) imposed a thirty-one day suspension on the New Forest Fox Hounds'(NFH), following an investigation which concluded the digging out of a fox in Newlands Plantation on 19th March 2002 was in major breach of the licence agreement.

However, the New Forest Animal Protection Group accuse the Forestry Commission of not addressing the fact that the dig took place in a badger sett, which the pursued fox fled into for cover.

Digging a badger sett is a criminal offence, incurring heavy fines and penalties if found guilty. The New Forest hunt terriermen, during the course of the hunt on FC controlled land, dug for four hours and inserted at least one dog into the badger sett. In spite of this, both the police and the Forestry Commission declined to take any further action as they said it couldn't be proved if the badgers were at home or not during the time of the dig!

Local wildlife groups remain angry that the Forestry Commission has failed to uphold its own rules on this occasion.
Source: NFAPG, July 2002


Nothing Changes: 1992 - New Forest terriermen attempt to stop sabs reaching a dig-out at a badger sett

WOULD THE REAL BOB STEADMOOR

PLEASE STAND UP!

Derby sabs have been on the High Peak Harriers mailing list for about three years now, under the alias of "Bob Steadmoor", and each year they have received a subscription demand to Bob's residence (their mailbox). Each year they ignore the demand (wouldn't you?), and each year they still receive the meet cards on cue.

This year when the Derby group received the subscription demand it was addressed to 'D.A.R.' (the group's title). The intelligence game had been rumbled!

What a cheek, a hunt asking for financial support from a sab group! Anyway, the big question now is: will they supply Derby Sabs with meet cards as in previous years, without payment?
Derby Sabs, April 2002

STAG KILL STARTS CONTROVERSY

The Devon and Somerset Staghounds opened the new season with a bang after members of the hunt were accused of firing into a crowd of people and a row of houses in order to kill a stag at the end of a chase.

One IFAW hunt monitors present said: "We tried to film but were hampered by hunt supporters, blocking our view. A shot rang out and we thought the stag had been killed, but to our amazement the terrified and exhausted animal came into view swimming for its life, followed by the baying hounds. The hunt gunmen were scrambling along the weir and eventually the stag was shot again. The second time the stag was shot, the hunt gunmen were shooting towards a crowd of hunt followers and a row of houses."

The Devon and Somerset Staghounds joint master, Diana Scott, strongly refuted Mr Hill's account. (Would she admit otherwise?)
Reported in Minehead News, August 2002



ARMED POLICE SURPRISE NORTH WALES FOX HUNT

A North Wales' bloodsports group has reacted with outrage and indignation after armed police made a surprise appearance at one of their fox hunt meets. Supporters of the Llanarmon DC Foxhounds were told to hold their hands up and threatened with arrest, after a tip-off from a local landowner who made a complaint of "armed trespass".

Huntmaster Vic Matthews, 53, said of the incident: "We were told to stand to attention, not to move and put our hands in the air. It was quite frightening because we didn't know what was going on."

I wonder if the fox knows what's going on when he/she is besieged by bloodsports fanatics and dogs trained to kill on fox-cubs?

NEWS IN BRIEF

A 19-YEAR-OLD Burton man shot a swan eight times in the head because he was "bored" and needed to alter the sighting on his rifle.
Craig Windsor, of James Court, admitted killing the eight-year-old male swan on the Trent Washlands, at Burton Magistrates' Court in August.
14/08/2002
That's one the Countryside Alliance hasn't tried yet. A little honesty might even win a few hearts: "Our members partake in bloodsports because they are bored, banal and useless".

A two-year old tomcat was found dying in agony by three young children after it had been skinned alive, its hind paws cut off, and part of its leg bones removed, by thugs in Inverurie, Scotland. Sooty, a much-loved family pet, was rushed to the nearest vet, but there was nothing that could be done to save him. The vet said he had never seen anything like it.
August 2002

THE heiress to the Tetra Pak billions, Sigrid Rausing, has come under fire from the bloodsports community after ordering gamekeepers to downsize their red deer herds so she can create a haven for golden eagles, capercaillie, and hill hares. Rausing says that the over population of deer only serves the interest of shooters and has led to the destruction of vast amounts of vegetation in the Highlands.
The "country sports" contingent fears that Rausing has become a player in a wider campaign to rid the Highlands of shooting estates.
Reported in the Times, June 09, 2002

The Royal Agricultural College (RAC) Cirencester, of which HRH The Prince of Wales is President, is facing pressure to sever its ties with bloodsports after an undercover investigation exposed its hare hunting pack as cruel, and little to do with pest control.
Undercover film footage shows unprecedented scenes of terrified hares being pursued by hounds for up to 5 hours, and beagles so exhausted they had to be carried away from the hunting field by hunt officials. A prominent RAC hunt supporter was secretly filmed admitting that hares are no great pest and that the hunt often fails to realise when they've killed a hare. Nearly all of the hunt staff are students at the college.

The Government report on hunting with dogs acknowledged the fact that in some areas hare numbers were maintained for hunting purposes, in some instances live animals being netted and boxed prior to transportation for "introduction" into a hunting area.
LACS May 2002

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bloodsports fanatics have launched a campaign of terror against key figures in the animal rights movement as the fight to preserve hunting with dogs turns increasingly nasty. Mutilated bodies of foxes, deer and rabbits have been left at the homes of well-known animal welfare campaigners, including that of Carla Lane. Notes were attached to the animals indicating they were from bloodsports fanatics. As legislation out-lawing hunting with dogs draws closer, many anti-hunting campaigners fear the aggressive tactics of bloodsports enthusiasts are only the beginning.
Brighton and Hove News August 2002

Lakeland police officer Ian MacKenzie retired in April after 33 years in the service. He won't be putting his feet up however, but putting more time into his hobbies, which are - no prizes for guessing - hunting, shooting and fishing,
Cumberland Herald August 2002

HIGHWAYS chiefs in North Yorkshire have announced plans to pursue civil action against a man after he walked away from Scarborough Magistrates Court with only a caution, in spite of being found guilty of damaging six motorway signs around Nawton and Hawnby, North Yorks in between May 31 and June 8 2002.
Peter Teasdale, a member of the Sinnington Hunt, said outside the court: "I know what I did was against the law, but I just feel so passionately about fox-hunting,"
Mr Teasdale was probably dismayed to learn that North Yorkshire District Council was just as passionate about reclaiming the tens of thousands of pounds it lost in the clean-up of all the mess he was responsible for.
September 2002

Tax-payer funded broadcaster, the BBC, has admitted to yet more pro-hunt bias, after a Radio1 listener complained about the airtime given to a hunt fan on the radio station's Newsbeat slot. Programme makers allowed a 15 year old hunt fanatic "an extended personal view" in support of hunting, with no opponent to add balance.
This came just weeks after the BBC's board of governors conceded to bias towards hunting in its scheduling of the TV series Clarissa and the Countryman.
May 2002

Bournemouth Council had permited the New Forest Foxhounds onto Bournemouth beach to coincide with the Tory Party Conference. A wave of complaints forced them to withdraw the offer as arsehole leader Duncan-Smith made promises to repeal any hunt ban.
October 2002

THE REAL COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE - WHAT'S IN THE NAME?

The campaign to save hunting with dogs entered a new phase in May 2002 with the launch of a militant group calling itself the Real Countryside Alliance, members of which threaten to break the law in the face of any further parliamentary action to ban hunting. To mark the event, the Real Countryside Alliance unveiled a giant poster of a freed IRA killer beside a jailed English hunt member, on Cromwell Road in west London. (I think they were trying to make the point that the IRA are killers, whereas they are not!)

Although the Countryside Alliance has publicly denied having links with the Real Countryside Alliance, we are in no doubt that the two groups are populated by the same unpleasant hotchpotch. And if the truth is known, the Countryside Alliance may even welcome (privately of course) the emergence of its criminal splinter group, as the threats of civil unrest they pose may place further pressure on the Government to look for a solution in compromise, and liaise with what will now appear to be the mild-mannered face of the bloodsports lobby – yes, the cute and cuddly Countryside Alliance! On the other hand it could totally backfire. Time will tell.

But for anyone who has clashed with the blood junkies in their full blood-clamouring swing, the irony of the announcement of the "Real" Countryside Alliance is not lost on us. After all, we have known what members of the Countryside Alliance are 'really' like for years! We've witnessed firsthand the extremes to which those involved in bloodsports are prepared to venture, and know that even the most irreverent media representation of hunters as just a silly mix of "toffs" and "salt of the earth bumpkins" belies the serious crimes they remain guilty of and the behaviour we know they are capable of when the cameras aren't on them.

Following the poster promotion on Cromwell Road, Real Countryside Alliance activists set to work, starting with a spree of spray-painting over roads and motorway signs up and down the country. North Yorkshire County Council has spent thousands of taxpayer's pounds on the clean up so far.

MPs have been pelted with eggs and their constituency homes and surgeries spray-painted and plastered with Real Countryside Alliance stickers and slogans. Tyres were slashed on a truck being used to transport the Campaign to Protect Hunted Animals, an anti-hunting road show organised by the RSPCA and IFAW. Real Countryside Alliance stickers were plastered over the vehicle. Come August, tactics were stepped up and pro-hunt fanatics began to reveal to the rest of the country just what sort of people they are. One of several threats made in the unpleasant "country sports" magazine, The Field, was that activists were going to cut off the water supply to Birmingham by pulling the plug on a reservoir in Wales. As if that wasn't extreme enough, pro-hunt fanatics shot foxes in the throat and broke their legs – not necessarily on that order - before hanging the bodies to vehicles or outside the homes of key animal welfare campaigners, including that of TV writer Carla Lane. The freshly severed head of a deer was dumped on the lawn of a family home in Sussex, and rabbits' bodies, saturated in blood, strewn across the bonnets of cars in driveways.



Brighton and Hove news reported how Carla Lane, Television sitcom writer, found a fox dangling by a rope outside her property. The mutilated animal had a note attached to it reading: "Silly fool, ha, ha, ha. Here's one you can't save."

If by its name the Real Countryside Alliance is trying to make a moot point about the Government freeing those who many regard to be murderers, while threatening to lock-up people who hunt, then the authors of the campaign clearly haven't thought about the other logical interpretations. Killing animals fro pleasure aside, two teenage hunt protesters have been killed; tragically and ironically, as they tried to stop hunters from taking other lives. A third hunt protester was almost killed by a hunt supporter who deliberately ran him down before fleeing the scene in a vehicle that was neither licensed or insured to drive. The protester remains seriously and permanently maimed, but as before, the perpetrator hasn't been brought to justice. Some might argue that at least the IRA killer in the poster had done his time!

COUNTRYSIDE PLOT TO GIVE BADGERS BAD PRESS

The huntin', shootin' an' fishin' community are preparing to launch a campaign to blacken the image of the badger, in the hope of being allowed to exterminate a few.

Since 1992, UK legislation has made it an offence to kill or injure badgers, but after 10 years of abstinence, members of the kill-anything-that-moves party are getting extremely hot under the collar at seeing all these badgers around and not being able to kill any of them, without fear of being caught and fined.

Jeffrey Olstead, of the British Association of Shooting and Conservation said: "If there are too many of anything, there could be a problem."

Although badgers are known to feed on slugs, earthworms, frogs, and any small mammals, we expect the hunt-aphiles to taint this common knowledge with stories about how a gang of badgers decimated their chicken shed, killed their new born calves, ate the neighbour's pig and killed all the fish in the nearby river!

-- The Government's ill-advised war on badgers resumed again in June starting on Exmoor and North Wiltshire. Badgers continue to be the scapegoat for the spread of TB in cattle, in spite of the publication of TB statistics in April 2002, which shows cattle-to-cattle transmission to be the major cause of the increase in the disease.

Farmers have also been keen to blame badgers for the decline of the skylark. (Funny how badgers co-existed with skylarks for all those years before the advent of chemical crops and factory farming.)

■ **Misguided campaigners attack the offices of MPs - and Age Concern!**

A group of pro-hunt militants led by a woman in a balaclava attacked the constituency offices of four Labour MPs in June.

The gormless gang, working under the umbrella name, The Real Countryside Alliance, showcased their Kindergarten scribbles on the walls of constituency buildings, using infuriatingly stupid catch phrases such as "Liberty and Livelihood", "Save our Sport, Save our Rights" and a few others - that remain too rude to print!

Seeing that they had some paint left over, the gung-ho party-painters found they still had time to give the charities next door, Age Concern and Mind, a good going over too! Asinine party cries are not everyone's cup of tea though and a charity worker decided to call the police.

Although they scarpered from the scene quickly and furtively enough, the hapless vandals overlooked the need to keep their balaclavas on when passing by the high-definition CCTV cameras! The ringleader was clearly identified and promptly arrested. And although causing criminal damage to constituency offices of elected MPs is a serious crime, the woman was released with only a caution. We can only speculate as to the reason for that!



NEWS IN BRIEF

A ban on hunting would not apply to hare coursing, the Government admitted in June. In a consultation document, Alun Michael, the rural affairs minister, says coursing is not equivalent legally to hunting with dogs because the object of the activity is the race, assessing the speed, stamina and agility of the dogs - and not the kill.
June 2002

A suspected animal liberation raid on a game farm, which saw hundreds of young partridges and pheasants released into the open during the summer months, struck sorrow into the hearts of farmers in July, as they feared the birds were too young to survive and would probably die.
They were not due to be set free until the start of the shooting season in late autumn you see!
Local news, Herts, July 2002

THE first museum to be devoted to the sport of hunting, its devotees and opponents, opened in Melton Mowbray, Leics in May 2002.
Leicester is home to some of the most infamous hunts in England: the Quorn, the Belvoir, the Cottesmore and the Fernie.
The museum has been built at a cost of £500,000. It was opened by pro-hunt Lady Mallalieu on 3rd May 2002.
Something tells me that the representation of "opponents" of hunting may have been compromised somewhat.

Following the blood sports lobby's press release about an alleged attack by hunt protesters on the Three Counties MH, the editor of Earth Dog Running Dog suggested that hunters should take over the policing of hunts. In issue number 120 of the "country man's" newsletter, the editor made the following statement: 'If the police are only able to make four arrests and make two charges after an incident like this then maybe we should set up and co-ordinate our own vigilante system to take care of any future raids of this nature'.
Am I being paranoid or is this a thinly veiled incitation to attack hunt protesters?
July 2002

Conservative controlled Stratford District Council approved an application for business-rate-relief from the Warwickshire Hunt Club, while turning down applications from three other troubled organisations, amongst them a nursery school!
As the rather unpleasant leader of the Conservative Party says: Conservatives are the party for the poor and the needy [hunts around Britain]...
Stratford upon Avon News, March 2002

FOX NUMBERS UNAFFECTED BY HUNTING SHOCK

Hunting plays no role in controlling foxes, concluded a report published by Nature magazine in September 2002. In spite of Countryside Alliance press releases, the report, conducted by The Mammal Society, found that fox numbers remained unaffected during the cessation of hunting under foot and mouth regulations.

The Mammal Society says its findings add support to the conclusion of Lord Burns' inquiry, which concluded that a permanent ban on hunting is unlikely to result in an increase in the number of foxes.

Meanwhile the pro-hunt lobby have criticised the study and say that their methods of assessing fox number are more accurate. *September 2002*

FERRY BOYS IN HOT WATER AGAIN

The son of 70s rock dude Brian Ferry owned up to being a 'stupid prat' after he was caught by police prowling around the constituency home of the Prime Minister. It appears the intention of this misguided youth was to plaster the walls of Mr. Blair's gaff with pro-hunting posters, thereby doing his cause justice – or so his thought.

Otis, of Birdsall, North Yorkshire, explained: "I had seen on the news that pro-hunting protesters had been targeting MPs' homes and thought you couldn't get better than Tony Blair's home. Gutsy-but-dim Otis, when not vandalising the neighbourhood, finds employment as an amateur whip for the Middleton Hunt in North Yorkshire.

Meanwhile, younger bruv, Isaac, was suspended from Eton after sending abusive emails to an anti-hunting campaigner.

It appears that the stresses and strains of bringing two delinquents into the world has taken its toll on poor old papa-Ferry and his wife after they announced their plans for divorce in August. *August 2002*

HUNT MASTER JAILED AFTER DRUNK DRIVING FIASCO

A master at the Oakley Hunt was jailed for three months after being caught driving away from a hunt fundraiser more than three and a half times over the alcohol limit.

Charlotte Wilson-Smith, 39, threatened to punch a police officer in the face when he arrived with two colleagues at her farmhouse after receiving reports that she was driving dangerously.

Minutes earlier she was been seen "falling out of her car" by a driver who followed her home after she almost crashed into him and then continued to stray into the opposite lane, at one point mounting a grass verge.

The arresting officer told Northampton Crown Court that when he arrived at Wilson-Smith's farmhouse he found her trying to abscond over a barbed wire fence into a field. She explained that she was "trying to catch a horse"! When asked to return to the courtyard, Wilson-Smith replied: "I will punch you in the face in a minute". The officers had no choice but to handcuff her.

As part of her mitigation, Wilson-Smith said she had been drinking Bucksfizz at the hunt breakfast, but that "someone had been filling up her glass without her knowledge". She also claimed that she had tried to drive cautiously, but saw a man with long hair and feared she was being followed by a hunt-saboteur. (Well then, that explains who was filling her glass up at the hunt breakfast!)

The jury took 30 minutes to find Wilson-Smith guilty of dangerous driving while under the influence of an untold number of alcoholic beverages.

SCOTLAND: JUDGE DECLARES "HUMAN RIGHTS" APPEAL INCOMPETENT

The law may often be an ass, but on 31st July 2002 the Court of Session in Scotland threw out the legal challenge to the Protection of Wild Mammals Act made by the hunting lobby, who claimed the new legislation violated their human right to terrorise wildlife with dogs for recreation purposes.

The judge dismissed the petition as incompetent, ruling that the Protection of Wild Mammals Act (Scotland) does not contravene the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Ban

Fox hunting packs in Scotland are still saddling-up to pursue foxes with dogs. This is due to a loophole in the legislation where it remains legal to use dogs to flush out animals if the intention is to shoot it when it comes into range. The die-hard bloodsporters are taking full advantage of this ambiguity in the law. Let us hope the English and Welsh ban eliminates this glitch.

...SCOTTISH HUNTSMEN TRACK HUMAN PREY

The oldest hunt in Scotland chased a human quarry for the first time in August following the ban on fox hunting. The Berwickshire Hunt has got itself a pack of bloodhounds that will be used to track a specially trained runner.

Jeremy Whaley, joint master and huntsman with the Berwickshire, said it would not replace the thrill of the unknown when hunting a fox, but was a form of diversification that could spread to other parts of Scotland.

"There will be no kill at the end of the hunt, but the quarry may hand out some biscuits when he is caught, and might have to put up with a few licks." Mr Whaley said there was no shortage of people volunteering to be runners. "It is quite a lot of fun if you enjoy running, and I am told it is an interesting experience to hear the hounds closing on you."

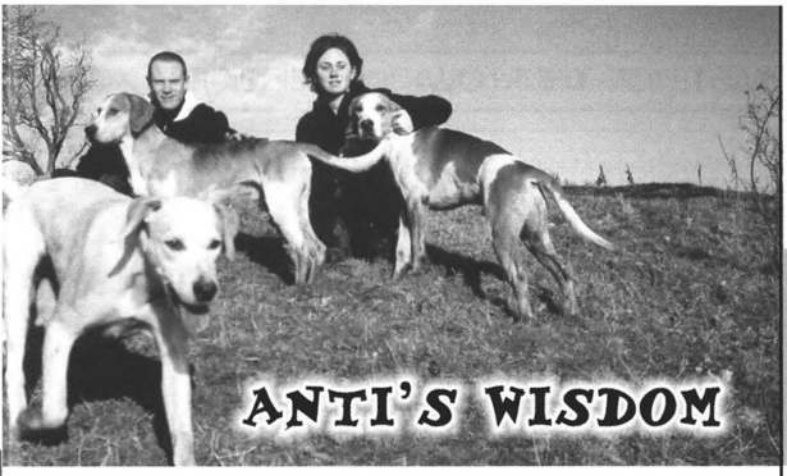
Meanwhile, none of the 10 hunts north of the border will be disbanded until all legal challenges to the Act banning hunting with hounds have been exhausted.



Right: Charlotte "I'm not pissed you know" Wilson-Smith



© chair-bear



HUNTSMANS BALLS



By popular demand, HOWL 77 brings you Anti's Wisdom, the antithesis of Huntsman's Balls, capturing the wit, logic and common sense of those the hunters call the "antis" i.e. anyone who thinks hunting is a shameful and primitive pastime and should be banned outright. The following bites of wit and wisdom come from Journalist John Farrell.

"Field Sports"

If "country sports" really are a sport, how come the same side always wins? Does this always come as a surprise to the participants? Do the hunters look on excitedly with their fingers crossed to see whether the fox rips the dogs to pieces or vice versa? You don't get the fox being interviewed on Sportsnight beforehand saying:
"Well Brian, I'm really confident about this one, I've had a couple of fights in the run-up; there was that easy win against Mr. Rabbit, but this is the big one I've been training for."
"So you're not worried that the bookies have you at a 1,000-1 against beating this pack of foxhounds?"
"What, you mean there's more than one of them? Er, excuse me - I've just got to call to my agent."

The "Middleway"

"This is where I have a problem with the philosophy of the third way. The fox either gets ripped to shred by a pack of hounds, or it doesn't. You can't be a little bit barbaric. It wouldn't be much consolation to the fox that under New Labour's third way he at least gets to take part in a full consultation process beforehand and the hounds that kill him have to be fully licensed and registered. "

If the Middleway wins

If foxhunting is to continue under new regulations then we should campaign to make these new rules as obstructive as possible. For a start, foxhounds must be kept on leads at all times, (though not those extendable ones that get wrapped around everyone's legs). Harsh fines should be imposed for any hounds fouling the countryside; with the master of the hunt being made responsible for clearing up after his dogs.
His little trumpet can be employed to alert everyone that another dog is doing his business - that familiar fanfare will now mean: "Oh no, there's another one over here, pass us another little polythene bag."

Liberty

Whenever I read self-righteous pro-hunting nonsense written by the likes of Cristina Odone, I always ask myself, where is their campaign to legalise badger-baiting?

Source: The Observer, 10 March 2002, Letters Page
John Dixon, Kent

"In Autumn the main objective is to remove the oldest stags which will have past their best as contributors to the breeding herd and may be in danger of mating with their own offspring"
Master of the Deer Hounds Association
Apart from being virgin hogwash, one might ask why the huntin'an'shootin' species aren't applying the same principles to their own problems of interbreeding!

"These are law-abiding people forced to the edge. A number are prepared to go to jail."
Spokesman for the "Real Countryside Alliance".
I wonder if people said the same when they made child abuse a crime back in the 19th Century? In fact, perhaps that is the answer to having less criminals in our society: make everything legal, no matter how morally reprehensible!

"The riders are just followers, watching the hounds hunt. And they pay for the privilege; their money pays for the organisation that keeps the hounds hunting." It's the hounds which kill the foxes, the rest have no effect whatsoever, which was, for me, a blinding revelation, mainly of my stupidity.
The riders don't actually kill anything. Nor do the horses. And as for sheep, they're just like fluffy clouds ...
Euan Ferguson, March 17 2002, The Observer
Euan Ferguson endorses the view of his hunting companions, who claim diminished responsibility on the grounds that it's the hounds that actually do the killing and not the riders [save where terriers and sharp spades are concerned]!

So I get it! If I train my dog to attack the neighbour's dog or child – just as hounds are trained to attack our wildlife – then I can abdicate myself of all responsibility by claiming: t'was not me Your Honour, t'was my Dobermann here; I simply egged him on and watched, I swear it!?

Meanwhile, we join Euan Ferguson in contemplating his blinding stupidity or else best wind-up since the last run of Trigger Happy TV!

"We now have a war on our hands and we know which side the Government is on! Those of us who fought in a war know only too well that you don't win battles if you fight with kid gloves on".
Jim Eberle and Peter Daresbury big-it-up for the fat-red-line prior to the blood sports march on 22 September 2002.
Janet George's fanzine, Hounds, April-May 2002.
On the other hand - without the kid gloves on - those of us who understand war know that the only justification for it is in the aim of protecting the weak from the tyranny of the strong and those who should know better - which is exactly what any bill to ban hunting seeks to address.

"Country sports people are all quite normal" [!]
Headline in Countryman's Weekly, April 2002

"The idea that certain hunts would operate as pest controllers is laughable".
Nimrod, Countryman's Weekly, March 2002
Good to see a little honesty coming from a blood sports' enthusiast!

"There is no evidence whatsoever that animals experience fear in the way that we do in the course of being pursued. It is about as terrifying as a small boy being chased off a farmer's land if he is caught scrumping apples".

John Jackson, chairman of the Hunting (Countryside) Alliance, tells hunt sympathiser and veteran journalist Patrick Wintour of his first hand experience as a deer being chased by a pack of dogs and mounted field! *Guardian 7 August 2002*

WORLD NEWS

Portugal takes one giant step - back

Portugal has just witnessed the most intolerable setback to the legal protection of animals this century. Bullfights to the death were illegal in Portugal, now, for the first time since 1928, animals will be killed again in Portuguese bullrings.

We successfully fought the bullfighters in the political arena several times and we successfully challenged the powerful pro-bullfighting lobby in court many times, but with the recent change in government, the powerful bullfighting Mafia has won at last. Our only recourse is to beg for your help, only international condemnation will shame Portugal back to civilization.

Back Ground

In 1928 Portugal banned so-called Spanish bullfights, which resulted in the death of the animal. While Portugal unfortunately still allows bullfights, nevertheless the animals were killed at the end, as in Spain.

The small town of Barrancos in southern Portugal, however, has NEVER obeyed this law and, in fact, has continued torturing and killing bulls up to the present day.

Recently Portuguese television exposed the horror in Barrancos. Since then animal rights groups, such as ANIMAL, with the support of the overwhelming majority of the Portuguese people (85% according to polls), have demanded that Barrancos obey the law.

INSTEAD OF ENFORCING THE LAW, THE GOVERNMENT REVOKED IT!

Portugal has taken a step backwards, which could have repercussions throughout the world. We must not allow animal rights to suffer any setbacks anywhere at any time. Please join us.

ANIMALS calls for international action!!!

Miguel Moutinho I ANIMAL
E-mail: miguelmoutinho@netcabo.pt



Write to the Portuguese embassy in London:

Portugal Embassy in Great Britian
Silver City House,
62 Brompton Rd, SW3 London, England
Tel: 0171 - 5818722

Spain

Spanish protesters are calling for a ban on one of its less publicized bloodsports, the lancing of wild boar. Every summer, up to 10 hunters mount the stirrups to seek out and chase wild boar across the flatlands of Coto Donana national park, in Spain's south-west. Protesters say the boar dies a slow and painful death after being impaled by the hunter's lance.

As with fox hunting, the boar isn't killed to eat, as most of them are diseased with TB and mange. The similarities don't end there either. The pro-hunters claim that the practice keeps the wild boar population down and is a cultural tradition!

Independent 21 September 2002

A TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE

i) A pro-hunting demonstrator was injured after being struck by a van belonging to the RSPCA. She suffered minor leg injuries in the incident in London's Haymarket and was taken to a hospital in the capital.

An RSPCA spokeswoman confirmed that the van belonged to the charity and was being driven by an inspector who was accompanied by a Metropolitan Police officer.
Annova Wednesday 10th July 2000.

ii) A motorist was ordered to pay £330 after a court heard how he drove his Land Rover into a crowd of egg-pelting, pro-hunt demonstrators, who had gathered outside Reasdale Hall during a live broadcast of Central TV's *It's Your Shout.*

The motorist told Cheltenham Magistrates that he had no strong feelings about hunting but merely wanted to get through the crowd to go home. Members of the 120 strong crowd, who'd earlier pelted the Environment Minister Michael Meacher with eggs, were unconvinced that he was not partisan and proceeded to verbally abuse him, and subsequently accuse him of trying to run into them.

■ Meanwhile, a man who drove a 4x4 without MOT, tax or insurance, and deliberately ran over a hunt-protester off-road - almost killing him - before fleeing the scene, got off scot-free after the GBH charge against him was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

HUNTING LANDOWNER STAGES BIZARRE MAY DAY PROTEST

A prominent landowner in Wales could be banned from every racecourse in the country after staging a bizarre sit-down protest in the middle of a racecourse, causing two horses to fall and one rider to suffer concussion.

Jockeys screamed at Richard Williams to stay still as horses thundered towards him during the final race at the May Day point-to-point meeting in Shropshire 'At first everyone assumed that the man was an 'anti', but it turned out he wasn't', one spectator said. In fact, Mr Williams, is Master of the Eryri Hunt, and told companions that he thought the Countryside Alliance was not being vocal enough in the face of the threat to ban hunting.

As Mr Williams ensconced himself in the middle of the racing turf, spectators heard him shout: "I am doing this for freedom." (!)

It would seem that Mr Williams imagined that by endangering his life, and others, at what was key fundraising event in the hunting calendar, he would communicate his message in the most effective way possible. Unfortunately other fans of blood sports attending the event didn't see it that way and remain as nonplussed as the rest of us.

Mr Williams last made the headlines in 1998 when he sold the summit of Mount Snowden to the National Trust for £3.5 million, shortly after threatening to "burn down all the forest in Wales" if hunting is banned. (Please draw your own conclusions)

IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

WHERE ALL IS NOT PRETTY...

The Association of Hunt Saboteurs held a colourful demonstration outside the Sherbourne Hotel in Dublin, in protest of a hunt ball that was being held there.

Local anti-blood sports campaigners were outraged that the popular hotel allowed a key fundraising event in the blood sports calendar to take place on its premises.

Joining the demonstration was a 6ft fox, who stayed all night hoping that the Louth Fox Hounds would do their usual and throw out a few dead chickens for him! Bernie Wright-Press Office AOHS said: "We are delighted to note that attendances atthis hunt ball have been declining but the AOHS intends to keep the pressure on until every aspect of hunting is removed from society."

FOX FEEDING SCANDAL RUMBLED

IN EXCLUSIONARY "PEST CONTROL" ZONE



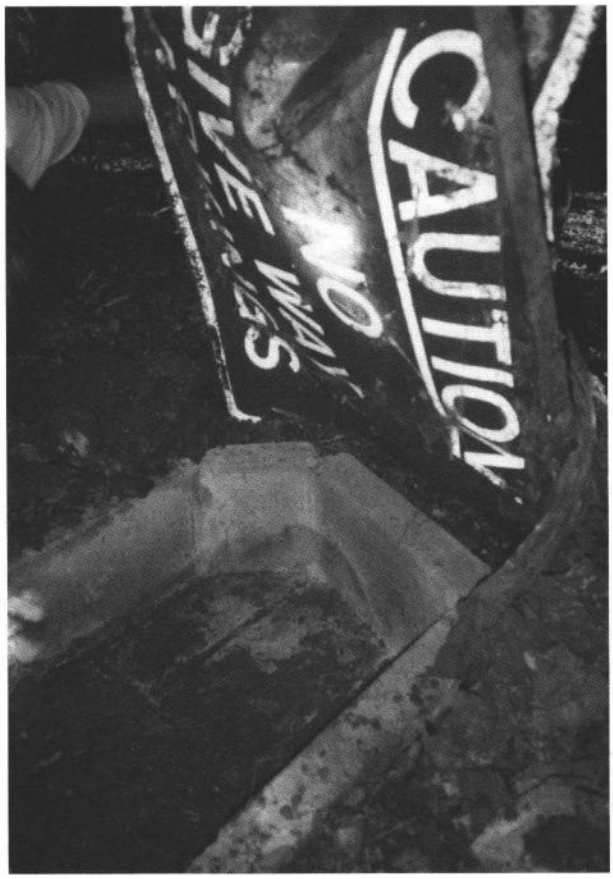
The "pest control" claims of England's upland fell hunting packs came under fire in May after a major undercover investigation carried out the League Against Cruel Sports revealed that foxes are being "bred and fed" for hunting in Cumbria.

Following a four-month long probe, which saw undercover investigators infiltrate several Cumbrian hunts, the League located and secretly filmed animal carcasses dumped only yards from several man made fox breeding sites within the territories of several Lake District hunts.

One fox-breeding site, known as Orthwaite Plantation, is owned by Jonathan Hope, a distinguished supporter of the Blencathra Fox Hounds, whom last year had hundreds of animals slaughtered after foot and mouth disease ravaged the region. Mr Hope has previously entertained Prince Charles at a private hunt with the Blencathra hounds at Orthwaite Hall Farm only weeks before FMD closed the countryside early in 2001. The farmer now faces the attention of animal health officials for a second time.

Dozens of animal carcasses were also filmed dumped in woodland near to a second popular meet of the Blencathra Fox Hounds - Causeway Foot Farm, just outside of Keswick.

Most disturbing of all was the discovery of was the largest and most elaborate artificial fox earth known to exist in England at Millbeck, a regular meet of the Blencathra hounds. The fox breeding complex - which the pro hunt lobby told the Government Inquiry into hunting had long been ruined - contains upwards of 120 meters of piping, has over 10 entrances and continues to be capable of holding many foxes. Footage obtained by the League shows the Blencathra hounds being cast through the site on two occasions.



Aside from the fact that the dumping of animal carcasses amounts to a criminal offence with a maximum fine of £5000 per carcass, the findings make a mockery of claims that 'upland' fox hunts are concerned only with carrying out a "pest control" service for farmers. In the light of such damning evidence, any previously discussed concessions reserved for the upland hunts in the bill to ban hunting should be scrapped without argument.

LACS report,

Locals & nationals, May 2002

Above & Right: An artificial Earth - Every good hunt has one!

KARMA POLICE

Briton & five others gored in Pamplona

A Briton, an American and an Australian were among six injured in the first of this year's bull runs in Pamplona, when six tortured beasts were let loose to chase thousands of inebriated twits along the cobblestone streets.
Paul Staines, 37, of London, sustained a blow to the face.
Hopefully it knocked some sense into him.
Reported in The Guardian, 8 July

Tourist killed at shoot

**AN ITALIAN businessman was fatally injured while taking part in an organised pigeon shoot for tourists at the Fasque Estate in Kincardineshire, Scotland.
August 2002**

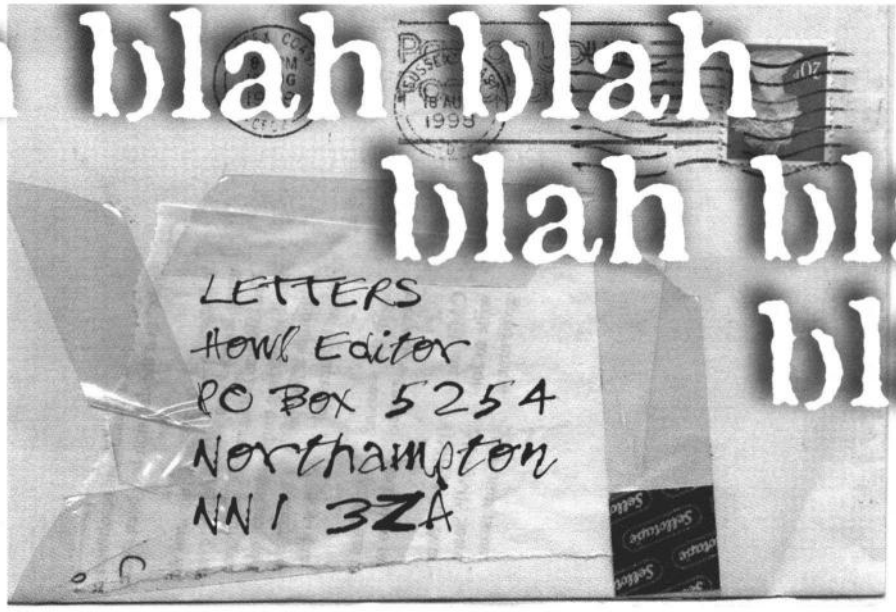
Pro-hunt summer picnic comes to a watery end

A boat trip on the Thames ended in near-disaster for a party of pro-hunting campaigners when their pleasure cruiser capsized and they had to swim to safety.
The group of Countryside Alliance supporters, all attached to the Old Berkshire hunt, were enjoying their annual summer picnic on the river near Lechlade, Glos.
But after a chicken supper and several glasses of wine, the ship's captain Michael Caulfield, chief executive of the Jockey Association, lost control of the boat and was thrown overboard with all 11 members of his crew.
By Peterborough 22/07/2002

Hunter killed in bear mix-up

**Clyde W. Shumway, 58, died after being struck by a single round fired from a .300-caliber Magnum rifle by James F. Glenn, 49, of Odell.
Shumway was wearing all black clothing and a black backpack when he was mistook for a bear and shot in the torso.
No charges have been filed!
Metro East News 10/01/02**

blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 78
Letters

Come on folks!,
get those pens out
get scribblin'.

To guarantee your rant's considered for the next 'Howl', get it to the address on the right

or e-mail direct:
howl.editor@virgin.net

ANOTHER GUARDIAN OF THE LAND

Dear HSA

You may be interested to know that local landowner and prominent hunt supporter, Robert Stavely, has threatened to plough up all of the nature reserves on his land if hunting is banned.

Yours Faithfully

Name and address supplied

PS. It is rumoured that his daughter is seeing Prince Andrew.

CAHILL SKOOL FORE THA GIFTID

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to our website. The integrity of the spelling and grammar has been preserved on this occasion.

Name and email address was supplied, but we didn't want to encourage people to write to this already afflicted person. (Clearly another wild mushroom eater)!

Just had a look at your site as I was intrigued as to what made up the mind of a hunt saboteur as, like most people , I enjoy pre conceived notions of my fellow man ie. the dictators of the British Isles such as Tony Banks MP and Martin Maginess IRA etc ....Therefore my opinion of the average hunt saboteur is that of an unwashed, lazy , sponging, peice of shit normally vegetarian although hippocritical enough to shod their backs and feet with leather, and always , always entirely misinformed and uneducated about the countryside in general and wildlife in particular, and have witnessed on hundreds of occasions there direct violence and abuse of animals sometimes unintentionally although attacks against horses and hounds so frequent as to be deemed premeditated. So much for `animal lovers` then!.....

Slipthedog

DIM STUDENT WANTS ADVICE

I am an undergraduate at Imperial (Wye) and have been thinking about joining the Wye Beagles next academic year. I have asked around the college and they, apparently, do not actually catch anything with their hounds. The hunt is more a brisk social walk in the countryside than a 'ritual killing'. As they appear to be uniformly unsuccessful, do you think that it would be acceptable for one to join or, indeed, attend their annual Hunt Ball?

When compared to the activities of HLS and battery farming the hunt doesn't seem too significant from an animal rights perspective.

I would appreciate your advice.

Regards

RW

Our advice is: take up a proper hobby, spend all your student loan on beer and remember to ring mummy regularly.

TRUE VOICE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Dear Friend

Having spoken to many friends and neighbours (all farmers and small holders), they would like to ban hunting on their land or complain direct to the hunt, but fear going public and dealing with the pro-hunters may affect their businesses. It makes life more difficult; I'm sure you can understand this.

Best Wishes

Name and address supplied

SHORT BUT SWEET

Dear HSA

Thanks for being there when they need you.

Love Lili

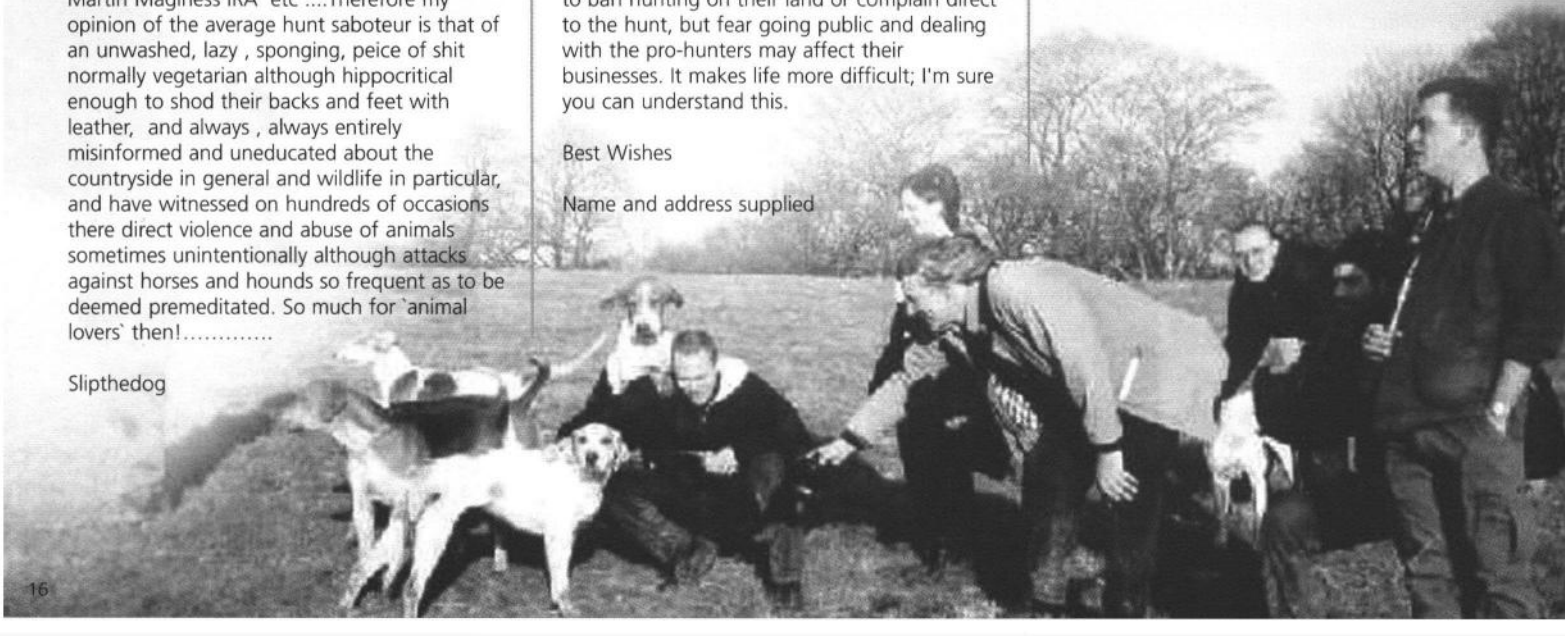
SHORT BUT SHIT

D**khead!!!

You stop hunting and will not help the fox!
"It" will get shot (not always killed) gased (not very nice), snared (very painful).
In 2 or 3 years you won't find a fox around.
That's why your association are the "d**ckheads" you are!

A Farmer in Northhamptonshire

"Think about it" No good when it is too late!
Join the 1,000,000 on the 22nd if you have the guts to.





THE MAHVEER AWARD

The Mahveer Award for Heroic Deeds & Compassion was awarded to Steve Christmas on 2nd June 2002, for the terrible injuries he sustained whilst saving lives out sabbing.

For legal reasons we can't give you any update on the action being took against those respsonsible for Steve' injuries except to say progress is being made.

Two years on and Steve himself still requires further surgery - his life has been irrepairably changed, but he is still alive, unlike Mike Hill and Tom Worby.
If you're disgusted by hunt scum and the torture they inflict on both animals and humans then join us in the killing fields and show your disgust.

Contact the office for further details of your nearest group.

- Please help support **The Justice for Steve Christmas Campaign** by either making a donation, buying the T-shirt, or the Christmas Cards (see inside cover)
  Please make Cheques payable to the **HSA**, but mark them **SCJC** on the back

BEWARE OF IMPOSTER CHARITY

Dear Howl

Unless you are a lover of bloodsports and cruelty, please don't even think of making a donation to Endangered Dogs Defence and Rescue (EDDR). According to a reliable source, this organisation is a total sham, and the opposite of what it purports to be.

The monstrous creation of its co-runner Amanda Dunckley, EDDR takes abandoned and unwanted dogs that are considered "dangerous breeds" and then
hands them over to dogfighting syndicates, or else hosts a few little shows itself! The dogs that end up at EDDR are "truly better off dead", according to the information we received.

Both Amanda Dunckley and her ex-slaughterman partner, Eugene Welch (aka Franklin Sunshine Welch), share a history of involvement in dogfighting and were subject to a Carlton expose on dogfighting a few years back. Barry Peachey, the badger baiter, priest, doctor, lawyer (and compulsive liar) served as a legal advisor for them in their early days. Since the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act, the pair are thought to have swindled hundreds of thousands out of a unwitting animal loving public.

MISLEADING SNARES INFO.

Dear Howl

You may have recently seen a booklet about shooting which contains info on snares.

The picture used of a self locking snare is a multi purpose one set for free running rather than self locking. If there's any chance this error could be mentioned in HOWL it would be appreciateed.

Nathaniel
Hampton Court

POETRY CORNER

EXTREMIST ALERT!

PUBLIC ORDER

Deep in the eighties,
deep in the New Forest
thirty others and myself
located the hunt and scrambled

into position behind the fox,
beyond the hounds and far
beyond the riders on
their impartial steeds.

Deep into the trees
we smelt the dog-fox
and left our smells
of homemade Antimate:

citronella and garlic
blended with the steaming air
above the bracken and the fern
of the forest floor.

That one escaped, his belly scraped
the foliage as he fled and we led
the hounds upwind of him,
keeping wary eyes on them.

Downwind things were simmering,
men in red fuming;
their accusations lingering
to taint the spring air.

Then came the men in black,
on went the cuffs,
no questions were asked
as we flew in the back

of a big white van
with grilles on the outside,
cages on the inside,
a fast driver and a trip to the cells

for an afternoon, an evening
a cold cup of tea
and not a single reason given
for our custody.

Philip Elston

Tally-Ho!

Tally-ho! The vixen hears it!
Gripped with fear and dread
Her cover Breaks from woodland safe;
She chases off, ahead
Of baying dogs, and sweating horses
Thundering behind
With falling strengh, now wild with fear,
Escape she cannot find.

Tally-ho! The gap has closed,
The mad pursuit is over,
And forty dogs launch an attack
From which she won't recover.
For chunks of flesh they snap and bite,
They tear her limb from limb.
Her lifeblood spurts and drains away;
In death her eyes grow dim.

X.Tawasentha

Please note: *Howl* will no longer be publishing poetry unless accompanied by a donation of 500 big 'uns.

Barry Peachey

Portrait of a serial liar

Information from Nationals, *Howl* No.50 & LACS

Trust me, Im a Doctor, Lawyer, Scientist, Man of the Cloth. I am; I swear on the church of the Holythingymajig!



Photo © S.Wild

In July 2002 three men appeared at Wallasey Magistrates' Court accused of badger baiting on farmland in Pensby, Wirral, last October. Unfortunately badger baiting is not that unusual, and the same goes for the banal and stupid individuals that partake in it.

No, the most striking thing about this case was the key defence witness: Reverend Barry Peachey, complete with long black robe, dog collar and crucifix!

The unimpeachable witness told the court he had five university degrees including a PhD in comparative international law, and ecology of the Eurasian badger, from the Pacific Colombia University in the United States.

To top that, the court learned from his CV that he is also a "lawyer, biologist, scientist, teacher, priest, arbitrator and editor"!

When asked how he earned his living however, the Reverend Professor admitted he made his money by working as a "full time consultant" and "expert witness" in animal law cases. A picture starts to form...

The prosecution informed the court that the Pacific Colombia University did not exist and was not accredited as an educational establishment.

As the prosecution summed up, Mr Peachy attended court dressed as a man of the Catholic cloth "in an attempt to appear more creditable." And if his CV were to carry a grain of truth it would say first and foremost that Barry Frank Peachey is a compulsive liar who is neither a qualified lawyer or solicitor, Professor, Dr, teacher and so on. True he offers legal advice and does the odd bit of editorial work, but that's with organisations such as the BFSS, the National Federation of Working Terriers, Shooting News, which I suspect employ animal abuse criminals on principle.

PEACHEY FACTFILE

- Veteran sabs and AR campaigners may be familiar with Peachey. He worked as a Police Constable and served as a village "bobby" in Hampshire for a while.

- Whilst attending an incident of alleged 'sheep worrying' he wasted no time in shooting two dogs dead for which he was duly disciplined.

- Later, whilst still a Police officer he was fined for disobedience after writing articles for the *Shooting News* without clearing them first with senior officers.

- After leaving the Police Peachey became a self-appointed legal advisor to the bloodsports community, and he began attempting to get numerous badger-diggers off the hook.

- Following a report in the the League against cruel sports (LACS) 1987 journal, Peachey brought an ill-fated libel case against them which he lost spectacularly. The Jury and the High Court ordered Peachey to pay boths sides court costs - at least £250,000.

- Peachey is thought to have inherited his love of animals from his father who was Kennel Huntsman with hte New Forest Foxhounds in the 1950's.

No quick nip

A Fox is disembowelled and a deer killed by foxhounds while 13 police cars, a riot van and a helicopter chase hunt protesters. Post Mortem prove once again that the quick nip to the back of the neck is a complete fallacy.

On Saturday 5th October hunt saboteurs witnessed in horror as hounds from the Old Berkshire Hunt ripped apart a muntjac deer in a field at Westcot, Oxfordshire . The hunt had met at Kingston Lisle near Wantage at 7.30 a.m. to hunt young fox cubs. At approximately 9.30 a.m. protesters observed the baying pack of hounds pursuing the deer. By the time they reached the pack, the deer had been mauled and was being hit over the head with a stick by a hunt supporter. The deer's internal organs had been ripped out.



When the saboteurs recovered the carcass, hunt supporters and police officers wearing white gloves assisting them at the scene made light of the incident making suggestions that the visibly upset protesters "take the deer home and eat it"! Despite the fact that protesters were present, no attempt was made by the hunt to prevent the pack from attacking the muntjac.

Saboteurs slammed the biased policing. Eleven police cars, two land rovers, a riot van and helicopter were mobilised when 16 protestors joined the hunt. The driver of a protesters' vehicle was arrested in what was viewed as a tactic to halt their progress. His disabled occupant was left on her own at the side of the road despite reassurances from the police present that this would not happen.

The driver was released without charges.

The level of police available to prevent saboteurs from blowing hunting horns would suggest that there would be sufficient police to enforce a ban!

Fox Disembowelled

On the same day, members of The North West Hunt Saboteurs Association (NWHSA) attended a cubbing meet of the Cheshire Forest Hunt at The Millstone Inn, near Whitley on the A49, south of Warrington. Cub-hunting or ("autumn hunting" as it's euphemistically referred to) is a clandestine affair, carried out well away from the eyes of the public. This callous activity is carried out at the beginning of autumn, the idea being to train new hounds to kill foxes using the easy bait of fox cubs.

Using various methods of non-violent direct action, the NWHSA were able to able to save the lives of many foxes that day. However, during the course of the morning the hunt put the pack of hounds into a kale field where they found a young vixen. When the vixen tried to escape the field she was forced back to the waiting hounds by a hunt supporter, where she was killed.

Three members of the NWHSA managed to save the body despite violence and threats from members of the hunt. The vixen was then rushed to a vet, where a post mortem was carried out:

"I examined the above animal she had been dead for approximately two hours. There were puncture wounds to her neck, but not enough to cause death.

There were large puncture wounds to the right flank with heart and lungs exposed. The liver was prolapsed on the right flank. There were was a large wound to the ventral abdomen with the abdominal contents outside the body.

The likely cause of death is the disembowelment and puncture to the thoracic cavity combined."

Hunt Saboteurs Association spokesperson Nathan Brown said "Yet again we have evidence of how packs of hounds kill an animal – by disembowelment. This would mean the animal enduring high levels of pain as it is ripped apart live by pairs of gnashing teeth - not the romantic notion of a nip to the back of the neck promoted by the hunting fraternity. The fact that these incidents occurred when protestors were present leads us to question what other wildlife crimes go on when nobody is there to witness events. Hunters portray themselves as a 'pest control' service when in actual fact they attack any animal that has the misfortune to cross their path – be they wildlife or peoples' pets. Hunting is neither necessary, humane or efficient."

Left: Fox disembowelled
Below: Another example of hounds killing incorrect quarry



OUT OF CONTROL

Hunters claim that hunting with dogs is the most efficient means of controlling numbers, as only the "old" or "infirm" animals get picked off, whereas shooting they say, is indiscriminate. While many are aware that this is sheer self-delusion and that hunts actively seek to find the fittest animals to chase (on the basis that they'll provide the longest run and "better sport"), many people remain in the dark as to how indiscriminate hunting with dogs actually is, and how many other animals, and often people, become victims to it.

Following are a few of the reported incidents from last season:

March 2002

On Saturday 2nd March, a horse was injured so badly at the Four Burrow Hunt near Truro that it had to be put down in a Forestry Commission car park, distressing members of the public.

On Tuesday 6th March a retired shire horse named Bobby, suffered a heart attack and died after the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt trespassed on land owned by Tower Hill Stables Animal Sanctuary near Southminster. The hunt had surrounded a paddock on three sides whilst hounds chased two horses inside it, one of them Bobby. A gentle giant and loved member of the community, Bobby was one of England's largest horses - standing at 19 hands and weighing one and a half tons.

That same week, a deer was chased and savaged by foxhounds belonging to the Bicester and Whaddon Chase, a favorite hunt of Michael Heseltine's wife. The muntjac deer was set upon by the pack of hounds and viciously savaged. The agonized screams of the animal as it was bitten and mauled were captured by an IFAW hunt monitor's sound recorder.

At the end of March, several foxhounds taking part in a hunt were killed when they strayed onto a railway line and were hit by a train. The hounds belonged to the South Cornwall Hunt and were killed close to Bugle Station near St Austell.

July

A pack of 80 foxhounds caused chaos amongst rush-hour traffic on a main road in Suffolk. One hound had to be destroyed after being hit, as cars and lorries were forced to brake and swerve to avoid the animals. Dozens of foxhounds, from the Thurlow Hunt kennels belonging the millionaire Edmund Vestey, ran riot in and out between vehicles on the A143.

A local woman, alerted by a motorist went out to help. She and other passers by attempted to round up the confused dogs and take them to safety. "It's a shame that whoever owns them didn't come out at all", she said.

August

About 40 hounds belonging to the Woodland Pychley Hunt chased and attacked a pet dog in the middle of a village. The owner of the dog said the hounds were uncontrollable. The dog was rushed to a vet where it was treated for cuts around the head and a deep wound to its hind leg. (Surprisingly there were no nips to the back of the neck!)

Embarrassed by this PR blunder, the hunt offered to pay for the dog's vet bills.









Bedale Blackmail

The following was sent to us by a rural dweller from Bedale in North Yorkshire. In spite of what the Countryside Alliance says about 'countryside ways', the author does not support hunting and wants to see it banned, along with many neighbours and the majority of the rest of Britain. The information provides an illuminating profile of two of North Yorkshire's key landowners, the Bourne-Artons and the Staveleys – all 'guardians of the countryside' of course!

We frequently hear the pro-bloodsports fraternity claim that the preservation of the countryside depends upon the continuation of bloodsports. Here in North Yorkshire we have clear evidence proving that the opposite is true and that far from wishing to preserve the countryside, these people will go to any lengths to protect their own interests.

The Henges and the surrounding land in our vicinity are at least equal in terms of archaeological importance to Stonehenge and Salisbury Plain. Our local landowners, the Bourne-Artons and Staveleys - both keen hunting and shooting families - have been systematically selling this once sacred land for gravel extraction.

It has been Council and Government policy for some time now to create nature reserves on the quarried land. Robert Stavely, who is a member of the Bedale Hunt, has threatened to tear up his agreements with English Nature and other bodies and destroy valuable wildlife habitat by ploughing up the nature reserves on his land if foxhunting is banned. He has made this clear to the trustees of the Lower Ure Conservation Trust, who run these reserves.

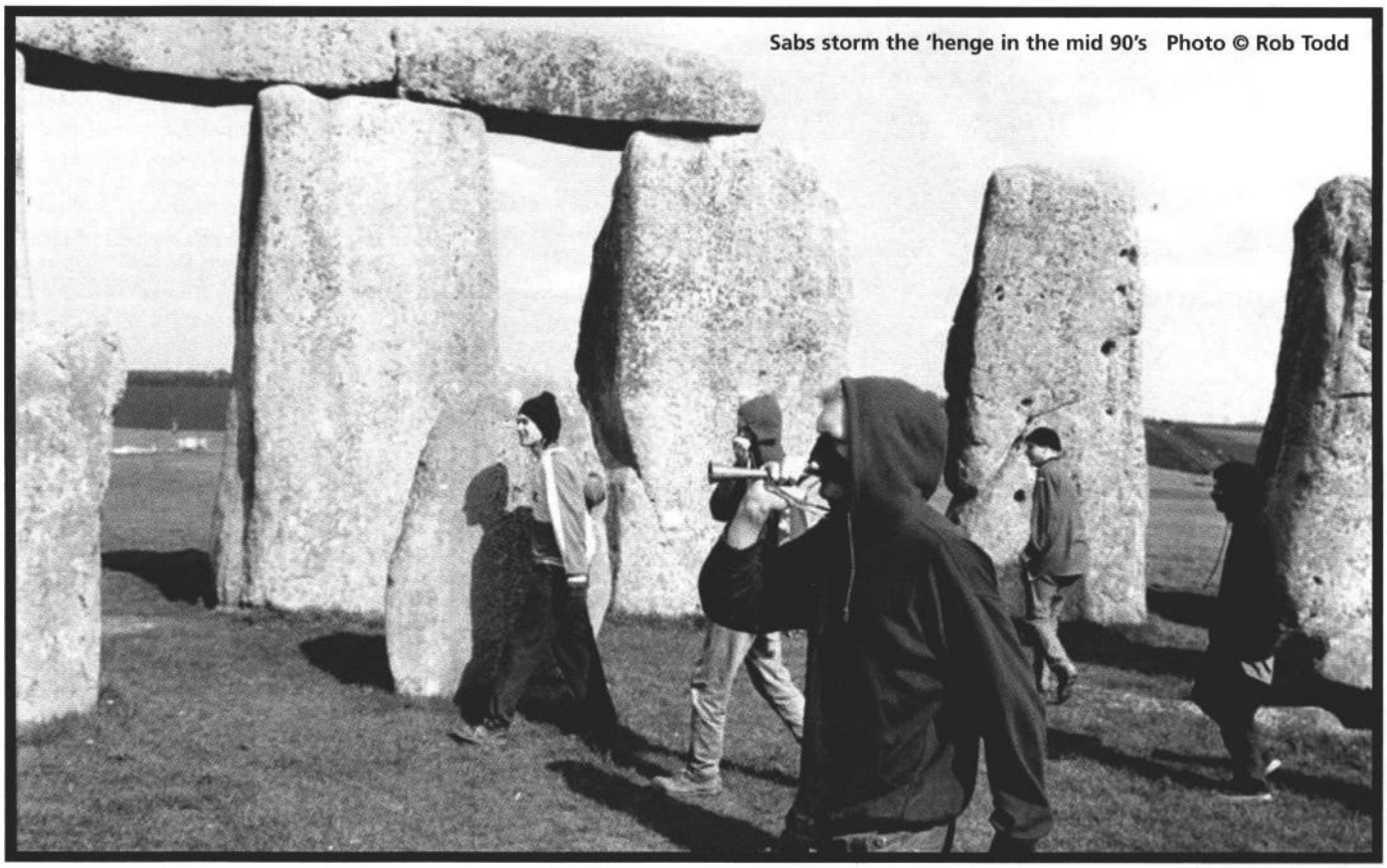
Within the last five years Robert Stavely has acquired the land surrounding our Henges. It is acknowledged by English Heritage, arch archaeological groups and all those interested in protecting our countryside that this land should be protected. Robert Stavelu is intent on quarrying this land. He's ploughed up ancient tracks, destroyed old hedges, bulldozes protected woods and has removed a unique linear feature in order to clear the way fro quarrying. He is a man who is used to getting his own way, but in his determination to destroy our heritage he is meeting with fierce opposition. Now that he is finding that people will no linger bow to his pressure, he responds with extreme verbal abuse. Recipients of this abuse include officers of North Yorkshire County Council, Defra, English Heritage and the Nature Reserve trustees.

Christopher Bourne-Arton - also a member of the Bedale Hunt - whose parents sold the land on the Nosterfield Nature Reserve for quarrying, is a trustee of the Lower Ure Conservation Trust. He is national chairman of the trustees for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. He has shooting rights over the Mosterfield Reserve, which he exercises regularly, running shoots for profit. There is clearly a conflict of interest here. The LUCT has charitable status and is funded by the quarrying industry, Council grants and donations. It is utterly wrong that public money should be funding what is effectively a shooting gallery for Mr. Bourne Arton.

In this area the argument that 'country sports means conservation' is turned on its head. The real threat to the countryside is from within.

All of this can be substantiated. Up to now we have not sought publicity as we had several threads running together which needed to be coordinated.

Name and Address Supplied



Sabs storm the 'henge in the mid 90's Photo © Rob Todd



Madonna, Guy Ritchie & The Portman Hunt.

Guy Ritchie makes a living from films that glorify violence: lots of "shooters", men shoving guns in each others' faces, illegal boxing and even hare coursing.

The Portman Hunt has traditionally hunted across his and Madonna's Ashcombe estate in Dorset, and there has been much speculation in the local press (Dorset Evening Echo) about whether or not this will continue. Ashcombe is a large shooting estate, and Ritchie has a passion for blowing living creatures out of the sky - a passion shared with his frequently favoured star Vinnie "typecast cos it's not really acting I really am a psychopath" Jones.

Given the media hype, we thought it would be a good idea for *HOWL* to investigate the Ritchie's pals.

The Portman has an appalling record of violence against peaceful protestors attempting to save foxes using tactics such as blowing horns or using harmless scent dulling sprays. They closely resemble the shady characters from one of Ritchie's films and a local source told *HOWL* that a new film is rumoured to be in the planning stage based on their exploits

Incidents that may inspire scenes in the planned epic include:

1. Late August 1997: Saboteur Neal B from Dorchester visited at home by Portman terrierman Nick Stephens who, armed with a pick axe handle, tries to kick front door down. He shouts a warning to the saboteur that if he or any of his group try to disrupt Stephens' hunt, they will pay for it. Issues threats to kill Neal, his wife and their pets. Reported to police - no formal action taken

2. Early September 1997: Nick Stephens attacks the Dorset sabs' transit van with a pickaxe handle, whilst they attended the Portman kennels waiting for them to leave for a cub hunting meet just before dawn. He tries to smash the bodywork and windows. Foresight meant that the windows were grilled with mesh, stopping the glass shattering, but the van was damaged in the ensuing chase as Stephens tried to ram the van off the road, driving recklessly without lights at night, and then with full beam lights to blind the driver. A 999 call to police elicited no response from Dorset Constabulary.

3. End November 1997: Several sabs ambushed and attacked by well-known hunt followers in balaclavas using pickaxe handles and metal piping. The two worst injured taken to Salisbury hospital with head injuries. Sab van rammed by hunt follower's Land Rover - which they later claim was our fault. Several of the hunt staff get involved in the clashes, one of the red coated riders pulled out a cut-down axe handle from his saddle to batter sabs in the field.

4. Start December 1997: Dorset saboteur threatened at place of work by man with machete! The sab had to leave his work site as his work mates restrain the assailant. Man is part of a gang of poachers who are linked with the army of hunt followers who support the Portman, South & West Wilts, South Dorset and Hursley Hambledon hunts in southern England. They operate a telephone tree to co-ordinate responses to the arrival of hunt saboteurs at hunts in the region. They have now threatened to shoot or 'chop' any sabs who turn up in the Dorset area. The CID investigated these death threats, and installed a panic button in the home of the local saboteur.



Above: Portman thugs tool up ready for some action. (Ex-Huntsman Hugo Busby is visible in the centre)

Below: The baying mob of Portman thugs including bearded Tony Smart, Huntsman of the Ytene Minkhounds.



Below: Huntsman Hugo Busby proudly wielding a big stick

8. In 1990 Stevens and two of his henchmen were bound over to keep the peace after an incident when 3 sabs were cornered in a field and attacked at the South Dorset Hunt.

9. Of course, as Hugo has shown, the violence isn't restricted to the terriermen. In 1993, EDWARD LYCETT-GREEN Busby's predecessor at 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, was also convicted of Criminal Damage to sab's property and given a conditional discharge.

5. 3rd Sept 1999 after cubbing meet, Stevens and 2 others in a van chased hunt saboteurs from the meet at Guys Marsh Fm, Shaftesbury across country for 30 miles until the sabs took refuge at Yeovil police station - 25 miles away from the start of the chase

6. 6th April 2002. 8 saboteurs attend the Portman hunt in a Land Rover. When they start blowing a hunting horn, the group are surrounded by hunt supporters and threatened. Three men, including terrierman Nick Stevens, mounted on trial bikes, block the path of the vehicle and its occupants. When the group leave the area, they are pursued. Calls to the police are ignored.

7. Terrierman Stevens has a conviction dating from an incident on 31 March 1990 when he, along with others at a neighbouring hunt, turned a car full of saboteurs onto its roof. At a court hearing in 1991 he was fined £200 for this act of Criminal Damage



See page 24 for grouse shoots sabbing report.

GROUP NEWS

Midlands & North West

Summertime and the sabbing is easy...

It was the first day of June, not strictly summer but the sun was out and the temperature was high. Just a few weeks after the end of the foxhunting season, sabs found themselves heading for the Midlands to deal with the *Three Counties Mink Hunt*. Groups from **Liverpool**, **Manchester**, **Northampton**, **Bath**, **Cirencester**, **Southampton** and **Reading** arrived shortly before the eleven o'clock meet at Knightwick, near Worcester. As soon the mink hunters began walking the banks of the River Teme, the sab convoy emerged spilling activists into the Malvern Hills.

The hunt headed determinedly upstream in the direction of Kingswood Common, but the presence of fifty athletic hunt sabs marred their attempts at putting hounds into the river. At around one o'clock the master decided to gather up his hounds and head back towards the meet. He declared that he was calling it a day, but sabs were wary and decided to get vehicles prepared for following the hound van, in case they were planning to move off to another area.


© Reading sabs

The hounds were placed inside their trailer, but the hunt was not going anywhere. Sabs warned that it was far too hot and that the hounds would suffer in the heat. After complaining that it was sabs who caused them to pack up early, the huntsman reluctantly let them out.

The cocktail of shaggy otter hounds, redundant foxhounds, beagle-crosses and other miscreants nuzzled the sun-bathing sabs and scrounged their packed lunches. Meanwhile the huntsman ranted on about Tony Blair being responsible for the demise of his pack. Interestingly, he referred to when hunting is banned as opposed to if. He appeared to be more convinced than anyone that a ban is imminent. He then went on to say that hunt saboteurs and mink hunters have a great deal in common. He seemed to miss that one crucial difference: the saving of lives as opposed to the taking of lives. Being subjected to his diatribe was far better than sabbing. At least no mink were being pursued and it was perfect weather for sitting around chatting.

At two o'clock the hounds were boxed up again. One hound, clearly a free spirit, refused for the second time to get into the trailer, preferring the company of sabs. 'General! Get back here!' screamed the huntsman. It is feared that General has subsequently been demoted to Sergeant for bad behaviour.



Bumpkins honour the age old tradition of urinating on their Landrover, ensuring it will bring them a prosperous season

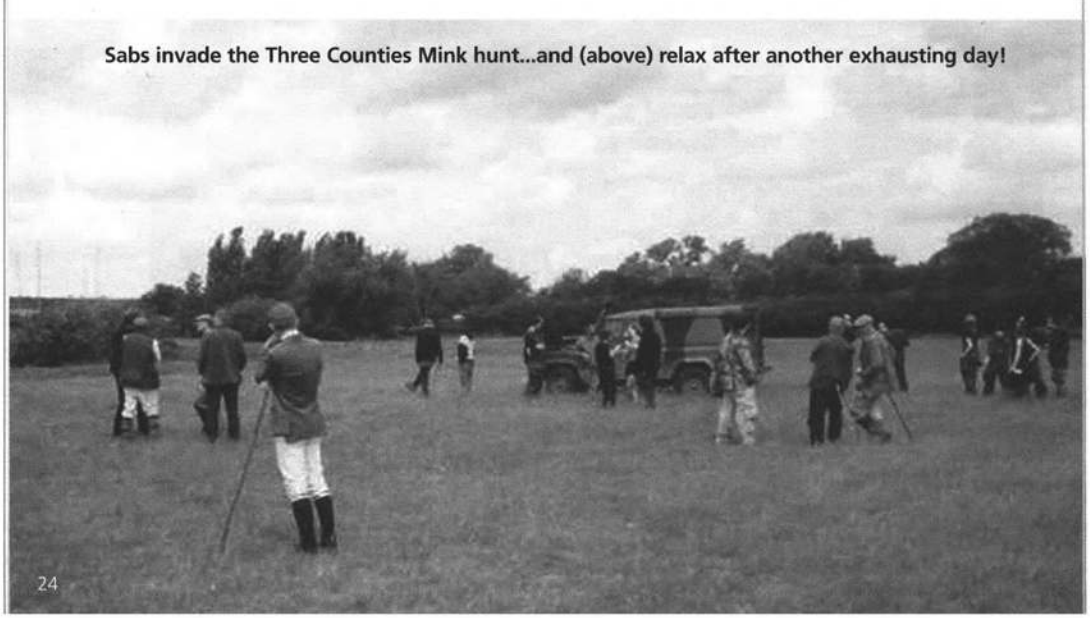
Four police cars then arrived followed by a police helicopter. After it was confirmed that the hunt was going back to the kennels the sab convoy left the area with a helicopter escort.

After the early finish there was ample time to pay a visit to the beer garden of rather nice pub, just off the M5, in Whittington.

Philip Elston

Sabs from the North West which include **Manchester**, **Liverpool**, **Bolton**, **Lancaster** and **Preston** are out sabbing two or three times a week in the ongoing campaign against *The Cheshire Forest Hunt* and *The Holcombe Hunt*.

Sabs invade the Three Counties Mink hunt...and (above) relax after another exhausting day!



South

Reading sabs saw out the end of the season with visits to the *Garth* (as usual), *Eton College Beagles*, *Old Berks* and also joined in the fun and games at the *Woodland Pytchley* and *Essex Farmers*.

With the arrival of summer thoughts turned to fundraising. Several local stalls have proved that support for hunt saboteurs is as strong as ever. The group also staffed the stall for the H.S.A. at the Womad festival.

Reading sabs attended the two hits on the *Three Counties Mink Hunt* joining other sabs from far and wide. The group also travelled north for the first Saturday of *grouse shooting*.

Now comes the difficult choice of which hunt to target during cubbing... just won't be the same without the *Garth and Big Nose!*

Reading sabs joined others in visiting the Surrey Union's children's cubbing meet....

The **Southampton** group has managed to keep up a healthy level of activity through the last half of the 2001-2 short season with attendance at regulars like the *Tedworth*, *Surrey Union* and of course mid week trips to help out West Sussex sabs with the *Chiddingfold, Leakingpants and Cowardly Custard.* A trip to the *Eton College* with **Reading** proved interesting as many of our newer sabs didn't realise they were signing up to become victims of anti-Union laws. Despite this desperate clutch at protection by the local plod, the beagles didn't hunt.

Feeling in holiday mode we travelled North to join other groups to sab the *Woodland Pytchley* on 9th March. When they packed up early, we moved onto the *Fernie*. Gizmos and horns were employed at the first covert we reached and saw the huntsman take flight - even losing his whipper-in. We looked to be having a great day until a visiting huntsman ruined everyone's fun by trying to run over a sab and ramming our Land Rover. A major court case is due over this incident. More to follow

When everyone else had decided that the season had finished (meeeeow!) we took a trip down to meet up with *Dorset* sabs for a joint meet of the *Portman and South Dorset*. Eight sabs made an impact by taking the pack within minutes of arrival. After that, things got more difficult with terrier-loons on trials bikes - with small children on the back - blocking our progress. Despite what other groups may think, these packs are very do-able.

The following couple of weeks saw a hotchpotch of groups from **London** and **Guildford** crammed into a van join us in the *South Dorset's* heath land.
20th April was a particularly successful day. The hunt was kept under constant pressure and always on the move before the early afternoon saw the whole pack run to the gizmo and horn from literally under the huntsman's nose.

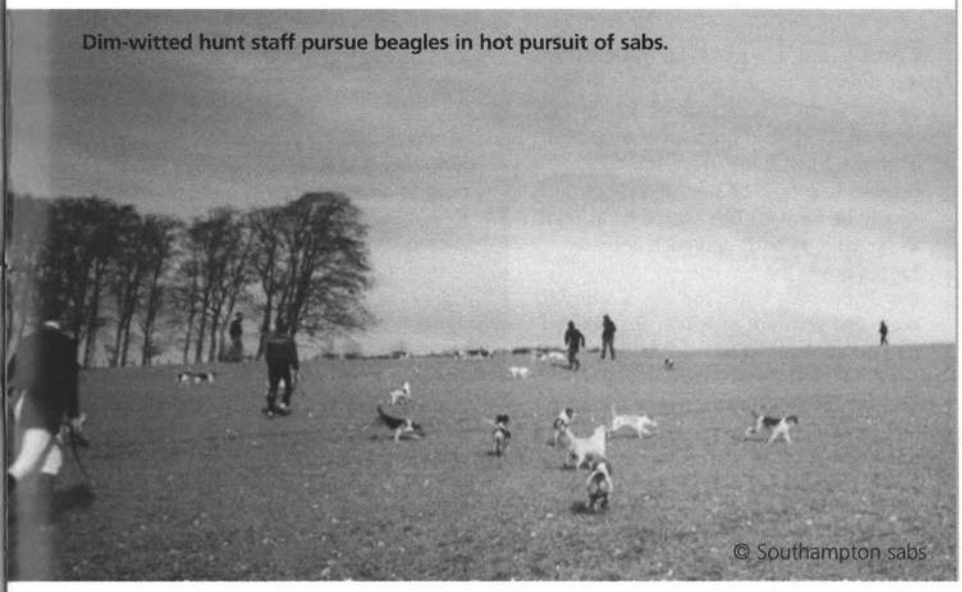
Chaos ensued and when the hunt finally regained their pack, they kept moving so quickly that lost hounds were popping up all over the place. Last sight of the huntsman was after 6pm, still gathering his hounds in a vain attempt to go home.

Since then we have sabbed the *Three Counties Mink Hounds* and attended the *badger cull* on a few occasions.

17th August we were up on the *Grouse Moors* with other groups from across the country. We would like to claim this year's prize for "Group who travelled furthest". Shame some of the groups who were nearer didn't make it.

Cubbing has started for us with the *Surrey Union* and we will then move on to the usual suspects!

Sabs from **Hastings**, **Croydon**, **Brighton** and **Southdowns** spent the end of last season and cubbing disrupting the *Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent*, the *Southdown and Eridge*, the *Surrey Union* , and the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray FH.*



Dim-witted hunt staff pursue beagles in hot pursuit of sabs.



Posh boys attempt hunting their beagles on extendable leads!

South West

Plymouth sabs spent much of the summer months locating and sabbing the *Devon and Cornwall Mink Hounds*. When the hunt was found the presence of sabs was enough to cause the hunt to stop and pack up for the day! As well as the usual fundraising and repairs to the groups vehicle **Plymouth** joined other South West sabs in holding some effective counter demos at Countryside Alliance events.

When cubbing resumed in August **Plymouth** joined **South Devon** sabs in targeting the *South Devon Foxhounds*. This hunt has been hit regularly since and sabs believe that the *South Devon's* new huntsman has yet to make a kill. The *Spooners and West Dartmoor* have also had cubbing meets sabbed.

Dorset sabs have been busy sabbing the Portman FH, South Dorset FH and the Cattistock FH as well as doing a demo at the Devon Agricultural Association Show.

Wanna come sabbing?
or
Start your own group?

Contact the HSA

We'll be happy to put you in touch with your nearest local group and/or arrange an informal tactics talk.

We can also supply you with free posters and leaflets, as well as providing limited financial support to new groups.

Get in touch -
You know it makes sense!

8:12

Dawn Preston

Following another successful year of shoots sabotage on the moors *HOWL* proudly presents: Everything you ever wanted to know about Grouse shooting but were too afraid to ask.

WHAT IS GROUSE SHOOTING?

Grouse shooting begins on the infamous "Glorious Twelfth" (of August) and ends in December. In four months some half a million birds will be shot. Although the birds are not hand reared, their numbers are kept artificially high by gamekeepers who rigorously exterminate their natural predators. As young heather is a primary food source for grouse, areas of the moor are burned at different ages as a continual food supply for the birds. Grouse are known as the "king of gamebirds" because of their fast flight. This speed also makes a clean kill difficult and again, many are shot without falling instantly to the ground, and fly on wounded.



SABOTAGING A GROUSE SHOOT

Before the shoot starts:

Pre-beating is the most effective method and should be done with the wind, as no bird wants to fly against it. You should start with your backs to the shooting butts and walk away, forcing the birds away from where the guns will be, and downhill if possible, as it is a lot easier to get birds to move in this direction. Gaps of between 20 and 30 feet are needed between sabs whilst beating birds away, and the use of white flags, carrier bags and whistles/hunting horns will help shift the birds. The line should move as fast as the slowest person, and stay straight. As shoots start at around 9.30am, pre-beating should start at 8am

After shooting has started:

The two main options available once the shoot has started, the first being to form a counter beat line away from the butts in an attempt to get the birds to fly away from the guns. The aim is to move or funnel grouse in a particular direction, and not simply to be an opposing line of sabs parallel to the grouse beaters. Taking into account wind, land gradient and position of shoot butts, a line of around 45 degrees to grouse beaters and shoot butts should be formed. This should be as tight as possible; as birds approach and are turned down the sab line, so the noise should progress down the line. Controlled noise and constant attention are required for counter beating to work as it should.

The second option is to occupy the butts and block the line of fire at both the front and the rear of the butt. The shooting butt is usually made of natural materials i.e. timber, turf, stone (see photo) and its prime task is to provide camouflage for the gun-wielder, hence their tweedy attire. Clearly then no shooter is going to want white sheets, banners, piles of non camouflaged bodies etc ruining his cover. Also, by standing in front and on top of the butt it becomes more difficult to shoot accurately. Sometimes shooters will put away their guns when sabs use this tactic, others will attempt to carry on; groups must be prepared to assist in incidences were shooters persist in shooting around sabs.

Whichever tactic it is important to remember that guns and beaters will move to different lines of butts on the moor. Always keep with the guns, just as you would keep with the hounds on a fox hunt.
(For more details on sabbing shoots, see the Tactics Booklet which can be found on the HSA website: www.huntsabs.org.uk)

Guilty gamekeepers

Grouse are not the only wildlife to be routinely abused on the shooting estate. In an attempt to try to maximise grouse numbers the estate gamekeeper his/herself will often be responsible for killing other species present on the land, which compete with or threaten the survival of the grouse. Some recent examples of gamekeeper convictions (not necessarily all grouse estate related) are:

Gamekeeper **Charles Arnold** of Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire was fined £500 with £40 costs after pleading guilty to setting

four pole-traps on the fence posts of a pheasant release pen near Snoddington Farm, Cholderton

A gamekeeper was fined after admitting shooting a hen harrier, one of Britain's rarest birds. It is the first conviction for killing the bird. **Douglas Ross** (33) gamekeeper of Tigh na Mara, Main Street, Dallas, is filmed carrying the rare hen harrier was fined £2,000 at Elgin sheriff court for shooting the bird. Ross, who works on the Craigmill Estate which is owned by Catharine Wills, was convicted on video evidence compiled by two members of the RSPB. The Crown accepted his not guilty pleas to shooting a second bird on the same date, having the birds in his possession and carrying a shotgun for the purpose of killing a wild bird.

A gamekeeper was fined £2,400 for illegally poisoning five Buzzards and storing and possessing a banned agricultural pesticide. **Malcolm Kempson** of Cardenden, Fife went before Perth Sheriff Court after the offences in March 2000.

A gamekeeper was spared a jail sentence after admitting keeping a trap and pesticides capable of being used illegally to kill wildlife. **Peter Frost** (63) who worked at Snailspit Farm, Swaffham, was the first gamekeeper to appear before the courts, now anyone possessing items capable of being used illegally to kill wildlife can be jailed. Frost admitted possessing a Fenn trap with a dummy wooden egg and three syringes that could have been used for such purposes. But magistrates at Swaffham decided against imprisoning Frost and instead fined him £200. Frost also admitted five breaches of the Food and Environment Protection Act by keeping potentially lethal poisons, including cyanide, for which he was fined £150 with costs of £200. Frost had been a gamekeeper for 40 years.

HOW TO LOCATE A SHOOT



Where are grouse shoots advertised?

i. On the roadside. Notice boards at the beginning of footpaths or public tracks leading onto a grouse moor. They will tell you when the moor is closed for shooting.

ii. National Park Planning Boards might supply on request a list of dates when moors will be closed for shooting along with a photocopied map showing moor boundaries. They have negotiated access agreements with shoot owners in the area, that allow the public onto the moors at certain dates, providing that the moors are allowed to close on certain days for shooting.

iii. In some local newspapers, under the public notices column, they will list moors, that are accessible to the public, and when they will be closed.

iv. Some County Councils have negotiated public access agreements with the owners of grouse moors and it becomes their task to inform the public that these moors will be closed. These county councils will keep lists of such moors and when they are closed.

v. It should be remembered here that most grouse are huge, private, fenced-off tracts of land where no member of the public is ever allowed. You will have great difficulty in finding shoot dates for these moors, because the owners are under no obligation to warn the public and publicise the dates. It should also be pointed out that those moors which have had access agreements negotiated with them and allow public on, have to fix days of shooting well in advance of the 12th August. Once decided on, the dates cannot be changed - so if one shoot is disrupted by sabs, they cannot hold another to make up for lost sport. Unfortunately, these shoot dates are never available until the first week of August.

THIS YEARS GROUSE REPORT

The start of the Grouse shooting season fell on a Monday this year, and during the first week of the grouse shooting season saboteurs were present in known shooting areas looking for shoots to sabotage. What follows is a merry tale of dodgy characters, rule breaking shooters and bizarre bus rides which made this particular grouse shoot sab one to remember!

A beautiful day dawned over the Peak District long after Reading, Northampton, West London and Southampton sabs had set off from their home towns to head towards a day of grouse shoot sabotage. By the time that they had met with the other groups at the rendezvous point in sunny Derbyshire, the police had already been called as the locals apparently thought our presence "suspicious". Now lets just think about this for a minute. The Peak District is prime rambling country. Your average sab outfit usually comprises walking boots, army trousers maybe, a well packed rucksack full of veggie butties and certainly much wielding of maps. Suspicious? I can see how that happens - NOT! Or maybe it was because a certain contingent were dressed like they were off for a day at the beach, complete with shorts and cooler box!

Once the local police had completed their investigations into our suspicious behaviour (they stared at us for a bit, handed out a producer or two, and then went back to the station to finish their breakfasts) we headed out. As befits the sabotage way, the operation was planned with military precision, with each vehicle assigned different parts of the surrounding moor to investigate for any evidence of shooting (see How to Find a Shoot fact box for tips on what to look for). The good news (!) soon came through within the hour that a large shoot had been located a few miles away - the bad news was that it required at least a two hour trek across the moor to get to the pesky shooters. Undeterred by the baking heat, the locating sabs marched onwards towards the shoot whilst the other groups were notified and began to head the same way.

The shoot was located on Ronksley Moor, which is adjacent to the magnificent Ladybower reservoir. As stated previously, this part of the Peak District is fine looking country and draws many tourists, ramblers and out-doorsy types. Thanks to this a fabulous thing had happened; there was a bus which took you up to the moor!!!



Liverpool sabs had already earned themselves a ticket from the local cops, who had obviously found enough time between breakfast and lunch to stick their oar in again and had blocked the road up to the moor. As such the only option was to commandeer the bus as a sabotage vehicle! (Or rather stand in an orderly queue, stick a cautious hand out and then proffer the required 65p to get to the last stop).





Oh how we laughed as the police car drove down the track and past the bus as we sped up to the top of the moor! And then the trek through valleys and streams, and across the moor began.

Despite walking for over an hour, not a shot was heard from in front of us. This was due to the shoot having the sense to eventually retire to their shooting hut for an early lunch as more and more saboteurs kept appearing from over the hilltop. However, it should be noted that in clear breach of their own rules (as stated by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation - the main organisation representing shooters in the UK) the shoot initially continued to shoot whilst saboteurs stood right next to the guns, and did this for around an hour. In situations like this the BASC advises all its members to immediately break their guns and lock them away safely - obviously these shooters had as much regard for human life as they did for the grouse they were blasting out of the sky.

A leisurely couple of hours spent sat around basking in the sun followed, with the shooters, beaters and associated hangers-on trying to pretend that were honestly quite happy to simply sit around chatting, eating lunch and reading the Daily Telegraph (I'm not making that up) instead of shooting grouse as they had paid thousands of pounds to do (and I'm not making that up either - a days shooting costs serious money, and even then you're only allowed to shoot a set number of birds!). Eventually, at around 4pm, the shooting party decided to call it a day, packed up and headed back to their "Liberty and Livelihood" bedecked vehicles, and we duly escorted them off the moor (with the help again of the mighty, mighty sab bus, but this time in the other direction). And so (apart from a strange moment or two when a couple of the shoot vehicles came back and tried to menace some of the last sabs off the moor, but then the Reading camo-landy quickly faced them off) the day ended with a quick picnic on the grass and then all concerned headed off home.



Groups present: **Reading, West London, Guildford, Manchester, Liverpool, Northampton, Southampton, Lancaster.**



Whats wrong with Grouse Shooting?

1.

Grouse shooting is a bloodsport
People pay vast sums of money (£1000-£2000 a day) to blast a sentient creature out of the sky – for enjoyment, a creature that has been driven towards them to make it easier. Whether or not money changes hands is not the issue though - shooting or hunting animals for amusement is something the Hunt Saboteurs Association is unequivocally opposed to. Grouse are known as 'the king of game birds' because of their fast flight. This speed makes a clean kill difficult and results in birds being shot without instantly falling to the ground, and many fly on wounded.

2.

Gamekeeping practices on Grouse moors
Grouse management practices have resulted in widespread killing of birds of prey and destruction of nests.

A report "Red Grouse and Birds of Prey" produced by 12 organisations including the RSPB, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts and World Wildlife Fund stated that
"Conservation groups and the government are concerned because widespread killing of birds of prey, especially on moors managed for grouse shooting, limits the population and distribution of several species. Killing birds of prey is a criminal activity involving hundreds of birds every year; for example:

- 11%–15% of the hen harrier population on the Scottish mainland are destroyed each year
- no hen harriers have nested successfully on commercial grouse moors in northern England since 1997
- 52% of the potential peregrine productivity on grouse moors in southeast Scotland was lost during 1990–96
- 43% fewer golden eagle chicks were fledged on grouse moors in Tayside during 1982–96 than would have been raised without persecution.

Hen harriers, peregrines and some other birds of prey eat red grouse. In some circumstances, grouse form a major part of their diet and they may take a sizeable proportion of the shootable surplus of grouse. However, hen harriers were barely present in mainland Britain during the major grouse declines between 1930 and 1950 and numbers have not increased during the second period of grouse decline since the 1970s. Grouse bags have continued to decline on many moors, despite widespread illegal killing of birds of prey and destruction of their nests."

The report also stated that "At present, the illegal killing of birds of prey on grouse moors, especially of hen harriers is widespread"

The Scotsman 4 August 2002 reported that "Hen harriers are considered a pest by gamekeepers because they reduce the amount of grouse available for shooting.
A recent study revealed that up to 74 females were being illegally killed - shot or poisoned - by humans on Scotland's grouse moors every year.

Penalties for breaking the law are severe but prosecutions are rare. Even an article in the openly pro-huntin' and shootin' Country Life conceded that "although hen harriers are specially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, they continue to be destroyed illegally on grouse moors throughout upland Britain.

Recent research shows that the number of young harriers reared per female on grouse moors is only a third of that on other moorland in Scotland. The same study concluded that gamekeepers destroy nests and kill adults on a significant scale.
("*The Future Of The Hen Harrier*" by David Tomlinson)

The RSPB, whilst taking no stance on whether or not grouse shooing is acceptable stated on their website that Hen Harriers are threatened "...because they eat red grouse and so come into conflict with managers of moors managed for grouse-shooting. To ensure that a shootable surplus of grouse is maintained, protected birds of prey are routinely and illegally killed on many such moors.".

On the subject of demands by Grouse moor owners to allow the killing of raptors, they added that "Conservation organisations are concerned that the populations of birds of prey in general, and hen harriers in particular, are already threatened by widespread illegal killing and that weakening the law would permanently threaten birds of prey"
In general, gamekeepers on grouse moors – in common with lowland keepers – persecute all wildlife other than the species being reared. Foxes, badgers, song birds, birds of prey and small mammals have all fallen foul of gamekeeping practices.
There have been a number of Wildlife Crime prosecutions against keepers which are regularly reported in *HOWL* and documented on the North West HSA website (www.nwhsa.org.uk)
However, the majority of this activity goes undetected or there is not enough evidence to take legal action against the perpetrators.

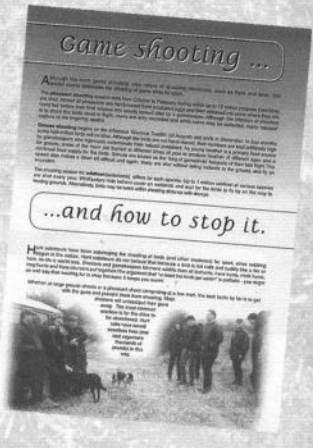
3.

Countering the "Heather moor conservation" argument
Claims that there would be no heather moorland if it were not for grouse shooting are vastly exaggerated – as little as 29% of heather moorland is managed for grouse shooting.

There are no definitive statistics on the extent of heather moorland managed for grouse. However, The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's Land Classification System estimated that there was 4,890km2 of grouse moor in the UK in the late 1980s (28.9% of the total heather moorland)
Besides which, it is crass of landowners to hold conservation to ransom in order to justify bloodsports. Perhaps this shows that they are not true conservationists but more akin to selfish children – "If I can't have what I want I'll destroy it". This hardly puts people in a position where they should be entrusted with stewardship of the natural environment.

4.

Practices that are detrimental to the environment
Grouse moors are artificially managed environments. Heather on the moors is burned away to promote new growth as the grouse feed on the shoots. As a result of the extra exposure to environmental and erosive forces, run off from the moors dirties water in reservoirs to a greater extent. The water is cleared using aluminium sulphate– thought to cause Alzheimer's disease. Whilst the clearing agent is used regularly, the extra discolouration cause by peat rich run off leads to an increase in the amount of aluminium sulphate used following the burning of the heather. In the past, excessive levels of aluminium sulphate have been found in water supplies in Grouse shooting areas – to the extent of the water being deemed unfit for use.


Game shooting ...
...and how to stop it.

If you have any information regarding organised shoots, or the activity of gamekeepers, or if you would like copies of our free leaflet with information on how to sabotage game shooting then please contact the office.



Legal News

THE LAW IS A HUMAN ASS AWARDS

Over the years we've all seen our fair share of travesties of British justice; in some instances cases so absurd that the details defy any modicum of belief. In recognition of this, this issue of Howl brings to you – and not before time either – The Law is a Human Ass Awards, partly inspired by the human ass named Bottom in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream, but mainly by the following story.

Before we start though, I should not be giving too much away by announcing the indisputable winner, Dyfed Powys Police. Here's why:

Following the routine spate of hogwash coming from all sides of the blood sports' lobby, regarding the nature and character of your average hunt protester, Lord Elton (Conservative would you believe) tabled a written question asking what steps were being taken to prevent "violent assaults" on those who legally participate in hunting with hounds.

And just to give you an idea of the sort of hogwash we're dealing with, Richard Burge of the Countryside Alliance, in the last ten seconds of his appearance on BBC2's Newsnight in September, was keen to sow into the minds of millions of viewers the idea that "hunt saboteurs stub their cigarettes out on children's horses", and in Janet George's equally twisted mind, hunt protesters are on a par with the September 11th bombers/hijackers!

Anyway, in response to Lord Elton's question, Lord Falconer (Labour), Minister of State for the Home of Office, assured him that "police forces were working closely with hunts to enable them to gain intelligence on events where violence may occur". In addition, he told him, the police were working with the Crown Prosecution Service across force areas to ensure that crimes committed by "animal rights extremists" are investigated and prosecuted as effectively as possible.

Now, it is well known that in many areas of Wales they actually speak another language, but no one could accuse Dyfed Powys Police of not paying attention to English Parliamentary speak on this occasion. On the contrary, Dyfed Powys Police worked so "closely" with their local hunts, endeavouring to "gain intelligence" and intercept events where "violence may occur" at every possible turn, they succeeded in arresting a dozen duck-feeders out on a picnic! Now whether it was the feeding of ducks, the picnic, or both activities combined that set alarm bells ringing in the minds of the arresting officers, remains unknown to everyone - except them of course. What we do know was found in the custody reports, where it appears the duck feeders were arrested to "prevent a breach of the peace", as there was a foxhunt nearby!

In spite of the fact that the officers in question only appeared to be obeying high-level instruction to remain vigilant in the interest of the hunt, the duck-feeders have since received a £24,000 out of court settlement for unlawful arrest and imprisonment.

Since this debacle, an Early Day Motion named "arrest of duck feeders" was tabled by Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport West).

"That this House notes the arrest by Dyfed-Powys Police of 12 ramblers caught in the act of feeding ducks and their subsequent imprisonment for five hours; notes the comment of the group's solicitor that the police are 'keen to arrest people if there is a fox hunt nearby' even when those concerned are not involved in any protest; is delighted that the ramblers have been compensated for wrongful arrest; and looks forward for similar diligence from the police in apprehending hunters when their activity becomes unlawful". (Hear! Hear!)

THREATS TO KILL MY ARSE!

A Hastings sab was found not guilty of threatening to kill a member of the Old Surrey Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds, at Horsham magistrates Court on 7th November 2002.

Hunt Master Graeme Worsley claimed he was threatened with death on the 25th of February at a meet where only four saboteurs were present. Prosecution witness, Georgina Purdey Camilla Worsley claimed she was surrounded and verbally abused, whilst David Pitfield (whipper-in) claimed to have heard the threat from nearby.

Fortunately one sab used a camcorder to capture the actual evidence in contrast to the work of fiction dreamt up by the hunt prosecution witnesses. The video evidence showed no threat and no trace whatsoever of whipper-in David Pitfield - who claimed to be in earshot.

During the case the prosecution insisted on showing irrelevant and inadmissable video footage including the sabs subsequent arrest the following week, plus other 'select' footage from the day. This backfired superbly when one of the magistrates suggested that even the sabs arrest 'looked unlawful'. Further 'backfiring' may have been attributed to the Worsley's keen fashion sense - Mustard yellow is soooooooo 2001 Purdey sweetie!

This case could have had an entirely different outcome had it been reliant on the 'our word against theirs' scenario. Be wary of 'stitch ups', and try to make sure your group always has a camcorder ready.

Hastings sabs plan to have one each after Sussex Police have finished paiying out for assault, wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution!



SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Bullingdon
PO Box 50
Bicester
Oxon OX25 1WD
Serving 3 years for GBH on HLS director Brian Cass, 18 months for burglary of 600 Newchurch guinea pigs & remanded on arson charges

NEIL BARTLETT
FW7083
HMP The Verne
Portland
Dorset
DT5 1EQ
Serving 4 years for hoax bomb-threats to various instituitions of animal abuse.

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.

Please remeber letters are opened before they reach prisoners so don't write anything stupid in them!

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.

The best way to support AR prisoners is by sending a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group who will provide financial help for them.

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





VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

bloodsport
VERMIN

On 27/7/02 **Stephen Baker** (38) of Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port, **Stephen Butler** (30) of Cedar Gardens, Queensferry, and **Stephen Fowell** (30) of Whitfield Street, Tranmere were found guilty of badger digging. The judge told the trio it was " abundantly obvious" they had deliberately set out to hunt badgers. In doing so, he said, they had ransacked the sett and as a result it had since been abandoned by the animals. He also said "I am in no doubt whatsoever that the three men set out on a joint enterprise and deliberately dug into a badger sett. "I'm warning you that these matters go way beyond the custodial threshold." "You lied about the dog being stuck underground and lied about the smell of fox. These lies are beyond an innocent explanation."
On 20/8/02 Stephen Baker, Stephen Butler and Stephen Fowell were sentenced to six weeks to run concurrently. The judge also banned the trio from owning a dog for three years.

On 30/702 at Market Harborough magistrates **Francis Kevin Philips** of Barrow upon Soar, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, pleaded not guilty to two counts of interfering with a badger sett. Philips is charged with blocking a badger sett as part of his terrierwork for the Hunt, by using illegal methods. The offences are alleged to have taken place, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. The case was adjourned by magistrates until 29/8/02, when a date will be set for trial.

A 45-year-old huntsman from Padstow was banned from keeping animals for ten years after admitting to causing unnecessary suffering to his hounds. Magistrates at Launceston heard how pregnant beagles were found dead at **Steven Heard's** kennels with no food or water on two separate occasions. An RSPCA inspector who went to Mr Heard's farm said: "The animals were cramped, and there was not a dry area in the whole place. It was soaked in urine and mess. The smell was horrendous. There was no bedding at all and no fixed containers for water. Almost all of the water bowls were empty. It was squalid."
Outside the court the inspector said: "They have banned him for 10 years from keeping animals, but in my view it would be better if it were a lifetime."

Dogs suffered horrific injuries at the hands of three men who forced them to fight each other for fun.

Two maimed pit-bull type terriers were found drenched in blood in a makeshift fighting pit at the home of **Andrew Crowe** (36) of Brampton Road, Cambridge. On 1/7/02 he was convicted of seven charges relating to dog fighting after the judge rejected his "feeble" story that the bout was an accident. His cousin **Glenn Brown** (27) of Stourbridge Grove, Cambridge and **Mark Willis** (32) of Chesterton High Street, were also convicted of dog fighting charges following the six-day trial.

Crowe was found guilty of causing dogs to fight, using his premises for dog fighting, two charges of causing dogs unnecessary suffering and being present at a dog fight. Brown was convicted of possessing a pit-bull type dog, two charges of causing dogs unnecessary suffering and being present at a dog fight. Willis who admitted possessing a pit bull-type dog, was found guilty of being present at a dog fight. Willis was fined £400 and ordered to pay £5,000 towards the costs of the case, which totalled more than £42,000. The underground dog-fighting den was uncovered when police and RSPCA officers carried out a raid on Crowe's garage.

Crowe was sentenced to six months in prison for his part in the vicious sport, he also received six months for permitting suffering to pit bull-type terriers and causing the animals to fight, with both sentences to run concurrently. In addition he was fined £500 for each of the two pit bull-type dogs he owned. He was also banned from keeping dogs for 30 years and ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Glenn Brown was sentenced to the maximum 240 hours' community punishment order for causing suffering to animals and a further 240 hours, to run concurrently, for possessing a dog bred specifically for fighting. He was also fined £500 for attending a dog fight, told to pay £5,000 costs and banned from keeping dogs for 20 years.

All the dogs were ordered to be destroyed.

egg / bird
VERMIN

A man with two previous convictions for taking bird eggs has been jailed for four months after he was caught with Osprey eggs at his home. **Paul Anthony Sly** (41) of Meadfoot Road, Willenhall, Coventry admitted nine offences at Coventry magistrates on 20/6/02. Also discovered at Sly's home were five other species of egg and 23 dead birds in a freezer. Three other birds had been mounted.

A man described as one of Britain's top wildlife thieves was jailed for stealing rare birds eggs. **Carlton Julian D'Cruze** (41) from Whitemeadow Drive, Crosby was sentenced on 4/9/02 to six months in prison after admitting possessing more than 400 rare eggs, including ospreys and golden eagles. The sentence is the longest ever imposed for such offences. South Sefton magistrates heard how D'Cruze was discovered flushing the eggs down the toilet when police officers raided his home. The court was also told how implements were found used to blow the contents out of the eggs.

equine
VERMIN

A former racing trainer accused of cruelty to five racehorses has failed to appear before magistrates. **Kamil Mahdi** (53) of Newmarket, faces five charges of cruelty to animals in a prosecution bought by the RSPCA. On 19/7/02 Bury St Edmunds magistrates adjourned the case until 23/8/02 and urged Mahdi, who comes from Kuwait, to attend.

A horse breeder and her partner have been banned from keeping the animals for life after a court heard how RSPCA inspectors found ponies suffering on their farm. A district judge described an RSPCA video showing conditions at Ingst Manor Farm near Olveston, South Glos, as

"horrific" after it was shown in court. He banned **Susan Smith** (44) and **Brian Blizzard** (41) from keeping horses for life. Smith had pleaded guilty to three counts of permitting unnecessary suffering to horses she owned and Blizzard had pleaded guilty to three counts of causing unnecessary suffering by omitting care. Smith staggered and wept in the dock at North Avon magistrates on 22/7/02 when told the pair they could never again keep horses. Smith was fined £1,500 and Blizzard £900. They were ordered to pay costs of more than £4,400.

assorted VERMIN

A former zoo keeper was found to have over 100 exotic animals suffering in cramped and dirty conditions at his south London home. RSPCA and police raided the home of **Peter Hill** (48) of Sanderstead, South Croydon, and seized 102 animals including 17 flying squirrels, 12 bush babies, 25 sugar gliders and 48 different types of turtles, tortoises and terrapins. Hill was found guilty of 10 offences of causing unnecessary suffering and was cleared of 2 other offences. He was given a 2-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £12,000 costs but magistrates ordered the animals to be returned to him.

On 10/7/02 **Ellis Daw**, owner of Dartmoor Wildlife Park in Devon, pleaded guilty to breeding Siberian Tigers illegally (i.e. not part of a managed breeding programme) and keeping them in unsuitable conditions (6 tigers were found in a small off-show enclosure). 15 other charges against him were dropped. Daw was originally charged with 16 offences after an investigation by South Hams District Council found a number of serious management problems at the Zoo. Other charges related to taking animals to schools without permission from the council and failing to properly dispose of dead animals. TV news footage following the verdict showed dead animals in freezers next to animal food. Daw admitted that some animals may have been frozen for 30 years and that he sent dead zoo animals to taxidermists. Amazingly, despite his guilty plea to serious charges Daw received just a conditional discharge and was ordered to pay £200 costs.

A former magistrate will appear in court facing charges of criminal damage after a neighbour's dog was shot dead. **Michael Cuttell** (63) has been summonsed to court after allegedly firing on a terrier. At the time he was reported to have said he believed the dog had been worrying his peacocks. After the shooting police were called in by the dogs owner and Cuttell, from Ullenwood, Gloucestershire, was later arrested and released on police bail. He faces charges of criminal damage and failing to comply with the conditions of a firearms certificate.

VEGGIES
Catering Campaign (Nottingham)
www.veggies.org.uk

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER

Mon 18th-24
Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs National Week of Compassion
Every day at Noon at Darley Oaks Farm . [map] . Pick a Day and Pledge your Support . . .
Sat 23rd : Animal Costume Day. Noon : Bring all your costumes for a colourful and compassionate gathering. SNGP: 01902 564734 / 07814 488173

23rd-30th
National Anti-Fur Week - Note revised dates
Actions at fur shops and on the street everywhere: CAFT, PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX. Ph: 07939 264 864 or email . or . from London Animal Action: 0845 458 4775 or 07796 774200

Tues 26th
Cambridge Primates - public enquiry
The University of Cambridge wants to build a new primate research laboratory on the outskirts of the city, where monkeys would be housed underground and subjected to cruel, invasive brain experiments.
Deadline extended to oppose planning applicaton before public enquiry on 26th November - details here. Contact X-Cape : 01223 311828

Sat 30th
Buy Nothing Day - Note revised dates
Anti-consumerism campaign. More info from: Enough: 0161 226 6668 or www.Adbusters

DECEMBER

Sun 1st
Christmas Without Cruelty Fayre
Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 . 10am to 5pm . Stalls, vegan catering, celebrity auction, cakes by Ronny & Veggies.
Animal Aid:01732 364546

Sun 1st
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Global Day of Action Against HLS
National mobile demo against HLS. Meet 11am Birchanger Green services on the M11.
SHAC: 0845 458 0630

Mon 2nd
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Marsh Demos
Demos at every Marsh office in the country. Check www.shac.net for your nearest Marsh or ring 0845 458 0630

Tues 3rd
Night Demo against Huntingdon Life Sciences

Thurs 5th
Demo at Huntingdon Life Sciences
2pm at gates of HLS laboratories at Woolley Road, 1mile north of A1/A14 Junction

Fri 6th
Northern Demo against Huntingdon Life Sciences
Meet 11am at Knutsford Servces northbound on M6.

Saturday 7th
Independent Judicial Inquiry Into Vivisection
More info and updates see www.vivisection.info for links, forum, sample campaign letter, Judicial Inquiry petition and info. Email alleycats@btinternet.com or Cathysorbo444@aol.com .
Also recommended: The Absurdity of Vivisection website

Sun 8th
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty National Demo
Mass demonstration against those who work for or are involved with HLS. Mark this date, but note that SHAC demos do not always proceed as advertised. Phone 0845 458 0630 for transport details New new SHAC address : c/o Lynn Sawyer, 6 Boat Lane, Evesham, Worcs WR11 4BP

Tues 10th
5th International Day for Animal Rights
Uncaged co-ordinate events across the world, calling for fundamental rights to be bestowed upon non-human animals by 2048 (100 years after the Declaration of Human Rights on this date). Groups are encouraged to hold candle-lit vigils outside local sites of animal abuse, (eg. vivisection facility, abbatoir, butcher's etc.) to highlight links between human and animal rights. email or phone:0114 272 2220

Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Demo
Bring lanterns for a candle-lit vigil from 2pm at Darley Oaks Farm, Newchurch, Staffs.
SNGP: 01902 564734 / 07814 488173 www.guineapigs.org.uk

Sat 14th
Newchurch Vivisection Education Day
Bring ideas for an informative day of compassion - noon at Darley Oaks Farm, Newchurch, Staffs

Sun 15th
Animal Rights Coalition Meeting
Noon (for 1pm sharp) at Veggies' Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone St, Nottingham, for all campaigning groups and individuals. Food by Veggies.
Details from ARCNews:0845 458 0146 . Directions from Veggies/Sumac : 0845 458 9595

Wed 18th
Covance Campaign
This is a weekday all-day demo to make the most of the staff entering & leaving the lab at Otley Road, Harrogate. Ph:07960 992824

Sun 22rd-25th
Save the Newchurch guinea Pigs
4 Days of Yule Compassion at Darley Oaks Farm, Newchurch, Staffs. Bring food and your disgust for the vile Halls.
Monday 23rd : 10am, Tuesday 24th : Noon, Wednesday 25th : 10am Contact the campaign on 01902-564734 / 07814 488173

Tues 24th
BIBRA Labs VigilContact
Croydon Animal Aid on 01737 554048

Wed 25th
Covance Campaign
Christmas Day Picket at Covance labs at Otley Road, Harrogate. Last year Covance sent its staff home early to avoid the picket so lets keep them guessing. Phone for start time on the day before. There might a chance to go Carol singing as well. Ph:07960 992824

Thurs 26th
Boxing Day Anti-Hunt Demos
Contact Hunt Saboteurs Association: 0845 450 0727; or your local Hunt Sab group.
Also Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign against the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds. Call 07903 413894.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

A.L.F. Supporters Group
publishes ALFSG Newsletter
BM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX

Animal Rights Coalition
publishes ARC News
PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV10 7BZ

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX
Visit: www.arkangelweb.org
email: arkangelweb@hotmail.com

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

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

Justice for Steve Christmas
get well cards,messages of support & donations to:
Steve Christmas c/o Croydon H.S.A., PO Box 1072, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2ZT
www.jfsc.atfreeweb.com/

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

Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs
PO Box 74, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5WF
01902 564734 www.guineapigs.org.uk

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
01273 685913 email: schnews@brighton.co.uk Web: www.schnews.org.uk/

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

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
Publishes Regular Newsletter Update
PO Box 381, Chetenham, Glos GL50 1YN. 0121 632 6460
e-mail:info@shac.u-net.com www.welcome.to/shac

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign
Publishes free regular newsletter
B.M. Box 7099
London WC1N 3XX
0781 565 8371 email: surreyantihunt@yahoo.com
www.sahc.org.uk

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 82 92 83 25
email: hvpc@vpsg.freeserve.co.uk
Visit: www.cares.demon.co.uk

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) 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 SW1A 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 .....

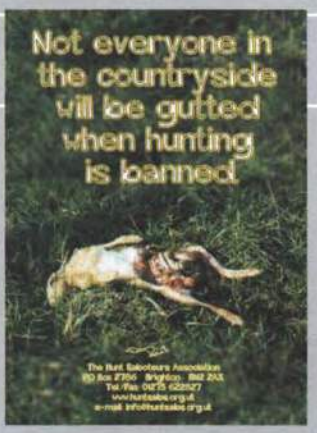
Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, PO Box 5254, Northampton NN1 3ZA

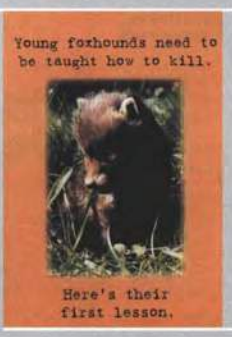
For a standing order form or more information phone Tel. 0845 450 0727

HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour, glossy A2 posters. Ideal for stalls, displays, and any empty wallspace!
.....**FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**



Full colour, glossy, A5 leaflet explaining cubhunting; the side of foxhunting the hunters want to keep quiet. Help spread the word and expose this barbaric practice by distributing as many of these leaflets as you can.

'Cubhunting' leaflet .....**FREE! (+p&p +DONATION)**



Copper the fox is still going strong and so is our leaflet! The famous fox has 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. ***More than 200,000 already gone out!***

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

The HSA also has a range of 'How to...' A5 leaflets
Each A5 leaflet, 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!**











BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 73 & 74 available.

Single back issues 50p each

Bulk orders:
10 + issues **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 receive 10 copies of each Howl in the course of their subscription. (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

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





Full colour stickers - Help promote the HSA (clearly unsuitable for putting on lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal!)

.....**FREE!**

(+p&p+DONATION)



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 40p to send as do 5 posters.
250 leaflets cost approx. £3.50, 500 leaflets £4.00 and 1000 leaflets £6.00.

Some people **make** things happen...





...some people **watch** things happen...

...and some people just wonder **what** happened.



Join Us - and **make** a difference

www.huntsabs.org.uk