Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Spring 2003

HOWL 78

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

HUNTING BILL LATEST | NATIONAL NEWS ROUND UP | HUNT SCUM ON THE RAMPAGE | PARLIAMENT SQ. RIOT REPORT | GROUP NEWS ROUND UP | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



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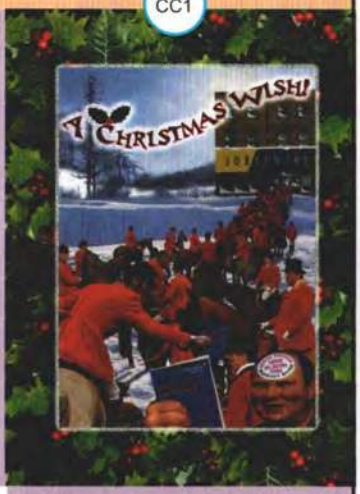

T1



PC2

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This issue of Howl is dedicated to the memory of Hunt Saboteurs

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

9th February 1991 & 3rd April 1993 respectively

whilst lawfully trying to prevent hunts from killing our wildlife

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

HOWL 78

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 5254, Northampton NN1 3ZA Tel. 0845 450 0727
Howl e-mail: howl.editor@virgin.net
HSA e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk
website: www.huntsabs.org.uk

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 30 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to effectively prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year.
The H.S.A. committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non-voting posts. All committee members are active hunt saboteurs and all posts are voluntary. **No-one at the H.S.A is paid** - we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation and directly helping saboteurs in the field.

Editor	Bad Penny
Contributors	Nath, PG, Positive Rob & NWHSA - Ta folks!
Design	Dirkdigglerdangledickdesign Ltd.
Photos	PG, Steve Interesting, Basingstoke Sabs, Welsh Sabs, Bath Sabs, Reading sabs, West London sabs, Southampton sabs & WSWPG - Ta folks!
Vermin Patrol	Paul T.
Distribution	H.S.A.
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 in *Howl* should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated.

Nothing printed in *Howl* should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

EDITORIAL

And so another season draws to a close... and the 2003/4 season approaches! The last season has seen a return to silly policing and arrest levels in certain parts of the country, and also the return of vicious hunt scum who see fit to launch attacks on hunt sabs at any opportunity. The issue of silly policing is covered in depth in the 'Operation Brown Nose' article and, thanks to ongoing cases concerning Surrey Police, the story is likely to run and run – we'll keep you posted. Also in this issue we cover the progress of the Hunting Bill, currently held up in the Commons due to the war, but due to resume its progress in May. No matter what you may think of politicians it's a fact that a ban on hunting will only ever be brought about by legislation - never forget that we are the closest we've ever been towards making real progress. And how fitting as the HSA approaches its 40th season, not that we'll switch from our 'business as usual' approach until the death knell for hunting is sounded once and for all. We owe it to those that have gone before to continue saving the lives of hunted animals in the killing fields, and especially to those who never came back – Mike and Tom – and also to Steve who did, thank god, get back. Unfortunately the system sometime detains some of our number, and at present Dave Blenkinsop is serving a lengthy sentence for animal rights activities. Dave is an experienced hunt sab of many, many years and you can read more about him within these pages. Helpfully, you can also read about how you can help him and other animal rights etc prisoners by reading the article on supporting prisoners.

As they say 'there's no justice, just us'.

Finally, just note to say that although this is my first Howl (for a long time, at least!) my stay as Ed will be short... If anyone out there fancies a dabble then please contact me for more details via the usual e-mail address. Happy reading.

Bad Penny



HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Saturday 12 July 2003 12pm - 6pm
Bar open 12 'til late plus vegan cafe
@
Jacksons Lane Community Centre
Archway Road, opposite Highgate Tube Station, London.

- Reports by committee members
- Discussions / Demonstrations (TBA)
- Amusing video compilations
- Free leaflets, posters and *Howls* for anyone who wants them

ALL WELCOME

Dogs & Sprogs too!

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTION 2003

The election of the 2003/4 Committee of the Hunt Saboteurs Association will take place in the summer.

Candidates must be members of at least one years standing as of March 2003. They must be proposed and seconded by members of at least one years standing and neither may propose or second another candidate, or themselves.

There are 12 voting posts and as many as needed non-voting posts. All posts are up for election. As always with the HSA, all the posts are voluntary but expenses are paid.

So, if you have a few hours a week spare and would like to have more say in the way the HSA operates then please stand!

The Hunting Bill goes to Committee Land & our intrepid Research Officer follows...

With the possibility of a ban on hunting being the closest it has been in our 40-year history, it wouldn't be right for the HSA to let the machinations of Parliament pass without close scrutiny. This meant that someone would have to keep an eye on the Committee stages of the Bill. And that unlucky person....Oh, that would be me then!

Initially I thought I could get away with a quick scan or maybe just watch out for media reports but I then realised that if we were going to get anything of interest out of the process I would have to pour over the minutiae. And that is exactly what I've ended up doing. I must have read the phrase "Will the Hon Member give way" a thousand times! Although I could skip from somebody moving an amendment to change the Bill to the bit where they vote and comment on that, I noticed that the real gems were contained within the debate, especially with the likes of the HSA's old friend Nicholas Soames on board...

Who's Who

The MPs appointed to the Committee vary in their stance on hunting from anti-hunt MPs, to the so-called Middle Way (more on them later), to a small number of pro-hunt MPs. The MP's on the pro-hunt side are [from left to right below] Edward Garnier (Harborough) as in Market Harborough, home of the Fernie Hunt; Hugo Swire (East Devon) who hunts with the Mid-Devon FH, claims he has hunted since he was 17 or 18 and "has never witnessed any cruelty"; Nicholas Soames (Mid-Sussex) who hunts with the Crawley and Horsham and has had "a lifetime of hunting, only a short period of which has been ruined by hunt saboteurs". He also revealed in the first day that he had a rat hunt as a teenager (!). Next up Gregory Barker (Bexhill and Battle); Adrian Flook (Taunton) - saviour of the Staghounds, and last but by no means least... James Gray (Wiltshire North), who hunts with the Avon Vale and the Royal Artillery. He was definitely "leading the charge" against the Bill on behalf of hunting, with many amendments and speeches coming from him.

James Gray almost deserves to have this whole article to himself as he came out with so much rubbish. He made his intentions clear on the first day by stating that he wanted to turn the Bill into one "in the best interests of the countryside and hunting". He was later to contradict himself when he said on 9 January "I do not represent hunters". This was a pattern he set for his outbursts throughout the Committee hearings, which feature later.

What's been goin' on 'ere then?

One of the pro-hunt amendments heard in Committee was a schedule that laid out a licence rather than people having to convince a tribunal and registrar – in other words, if you can write your name you're allowed to hunt (which might actually be a significant barrier to some hunting folk!). Despite the fact that the Bill has always been a "free vote" i.e. non-party political issue, Gray announced that the Conservatives proposed the licence.

A lot of time was spent by the pro-hunt MPs arguing the case that hare coursing and deer hunting should not be outright banned as the Bill suggested, but made subject to the tests other hunting would have to undergo, namely proof of utility and least cruelty. One of the main arguments put forward was that there were not enough police resources available. When you consider the excessive numbers of police that sabs have experienced at hunts this season in Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and more specifically at the Avon Vale hunt in Wiltshire, you would think Mr Gray and his cronies would know that there are plenty of cops available – complete with 4x4's, video evidence units and helicopters! Of course when this was pointed out, Hugo Swire piped up that the police are needed to protect those who are hunting "from the antis". Ian Cawsey, whose constituency office was attacked by the Real C.A., swiftly reminded everyone that the only person killed at a hunt was anti-hunt (obviously not entirely correct as two hunt saboteurs have been killed – Mike Hill and Tom Worby – but I suppose we should be grateful for any mention at all - Ed). On the 16 January, Swire was to claim that "catching poachers is not a priority because of the lack of resources". In response, Alun Michael announced that the Home Secretary was making £30 million a year available to rural forces. The problem is that they'll probably blow it all on trying to arrest somebody for blowing a hunting horn or using a spray. Is it a case of resources being so scarce, or is there a case to argue that there is a lack of will to catch poachers when there are sabs to be harassed?

On 14 January, Edward Garnier claimed that "on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays there are likely to be only two – or with luck, three –policemen on duty" in the south east of Leicestershire. Sabs who have attended the Fernie Hunt on a Saturday will probably find this difficult to believe! He later said on 13th February that "The police cannot go around with a large net and arrest everyone on a field because they are attending a hare coursing event and must be subjected to the rigor of the criminal law". Strange, because they seem able to go around with a large net and arrest everyone on a field if they are attending a hunt to sabotage it!

On 7 January Gray said, "Some activities that are demonstrably cruel and should not be allowed under any circumstances – such as bear-baiting and other activities that have been banned in the past – have no utility at all." On the 21 January he argued in favour of sport and recreation being included as part of the utility test under the Bill. So, following his logic, if someone enjoyed bear baiting for recreation (as some sick individuals in some parts of the world do) it would have utility.
Oh dear, by trying to distance foxhunting from fringe bloodsports, he set himself up to contradict himself again.

Hunters tried to argue that only the most cruel activities should be prevented, but as Alan Whitehead MP pointed out, hunting could be allowed by the "invention of a more cruel method of dealing with foxes such as repeatedly smashing a fox's head with a brick, which would enable hunting to be seen as less cruel." And, knowing the hunting fraternity as we do, that invention would be quite believable!

Adrian Flook tried to get the age for registration reduced from 18 to, in some cases, as young as 12. This would appear to be an appeasement for the College Beagle packs (Eton, Stowe, Radley) who train up the huntsmen of the future. The age was however reduced to 16, to fall into line with a proposed change in the voting age.

Attempts were also made for mink hunting to be an exempt activity and even to allow the hunting of "orphaned" mammals. Once you rid your mind of the image of an orphanage being held up by eager hunters in "ratcatchers" as hounds search out their prey, the point could be made that the reason some foxes, deer or hares become orphaned is because their parents are killed by the local hunt! Those amendments failed along with many other pro-hunt attempts to "drive a coach and horses" through the legislation, as one MP put it.

The official view from DEFRA regarding foxes was outlined on 9 January by Eliot Morley who stated that "foxes are not considered to be a major predator of livestock" and that "To suggest that there is a terrible problem with foxes throughout the country is ludicrous". It cannot pass without comment that it is a shame DEFRA can't appreciate the same of badgers.

James Gray (not again!) complained of fox predation on calves saying there is "plenty of evidence". When challenged to provide evidence he backtracked and admitted "The evidence I suspect is slight". This issue came back a week later when he went from the





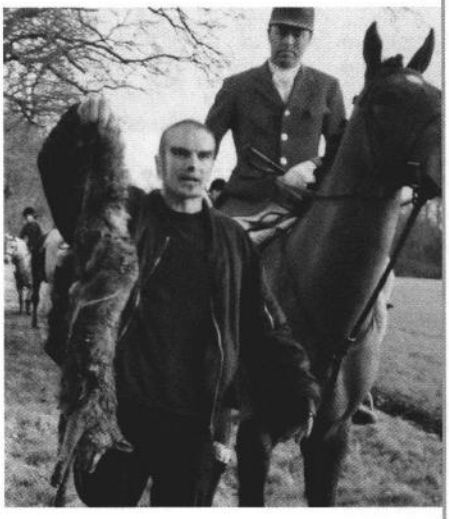



sublime to the ridiculous claiming that "foxes eat the calves as they are halfway out of the cow"!!

There was even an attempt by Gregory Barker to suggest hunters as "indigenous communities" under the terms of the 1992 Rio declaration. Strange as it seems, this idea was rejected.

The Committee was told of artificial earths, how there are links between "official" coursing and "illegal" coursing and the fact that hares are often netted and transported to official coursing events. The pro-hunt side were of course not phased and James Gray came back with "There is no evidence that hares are transported for coursing as conducted in England – they are local to the course." A shame he didn't clear that with the Countryside Alliance who, as Mike Foster informed him, told the Burns Inquiry that "not more than 7 of the 24 greyhound clubs have been involved in transporting hares".

The constant contradiction of Mr Gray presented itself in one of the amendments he proposed, namely that the registrar should, on the one hand have a "good knowledge of hunting with dogs" and on the other have "no association with hunting or any other organisation which directly or indirectly supports or opposes or has supported or opposed, hunting." For such a person to be able to develop that knowledge without the association with pro or anti hunting folk would be impossible. Needless to say, the amendment failed.



The Muddle Way

On 21 January Alun Michael finally twigged that the Middle Way Group had "lurched into the pro-hunting camp". Some would say it is more a case of finally showing their true colours and that their game had been rumbled. Lembit Opik has in the past been a member of the Countryside Alliance's Parliamentary Committee, and the CA is nothing if not the home of the pro-hunting camp!

Our day in Parliament – sort of!

There's nothing new in the HSA getting mentioned in Parliament, what with the 1994 CJA Sections 68 & 69 being brought in with us very much in mind and various hunting parliamentarians whinging about us on a fairly regular basis. However, what James Gray had to say about us on 30 January was fairly amusing. They were talking about organisations and people who could view the register of people allowed to hunt.
"It is therefore perfectly possible that, for example, the Hunt Saboteurs Association, which I believe to be close to being an illegal organisation if not actually proscribed, could by some quirk—under a future Secretary of State—become a recognised animal welfare organisation. If the amendments were allowed, it could by that means gain access to the private addresses of people whose activities it hates. We must remember that by that time those activities will have been registered and will be allowed under the Bill. Nevertheless, certain organisations could take it into their heads to believe that the activities were in some way disgraceful and hateful."

"We know of some of the activities that the Hunt Saboteurs Association has carried out. Huntingdon Life Sciences, for example, has suffered from its activities, as have a number of hunts, which have been attacked by such organisations quite disgracefully. I shall not bore the Committee with examples, but there are plenty around. The activities of those people are unspeakable—and illegal. "

Whilst the HSA is of course opposed to the animal cruelty carried out at HLS we, as an organisation against bloodsports, have never carried out any campaign against HLS! The activities of the Hunt Saboteurs Association are not illegal. And by the way James, old boy, if we were bothered about you we could find out where you lived...

The "sabs are terrorists" approach continued when he added " Will the Minister tell us whether other organisations whose sole function is to campaign will be appointed? I think in particular of the League Against Cruel Sports. If his answer is possibly, would he not accept that information that is passed to LACS, for example, might intentionally or unintentionally be passed on to organisations such as the Hunt Saboteurs Association?" Nicholas Soames added to the hysteria with his horror story of the Gloucestershire wife of a master of hounds who was "persecuted on her mobile telephone by antis".

And so the Committee stage of the Hunting Bill continues, and indeed the time allowed has been extended. One rumour currently circulating is that the government has made it clear that if Part 2 is not included as it is, they will not push the Bill. Part 2 lays down the utility and cruelty tests which Alun Michael is so fond of, and also the process of registration. This could mean not enough Parliamentary time, no Parliament Act to get it past the Lords and thus no ban. Effectively there will be licensed hunting if the tests are not failed and a hunt is registered. This would mean we wouldn't have a full ban, despite the majority of the population being in favour – and even a majority of the House of Commons! However, against this mid-February brought good news for hares, in that the Committee voted to extend the ban on coursing hares to hunting with beagles, bassets and harriers as well. Some folk hope that we will have what is an effective 80-90% ban on what hunting remains but we shall have to wait and see. First we have the conclusion of the Committee stage, the Report stage and then political ping-pong between the Commons and the Lords. A partial ban is better than nothing I suppose, but it means it will be a while before I hang up my hunting horn...

GRAY-ISMS

Many a Gray-ism (as they will no doubt become known) came to light in the Committee, and here are a few of the best for your entertainment and delight....

Gray indicated that the idea of foxes being disembowelled by a pack of hounds was laughable, offering up the comparison with "40 dogs the size of Alsatians hitting something the size of a poodle." *Now, I know the Avon Vale have quite large hounds, but come on...*

"A high proportion of foxes killed by organised hunts are old or vulnerable" (14 January). *True perhaps, if by 'vulnerable' you mean living in a hunt country...*

"There have been cases of foxes eating their young because they could not find other quarry" (16 January). *Oh, come on.....*

"Fun is involved in hunting and there is no purpose in denying it" (16 January). *So, its not pest control or for utility's sake, it's for fun.....*

"The Countryside Alliance is an animal welfare organisation" (23 January).

"Foxhunting happens in such a way that it avoids the mating season." (16 January). *Except hunting carries on until April and even May in some parts of the West Country. Vixens carry cubs from January onwards. In March 1989 sabs found nine foxcubs in an earth - the Essex FH terrierman had just dug the earth out and killed their mother.*

"Doing anything with fox carcasses other than giving them to the hounds to be eaten is wrong and the notion that the carcass might have been delivered to an anti-hunting person is absurd" (30 January). *So, animal carcasses just crawl round to anti-hunt protesters doorsteps on their own do they?*

On 23 January, Gray claimed that three or four LACS members were out with the Avon Vale the previous Saturday. He was "glad to say that three were carted off by the police in handcuffs". *He couldn't even get this right! Sabs from Bath, Pewsey Vale and Swindon were sabbing that hunt and LACS monitors weren't present. Two of them were arrested for alleged aggravated trespass but Gray obviously can't count or is it that he always exaggerates?*

OTHER MEMBERS BALLS

Gray was not alone in his comic contributions to Committee business – additional howlers committed by other pro-hunt MPs included:

Hugo Swire "A friend told me that she was out hunting with the Tedworth hunt when it drew a covert and out came a fox on three legs, its fourth leg sporting a bandage" (21 January)

Adrian Flook "Dispersing grandfathers away from situations in which they can sire their granddaughters leads to a healthy deer herd". (21 January) *I wonder does the same apply to humans? I've seen some unhealthy looking hunters this season.*

Nicholas Soames "The whole of the landscape of the midlands and much of the south-east of England was laid out for hunting" (4 February) *And there was me thinking glaciers did a lot of the work...*

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A FOX...1

RSPCA inspectors are investigating the savage slaughter of a fox after its charred and mutilated body was discovered in Carlisle. The animal had been beaten to a pulp, stuffed in a bag and burned alive. The carcass was also said to have smelled strongly of petrol, with its tail sliced off and its skull crushed. RSPCA officers believe that the tail may have been kept as a 'sick trophy' of the attack. Chris Towler, the RSPCA inspector dealing with the incident, said: 'We can rule out that the fox may have been involved in a road traffic accident because its claws were all still intact. It looks like this animal has been cornered or dug out. It has taken a real beating with implements like spades and sticks, put in bag and set on fire.' He continued 'We can rule out a mindless prank by kids,' continued Mr Towler. 'We are looking at a serious investigation. Whatever people's views on hunting are, this is very bad and we must remind people that these animals are protected by legislation.'
(News and Star 19/02/03)

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A FOX...2



The Swansea Anti-Bloodsports crew sent in this horrendous photo of a fox shot by "The Gower Fox Club", who hunt area's surrounding Swansea and the Gower Peninsula. They commented 'The GFC are an intelligent crowd of shooters, terrier and lurchermen with the mental capacity of a house brick! This fox was thrown up a tree after it met with a disgraceful death. It was flushed towards the guns where it had its back legs shot off. As the poor animal lay twisting in agony on the floor the low life used terriers and lurchers to finish it off. It was then thrown up a tree alongside a public footpath to the sound of cheering from the delinquents.'

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A FOX...3

Hunt saboteurs and indeed anyone of with an ounce of decency was rightly appalled at the end of last year when a Cheshire paper reported that a dead fox had been strung up a tree, and a sign attached which read 'WELCOME TO THE REAL COUNTRY. CHESHIRE HUNTING COUNTRY'. The local sabs, quick to comment when the press began to call for comment, didn't doubt for minute who was responsible. A spokesperson for the North West HSA said '...it seems more than a coincidence that the Cheshire Hunt has just held its traditional opening and within a couple of days, just up the road, this poor fox appears wired to a tree. This is the sort of thing that terriermen or gamekeepers will do. It just goes to show what little respect the bloodsports fraternity has for our wildlife.' Ellie Boddington, spokesperson for the Cheshire Hunt, denied any responsibility for the fox, stating 'There is no way any hunt supporter or member would have anything to do with such a disgusting incident. It is quite abhorrent and a very strange and disturbing thing to do.' She denied that it could have any connection with the Real Countryside Alliance: 'I don't believe it's them - there is no benefit in it.'
(Cheshire Chronicle 15/11/02)



IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A FOX...4

The Manx Government is to use 'sharpshooters' to kill foxes which it believes are threatening the ecological balance of the island. The Isle of Man is believed to have been fox-free for several centuries until the animals were illegally brought onto the island for 'sport' in the 1980's. Tynwald, the Manx parliament, swiftly passed a law banning foxhunting in response to this discovery, but the recent sightings of foxes means that a cull has been agreed.
(The Times 27/11/02)

PAGE SAYS N.F.U IS NO F.U.N (GEDDIT?)

Robin Page, former One Man and His Dog presenter, current district councillor and rabid pro-hunt scum bag, has been making new friends and influencing people (not) by giving the National Farmers Union a slagging off. In a letter to Private Eye (?!) Page attacked the NFU as being unrepresentative of those who it is supposed to represent, later going on to defend his remarks by stating that the NFU panders to corporate farmers and does not support small farmers like himself. His ranting elicited little response from the NFU however, who simply commented 'We are not even going to dignify this with a response, we have got better things to do...We have dealt with diatribes from Robin Page before and this one is of a fairly low standard.' Page is no stranger to controversy and recently spent a night in a police cell after being arrested for allegedly inciting racial hatred by calling for countrysiders to have equal rights with gays, blacks and lesbians at a rally in Gloucestershire. (See huntsmansballs for choice quote!).

GREAT GRANNY SABOTAGES HUNT!

A Great-grandmother from Lancashire attempted to do her bit for hunt sabotage by cooking up a novel ruse in a bid to foil a Boxing Day hunt. She baked a tasty casserole to tempt the hounds, hoping that they would lose their appetite for fox if they were already filled up with meat and veg. Joan Sinnott, a widower, joined up with other demonstrators who took part in a protest at the Holcombe Hunt, at Rivington, Bolton. Mrs Sinnott, 74, a retired English teacher from Blackburn, said: 'I decided to cook up a bit of beef to fill up the dogs so they wouldn't be hungry. 'Unfortunately, I only got to one. But I would do the same next year. I hope it won't be necessary, though, if this new Bill succeeds in banning hunting.'
Manchester Evening News 27/12/02

FOOT AND MOUTH FARMER'S 40-YEAR BILL

The pig farmer blamed for starting the foot and mouth epidemic which resulted in the slaughter of 6.5 million animals has paid only £60 of the £10,000 legal costs imposed last year, when he was convicted of gross animal cruelty and ignoring farm health regulations. Bobby Waugh, whose piggery in Northumberland became notorious during the 2001 epidemic, will take 40 years to settle the bill at his present rate of payment, and may avoid most of it if he wins a fresh round of legal proceedings. A court in Sunderland heard that Mr Waugh, who has been banned from keeping livestock for 15 years, was only able to pay £5 a week to the court. Waugh, 57, told the hearing that he owed £7,000 to the bank, after taking into account the value of his terraced house in Sunderland, earned just £70 a week, and was facing financial ruin. Mr Waugh, who was electronically tagged and subjected to a curfew when convicted, told the court: "If I had the money, I would pay it."
The case was adjourned for more checks on his statement.
(*Guardian 19/02/03*)

TITS OOT FOR THE FOXES!

'Give the fox some loving' is a cry not often heard at your traditional Boxing Day meet, but this was the shout going out at a hunt meet in Droitwich when two anti-hunt protesters decided to be at one with nature. The two men apparently made a 'last-minute' decision to strip off, hold hands and walk through the crowd shouting 'Give the fox some loving, even the fox needs some loving' Worcester Magistrates Court were told. David Bullock was ordered to do 60 hours community service, and Robert Banks was made subject to a community rehabilitation order for 40 hours. The Prosecution stated that 'there were a number of constables with the police support unit keeping an eye on the town centre. At 10.15am the officers' attention was brought towards the two men who were completely naked. They were holding hands walking through the crowds... The officers heard them both shout 'give the fox some loving, even the fox needs some loving'. Both men were charged with indecent exposure.

LABOUR GOVT. DOUBLES PHONE & E-MAIL SNOOPING

A report in the Guardian has published figures showing that interception of telephone calls, email and post by police and the intelligence services has more than doubled since Labour came to power and is higher than at any time since the start of the second world war. The total number of communications surveillance warrants issued in England, Wales and Scotland has risen from 1,370 in 1996 to 3,427 in 2001, in stark contrast to official figures which claim that the number has fallen significantly in recent years. By comparison, the previous peak year was 1940, during the second world war, when 1,682 warrants were issued.

Even these figures massively underestimate the true scale of interception, according to Statewatch, an independent civil liberties group, which conducted the analysis. Changes in the method of counting warrants for the official figures as well as changes in how they are issued mean that the total is likely to be 'much, much greater', the research concludes. Tony Bunyan, editor of Statewatch, said: 'The official figures are a travesty. The new method of issuing warrants and changes to them is said to make life easier for officials, but at the same time it hides from public view the true extent of surveillance.'
(*The Guardian 29/01/03*)

HUNT THUGS BREAK SABS LEG... AND GET AWAY WITH IT...

Two hunt supporters who stood trial for breaking the leg of a Merseyside hunt sab were found not guilty at Mold Crown Court in February after the prosecution helpfully managed to offer no evidence against those charged. John Paul Lyth, 37, of Ellesmere Port, and David Moorcroft of Liverpool, 46 had been charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent on the saboteur, after he was held down on the floor and then subjected to a boulder being dropped onto his outstretched leg whilst attending a meet of the Cheshire Forest Foxhounds 12 months prior. The Prosecutor attempted to explain his decision to offer no evidence due to 'uncertainty' concerning the identification evidence.

The Judge in the case did advise that the verdicts should not prevent a claim for compensation being made from the Criminal Injuries Board, but this will be little comfort to the sab who has spent months off work due to his injuries, and who as a sab of a long-time standing with the Cheshire packs, hoped for once to get some justice for such a pre-meditated and vicious attack. Some things it seems never change, and things in Cheshire are no exception.

LEGAL BOOKLET REVISED

A comprehensive legal advice booklet has recently been given a thorough overhaul, and can be found at *www.freeBEAGLES.org* Whilst not produced by the HSA nor aimed specifically at sabs, it does cover many of the 'sticky situations' that you might find a police officer has got you into, and is recommended by our very own Legal Eagle.



CAA DISMISS 'PAINLESS FISH' REPORT

The Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA) has been quick to dismiss recent reports that fish do not feel pain as nonsense science. A confirmed angler, James Rose, did the work, carried out at Wyoming University and Max Gastone, co-ordinator for the Campaign said: 'This is pure spurious science. Mr Rose has been hawking these claims since 2001, and they simply don't float. He is obviously biased in favour of his sport. We wonder why he has not had his work independently examined by people in his own specialist field, as opposed to publishing in a journal dedicated to general coverage of fisheries issues'

Mr Rose's work is the only study to argue that fish do not feel pain. Every other study and review has concluded the opposite, including scientists commissioned by the RSPCA. Many scientists have spoken out, saying that fish have the ability to feel pain, yet anglers continue to perpetuate this myth. Prof Donald Broom of Cambridge University and a former government advisor has stated that 'The pain system in fish is virtually the same as in birds and mammals.'
Studies throughout the world have shown fish to be greatly underestimated; they have highly developed intelligence & social functions. Studies from the University of Utrecht in the 1970s clearly showed that fish have the ability to feel pain. Others have shown that fish have similar physiological structures as humans for sensing pain.

KARMA POLICE

Poetic justice
A man who tried to beat his dog to death with a shotgun instead shot himself dead. Police say the Winchester, Virginia, man called his wife at work and told her their dog had bitten him and he intended to kill it. Investigators say the shotgun must have gone off while the man was using it to beat the dog. The stock of the weapon was broken and there appeared to be blood and dog hair on it. The dog was taken for to a vet for treatment. *VP2002*

Another one bites the dust...
The New Forest hunting fraternity and staff at New Forest District Council were said to be stunned by the death of a leading pro-hunt campaigner and district councillor. Nick Smith, 39, was found hanged at his Langley Lodge home in a remote part of the Longdown Estate near Marchwood by an estate worker. *Forest and Waterside News - 27/01/2003*

And another...
A minutes silence was held at a hunt meet for a Pat Hodge, a regular rider who died after falling from a horse she was trying out. Hodge, 49 from Buckland fell and fractured her skull, despite wearing a riding helmet, and later died in hospital in Essex. Her husband commented 'The doctors had said she would be very badly brain damaged, so in some ways it is a blessing that she died. But it is still terribly upsetting.' *Royston Weekly News*

His heart wasn't in it...
Sabs in attendance at the Oakley FH in February this year found that the response of the 'Karma Police' could be very swift indeed. When supporters from the hunt were joined by others from the Bicester with Whaddon Chase, they launched a serious attack on the sabs vehicle and serious injury to those inside was avoided only due to them having 'riot van' style windows in place. During the attack one particular supporter was giving out threats to a particular sab about how he was going to visit his home and attack him there...minutes later he slumped to the floor and died of a heart attack!

SPADE, MACHETE & TWO BLOODY PICK-AXE HANDLES - THE DISNEY VERSION?



'Pop superstar' Madonna is reported to have had a change of heart over the English country lifestyle she has enjoyed at her country retreat. Ashcombe House, near Shaftesbury had previously been named as one of the best shooting estates by 'The Field', but Mrs Guy Ritchie has now decided that shooting pheasants on the 1,200-acre estate does not sit well with her beliefs. Her recent conversion to the 'Kabbala' religion has meant that she now believes that the souls of the birds she shoots will come back to haunt her. The ancient Jewish tradition teaches followers that the soul will be reborn in animals and stresses the link between man and nature. Mr Ritchie however seems less worried about peckings from the other side, as a friend commented 'Guy thinks it's ridiculous. He loves Ashcombe and is very proud of the shoot there. He thinks it's mad to own such a beautiful estate and not be allowed to shoot there.' Whether this means that the Portman Hunt be allowed to hunt across the estate remains to be seen, or maybe not as reports are rife that Madonna has sodded off back to the US. Good riddance!

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR SEARCHES...

DOGPILE has teamed up with the National Canine Defence League (NCDL), the UK's largest dog welfare charity. For every search made on the DOGPILE search engine a donation will be made to the NCDL. Every time you make a search, a valued donation will be made without you spending a penny! The more people that use the DOGPILE search, the bigger the donation, so be sure to tell all your friends and family about the benefits of using www.dogpile.co.uk for all your web searches.

NEW FOREST WILDLIFE CHAMPION DIES

Eric Ashby, wildlife film-maker, photographer and author, has died peacefully aged 85. Douglas Batchelor, Chief Executive of the League Against Cruel Sports, spoke of Eric in an official tribute, stating 'It is somewhat ironic and sad that after years of campaigning against hunting and many a bitter feud with his local hunt, Eric did not survive to see the current Hunting Bill complete its course though Parliament.' He continued 'We hope during his last days he would have gained some comfort that his efforts with the League and the New Forest Animal Protection Group were starting to come to fruition, and that the end of hunting was finally in sight...He was never afraid to challenge the hunters, and was an inspiration to all of us who campaign for wildlife.'



Right: 'Johhny' by Eric Ashby

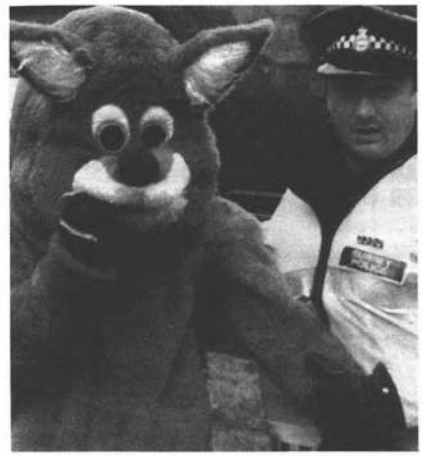
PATHETIC AND A LIAR

The Field Master for the Dunston Harriers has been jailed for 15 months after lying during the trial of a major drug dealer. Stewart Sayer, a Company Director when not hunting hares for kicks, claimed to be a victim of a "regime of terror" and under constant threat two years ago when he gave evidence at the trial of Richard Carter.

Norwich Crown Court heard that during the trial Sayer had lied in court to help Richard Carter hide his "ill-gotten" gains from his drug dealing empire. Sayer, of Crows Hall Lane, Attleborough, admitted perjury and when sentencing him Judge Peter Jacobs stated 'This was high-level perjury in relation to very serious criminal offences'. Mr Clare (mitigating) said Sayer was still in fear of the Carters, said the evidence he had given in support of Carter was "laughable", and commented that 'It really was quite pathetic.'
Eastern Daily Press – 15/03/03

SURREY FOXES TRY TO GET THEIR REVENGE...

The ever vigilant Surrey Police confirmed recently that they would not be bringing any charges against the culprits responsible for damaging the brakes on 22 cars...after it was found that foxes were most likely to blame! Officers had become alarmed after cars in the Epsom area had their brake hoses cut, and after the usual investigations failed to turn anything up (no change there then, coppers) they called on researchers from the University of Bristol for help. Eventually the examination of the teeth marks on the pipes pointed to foxes, and most likely fox cubs who were sheltering under cars after being kicked out of their dens after coming of age. A spokesman for the AA agreed that this could be the case, as it had been known in the past for rats to chew at brake hoses in order to get at the sweet-tasting glycol contained in the brake fluid.



ROCKET ATTACK ON HOME OF HUNT SAB

A well known hunt saboteur from Dorchester was subjected to a terrifying attack on his family's home at the end of last year when hunt supporters fired a burning firework through his letterbox. The firework hit an inside wall with such force that it left a dent, and filled the house with smoke. The hunt sab, who is no stranger to such unprovoked attacks on both his property and himself, said 'This has gone too far. I do not want the lives of my family put in danger. I am against hunting but I have never taken things this far. I have an 18-month-old son and they put his life in danger. What kind of person does this?'

SHOOTIN' AND FISHIN' LAIRD SELLS HUNTING ESTATES AFTER TURNING VEGGIE

The owner of one of Scotland's most famous hunting and fishing estates is selling up after adopting a 'new age' lifestyle and going veggie. Cider heir Jonathan Bulmer is to sell his estate and instead set up a 'spiritual garden' in Cornwall. A friend commented 'He now thinks that killing fish and deer is bad Karma'. Unfortunately, the interested buyers of the estate look likely to continue to terrorise the local wildlife, despite the brief reprieve it may have until the Bulmer moves on.
(Sunday Mail 10/11/02)

KARMA POLICE

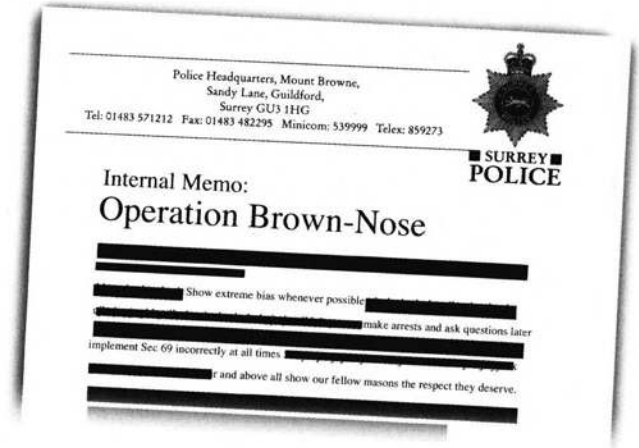
'Car thief' shot by hunter
A Texan would-be car thief died after the vehicles owner, a camouflage-clad hunter toting a bow and arrow, shot him. The thief was almost away when the hunter discovered him. The man told the hunter he had a gun and threatened to kill him, police said. The hunter drew his bow and shot the man in the hip. The thief fled, running into a field before collapsing. No charges have been filed against the hunter.
Irish Examiner 23/10/02

Dog shoots Shooter
A hunter was badly injured after being shot by his own dog. Michael Murray from Minnesota, US was lining up a photograph of the pheasants his party had shot when his year-old English setter pup jumped on a 12-bore shotgun lying on the ground and it went off. Murray had been hunting in South Dakota on the first day of the pheasant season. When he was found, he was taken to a nearby hospital where he had 15 stitches put in his ankle. He later admitted he was slightly embarrassed by the incident.
Irish Examiner 26/10/02

Roosters revenge
A fighting rooster in the Philippines killed its handler using the razor-sharp spikes strapped to its legs. The man suffered sever injuries to his thighs and groin, and died after being rushed to hospital. A large crowd witnessed the attack in a cockfighting arena in the southern city of Zamboanga, 530 miles south of Manila. Cockfighting is a popular gambling sport in the Philippines, particularly in rural areas.
Irish Examiner 15/01/03

Shit lungs
A gamekeeper who spent 10 years rearing pheasant chicks in huts filled with dust and droppings, died from bird fancier's lung, an inquest heard on 12/9/02. Anthony Wensley (54) was employed by the chairman of the Countryside Agency Ewan Cameron on his Dillington Estate near Illminster, Somerset. He died after developing severe breathing problems. The Health & Safety Executive said it is the first pheasant-related case of the disease in Britain.
Vermin Patrol 2002

How many Police does it take to help a hunt kill a fox?


Police Headquarters, Mount Browne,
Sandy Lane, Guildford,
Surrey GU3 1HG
Tel: 01483 571212 Fax: 01483 482295 Minicom: 539999 Telex: 859273

SURREY POLICE

Internal Memo:

Operation Brown-Nose

[redacted] Show extreme bias whenever possible [redacted]

[redacted] make arrests and ask questions later

implement Sec 69 incorrectly at all times [redacted]

[redacted] r and above all show our fellow masons the respect they deserve.

In Surrey and other parts of the South East, to get the answer, you have to consult... ...Operation Brown-nose (Surrey). In 2003, Hunt saboteurs will have been around as an organisation for 40 years. In that time, our tactics have changed little as they were effective to start with, and our aim is the same: to directly save the lives of individual animals whilst politicians are too scared or involved to act.

At a time when the government has the chance to stop hunting once and for all, and when the threat of violence and subversion is coming wholly from the pro-hunting side, the police forces of the Southern Counties of England seem to have come to a cosy arrangement with the foxhunts in their areas to try to finally stamp out the legal activities of hunt saboteurs.

A recent Daily Telegraph article reported the possible targets and tactics of the 'Real Countryside Alliance' (ok, so it may be a complete fabrication, but they printed it). These include the sabotage of public utilities, food supplies etc that in anyone's mind would surely constitute a threat to national security and their proposals for demonstrating read like a dictionary definition of subversion. They even liken themselves to the IRA, but still remain largely above the law. Despite this, the monitoring of phones, interference with post and general intelligence gathering against hunt sabs has mushroomed in the last few years. Coupled with the huge increases in police personnel directed towards helping hunts have a nice day's killing on a Saturday, something strange is going on.

In West Sussex they have Operation Rook; East Sussex – Operation Mole; East Surrey – Operation Tightrope and West Surrey, the dramatically titled Operation Scarlet! These are just the ones we have heard about – if you have further info, please drop us a line with the details. Hampshire and Thames Valley have always been centres for special branch collation involving the Animal Rights National Index, but since the concerted campaigns against the Surrey hunts, we now have the interest of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the National Crime Squad and who knows what other shady characters – this is without including the private investigators and goons used by the pro-hunting lobby (are you reading this Mike Faraday*).

By exposing the blatant bias of one police force, we show why these tactics are futile and how so much public money is wasted at the behest of the hunts and the whim of a chief constable. Take the expensive circles Surrey police have been running around in for the last 20 years:

Early 80's
Regular low-key sabbing of Surrey Union. Sporadic attacks on sabs by both hunt supporters, riders and police riders. Surrey Union in national news due to pet killing, deer killing etc

Mid 80's
High profile campaigns begin against Surrey Union. Surrey Union reacts with increased levels of violence towards sabs, ignored by police. Large scale sabs on regular basis involving existing sab groups, students and animal liberation leagues. Levels of policing rise dramatically to try to cope with spiralling situation

Late 80's
Dedicated 'hunt squads' set up by police to contain sabs. Series of meetings between sabs and police calm situation and lead to lowering of police resources and expenditure at Surrey Union. Hunt fall into disarray, changes in staff and mastership, violence from supporters and riders increases.



Early 90's
Sabs react to violence with self defence and massive increase in numbers. Brixton Group emerge and take control. Surrey Union are sabbed virtually every day they hunt from cubbing to end of season. Low levels of policing due to budgetary constraints in Surrey. Hunt hire stewards/security guards/bouncers/thugs to try to stop sabs. Mass sabs become regular occurrences each month. Huge numbers of police drafted in on Saturdays and weekdays to cover the situation (one estimate of one Saturday in January 92 = £123k on policing). Saturday hunting abandoned by Surrey Union for first time in its history. Hunt in disarray, mastership and staff changes, plus 'business plan' invoked!

Mid 90's
Surrey police ask for meeting with sabs – 'ground-rules' discussed. Regular sabbing, smaller numbers, low police numbers. Criminal Justice Act introduced (Aggravated Trespass to target sabs). Surrey police decide on evidence of trouble elsewhere not to use the act. Policing costs stay relatively low compared to previous years and to other counties trying to use the CJA.

Late 90's
Surrey Union hunt One Saturday per fortnight. Police levels relatively low with blips due to inaccurate 'intelligence' received (e.g. one sab van breaking down on the M25 on the way to Kent sparks paranoia in Surrey police). Sabs still in contact with police - Surrey police still have high profile hunt squads and mounted riders with the hunt each time they are out, despite assurances from sabs their levels will remain normal unless the hunt causes trouble.

Year 2000
Still high profile and overblown policing at behest of hunt, mainly only on Saturdays. More set up situations with the hunt trying to force the police into making arrests.

2001/2 season
Most hunting curtailed due to Foot & Mouth restrictions.

2002/3 season
New chief constable & hunt liaison officer(s) - hunts have somehow exerted 'strong influence' on police who decide to use CJA in close consultation with the hunt. Hunt now arranging digouts (previously disallowed by police as potential public order situations) to ensure confrontation and have sabs arrested. Burstow actually change Saturday meets to be in Surrey for most of December due to the 'favourable' policing they can now rely on.

Date	Hunt	Meet	No. Police	No. 4x4	No. Riot vans	No. Mounted
26/10/02	Union	Ockley	40+	6	1	2
09/11/02	Union	Tilford	18+	4	0	2
23/11/02	Union	Peaslake	20+	5	0	2
23/11/02	Burstow	Dry Hill	25+	5	1	2
30/11/02	Burstow	Horne	24+	5	1	2
07/12/02	Union	Hascombe	26+	7	0	2
07/12/02	Burstow	Tandridge	24+	5	1	2
26/12/02	Union	Kennels	22+ (Triple wage)	5	1	2
28/12/02	Burstow	Staffhurst Wood	40+	6	2	2
18/01/03	Union	Ranmore	24+	6	2	2
Totals			**263+**	**54**	**9**	**20**



How the costs are mounting after only 5 Saturdays of hunting in Surrey:

On conservative estimates from the cost of policing football matches and other events where the charge to clubs per police officer is £250 per shift, but the actual cost is much higher (fox hunts often span several shifts, incur overtime payment and require logistical support far exceeding the average cop on the beat in town), and where mounted officers are even more costly, 2 Surrey hunts are thought to have cost taxpayers at least £100,000 in 5 weeks, all for an average of 25 riders at each hunt to have a day's fun killing foxes.

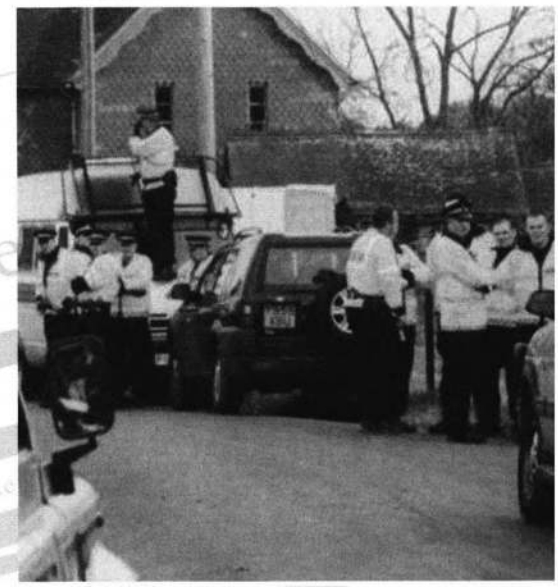
Members of the Burstow hunt (including the huntsman, a whipper-in and a master) recently pleaded guilty to obstructing the M25 - claiming to be law-abiding people! The huntsman also has a conviction for violence against sabs and yet has only to click his fingers for the police to come running to do his bidding. Their blind faith in the truth of his word is something to behold.

The police 'hunt liaison' officer has told the police authority that nothing has changed this year and that no extra officers are being deployed. Either this bloke is an idiot or he hasn't got a clue what Insp. Breslin is up to behind his back (she used to be a mounted police rider on the hunts apparently). Much of this won't sound real to the average Surrey tax payer who pay their council tax unquestioningly and never see a hunt accompanied by their fluorescent servants.

However, if you are a new chief constable with a weakness for your 'brothers' and a total disregard for the views of the majority of the law abiding public, that's a different matter.

Fox hunts pay nothing towards the cost of policing to enable their day's fun. The issue of cost recovery is supposed to be increasingly important to the police, and the national picture is allegedly being looked at (do the home office even know what happens on hunts at the moment? maybe they believe police 'hunt liaison' officers!). Next time Surrey's chief constable is whining about a lack of police resources to deal with 'real crime' in the local rag or to the police committee or anyone who looks interested, please remember how he spent this year's budget!

Obviously in no way connected to the cost of the hugely biased and overbearing police presence at hunts last season, the police portion of Surrey's Council Tax has increased by over 40% this year. Good value for money? probably if you are a foxhunter, but if you've just been mugged in Staines High Street on a Saturday afternoon, you might like to ask why your council tax has gone up 46% and yet half



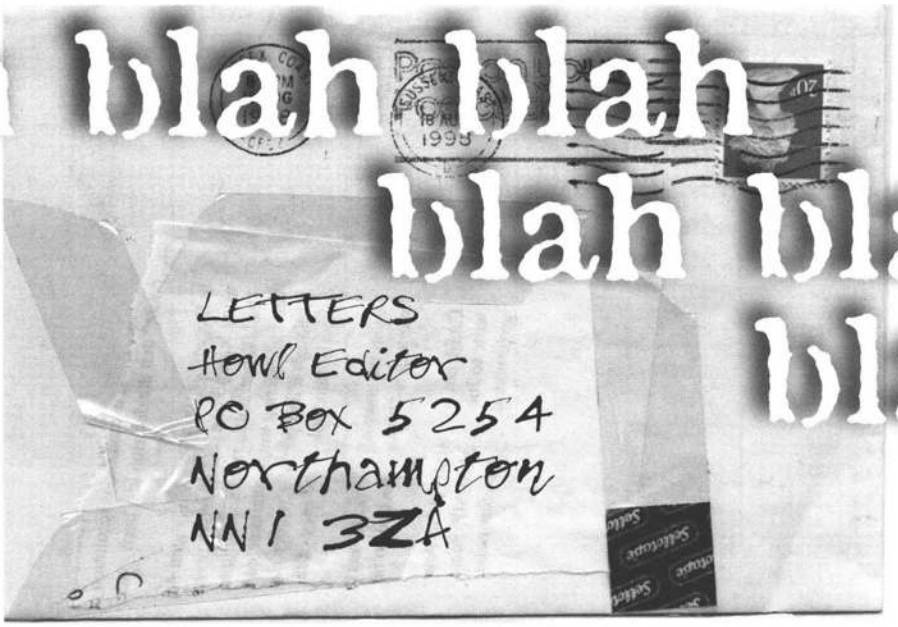


of Staines and Addlestone's officers are protecting the fun of foxhunters in rural Surrey!!

As a post script, Surrey police (one of our most frequent website visitors) have been complaining about the inaccuracy of our figures for officers attending hunts in Surrey - why not make public your policing resources and costs for last season then? and don't forget to include the headquarters support staff, mounted unit support and the 2 land rovers of communications support and equipment you have at each meet!

* Mike Faraday was/is the 'intelligence' co-ordinator of hunt sab related information for the Countryside Alliance, and is no doubt a convenient way of keeping the data they hold on us away from the reaches of the data protection act. He supplies 'information' to police forces all over the country, based on wild claims and co-ordinates the calls from hunt staff/supporters when sabs turn up at their hunt. So if you ever wondered who they phone when you turn up, now you know!!

blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 79
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

VEGAMP BENEFIT CD AVAILABLE

Dear HSA

Vegamp are a small group of amateur poets, artists and musicians who came together to produce a CD about the tremendous cruelty inflicted upon animals in our society. We are all vegans and a number of us work at the Vegan Society as paid staff and volunteers. The CD has taken over 6 months hard work to produce but now it is finished we want to help the animals and get it out there.

We are offering it to animal charities & welfare groups especially those that have catalogues, newsletters and websites. The CD price to the public is £6 (£7.50 inc p&p) and the animal charity or rights group keeps 50% (£3) of the CD price for their fundraising/action campaigns. We only need the other £3 to cover production costs."

Anyone ordering the CD directly from us will pay the £7.50 price. In this case the £3 will go to SHAC & Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs, as these are our chosen default campaigns.

Cheques made payable to VEGAMO to VEGAMP, C/O Flat 10, Baird House, 45-47 Chapel Park Rd, St Leonards-On-Sea, E. Sussex TN37 6JB . Also see our website at *www.vegcamp.co.uk*

VEGAMP

NAKED SABS SELLING WELL!

Dear HSA

Just to let you know about the success of our 'Under the Camouflage' Calendar, and to say we still have a few copies left! Sales have been pretty good and have coincided with a period where our Landrover has needed a lot of attention to keep it going, so the extra cash has been helpfull!!
We'll let you know how much was raised etc once they have all gone.

Cheers
Plymouth sabs

UNEMPLOYMENT BOO HOO!

Dear HSA

What a fiasco the so-called 'Countryside March' was! Those heart-rendering pleas that there would be massive unemployment in the countryside should hunting be banned. I do not recall the same concern for the miners when the mines were closed, or now for the fate of the people who work in factories that are being closed because the owners find production cheaper in many overseas countries.

We can only hope that eventually there will be more protection for all our wild creatures as their habitats are rapidly being destroyed by our greedy species. Meanwhile, I am sure we will all be vigilant and make sure that hunting with hounds is outlawed once and for all.

Best wishes
A Sheppard

P.S. Thank you to the previous editor for her excellent job.

BIG 'TA VERY MUCH'

Dear HSA

I recently had the misfortune to get nicked by the Surrey Plod (boo hiss!) and would just like to say a big 'ta very much' to the sabs who were waiting for me outside the police station. I was the last to be released, and although I'm no stranger to the inside of a police cell, after 9 hours I was beginning to feel a bit sorry for myself! However the cockles of my heart were soon warmed when I was released to cheers and hugs from sabs loitering in the (very cold) cop car park.

To these sabs and to all those who have done the same for all those nicked in the past – cheers! With such camaraderie the system can never beat us, and we no doubt leave the cops as bewildered as hell – bonus!

Wellie-Bob sab



Hunt Scum on the rampage!

As another fox hunting season ends, spare a thought for the poor, misunderstood bumpkin whose cosy idyllic lifestyle is constantly marred by the ...Courts of Law.

A bookmaker was fined after he admitted yelling racist abuse during the Countryside Alliance march in September 2002. **Peter Smith** (21) High Lane, Chelvey Batch, near Backwell who works in his family's bookmaking business, clashed with Mr Khan after he waved an anti-fox hunting banner at the demonstration in central London. Smith was fined £500 and ordered to pay £55 costs at Bow Street magistrates on 28/10/02. He was voicing his support for the Countryside Alliance during the march at Whitehall when he clashed with Mr Khan. Mr Khan was demonstrating against hunting and was waving a banner when Smith went up to him and tapped him on the head with a plastic hunting horn before hurling racist abuse. Smith admitted a charge of using racial abuse.



Anthony Kirkham: Criminal

A father and son have been charged with assaulting two police officers outside Nantwich Civic Hall. **Anthony Kirkham** (58) and his son **Timothy** (20) both of Ridley Farm, Tarporley, both are keen supporters of the *Cheshire Foxhounds* and *Cheshire Forest Hunt* were arrested at 1.30am and charged with three offences that left one police officer with a fractured wrist and the other with facial injuries. Both officers are now off work following the incident, with the policeman who suffered a fractured wrist unable to work for a fortnight. The incident took place outside the civic hall, which was staging *The Cheshire Foxhounds Farmers Hunt Ball* when the two men are alleged to have assaulted the officers who were helped by the hall's doormen who came to their rescue. Both men were charged with actual bodily harm, resisting or obstructing a constable in the execution of duty, with Tony Kirkham also charged with threatening behaviour and his son with obstructing a person assisting a constable in the execution of duty. The men appeared at Crewe magistrates Court on 22/1/03 and the case has now been adjourned until 5/3/03.

A fox hunt has had a noise abatement order imposed on it and the Master of Hounds has been told to stop his pack from baying to prevent a public nuisance. In what is believed to be the first action of its kind, The *Isle of Wight Foxhounds* was served with the order after complaints from people living close to its kennels. **Joint Master Richard Standing** said on 8/1/03 that he would appeal against the order, which has been suspended until the matter is decided by magistrates later in January 2003. The complaints have come not from people opposed to fox hunting, but from hunt supporters who say that they cannot put up with the noise of barking hounds any longer. **Anita Fitzgerald** (42) one of those to complain, is a hunt supporter who has sung at the Isle of Wight Hunt Ball. She said: "This is nothing to do with the argument about hunting. It is about the most basic human right of being able to sleep." She moved to a house close to the kennel at Gatcombe three years ago. "The noise has made my life a living hell," she said. Fitzgerald said she had complained to the council only after discussions with the hunt had proved fruitless. "I tried everything to get things done amicably but now I have had to get the council involved. The constant noise of the dogs was driving me bonkers. "Together with another neighbour we complained to the council. It has investigated and seen fit to serve the notice. "We have been asked to give evidence and we most certainly will." *(I don't think she will be asked back to sing at the next hunt ball)*

Dick Bainbridge (72) of Upper Hill Farm, Thornbury, Gloucestershire, appeared at Yate magistrates in October and was ordered to pay £950 for torturing and killing a 2-year-old Doberman. The dog collapsed from exhaustion, after being dragged on purpose by Bainbridge's quad bike. He claimed the dog had been attacking his sheep. Bainbridge is a successful trainer on the point to point circuit, and has trained most of the horses ridden by jockey Alyson Dare. On 9/1/03 **Julian Leefe-Griffiths** of Hollyhill, Colemans Hatch, admitted keeping a vehicle without an excise licence. He was fined £190 plus £45 prosecution costs, and ordered to pay £160 back duty. Leefe-Griffiths hunts with the *Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhunds*

Allegations of racism were dropped on 21/1/03 against **Robin Page** (61) from Barton, Glos was questioned by police after saying country dwellers should enjoy the same rights as blacks, Muslims and homosexuals. Page was arrested on suspicion of stirring up racial hatred after making a speech at a pro-hunting rally which began: "If there is a black, vegetarian, Muslim, asylum-seeking, one-legged, lesbian lorry driver present...I want the same rights as you."

Animal activists used an infra-red triggered camera disguised as a twig to try to catch a man blocking a badger sett, a magistrates heard. Members of the League against Cruel Sports used the equipment to record **Francis Phillips** (65) of Thirlmere Road, Barrow upon Soar at a badger sett. Phillips who is an earth stopper for the *Quorn Hunt* denied two charges of obstructing a badger sett when he appeared at Harborough magistrates on 28/10/02. The prosecution claimed Phillips used heavy lumps of clay rather than loose soil to fill some of the 25 or so holes at the sett. On 6/11/02 Philips was found guilty of interfering with a badger sett. One count of interfering with a badger sett was dismissed but he was found guilty of the second charge. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1,000 costs. Philips is believed to be one of 40 registered earth stoppers who do work with the Quorn

On 5/9/02 highways chiefs in North Yorkshire announced plans to pursue a civil action against a farmer cautioned for his part in an illegal campaign of spray-painting slogans on road signs across the county in recent months. The cost of cleaning up signs across the region is estimated to run into thousands of pounds. Hunt supporter **Peter Teasdale**, of Pockley, near Kirkbymoorside, was cautioned by Crown Prosecutors after he was accused of damaging six signs. He was also accused of possessing four tins of spray paint and a stencil of "Hands Off Hunting" with the intent to cause damage to property belonging to North Yorkshire County Council.

At Redhill magistrates on 5/12/02 four pro-hunt supporters each admitted driving a vehicle without reasonable consideration for other road users. The accused were **Graeme Worsley** of Effingham Lane, Copthorne, **Mark Bycroft** (31) of London Road, Felbridge, **Christopher Whittaker** of London Road, Felbridge, and **Robert Mann** (57) of Ashill, Ilminster, Somerset. The convoy was seen driving at little more than 30mph at a busy time of the day.



Mark Bycroft: Criminal

Whittaker, speaking in court, said the protest had been organised by the Union of Countryside Sports Workers. He read out a statement to the bench which said: "On behalf of all four of us, we would like to say we are law-abiding and regret taking this action which was designed not to harm anything or anybody. "We kept to about 30mph and believed we were within the law. We feel we are losing our liberty. In my case, if hunting is lost, I'd lose my home and job. (GOOD) We apologise unreservedly but had to do something to bring action to our cause." Each was fined £100 and ordered to pay £35 costs. Each had three penalty points put on their licences.

Dave Blenkinsop



Many of you reading this will know Dave, who was recently sentenced to a total of 10 years imprisonment for various animal-rights offences. A veteran sab - active to the time of his arrest - this article is intended to explain the circumstances of his trial and the prison sentences he has received.

Dave Blenkinsop began sabbing in the 1980's with Merseyside hunt saboteurs mainly concentrating on the notorious Cheshire packs. He began working as a volunteer at Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre and following the death of fellow volunteer Mike Hill (whilst sabbing the Cheshire Beagles), Dave was arrested for the subsequent protest at Doddlestone. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Following his release Dave immersed himself in sabbing and Animal Rights with the Cheshire packs always receiving special attention. In the late 1990's Dave moved to London and began sabbing in the South-East whilst undertaking voluntary work at the Celia Hammond Animal Trust. He then moved to Carla Lanes Animal Sancturay, working as a volunteer whilst actively sabbing the Old Surrey & Burstow FH. It was after an arrest out sabbing that Dave had a DNA sample taken...

In May 2001 Dave was arrested for attacking Brian Cass on 22nd February that year, and was initially charged with wounding contrary to Section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. This carried a potential sentence of life imprisonment. The principal evidence against him was a balaclava found close to the scene of the attack, from which a DNA sample identical to Dave's was recovered. Items of clothing and baseball bats were also recovered in the same locality and these were used to strengthen the case against Dave. The police forensic expert said that fibres found on these items matched indistinguishable fibres found on the balaclava and also on clothing worn by Mr Cass on the day of his attack. The case was then bolstered further by a witness who claimed that some time prior to the attack he heard someone who could have been Dave referring to an incident due to take place on the 22nd February, the day of the attack. And another "expert" was able to say that Dave's car could be identified from CCTV footage in St Ives, where Cass lived, on the day of the attack.

In August 2000 shortly before the trial was due to take place, the CPS offered to drop the Section 18 charge to a section 20 GBH if Dave agreed to plead guilty. Section 20 carries a maximum of 5 years imprisonment, and Dave would in addition be eligible for a further discount for pleading guilty. The evidence against Dave for the GBH was strong enough for there to be a substantial risk that he would be found guilty. Dave's car was clearly not on the CCTV in St Ives that day and the witness who claimed to have heard Dave talking about the attack described someone completely unlike Dave and was unable to identify him in a line-up. But the evidence of Dave's DNA on the balaclava was indisputable and the fibre evidence linking the balaclava to the attack on Cass was – although open to question – potentially enough to convince a jury that he was guilty. Dave could not afford to take that risk and on the 16th August 2001 he pleaded guilty to the lesser Section 20 charge. The judge sentenced him to 3 years imprisonment.

> "The charges were amended accordingly to 5 counts of arson, 10 of conspiracy to cause arson and 2 of possessing items with intent to cause criminal damage."

Shortly after Dave was initially charged with attacking Brian Cass he was also charged with the burglary of 600 guinea pigs from David Hall & Partners in Newchurch, Staffordshire in September1999. Again the evidence was based on DNA evidence, this time recovered from a fragment of latex glove found at the scene of the burglary. Although this was the only evidence the prosecution had, it was felt again that this might well be enough to convict him and on the 3rd December 2001 Dave pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 18 months in prison, to run consecutively to the sentence David was already serving for Cass and making a total of 4 and a half years. The judge said he would have given him 3 years had he been found guilty at trial. One of the aggravating factors when it came to sentence was the so-called "intimidatory" spray painting inside the sheds stating that Shamrock had been closed and that they were next.

A major consequence of Dave receiving the 18-month sentence for Newchurch was that Dave was now a "long term prisoner". This term applies to anyone who is serving a prison term of 4 years or more. It meant that Dave would have to apply for parole at the midway point of his sentence, rather than being automatically released on license, which would have been the case had he been serving less than 4 years. If denied parole, Dave would have to serve a minimum of two thirds of his sentence. So instead of looking forward to a release after 18 months, Dave was potentially looking at a total of 3 years in prison.

So it wasn't the best of results, but at least he had a release date to look forward to, at last without the stress of charges hanging over him. However this was to be short lived. On 11th December 2001, just 8 days after being sentenced for the Newchurch burglary, police officers from Oxfordshire visited Dave in prison and arrested him on suspicion of being in possession of explosive substances and of causing an explosion, contrary to sections 2 and 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. This was in relation to an arson attack at Mutch Meats, a slaughterhouse in Witney, Oxfordshire, on 20th May 2000, where ten incendiary devices were placed under meat lorries destroying one of them – the others did not go off. On the 17th

December 2001 Dave was subsequently charged with the above offences. The evidence was again based on DNA. This time DNA matching Dave's was recovered from the fuse assembly of one of the devices which did not go off. On this occasion however the evidence was weak. The amount of DNA recovered was so small that it was impossible to tell how long it had been there, or how it was transferred. Indeed it was possible that Dave's DNA could have been transferred to the device via a third party without having actually touched it himself, so the evidence was circumstantial at best.

On the 5th February 2001 the police visited Dave in prison again and charged him with causing explosions, this time in relation to the 5 arson attacks on cars belonging to workers at Huntingdon Life Sciences in Godmanchester, Huntingdon on 28th August 2000. The evidence was that fibres were found on a device which failed to ignite at Godmanchester, which they said matched similar fibres found in Dave's jacket pocket at the time of his arrest for Cass. The other evidence was that the devices at Godmanchester and Mutch Meats were of very similar design, and that there were further similarities between fibres found on the device and those found on the abandoned garments alleged to be used in the attack on Cass, for which Dave had admitted responsibility. These charges were subsequently added to the Mutch Meats charges, so that Dave was facing 17 counts altogether, 15 of conspiracy to cause explosions on the various vehicles and 2 of possessing items with the intent to cause explosions. However the Attorney General's consent is required to prosecute for offences under the Explosive's Act 1883 and this was refused. The charges were amended accordingly to 5 counts of arson, 10 of conspiracy to cause arson and 2 of possessing items with intent to cause criminal damage. The arson charges carried a maximum of life imprisonment, and the possession charges a maximum of ten years.

The case against Dave appeared to be very weak. Two pieces of circumstantial evidence – the DNA at Mutch Meats and the fibres at HLS – were linked together by the similarity in design of the devices at each location. If either the DNA or the fibre evidence could be eliminated as inadmissible, then the fragile house of cards on which the case rested would have collapsed. However things took a turn for the worse in November 2002, just 3 weeks before the scheduled trial date, at a pre-trial hearing to discuss the admissibility of certain evidence. After further analysis of the fibres found in Dave's jacket and on the device from Godmanchester, both the defence and prosecution forensic experts concluded that they were in fact indistinguishable and that there were far more of them on the device than had been initially stated. It was also looking likely that the judge was going to admit as relevant evidence Dave's previous convictions and in particular of his involvement in the attack on Cass, as it would be evidence of motive for his planting the devices at Huntingdon. If he went to trial and were found guilty on just the two counts of possessing explosives, the consensus seemed to be that he would get 16 years. If he were found guilty on all counts, he may even have received a life sentence.

On this basis Dave did a deal with the CPS. They said they would drop the 15 arson charges if he pleaded guilty to the two counts of possession. Dave accepted this if the judge would indicate that he would give him 2 concurrent sentences, meaning that the maximum he could receive would be ten years. The judge refused to give Dave this guarantee, so the CPS amalgamated the two possession charges in to one, meaning the maximum sentence Dave could receive would be ten years. The CPS also accepted as evidence Dave's written statement that, in helping to make the devices, he did not intend to endanger life, only property. This meant that the judge would have to sentence him on this basis. The CPS were clearly keen to do a deal but it should not be assumed from this that they did not have a case. The reasons were straight forward enough. They got their result – a conviction – and did not have to run the risk of Dave receiving a not guilty verdict after trial. Dave, by pleading guilty, could ensure that the judge would not throw away the key. Dave pleaded guilty on this basis, and the other arson charges were dismissed, meaning that Dave cannot be charged with them again.

On December 12th 2002 Dave was sentenced to 5 and a half years in prison to run consecutively to the 4 and a half he was already serving. Although the maximum sentence possible was ten years, the judge had to reduce it by a third for his pleading guilty. Additional mitigating factors were that Dave was a model prisoner – he received character references from prison education staff - and that he had not intended to endanger life. This now means that Dave has been sentenced to a total of ten years in prison, starting from 23rd May 2001. He will first become eligible for parole after 5 years in 23rd May 2006, and if he does not get parole he will be released on license after a total of 6 years and 8 months in February 2008.

Supporting Prisoners

by Positive Rob

I remember seeing lists of animal rights prisoners back when I first got involved in hunt sabbing, but it wasnt until someone I knew got sent down that I actually considered doing something. Although my friend was an active sab and had been involved in animal rights for years, it was actually the cultivation of plants that were not native to the New Forest that had landed him in trouble...

I tried writing so many times, I would start 'Dear Stu' (the names have been changed to protect those involved in this story) and then not be able to continue. I really did not know what to write next. I initially wanted to say about recent sabbing adventures and mention wicked gigs and parties I had been to; this is what we had in common and was how I had got to meet Stu in the first place. Then I considered that this could make him even more frustrated, stuck inside one of the south's worst prisons whilst hunt sabs were causing chaos in the countryside only a few miles away, and later getting stupidly drunk and having a great laugh. Would you want letters that reminded you of all the great things you were missing out on?

Then I tried writing a letter on a more sombre note about bad things that had happened to me or folk that Stu knew but considered this would not be the sort of news he would want to hear either. In the end I never managed to finish a letter, Stu was released and I never got it together to send him anything. I did explain my problem to him, but it turns out I worried too much and the general feeling I got was that it is better for a prisoner to get some sort of letter rather than no letter at all.

Since then I have been rather more successful in attempts to support prisoners. I have written to several different people who have been banged up for different offences, and who faced differing sentences. I've supported animal rights prisoners and also activists convicted for being involved in anti-fascist and anarchist actions. I have visited people in prison and got involved with campaigns that work to support and publicise prisoners and their situation.

WHY BOTHER?

I now understand that letters and visits are a great boost to folk on the inside, sometimes the link to the outside world is vital. Practical support proves to a prisoner that they have not been forgotten and that we are behind them still. It also proves to the prison authorities and the government that just because someone is behind bars they are not completely isolated. The way I see it is that it could be me, I could be the one looking at a lengthy prison sentence. Just being involved in a movement like animal rights or anti-fascism means you could be locked up for simply trying to campaign against something you consider to be evil.

I cannot imagine how bad it must feel to be separated from your friends and family, how it must be to have your freedom and liberty removed. When I consider this I realise that it is not too much effort to write a letter or send a donation or take the time to do something. Its certainly is worth giving up half an hour every once in a while to pledge your support to someone who has acted for a cause you believe in.

You don't even need to have done anything to get put away - cases such as Mark Barnsley and Satpal Ram prove miscarriages of justice are still taking place as regular people are framed and stitched up by the police and authorities. A gang of racists attacked Satpal Ram in a restaurant, and when he tried to defend himself one of his attackers was badly injured. As a result Satpal was sent down and served over 10 years in prison. Mark Barnsley was attacked by a gang of drunken students whilst he was enjoying a drink with a friend. Although Mark was badly injured the police managed to fit him up and he served 8 years inside. Thankfully both men are now free, but their campaigns to get justice continue. See below for contact details for the campaigns and lend your support - it's not just animals that are caged for no reason!

WHAT TO WRITE

It is very important to remember that all mail sent into prison is screened by officers first so never write anything that could get you or the prisoner or any one else into trouble. I've often ended up being ultra cautious when describing sabs I've been on or demos, actions etc. The end result is often something really mundane like 'we sabbed the Vale of Aylesbury and had a good day with no kills' but I'd rather be safe (and mundane) than sorry. I personally would not mention anyone's name or give any precise details, it is likely that police and prison officers work together so why hand them information on a plate?

You always need to include an address for you when you write, if you don't it is unlikely that your letter will reach the prisoner. This means that prison authorities will see your address, but to date I have not had a problem with using a PO box. Do not write anything that might get a prisoners hopes up or give them unrealistic promises. Writing something like 'I'm sure your appeal will be successful and we'll be sharing a drink together next month' will not do the prisoner any favours. Be supportive and wish them well but being over optimistic can be very de-moralising if things don't happen as you suggested. It might be an idea to send letters on a frequent and regular basis rather than sending a load at once and then nothing.

In terms of the content of a letter, I'll usually write (cautiously) about sabbing, animal rights or some other campaigns I'm involved in, but then also stuff about my work, things I've been up to, what is going on in the news or anything that I find interesting, amusing or bizarre. Empathising and writing the sort of things you would like to read is a good place to start. If you cannot think of anything to write try sending a card or a postcard with a simple message inside. You may think that what you put sounds boring or daft but remember that something positive is better than nothing.

SENDING STUFF IN

Prisons vary and whilst some may allow you to send in books, music, stamps, donations, etc others may be very tight. I usually ask the prisoners what they are allowed first and then send things. Personally I enjoy knocking tapes together but whilst one prison was fine with that another stated that tapes had to be transparent and another said that tapes were not allowed to contain screws! Sending money can sometimes be difficult so find out first what is allowed.

PRISON VISITS

A friendly face and some cheery banter must be a welcome treat for most prisoners. I'm a sad git with no mates and yet folk I've visited have always seemed pleased when I've showed up. Contact with the outside world must reduce the feeling of isolation and prove to be a break in the usual prison routine. HOWEVER some prisoners are only allowed a restricted number of visits and these will be on certain days at certain times. Always check with the prisoner or a support group as to when would be a good time to visit.

JUST DO IT!

It may be that a lot of people reading this do more than me already, but this article is aimed at folk who have just written 'Dear Stu' (or whoever) at the top of a piece of paper and are now stuck as to what to write next. If you haven't written to a prisoner then give it a go, it won't take long and it will be really appreciated.

Whilst writing this article the sentencing for the Burstow defendants occurred, and another case involving dubious evidence against other sabs took place. It sometimes seems hard to come to terms with the idea that fellow sabs, some of whom I know personally, faced getting sent down whilst the hunt followers that almost killed Steve Christmas continue to walk free. Lets have some solidarity and support these people - THEY ARE IN THERE FOR US – BE OUT HERE FOR THEM.

CONTACTS

Vegan Prisoner Support Group
PO Box 194, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4YL
www.cares.demon.co.uk

ALF SG, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX

Books For Prisoners, Haven Distribution, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3XX

Justice for Mark Barnsley, PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX

Free Satpal Ram, PO Box 30091, London, SE1 1WP



The **West Sussex Wildlife Protection** group has been sabbing twice a week, mainly on the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray* hunt. In Oct 2002 two group members were assaulted by the professional huntsman and the incident videoed. A Crown Court case is expected in late April. In December a fox was mauled by the hounds and grabbed by one of the sabs. As they tried to get it to the road they were assaulted by members of the hunt in an attempt to get it back. One female sab could hardly speak after being grabbed around the throat. Complaints of assault against the hunt have been made and against the police who stood back and let the hunt supporters try to get the fox back. Eventually police gave safe passage to one sab who took the now dead fox to a police Landrover. The body now lies in a police freezer pending a possible civil court case to determine who owns the body under the Police Property Act. The hunt are desperate to get the body back as they know that in the past we have got post-mortems that show death has been due to multiple bite wounds while the heart is still pumping. One sympathetic police officer with more that ten years experience in the force has told us that this incident was the worst experience of his career so far, and that another officer agreed with him on this matter. Further developments will be reported in *Howl*.

The hunt are now trying to prove their utility by bolting foxes and digging out in order to kill as many foxes as possible. We stopped one dig out by stating our belief that the entrance was a badger sett. The police called for a wildlife officer, and because he would take several hours to arrive, the dig out was abandoned. After one "bolting", the police mounted an investigation after we alleged the fox was bolted from a badger sett. The hunt claimed it was a "rabbit warren". The police accompanied by the RSPCA found badger hair in the entrances, but there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution. The hunt have, however been advised to make more stringent checks in future. Our complaints about hard earth stopping has also led to soft stopping using mainly leaf litter.

The police have been reasonably fair this season but sabs in Sussex get a hard time when a certain Sergeant Bradley (based in Horsham) visits their hunt. This officer will make arrests at the drop of a hat. If things get any worse a "Hunt Lover Sergeant Bradley" protest will be organised.

Reading sabs started the season with kennel watches at the *Hampshire Hunt* and *Vine and Craven*. Kennel watching duties at the newly merged *Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berkshire* (what a bloody mouthful) was left in the capable hands of the **Watford** crowd. The *Vine and Craven* were caught out at an early cubbing meet, and after trying (but failing) to lose the sabs by driving through a ford, the hunt was reminded how devastating it is to be sabbed during cubbing.

Attention was also turned to the rarely sabbed *Old Berkshire* foxhunt. Two Reading sabs, obviously keen to prove how tough they are, set fire to their own car outside the kennels. The hound van left the kennels as the sabs surveyed the smouldering wreckage. Fortunately 'Plan B' was put into place and the hunt meet quickly located. The hunt did not like the attention and engaged in the time-honoured tradition of horsewhipping and riding down hunt saboteurs.

Reinforcements from **Southampton** and **West London** sabs were soon on the scene helping to tip the balance back in favour of the good guys. At this point Didcot police then appeared to mobilise every copper they had, as a convoy of fourteen police vehicles turned up with the occupants making aggressive suggestions that sabs should leave the area. When this did not happen the cops amused themselves by being generally obnoxious and arresting the driver of the **Reading** group for diving a stolen vehicle (the group Landrover). He was later released without charge when a particularly bright copper noticed that the vehicle had not been reported stolen. Unfortunately the hunt killed a young muntjac deer that was laying up in the undergrowth. (pictured right)



Cop vehicle blocks sabs in while hunt trot off down the road - Another fine example of Police impartiality

As the season moved into October the *Hampshire Hunt* helpfully decided to advertise some cubbing meets, and **Reading**, **West London** and **Southampton** chose to attend (would have been rude not to). At the first of these meets two **Reading** sabs were arrested, setting the tone for more hostile policing and crap arrests from the Hampshire Constabulary. Several cases are currently pending in front of carrot crunching magistrates and the group is, of course, confident that justice will prevail.

In November we were at the Opening meet of the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berkshire (Uncle Tom Cobbley and all&) at the old Garth kennels. **Reading** sabs were joined by **Watford, West London** and **Southampton** to ensure that this was a thoroughly miserable day for the hunt. Subsequent visits to the *Vine and Craven* suggested that all was not well on the *Vale of Aylesbury etc.* as several well known supporters and riders (including a master) appear to have defected.

One particularly foggy day in December saw the group searching in vain firstly for the *Aldenham Harriers* and then the *Hampshire*. When this proved useless **Reading** with **West London** and **Southampton** sabs entertained themselves by packing up a shoot. Boxing Day saw **Reading** at the *Vale etc.* and New Years day the group visited the *Hampshire*.

During the rest of the season **Reading** (often with **Southampton** and/or **West London**) has been out every Saturday and occasionally midweek, visiting the *Vale of Aylesbury etc.*, *Hampshire Hunt*, *Vine and Craven* and the *Surrey Union*.

The **East Kent** group has been swelled lately by a few new members which has helped immensely, sometimes more sabs than room in the van! Some of us attended the CA march in London, but due to extreme harassment from the Met, had to leave early - only to run into the BNP- nice day out! The season started well, with cubbing visits to the *East Kent*, and the *Ashford Valley*, where we again met the Valley rider who we spent a pleasant hour with on the train home from the march - we even witnessed him being bitten by one of the hounds!

Police presence has been very low key, as apparently funding for hunt duty has been



all but withdrawn. Main season, we have stuck with the *East Kent*, and had many successful days, even stumbling across a possible dig out, which they wisely abandoned! The usual Xmas day with the *East Kent* meant a lively demo, and another chance to abuse Michael Howard face to face, no changes there! So, on into the New Year with even more new faces- sorry Kent hunt scumbags, we ain't going away until you do!

After a slow season last year, with many people leaving, lack of funds, and no transport, moral in the **Basildon** group was at an all time low. As a group we had to decide whether to carry on or give up and we chose the latter and went for a big fund raising/recruiting drive through the summer, and after a successful summer we managed to buy a car and moral was on an all time high, and we were ready for the start of the new season. Then disaster! Our car was stolen and we were back to square one!
But luckily we had a stall at a local vegan fair and raised enough money to buy a cheap car. As a small group we managed to team up with people from **London** and go to sabs on The *Vale of Aylesbury* and *Surrey Union*. We also teamed up with other local groups on Boxing day in Hadleigh , and sab the *Essex & Suffolk*. Then yet again our new car was broken into causing hundreds of pounds of damage, and as we are self funding the group at the moment we are struggling to make repairs. But we will not be beaten!! And hope to be mobile again soon.

If any kind hearted readers out there want to make a donation to the Basildon sabs please contact them at : Basildon sabs, PO Box 135, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5SA. Cheques payable to
'Mid Essex Wildlife Protection'.
Go on, you know it makes sense!





Midlands

Nottingham Sabs have spent most of the season so far ranging far and wide, helping **Leeds** and **Sheffield** at the *Branham Moor hunt*, with **Derby** at the *High Peak Harriers* and the *Meynell*, and also keeping an eye on our home turf at the *Quorn, Belvoir* and the *Cottesmore* hunts with **Leicester** and **Derby** Sabs. A dodgy deal with Derby sabs meant that we are now in possession of their lovely modified Landrover (as featured in a recent edition of Howl) – which we promise not to get stuck in a ditch&quite unlike Derby sabs managed to recently!

We were also happy to see one of our sabs (and one of Derby's too) found Not Guilty of Affray following some very suspicious partisan policing at the Fernie Hunt early last year.

Derby have concentrated on the *Meynell* and *South Staffs* for the beginning of this season with other "visits" to the *High Peak, Quorn, Belvoir, Grove and Rufford* and one rather boring kennel watch of the *DNS Beagles*. The group has had an influx of new sabs, thanks somewhat to all the hunt ban media coverage, and due to this, we've worked closely with seasoned veterans **Nottingham** and **Wolves**. (Cheers guys.)

Derby flogged their old heap of a Landrover to **Notts** at the start of the season and bought a ridiculously newer one. Thanks mainly to the Meynell Hunt Support, it now looks more battered than the old one!

North-West

This season has seen **Bolton** sabs concentrating almost exclusively on the *Holcombe Hunt* with **Merseyside** sabs in attendance earlier in the season and at their Wednesday meets. The *Holcombe* did away with early morning meets this year and went straight into 12.00 meets - yes! Lie-ins in the morning - it's grim up north, but not always! The lack of hares, especially on the moorland meets, has resulted in a quiet season so far with no kills during sabs attendance. Even some of the lowland meets have shown reduced hare numbers, so much for their "hunt and conserve" motto.

One of the best sabbing days of the season found the *Holcombe* at a moorland meet 6 miles south east of Blackburn, when the hounds put up a hare around a disused quarry and pursued it down into the valley below. Whilst the hunt argued amongst themselves as to the merits of riding down a steep narrow track to continue hunting, sabs split with half going down and half staying up. The Hunt Master (camp 'Carry On' look-alike Charles Hawtrey) told the huntsman that if he continued down the hillside he would take the riders back to the meet. The huntsman Alex Sneddon ignored the master and the rest of the hunt promptly went home!

In the valley below the hounds continued to hunt with the hare repeatedly climbing out of the valley and then arcing back down. Close to total exhaustion the hare resorted to occasional spurts of running and stopping. Sabs at the top of the valley had a perfect view of the events and via mobile phone directed sabs in the valley to head off the hounds. The hare made its escape through a gateway, which the sabs blocked much to the annoyance of the huntsman. Dam those pesky hunt sabs!

A varied, busy and sometimes entertaining sabbing season has been the lot of **Merseyside** and **Manchester** hunt sabs. Whilst the *Cheshire hunts* have been the mainstay of our targets there have been several visits midweek to the *Holcombe Hunt* in Lancashire. With eventful days at Standish (twice), Rossendale, Darwen and Wardle, Rochdale, where all of 7 mounted members slobbered onto water board land. The Wardle meet ended with the countryside ranger very abruptly rounding on the hunt in full view of sabs with a long lecture on access, permission and 'who on earth did they think they were'.

One day was spent with the *High Peak Harriers* outside Leek on the Derbyshire border. Within minutes the huntsman had dismounted, handed his horn, hat and whip to his staff and indicated his desire for a clean fist fight (!). Sabs had better things to attend to and proceeded to whip hounds off each and every hare they put up. A very fast and busy day.

Nearly a fortnight was spent most nights tearing around in the dark interfering (very gently of course) with DEFRA badger traps in their ongoing badger eradication onslaught in Derbyshire. A venture well worth getting involved with.

There have been several visits to 3 beagle packs within Cheshire. Best of the bunch was the opening meet at Willington Hall of 30 old duffers representing the *Cheshire Beagles*. Its been quite sometime since this group has so happily and laughingly run nearly an entire pack down country lanes away from hunt staff, with a motley collection of duffers limping along with beagles under their arms to stop them scooting off even further. A jovial day to be sure.

The *Royal Rock Beagles* have been sabbed 3 times to much effect, all 7 of the hunt that is! Peter Jones, their overweight and bumbling huntsman, was reduced to apoplexy when an inspector whom he had ordered to arrest sabs (who had just whipped his entire pack off a hare), simply shrugged his shoulders, asked Jones to calm down and then gave him a jolly escort back to the meet at Belmont Hall where he remained sulking.

Once again the *Cheshire Forest FH* has seen far too much of sabs. We attended many of the cubbing meets thanks to information provided by anti hunt sympathisers, and experienced a very fair and open reaction within all the police districts in Cheshire. Best days so far with the *Cheshire Forest* were the opening meet at Oaklands Hotel, Gorstage and the following Saturday at Great Budworth where even the police were astounded by sabs inventiveness, audacity and sheer nerve in getting between fox and hounds with whips and taking them off. You had to have been there! Sadly our work has recently been affected by the re-emergence of a gang of psychos led by the infamous Anthony Kirkham (and family) that has taken it on themselves to become enforcers for every Cheshire pack. We were unsurprised to learn that both he and his eldest son were arrested in the early hours of a January morning after brawling with several police officers outside the Foxhounds hunt ball. Rest assured though that the long tradition of sabbing in Cheshire will continue.
Just to give you a hint of our dexterity, Xmas week is proof of the pudding. The 18th saw us at the *Holcombe*, the 21st with the *Cheshire Forest* then straight over to the *Royal Rock Beagles* where we all stood in a field for 90 mins waiting for the non-existent police cavalry. The 23rd saw an aborted day with *North Staffordshire Moorland Harriers* who failed to venture out in low cloud. The 24th saw



us unblocking badger setts at both the *Cheshire Forest* and *Cheshire Foxhounds*. Both meets being on the edge of Cheshire then scampering of to another meet of the *Royal Rock Beagles* on the Wirral (they have two meets left in this area, from a total of 18 when the NWHSA first started hitting them 25 years ago) and to end the week on the 26th sabs took the entire pack off hunt staff of *Forest and District Beagles* despite them drafting in uniformed security and boy they did not have a fruitful week.

North East

The newly re-formed and re-vamped (!) **Leeds** hunt sabs, have been joining forces with old hands **Sheffield**, for regular sabbing of the **Badsworth and Bramham Moor FH**. The **Badsworth FH** and the **Bramham Moor FH** used to be two separate hunts, but after years of general incompetence and regular visits by 'antis' they decided to become bosom buddies and amalgamate. It hasn't improved their hunting ability though! Sabs overall have had a successful cubbing season, but when things got a little feisty in late autumn we called in our mates from **Notts**, **Manchester** and **Merseyside** groups to ensure that the job in hand could be done with little interruption from bumpkins (and was a great excuse for a big piss up afterwards). Returning the favour, we paid a couple of visits to the **Grove & Rufford FH** in Nottinghamshire, and also headed north to help out **Hull** sabs with the activities of the **Holderness FH**.

Besides sabbing, we've done a few stalls here and there, given a small talk about anti-bloodsport activity back in October and made all the usual new year resolutions to get fitter, not drink so much/give up smoking and go to bed earlier on a Friday before sabbing on the Saturday (yes-you've heard it all before!)

After a summer of fundraising doing bar work at the festivals for the workers beer company, **Sheffield** sabs along with **Leeds** successfully sabbed *the Grove & Rufford FH* during cubbing. By the forth week of being sabbed the hunt got pissed off and one of their riders decided to smash the van windscreen with his riding crop. The *Badsworth & Bramham Moor FH* have been sabbed regularly, with sabs witnessing a strange mixture of responses from the hunt. This has included the obligatory threatening supporter wielding a pick axe handle, being given glasses of scotch by a member of the field, and most horrific of all, having one of the supporters (who has become known as 'the Beast of the Badsworth') exposing her huge cellulite covered arse to sabs. Luckily we didn't have any new sabs out, as this incident would have been sure to put them off sabbing for life! We have also sabbed the *Blankney FH* and gave **Hull** sabs a hand with the *Holderness FH*.

West Wales - New group needs new members (or old ones to be revitalised!) There's a shout going out for anyone wanting to help form a new group in Pembrokeshire, West Wales! So, if you're in the area and fancy getting active, or are an inactive sab who just knows now is the time to do you stuff - here's your chance! Please send your contact details to the office marked clearly for 'Pembrokeshire HSA' and these will be passed on. As you can see from the masses of group news above, sabs are saving the lives of hunted animals here and now – so join 'em!

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HUNTSMANS BALLS

"If there is a black, vegetarian, Muslim, asylum-seeking, one-legged, lesbian lorry driver present...I want the same rights as you." **Robin Page** in a pro-hunt speech, which resulted in his arrest for stirring up racial hatred.
(Charges later dropped – nice one coppers...)

'Of course we shall go on hunting – and I can tell you that this has nothing to do with the welfare of the fox' The response of a **Ashford Valley FH Master** when asked by a reporter if their Boxing Day meet would be their last one.
(Thanks to J Macey for supplying this).

'This hunt is bound to continue because it serves a vital function for farmers by controlling foxes, of which there has been an explosion around here since the foot-and-mouth epidemic'. **Baroness Mallalieu,** Labour Peer and President of the Countryside Alliance *at a meet of the Bicester with Whaddon Chase FH, still talking shit. The Independent, 27/12/02.*

'I really don't think hunting should be banned, it's not really about killing foxes. It's a good day out for us'. **Hunt supporter and farmer Henry Hunt** (no!) *at the very same hunt as the Baroness. Obviously not aware of exploding foxes...*

'I don't want to go to prison at all. It sounds extremely uncomfortable' **Captain Ian Farquhar**, Joint Master of the Duke of Beaufort FH, *shows his astounding grip on reality when questioned about plans to continue hunting in defiance of any ban. Nothing like rallying the troops eh, Captain?!*

'...Licences will only be granted if the registrar is satisfied that hunting is necessary...The lowland packs do not appear to have a chance, which means that the hounds will be shot, which to us is totally unacceptable'. Editorial in **'Hounds'** magazine, December 2002. *Talk about not living in the real world, these fu**ers really are in a parallel universe.*

'I'm definitely not the only farmer's wife driven to this' **A Cumbrian farmer's wife** who has allegedly been driven to prostitution due to financial hardship caused by the Foot and Mouth crisis, as reported in the *News & Star* 10/12/02. *Highly unlikely the Editor would have thought, especially in Cumbria...*

'Cheetahs are easily trained. You hood them and have them on a lead. When you spot the quarry you whip the hood off and release them and they set off in pursuit. It's all done at top speed and the kill is quick and final' **Michael Dudgeon**, 'self styled Monarch of the Glen' who aims to beat any ban on fox-hunting by using cheetahs instead of hounds. *Now there's an incentive to get fit for next season... Sunday Mail 08/09/02*

"We must take it down now, otherwise the police tell me they will arrest six of us now and bring a squad of officers down and take us all away." **Edward Duke**, alleged head of the Real CA (and former head of the actual CA) *happily agreeing to take down the 'Love Hunting – Join Our War' banner which was hung from the Angel of the North. Duke added that, although he personally was prepared to go to jail, he really thought it would serve everyone's interest for the coat to come down.*
(Telegraph 16/02/03)

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3rd P Fenn

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1st M Wall
2nd G Jebb
3rd F Ford

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

badger
VERMIN

(aside from the usual DEFRA squads, of course)

A deliberate attack on a badger sett during the badger's breeding season has earned a £2,000 fine for the woman responsible. With the assistance of workmen, **Patricia Cohen** of 83 Cromwell Road, Kingston Upon Thames, cut down a number of trees and filled in several entrances to a badger sett, which was in the garden of a premises she owned. The police were called to the scene, and found that large logs had been placed over several entrances to the badger sett. Another sett entrance had been filled in using heavy soil. In addition, creosote had been poured over the area. The case against Cohen was heard at Kingston magistrates on 15/1/03. Cohen pleaded guilty to offences against the Protection of Badger's Act 1992. Fortunately, the badgers survived the attack on their home.

Farmer **Trevor Davies** (72) of Coed-y-Bryn, Lixwm, near Holywell filled in two badger holes on his North Wales farm and poured oil around them - because he believed that the setts presented a danger to his cattle Flintshire magistrates heard on 30/1/03. Davies got a mechanical bucket on the back of his tractor and pushed all the soil back into the two holes. He then poured oil around the holes in the hope the badgers would stay away. He admitted two charges of damaging and obstructing a badger sett and was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £100.

egg / bird
VERMIN

A bird-snatcher has become the first person in the country to be jailed for stealing a hawk from the wild. **Leonard O'Connor** (35) of St Anne's Road, Huyton was jailed for four months by Knowsley magistrates on 15/1/03 after he admitted possession of a wild bird. O'Connor also pleaded guilty to making a false declaration to DEFRA in relation to the bird in October 2001, taking two goshawks in May 2000 and being in possession of a goshawk tail.

Two men who targeted wild birds helped provide evidence against themselves by taking pictures at the scene Kirkwall Sheriff Court heard on 15/1/03. When questioned **Michael Stockton** (26) and **John Latham** (22) both from St Helens in Merseyside, denied having done anything illegal, but a box containing three Arctic tern eggs and three great skua eggs was found and four snipe eggs were discovered hidden by the roadside. Latham was fined £2,500 after pleading guilty to stealing Arctic tern, great skua and snipe eggs. He also admitted disturbing a wild bird at its nest site, possessing equipment used in the theft of eggs and the disturbance of nesting birds. The equipment and disturbance charges were also admitted by Stockton who was fined £2,000. A third man **Andrew Kinsley** (32) from Newton Le Willows in Merseyside, was fined £500 after admitting stealing two camouflage nets from a nature reserve in Aberdeenshire. None of the men was in court to hear sentence passed.

equine
VERMIN

A Kent horse dealer has been banned from keeping horses for 10 years after an RSPCA inspector discovered two starving thoroughbreds at Kevin O'Brien's White Oak Stables, David Street, Harvel. **Kevin O'Brien** (55) of Lavidge Road, Eltham, was convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to the horses. At Dartford magistrates on 22/1/03 O'Brien was ordered to pay £1,400 towards RSPCA costs and carry out 180 hours of community punishment. He will also be electronically tagged and ordered to observe an 8pm to 6am curfew for the next two months.

On 24/1/03 a pensioner who admitted causing a horse unnecessary suffering lost a battle to keep other animals on his farm. Norwich Crown Court upheld a 10-year ban on **Hubert Barker** (70) of Plumstead Road, Thorpe End from keeping any creatures. He was given six months to sell or find new homes for his cattle, sheep and chickens before the ban takes effect. The judge did quash the £630 fine on Barker who said he refused to claim state benefits and chose to live off his meagre savings instead. The court heard the grey mare involved was humanely killed to prevent further suffering.

A racehorse trainer faces a possible jail sentence after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to five Thoroughbreds in his care. On 30/1/03 Bury St Edmunds magistrates found that **Kamil Mahdi** from Newmarket kept five thoroughbreds in an emaciated condition, and warned him that he could face jail when he is sentenced.

assorted
VERMIN

On 6/1/03 two men were warned they could go to prison for their part in an illegal goat-slaughtering operation. A district judge heard how 10 goats were killed in a barn at Londonderry, North Yorkshire, using a blunt knife. Harrogate magistrates were shown an undercover video in which the goats were butchered "while they appeared to be still alive". **Michael Hawkswell** (26) of Nunwick, near Ripon and **Isap Lakha** (67) of Saville Road, Dewsbury, both admitted their parts in the illegal slaughter. Lakha, a retired butcher with 20 years' experience, pleaded guilty to the ill-treatment of 10 goats and slaughtering the animals without a licence. Hawkswell admitted allowing goats he owned to be ill- treated and also allowing premises to be used as a slaughterhouse without a licence. On 3/2/03 Hawkswell was given a four-month prison sentence and Lakha was jailed for two months at Harrogate magistrates.

A farmer was warned he could face prison after admitting 32 cases of cruelty against sheep and cows when he appeared at Loughborough magistrates on 25/1/03. **Richard Lawrence** of Goodwood Close in Market Harborough, pleaded guilty to 30 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to the animals he kept on land at Frisby, near Melton. Of these, 20 charges related to the illegal docking of lamb's tails. He also admitted keeping an animal which he failed to ensure was fed a wholesome diet and failing to dispose of three sheep carcasses. Lawrence is due to be sentenced at Loughborough magistrates on 14/2/03.

A farmer has been ordered to pay £2,000 after pig slurry leaked into a reservoir, killing thousands of fish. **Roger Hobill** of Welby Grange Farm, Melton, was found guilty by Melton magistrates on 25/12/02 of causing polluting matter to enter the reservoir. Hobill was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

domestic VERMIN

RSPCA inspectors who raided a stud farm discovered emaciated and sick dogs, Lewes magistrates heard on 18/1/03. The animals were suffering from severe diarrhoea and in a dull, depressed and lethargic state when they were seized. One of the dogs was so weak it had to be lifted into the RSPCA's van. The animals were being looked after by farmer **Barbara Joyce** (51) of Manor Farm Cottages, South Heighton, Newhaven, who says she rescued them from Ireland and was caring for them before finding them new homes. Joyce who runs **Quimper Stud Farm** in Rodmell near Lewes, is accused of causing unnecessary suffering to four dogs. Her son **Oliver Joyce** (27) of Cinque Foil, Peacehaven, faces the same charges and is also accused of having custody of an animal while disqualified for five years. He was banned from owning animals in April 2002 after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to sheep. Oliver Joyce, who once made the semi finals of Crufts' Young Handler of the Year competition, told the court he had not been to the stud farm for more than four months and had not worked with animals there since his ban was imposed. The hearing was adjourned.

A man whose two dogs killed one cat and badly injured another has been convicted of failing to keep the dogs under proper control. **David Paul**, of The Wellington pub, Stand Lane, Radcliffe, had denied any wrongdoing by the dogs. However, on 22/1/03 Bury magistrates found him guilty in a prosecution brought by Bury Council. The court was told that a witness saw Paul's dogs attacking a neighbour's cat in his garden. He hit the pair with a golf club to free the cat, but its injuries were so bad it died later. The cat's owner also recognised the dogs and had seen them roaming round her home. A month later, a second witness saw the dogs attack another cat, "pulling it between them like a tug of war". The witness intervened, hitting one of the dogs and forcing them to let go of the cat. Although badly injured, it survived the attack. The court ordered Paul to keep the dog under proper control and to pay the council's costs of £646.



A woman who drowned her pet dog and its five puppies in her kitchen sink before dumping them in a wheelie bin has been banned from owning any animal for 25 years. **Suzanne Greenhalgh** (43) of Roy Street, Royton, near Oldham was banned from owning a pet by Oldham magistrates on 6/2/03 after admitting the killings. She drowned the family pet and its five three-week-old puppies, before placing them in shopping bags and dumping them in the wheelie bin outside her home. Greenhalgh was ordered to do a 240-hour community order, banned from owning any animal for 25 years, and ordered to pay £861 prosecution costs.



A ditched lover killed her ex-boyfriend's cat and slashed his clothes in a Fatal Attraction-style revenge attack. Business adviser **Heather Radley** (33) Albion Mill, Hollingworth admitted she wanted to "hurt" Ken Dawson as she flew into a "fit of rage" after they split up. In the attack she went to his home in Hyde while he was away on a business trip and killed his beloved Persian cat. The animal was found lying in a pool of blood on the living room floor. Radley then systematically cut up the clothes. When she appeared at Tameside magistrates on 1/11/02 she admitted criminal damage but denied slaughtering the pet cat which had been killed with a blunt object. Despite her denials she was convicted by magistrates of killing the cat. The hearing was adjourned for sentence. On 29/11/02 Radley was handed a 180-hour community service order and was ordered to pay £487 compensation to Mr Dawson and £500 in court costs.



A millionaire former magistrate has been found guilty of unlawfully shooting dead a tenant's beloved pet terrier. Parish council chairman and ex-JP **Michael Cuttell** (64) was convicted at Swindon magistrates on 12/11/02 of criminal damage for the dog's death and a firearms offence. Cuttell was fined £500 and also ordered to pay £1,000 costs. Cuttell claimed he shot four-year-old terrier after she savaged peacocks on his estate. The prosecution told the court that after finding the peacocks, Cuttell had locked the terrier in a shed and gone back home to get his gun. He returned to execute the terrier in a single "cold-blooded" shot. Cuttell said he did not mean to kill the pet.

RSPCA inspectors who seized a bull-mastiff type dog from a Blackburn house could see every bone in its emaciated body, a court was told. On 22/1/03 Blackburn magistrates banned **Amanda Jane Hickey** (32) of Johnson Street, Blackburn and **Sean Pinder** (33) of Higson Street, Blackburn from keeping any animal for the next 10 years. The court heard after two months of care and proper feeding the dog had increased its body weight by 78%. Hickey and Pinder pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. As well as being banned from keeping animals, they were each given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay a total of £500 costs between them.

Brian Patrick McCann (47) a publican from Kings Cross, London has been jailed for his role in producing a so-called "squish" video in which a kitten was killed by a woman in high heels. McCann pleaded guilty to conspiring to publish obscene material. He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 15/11/02 to nine months in prison. A police search of McCann's computer had revealed 40 files of "squish" or "crush" movies in which small animals such as kittens, guinea pigs, mice and even fish and earthworms were squashed to death, usually by a woman in high heels and wearing a short skirt.

A Great Harwood woman has been banned from keeping animals for five years after one of her two cats died when they were left without regular food for up to 10 days. **Carol Ashton** (30) of Blackburn Road, admitted two charges of neglect when she appeared in court at Hyndburn on 22/1/03. As well as the ban Ashton was given a 12-month community rehabilitation order and ordered to pay £250 costs.



Two Stratford men have been convicted of ill-treating and terrifying a cat and her two kittens after drowning them in the river Avon. Leamington magistrates heard how **David Bellamy**, managing director of stratford construction company *Complete Property* and one of his employees, **Mark McPyke** of Atherstone Airfield, Preston on-Stour, put the cats in a box and threw them off the Severn Meadows bridge. A local resident cycling on the towpath heard the splash and saw a box floating downstream. He took the vehicle registration number and called the Police. McPyke during interview said he was going to take the cats to the RSPCA but couldn't be bothered.



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National Anti Hunt Campaign
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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



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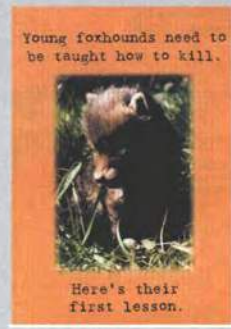
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These leaflets are available as a 'mixed bag' (ie. equal numbers of each leaflet making up your order) or you can order each type of leaflet separately. (It is strongly advised to have some of all the leaflets on a stall - game shooting is as cruel 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.

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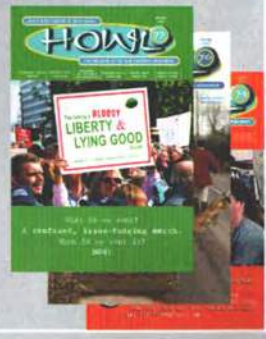
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You can also order more copies of this Howl to give to friends etc for the price of £1.50 per copy (+p&p).

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





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.

HUNTING IS STILL LEGAL

What **They** Do

What **We** Do















The Hunt Saboteurs Association remains the only organisation that uses non-violent direct action against bloodsports. Every week Hunt Saboteurs are active against a variety of bloodsports intervening directly to save lives and this will continue until animals are no longer killed in the name of sport.

Every year thousands of animals are hunted or shot by people who get their kicks out of killing our wildlife.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports and preventing this appalling slaughter.

Join us, and either get directly involved in 'sabbing' or become a vital supporting member. All members receive badge, leaflets and *Howl*, the magazine of the HSA, four times a year. This provides information on the week in week out work by Sabs defending wildlife and keeps members updated on ongoing campaigns.

Only with your support can we save the lives of hunted animals. No one at the HSA is paid. This means that more money is available to support active Hunt Saboteurs where it counts - in the hunting field.

Join the Hunt Saboteurs Association and help save lives.















www.huntsabs.org.uk

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION