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Hounds off our wildlife

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

FLATFOOT FARCES

On the 21st October 1976 the press was wined, dined and propagandised at the Cavalry Club by the Master of Foxhounds Association. This is an annual event but added weight was lent to the occasion by the fact that the BFSS have launched their new 'fighting' image and this 'spread' was obviously one of their opening gambits.

The main speaker and Chairman of the MFHA, Ronnie Wallace, spoke at some length and dwelt heavily on the question of saboteurs and hunting. His speech was reported in the national press and reverberated on the pages of the sporting magazines and the message was loud and clear—increased prosecutions against saboteurs this season. "What they do is either illegal or misconduct and is likely to cause a breach of the peace and action will be taken against them".

'Breach of the peace', if it were to occur, would be a criminal action and as such only the police can prosecute; so from this speech we can only assume that the hunters are going to lean on the police to *take* that action.

As we shall see, the hunting fraternity have seen this speech as the pushing off point for complaints to the police. Any excuse will do and no matter how trivial the complaint, no matter how unsubstantiated the facts the police have acted.

Since that speech was made no less than 7 *known* accusations of dangerous driving have been levelled against saboteurs. Of these, two were accidental, not deliberate as the hunters would have the police believe, the others pure invention. Even so four summonses have been issued without independant witnesses giving statements against the saboteurs. In one case the accused sab was asked by a policeman, who visited his home, to attend an identity parade. After refusing (as is his prerogative) he was picked out in 'street identification' by the hunter sitting in a police car. The sab is well-known to the hunt, the Heythrop, the Master of whom is none other than Ronnie Wallace.

Have *you* ever tried getting a policeman to take *any* interest in dangerous driving by a hunter? It's virtually impossible!

Since that speech sabs have been reported for spraying horses and riders in the face with antimate (who are they kidding!). One sab even had a visit from a policeman in connection with the alleged offence even though the only supporter she'd seen that day was a car-bound whipper-in with whom she'd exchanged a few polite words.

Since that speech a sab in the West Country has been visited by the police and warned that he and his colleagues will be prosecuted for 'breach of the peace'; their alleged offence—unblocking earths in the Duke of Beaufort's hunt country! It seems that holes in the West Country are inviolable; they all belong to the Master of the Queen's Horse.

Since that speech a sab who displayed the remains of a fox-cub mutilated by the Old Berks Hunt to the public in Swindon is being prosecuted for laying carrion on the street under an 1847 Act. From this we can learn a very useful lesson. The law allows a gang of mounted terrorists with a pack of dogs to chase a wild animal down an urban street and kill it in full view of school children but it's *not* permissible to bring the remains of that wild animal into an urban area and tell people how it came to be like that.



Sabs' car after attack by an Essex Union nutter

Since that speech Special Branch have shown interest in sabs involved in the run-on at the Edenbridge & Oxted Show (see HOWL 7), were reportedly spotted at a home counties meet taking photos of sabs and were positively identified, both on the field at Altcar and in the police station at Skelmersdale, where the arrested were taken. In addition, did you know that the police can key your car number into their giant computer and discover, within seconds, that you are anti-hunt? It appears that being anti is as important to them as driving offences and traffic violations. Do you suppose that known huntsman-drivers have *pro-hunt* against their names?

If the hunters can get police action on a whim then it is fair to say that sabs stand a good chance of getting some consideration too, but no.

Take the infamous Border Counties Otterhounds incident (see HOWL 7). Even though 3 sabs ended up in hospital and many more were injured no prosecutions are going to be taken up by the police—their reason 'insufficient evidence'. Right from the beginning the police attitude to the whole affair had been lukewarm. Despite persistant pressure from solicitors and antis it took a 'question in the House' before the police took any *real* action but although several sworn statements and a positive eyeball to eyeball identification of one of the assailants with a police witness an offending heavy is not to be prosecuted. It also seems he gave a false name and address to the police and later denied being there!

Another case involved the Essex Union Hunt. On the 27th November an HSA member was nearly blinded when the windscreen of the car he was sitting in was smashed by a hunt rider. Not content with shattering it he also hit the sab and went on to break the remaining windows. The anti had slivers of glass removed from his face and eyes at hospital and was told by a specialist that the cornea was probably scarred. An eye witness at a nearby cottage chased after the assailant in his car but was blocked by other riders who later told the police that they had never seen the rider before! The police are still (!) making enquiries and it seems that the hunt are doing a neat cover-up job and it's likely that the rider involved will never be apprehended. Joint Master Tim Asplin commented, "Horse-whipping a hunt saboteur is rather like beating a wife. They are both private matters."

At a meet of the Southdown FH a sab's car was surrounded by hunt thugs. The body was sprayed with purple paint, the door handles ripped off, all the lights smashed and the door hinges were bent as the thugs tried to rip the doors off. A complaint was made to the police and descriptions given but sabs were told that they had to find out the names of the assailants. After considerable effort this information was obtained plus a photo of the incident taking place (although blurred, as the photographer was *inside* the car!) but the police decided that there was "insufficient evidence" and showed no further interest.

On several occasions this season sabs have had property stolen from them. In most cases the property was restored by the police but *no* action has been taken against the culprits.

Does it seem strange to you that the police are jumping on the antis for minor and fictitious infringements but not on the hunters for serious offences? Can you imagine the consequences to saboteurs if we had perpetrated these crimes? We all know that provincial magistrates are suspect in their leanings—we are reliably informed that 9 out of 10 beaks in Chipping Norton are pro-hunt—but it seems the police are becoming less neutral and more hunt orientated.

Is someone leaning somewhere, somehow? Does your local inspector ride with the hunt? Has your Chief Constable received a ticket to the Hunt Ball lately?

HIGHLAND HEARTACHE

Traditionally the sporrans sported by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are made from badger heads but since the Badger Act the Ministry of Defence has ordered them to find substitutes. Some of the existing heads are beginning to moult and synthetic ones are "too much like cuddly toys" said a spokesman. Altogether now, aaaaah!

The Cottesmore Hunt has been banned from coverts on a nature reserve at Empingham Reservoir, Leicestershire. Joint Master, Joan Gibson was told that the Trust, who own the land, was not against fox-hunting but nature conservation had to come first! The President of the Trust, Sir Henry Tate, is also the President of the Cottesmore—could this be an admission that hunting is *not* an aid to conservation?

Jack Champion, huntsman with the Old Surrey & Burstow FH, who relentlessly strives to do a real public service during the hunting season has shown his concern for the public yet again by driving a motor vehicle whilst having over double the permitted alcohol level in his blood. Jack donated £100 to the court plus almost £80 costs. 'Unfortunately' he has also been banned from driving for 15 months which puts the OS & B in a spot as he is the only member of the hunt licenced to drive the hound van!

An accidental fire in the kennel's kitchen and increased pressure to get them banned from the Ashdown Forest did little to brighten his life. Happy New Year OS & B.

IN MEMORIUM . . .

It came as no great surprise to learn of the death of the short-lived 'Fighting Fund', after a long illness. It will be sadly missed by its few friends.

The Fighting Fund (fondly known as 'FF') was born in October 1975 to the BFSS, Barclays Bank acted as its Nanny. FF's sole aim in life was to reach £250,000 and be used for pro-hunt propaganda, it only just achieved its ambition as the 'child' was sick from the beginning. Its BFSS parents thought the ambition could be surpassed within 5 months, but come May 31st '76 the Fund was looking desperately ill, having reached about £100,000.

It would have been kinder to put FF out of its misery there and then. However, after an article by 'Doctor' Turnstone of *Shooting Times*, the BFSS decided to keep it alive for a full year—until about October 31st '76. Doctor Turnstone had ranted on about FF being revived in the Summer by the income from point-to-point races, hunt shows etc. and muttered something about eating his hat if they couldn't get £250,000 by October.

However, all the hunts horses and all the huntsmen couldn't put FF together again and even at a year old it was still ailing. But it was given a shot of adrenalin and managed to stagger on into the New Year.

The funeral service will at long last be given at the Horse & Hound Ball and it will be a great shock to all the hunters who befriended it. It's rumoured that FF's ghost can still occasionally be seen walking the pages of *Shooting Times*.

May it Rest in Peace.

Cards of sympathy (but no donations or flowers please) can be sent to: The Fighting Fund, c/o British Field Sports Society, 26 Caxton Street, London, SW1.

Since this article was written Major Bob Hoare, mastermind of the Fighting Fund, has died. This article is not meant as a reflection on his demise.

THE OLDEST ANTI

At a meet of the Duke of Beaufort's FH in 1840 a female anti distributed leaflets entitled 'On Cruelty in the Brute Creation' to the assembled hunters—obviously a neo Marxist/Leninist!

AN HSA FIRST

Recently a group of ten female sabs calling themselves *Wellies & Co.* did a 'Womens-lib' on the Vale of Aylesbury FH. The hunt, one of the more 'heavy' in the country, were non-plussed.

Although one fox was run to earth, and shot, (at the end of the day), at least two other foxes were seen to escape after hornblowing and spraying were effective.

Veiled threats, car blocking and assault during the day did little to scare the ten and the hunters later said farewell with flashing headlights, salutes and blown kisses.

Anyone interested in humanising their local hunt should contact Wellies & Co., PO Box 19 . . . .!!

SOUTHERN REPORT

On Friday 14th January Southern TV's 'Southern Report' programme was honoured by the film appearance of 8 Southern sabs, a few hefty heavies and a sparkling of foxhunters for good measure, from the Crawley & Horsham FH. Last, but not least, came one Charles James (the fox) with suitable vocal support from Spike Milligan Esq. (HSA President).

Perhaps the star of the show (save, of course, the fox) was Major Burrell, the Treasurer of the hunt. Explaining his feelings on foxhunting, "Well of course we have to hunt the fox because he kills the pheasants I like to shoot . . . well, yes, I like to hunt the fox and this puts me in a terrible quandary—I have to keep enough around to hunt but not too many otherwise it's bad for my shooting".

And from the heavies, "Yeah, like, we go out to the hunt to rough 'em (the sabs) up, like . . . oh yes, we go out for the hunting as well, like, but we do um rough 'em up if they start any of their . . ." (words lost amidst the sound of fellow sab viewers laughing—at least we think they were laughing!).

The hunters themselves didn't have a lot to say, seemed to forget what they *meant* to say and when they said it it was either self-contradictory, irrelevant or self-indicating.

The sabs fared a lot better—but then look at the competition!

The real star of the show, though, was the fox, with Spike Milligan acting as his mouthpiece. Having written his own inimitable script the result was inevitable and foxhunting was shown up for the barbarity it is.

If we can get a copy of the film we'll show it at the AGM. Our thanks must go to Southern TV, Spike Milligan, the Brighton Group and (dare we?) the Crawley & Horsham FH.

It was significant that Raymond 'Sparkle' Brookes-Ward (BFSS PRO) was telephoned early the morning after the broadcast by an irate and sorrowful hunter.

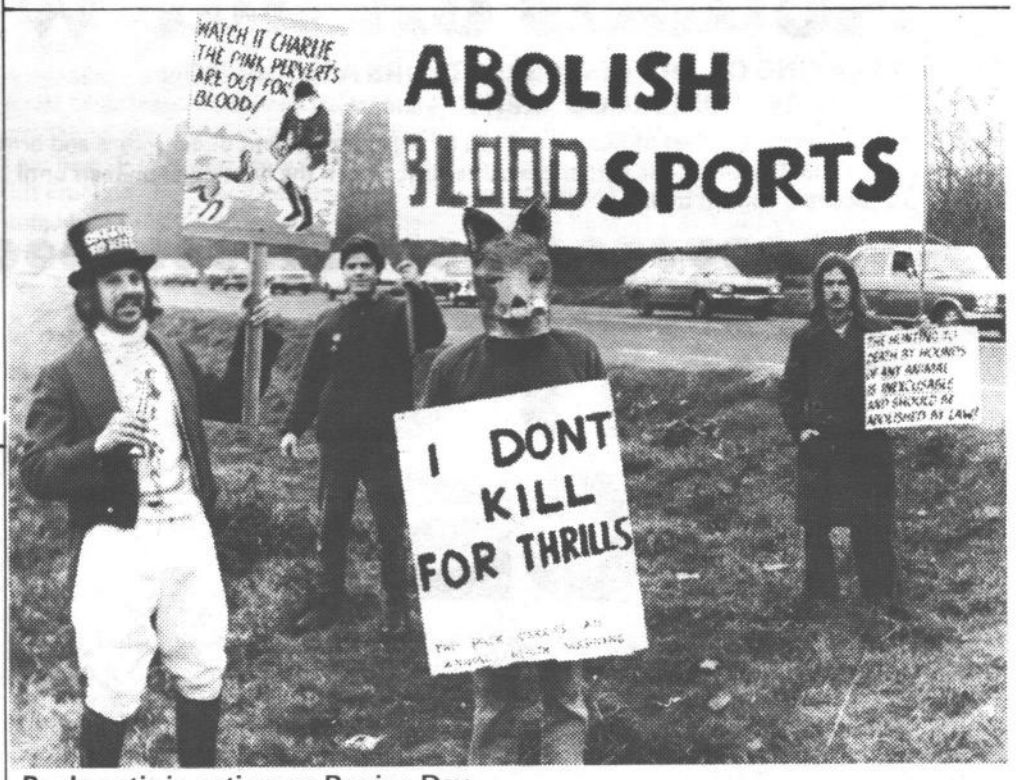
ANTI-ANTIS

News is coming in of two anti-anti groups, whose sole purpose seems to be 'anti hunting'.

The Exeter Group have been so successful in disrupting the local Stoke Hill Beagles, that a group of University students have found it necessary to form a 'Country Sports Association' to protect the hunt.

A similar group, calling themselves the 'Hunt Protection Association' has been formed by the supporters of the Enfield Chase FH. We can report, however, that the HPA doesn't really exist, except in the mind of its founder, Mr. M. Jervis. When 20 or so sabs attended a recent meet to investigate the matter they had no trouble disrupting it.

Mr. Jervis seemed very reluctant to comment!



Poole antis in action on Boxing Day

Photo: By courtesy of Simon Rowley, Burley.

DEER DISTURBANCE

A group of Co. Down farmers have banned deer hunts from their land because of the tremendous cost of repairing the damage caused by the hunts carelessly charging over their land. They are also angered by the cruel death metered out to the deer, which are often torn to shreds and sometimes run terrified into their farmyards for protection from the hounds.

The group consisting of over 60 farmers, all from the Ballynahinch, Crossgar and Dromore areas of Ireland, have signed a declaration banning hunts from their community.

We hope that farmers in England will follow their example, in an effort to hinder the four staghunts that still carry out this ancient ritual slaughter. Leading protagonists, the Quantock Staghounds, recently drove a stag into the sea at Doniford, Somerset. As it swam up and down the coast for several hours huntsmen armed with shotguns waited on the beaches. Finally the exhausted animal collapsed and drowned—some sport!

The last word on the matter must go to the Master, Ruth Thrower, "we are country people enjoying a simple country sport . . . we love our stags."

Footnote Lord Faulkner, who died when his horse hit a car, in March, was out hunting with the Co. Down Staghunt!

HARE-PIECES

On Monday, October 4th 1976, three saboteurs disrupted the Swaffham Coursing Club meeting, at Pulham airfield. At first they walked across the hare-coursing field, acting as erring supporters, but later ran onto the field with banners. At least one hare was saved as a result. The intervention of press and police saved the sabs from a 'hot' situation. The girl sab was carried off and the other two were escorted off by the police. One banner was ripped to pieces by a knife-wielding courser.

On Saturday, November 6th 1976 the Oxfordshire Coursing Club was making heavy weather of it at Coombe due to the fact that sabs had cleared the area of hares earlier in the morning! Consequently the 55 sabs who turned up had little to do (they were partly thwarted anyway by the coursers' strong-arm men); hares were few and far between.

In the afternoon, when coursers moved several miles to a field uncleared of hares the action was fast and furious. Hares ran everywhere and so did the sabs. Despite the efforts of the heavies the antis managed to scare most of the hares away and as a result only 8 courses were run instead of 23.

The police kept an admirably low profile throughout the day. However we have since heard that two sabs are to be prosecuted following complaints by coursers (one for 'dangerous driving'/'driving without due care . . .' and the other for 'action liable . . .'). As far as we know no coursers are to be taken to court following sabs' complaints of assault!

PHOTOGENICS

It's interesting to note that although some of the Boxing Day hunts attracted over 2,000 mindless spectators and that the so-called British Field Sports Society employ public relations officers it was the demonstrating antis who got the story and the pictures in the local papers. All this goes to show that determination and ingenuity wins over a paid-lacky mentality every time.

DULL IT ISN'T

A round up- of some of the more unusual incidents, conversations and hits of the past year.

Roy Goddard, huntsman to the Southdown FH, won last year's 'Horse & Hound' horn-blowing competition. The next day a saboteur took him on in a 'battle of the horns' and succeeded in drawing the whole pack away from under his nose! It has been suggested that 'Horse & Hound' invite a sab to compete in this year's competition.

On November 19th the Wild Animals Protection Society staged a dawn-to-dusk vigil with leaflets and 'Countryside not Genocide' banners outside the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) HQ.

A policeman called to a meet of the Eton College Beagles, by the hunt, said he thought the beaglers were a load of perverted, spoilt brats and that the sabs should carry on!

The Belfast Group held a banner demo at the Park Hare Coursing Club meet at Crebilly, N. Ireland.

A Meon Valley Beagles supporter accused the Worthing Group of being Boy Scouts, Fascists and Marxists!

The Essex Farmers' terrier man told local sabs that there had been no kill and that the sabs had won.

A North London sab, on a visit to America, made an Illinois paper with a speech about boycotting supermarkets that sell traps.

Last year Valentine cards were sent to *Shooting Times* and the Essex Farmers' FH. This year the BFSS received a card with the wording, "Wherever you go, Whatever you do, The antis will always be thinking of you".

A South Wales sab was first told to get off "his land" by a hunter and then asked to go back on by the real landowner, who was anti-hunt.

The Brighton Group advertised their sponsored walk and were pleased to see a crowd of several hundred lining the streets. Then it was realised that the crowd was for the start of the Milk Race that day!

In January a Hastings bus company, who run day-excursions to meets of the local hunt, were picketted by a human barricade of antis, who tried to stop the bus leaving. The sabs paraded with banners, in front of the bus, through the streets of Hastings.

The Kendal & District Otterhunt accused local sabs of being paid by the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) to go out sabbing!

Threatened demos by antis last year caused one hunt to change the venue for its Boxing Day meet and another to cancel.

Vegetarian sabs are in for a treat when they visit the Quorn FH; instead of the usual heavy tactics one supporter vents his anger by throwing handfuls of peanuts at sabs!

After an Essex Group radio broadcast the DJ decided to join the LACS!

On the Dunstan Harriers a sab helped a badly shaken, fallen woman rider—and was later thumped for his troubles by a hunter!

When the Surrey Union FH kept hounds in a covert to avoid sabs a supporter was heard to say, "... this is f... ing rubbish, I should have stayed at home and watched the races".

A Surrey shopkeeper refused to serve sabs and accused them of being "layabout student drug-takers". A HOWL poster was later left in his window with the inscription "George Holder sniffs glue". (George is the Surrey Union huntsman.)

According to a Southdown FH follower "dogs don't kill sheep, and anyway a dog won't go into a private garden". (Funny place to keep sheep!) Even stranger is the behaviour of foxes in Bucks. according to a Vale of Aylesbury supporter "foxes kill babies in prams"!

At the Hunt Ball at Beaulieu last year the familiar smell of antimate filled the air; one of the *invited* guests was a saboteur!

Surrey Union sabs were 'ridden out of town' (Leatherhead) by two policemen when a 'Killaspray' containing sab special exploded and soaked the two policemen!

An Enfield Chase supporter told sabs he was against violence and bloodshed—and then proceeded to boast about the number of Germans he had killed in the last war.

A saboteur was told by a Dartmoor Otterhunt supporter that he was endangering the lives of sheep. "The sheep may breathe the antimate up into their eyes (?) and blind themselves."

East Essex hunters told sabs that they breed all their foxes, otherwise there wouldn't be enough to hunt.

A Mansfield sab told High Peak Harriers' hunters that the Min. of Ag. had confirmed an outbreak of foot and mouth at a farm two miles away, so the hunters rode away.

At the Huntingdon coursing meet, Buckworth, a courser informed sabs that "hares were put on this earth to be chased by greyhounds".

Courtney Tracy Otterhunt sabs were told by a policeman that you are still allowed to shoot trespassers on your land. "Happens all the time in Liverpool", he said.

A Sussex saboteur trudged across ¾ mile of snow-covered fields, in a wetsuit, in a successfull attempt to locate his horn, which had been thrown into a river by a hunter the day before.

An Essex sab saved a fox with his motorbike—by revving the engine near the earth he foiled the terrier mens' efforts to bolt the fox.

On a sabotage of the Enfield Chase the North London Group met a local caravan-owner who told them that he had seen the hunt releasing foxes the night before.

Two road signs you won't find in the Highway Code, but which have been 'appearing' at some meets are—



LACS Executive Committee member, Dick Course, outstripped Raymond Brookes-Ward (BFSS PRO) in a recent debate with St. Albans law students when he won 63 votes to 15.

Finally, the following quotes are taken from a conversation with Mr. Adlington, Master of the High Peak Harriers and farmer.

"Humane killers cause more suffering than killing by hounds . . ." (He declined to answer when asked if he would prefer to see his cattle slaughtered by a pack of hounds than by a captive-bolt pistol.) When told that one of the sabs was a farm labourer he said, "You should be back at the farm working for your master, not driving round here in a car . . .", and, " . . . where do you get this 'our wildlife' business from? The wildlife of this country belongs to the masters who own the hundreds of acres of land." Then, " . . . if it were not for the work that people like me have done over the years you would not be in a position to run about in one of those (motor-car) on Saturday mornings."

It really seemed to upset him that working people can afford to run a car!

Here's to all those 'exciting moments' in 1977!



Dear Hunt Saboteurs

Thanks for sending HOWL . . . it is passed round to our members and much regret is felt that Canada is a much more violently orientated country as far as 'sportsmen' are concerned. They are invariably drunk and loose off at anything that moves. This involves people and domestic animals so that you often see cows marked in white paint with the word 'COW' so that the hunters hopefully can observe them if they aren't too tanked!

We are re-thinking our tactics considerably, for it is obvious that what we have been doing for the last 20 years isn't doing anything. We are unable to get legislation changed and the greed for furs is such that the trappers are making enormous profits and enlarging their trap lines. It seems an impossible battle, but we mustn't be discouraged. News from people like yourselves helps us to get geared up for the struggle.

All the best
Merlin Andrew, *Action Volunteers, Toronto.*

Dear Editor

I was not particularly shocked or disgusted to read that John Peel's grave was desecrated on January 23rd.

The reason? Perhaps my senses were still numb from the sight that greeted me the day before, on a hunt, when I saw 10 adults take 9 young children to watch a terrified fox being dug out and killed. *That's* what I call obscene.

(Name withheld by request)

Dear Editor

In any argument or debate about fox-hunting, one can guarantee that those in favour will point out that a Royal Commission—the Scott Henderson Committee—came out in favour of hunting. Below I set out some information with which to ram Scott Henderson firmly back down the throats of fox-hunters.

I quote from para 181 of the Scott Henderson Report.

> " . . . the practice of bolting the fox and hunting it further seems needlessly cruel and should in our view be prohibited."

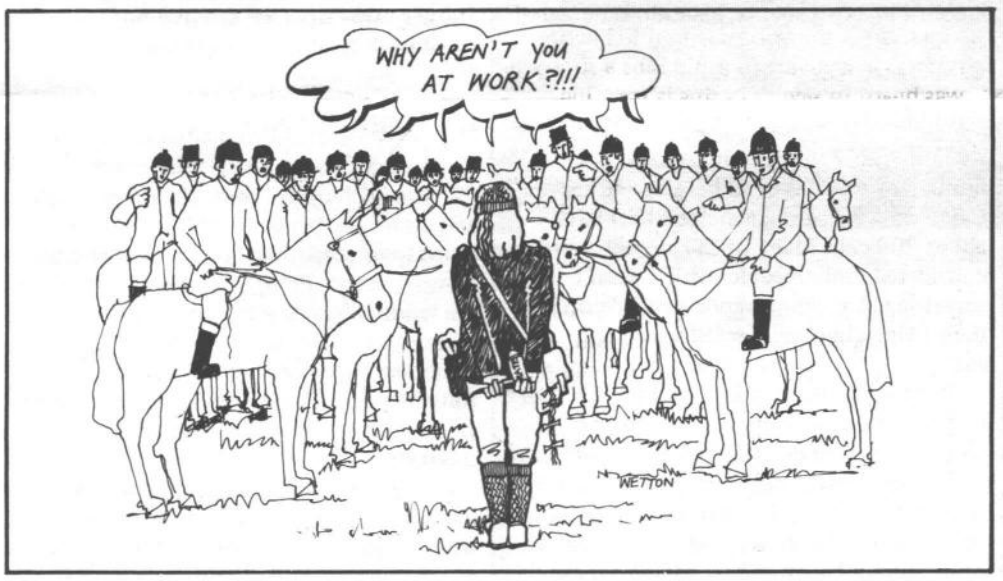
I recently came across a pile of old Horse and Hound magazines and I selected one weekly issue from each hunting month of the following seasons—Nov. to April 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73. Therein I read 841 accounts of 'a day hunting foxes', submitted from Hunts all over the country. In those 841 accounts I found 56 reports of foxes being hunted, put to ground, bolted, and hunted again.

According to the BFSS, 8 hunts operate 4 days per week, 35—3 days per week, 50—2½ days per week, 87—2 days per week, 2—1½ days per week and 2—1 day per week. That gives a total of 421 'meets' per week or about 11,000 'days hunting' per season.

Assuming the H & H reports to be typical then it follows that in 11,000 days hunting there are well over 700 occasions per season when a fox is hunted, put to ground, bolted, and hunted again.

In other words, 700 times each season, foxhunters indulge in a practice which a committee in favour of hunting regarded as 'needlessly cruel' and which they considered 'should be prohibited'. Is it not strange that fox-hunters urge us to accept the findings of a committee which they ignore themselves?

Sincerely
John Bryant, *Chard, Somerset.*



ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

Much controversy has arisen from the ALF's recent announcement that they are prepared to use fire-bombs to further their aims.

The ALF, the most militant of the pro-animal actionist organisations, who believe that life comes before property, have assured the public that their actions are in no way designed to endanger animal *or* human life.

In a recent Evening News interview, with four masked members, the group admitted rescuing animals (including beagles) being bred for eventual experimentation, immobilising vehicles belonging to animal breeders and hampering the activities of hunts and battery farms, in all parts of the country.

Although it was suggested, by a speaker in the House of Lords, in December, that ALF members should be "boiled in oil", the Evening Standard received *only* offers of support and funds for the group.

Like it or not, these militant actions have brought the plight of misused animals to the public eye. We can only hope that these efforts will not be in vain and that someday soon such campaigns will be invalidated by the pressure of public opinion crying for 'animal rights'.

BOOK REVIEW

The Declining Otter
—a guide to its conservation
by Angela King, John Ottaway and Angela Potter (on behalf of Friends of the Earth Otter Campaign)

from FOE Otter Campaign, c/o Yew Tree Cottage, Chaffcombe, nr Chard, Somerset, 1976 **75p**

Otters do far more good than harm on fishing rivers; the mink has no adverse effect on otter populations; the otter has been much maligned for centuries; the killing of otters should be prohibited; hunting mink harms the otter by destroying its habitat and disturbing its peace of mind.

These are just some of the conclusions reached by the Otter Campaign and published in this booklet. In a clear and simple manner it deals with the life-style of the otter, its habitat and needs and other relevant topics.

It doesn't, of course, discuss the moral standpoint of killing for fun, but it doesn't need to. Point by point it destroys every argument put forward by otterhunters for the continuance of their sport. An 'action guide' is also included.

This booklet is worth 75p of anybody's money and we would especially recommend it to any sab venturing into otterhunting territory this season.

FORUM

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

DIGGING FOR VICTORY?

- Tombstone (ex Potman's Weekly)

After reading the 'hunting-press' today, I have decided to review the current situation with regards to bloodsports.

The hunters are up in arms about the desecration of John Peel's grave and have thrown in the usual waffle about spraying fluid into hounds' eyes, harming horses and sabotaging kennels. They blame these deeds on what they term "field sports abolitionists." Without wishing to pronounce judgment on any of these supposed actions let me ask immediately "who the hell are they to criticise?" These people who have spent their lifetimes gorging themselves on veal, paté, chickens and other niceties from the concentration camps that are our farms; people who swagger around Meets wearing fur coats, fur hats and sporting such charming trophies as a stag's hoof, a fox's brush, or an otter's penis bone; people whose contempt of the law is shown by their willingness to hire heavies to beat up saboteurs and whose idea of fair play is to punch girls in the face and stab rabbits with pitchforks; these people have the audacity to criticise abolitionists who, despite whatever else they may do make few demands on, or take much from, the animal kingdom.

To the abolitionist life and living creatures are important, not property. This is the fundamental difference between him and the hunter; the hunter sees the world from the opposite side, to him only property matters. Against this argument hunters invariably retort that abolitionists don't care about property because they haven't got any(!), and that they are simply jealous of those that have. In adopting this line the hunters are bound to admit that they have the property, so it is, in fact, *they* who introduce class into the conflict. The abolitionist has never viewed the battle as a class war; class is the province of the hunt supporter, "Get back to your ghettoes!"; "Go and demonstrate in your slums you townie bastards!", are comments commonly, and recently, heard. Are the landed gentry becoming concerned that they may lose their property to the unclean rabble demonstrating against them? In their warped minds do they see this as some kind of working class insurrection? Rather is it not true that it is simply easier to whip up hatred against Marxist theory than it is against Animal Welfare theory? Putting the abolitionist in the shoes of the Marxist makes him a violent revolutionary, and gives the hunter a licence to kick and punch him at every opportunity, hence the marked increase in violence on hunts.

Whilst the hunters call us Marxists, people with impartial views such as news reporters and pressmen have the infuriating tendency to call us animal-lovers. What an obscene term that is! It has implications of bestiality and, personally speaking, however much I may like, say, sheep, I don't like them that much! The most I would say is that I have *respect* for animals. I don't surround myself with pets and I don't swoon at the sight of a cow but I do respect their right to life and it is fundamental to my beliefs that their right to life is equal to my own. I am not trying to be anthropomorphic and say that animals should have all the luxuries of 20th century man, but I am saying that they have the right to live out their existence on the planet that gave them birth in a manner that is natural to them. Man will no doubt, at times, infringe upon this right, but when he does so he should have a damn good cause, not simply that he does it for fun!

Which brings me back to John Peel. Here we have the folk-hero of the Foxhunting set. His grave was a shrine to which past, present, and future foxhunters came to pay homage. In imitation of his lifestyle they slaughter foxes by the thousand, fifteen thousand in England alone this season, and this has been going on for more than one hundred years! He died peacefully and lay peacefully in his grave, yet the lesson he taught, namely that killing for fun was honourable, has resulted in an agonising death for more than *1½ million* foxes. Surely the amazing thing was, not so much that someone had actually dug him up and cast him into a cesspit, but rather that no-one had actually felt impelled to do it a whole century earlier!!?!

A BITE IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH

Anti-hunt activists have released vipers in an Italian hunting region in a bid to stop the annual slaughter of birds by fanatical gun-toters. Typical of non-active, animal welfare society thinking is this comment from Hamburg's anti-bird-slaughter committee, "Although we sympathise with the protestors' aims this is no way to deal with the problem".

. . . AND TALKING OF BITES

At a recent meeting of the Coquetdale & Borders Coursing Club a running hare turned and nipped a pursuing greyhound on the nose and escaped unhurt . . . and at a December meet of the Seavington FH the terrier man was bitten through his boot by a fox he bolted from a drain. A rabies injection was prescribed.

COUNTRY LIFE

This issue we look at a gay but belligerent creature, often seen strutting around our countryside, head held high, back erect and beak in the air.

As its name implies *weekendus cottaga* is a part-time rural inhabitant with a 2nd nest in the country which, like the cuckoo, it has often taken over at the expense of the original inhabitant. The rest of the week is spent in a large town, or city, enjoying the more lavish surroundings of its permanent home. Here, it is thought, *w.c.* takes on the more sombre colours (and strange round head-plumage) of the 'common townie'.

On Friday nights *w.c.* can be observed migrating to its country nest and overnight its plumage alters to a more conspicuous hue—red breast and back, with white and black legs giving rise to its more familiar name 'redcoat'. The reason for the change is unclear. It is possibly a mating signal but, more likely, a display whereby it asserts its dominance over permanent country residents, such as the 'villaga'.

In the country *w.c.* is rarely seen alone but gathers with others of its genre to hunt in a sort of symbiotic relationship with a horse; and while in this group, or flock, will chirp or 'natter'. These chirpings seem completely meaningless, probably acting more as mutual self-assurance than intelligent communication.

W.C. is extremely territorial and although tolerating encroachments by most other species it will, on spotting *huntus saboteurus,* scream 'ohmaigawd antehs'. Following this it raises itself to its full height and emits a sqwarking 'gehtorf mailand'. Despite this frightening and ferocious display *w.c.* invariably backs down when challenged and hops off to seek solace with its contemporaries.

After only a few hours hunting, the flocks become restless and flap to their country nests and by the evening their crops will be full of their favourite matured and fermented fruit—grapes.

Weekendus cottaga is found almost exclusively in Britain; in any other country it would be shot as a pest or destroyed as a parasite.

Coursing Chaos

In HOWL 6 we reported on the Waterloo Cup 1976. In that article we expressed a hope that it would be the last Waterloo. However, the Lord's Select Committee saw fit to dismiss the Bill for the Abolition of Hare Coursing and on the 11th February the 136th Waterloo Cup finals were run.

On the second day, of this 3-day event, we understand that 27 hares (out of 56 coursed) were sacrificed in the name of 'sport' and one greyhound was put down after a hard run had resulted in a broken leg. On the 3rd day (11th) approx. 130 sabs from places as widely spread as Exeter and Newcastle gathered to give a voice to the hares and did their best to prevent them from being coursed.

After meeting at Formby Station for an initial briefing the sabs decamped to the fields at Great Altcar and were greeted by a line of policemen backed by 2 mounted colleagues. Yet again sabs were warned about being 'good' boys and girls and, with mounted escort, allowed to walk along the public road skirting one side of the coursing field.



Up and down, up and down

For half an hour the 130 paraded up and down, up and down, and then, as the first course finished, with a mighty yell about 70 volunteers ran onto the coursing field. As though a giant magnet were being dragged under the turf small clusters of sabs, like iron filings, clung together as the police in regulation wellies followed on to remove the obstruction. Four mounted police joined in, but it took yet another half hour to clear the field before coursing could continue.

During the rest of the day bands of roving sabs could be observed harrassing the work of the paid beaters, with whistles, rattles and fireworks (which the police refer to as 'offensive weapons') as they vainly tried to find hares to course. Eventually the coursing arena had to be shifted a mile away in order to find hares for the last two courses.



The Tiller girls have got nothing on us!

Although the sabs were better organised this year the increased police numbers and the presence of both mounted police and dog-handlers were a great hindrance to their effectiveness. Granted the police were there to do a job but the degree of officiousness with which they carried out their task was unjustifiable.



PWC Diana Slater looks for more likely arrests

At the end of the day 37 saboteurs had been arrested and charged and 2 reported for charge. Their joint offence, "That you at Altcar . . . did use threatening, abusive and insulting words or behaviour, whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned." Not once during the day were saboteurs in direct conflict with coursing supporters; in fact sabs had been told to ignore them, and that's just what they did. But you can bet your wellies that the police will make the charges stick, after all coursing is 'a legal pursuit'!!

Finally, thanks must go to the kind person, or persons, unknown who threw the barbed-wire fence surrounding the coursing field into the ditch enabling sabs to run on and the persons unknown who beat the fields in the early morning in a partially successful attempt to scare away the hares.



"My horse has taken a liking to you"

Footnote One joker sab tried to sell toilet paper to nervous sabs at Formby Railway Station at 30p a square!; both sabs and police were observed rescuing stranded worms from the public highway; upon being asked if he had any statement to make, after being charged, one sab replied, "All hare-coursers wear red knickers". One wonders what the magistrate will make of that information!

ANIMAL ABUSES

☐ 23 skinned carcases have recently been discovered in 4 separate locations in the West Country but there seems to be some difference of opinion as to which species the bodies belong. A Police Inspector from Wells is satisfied that they are foxes whereas an RSPCA Inspector from Salisbury says they are definitely whippets!

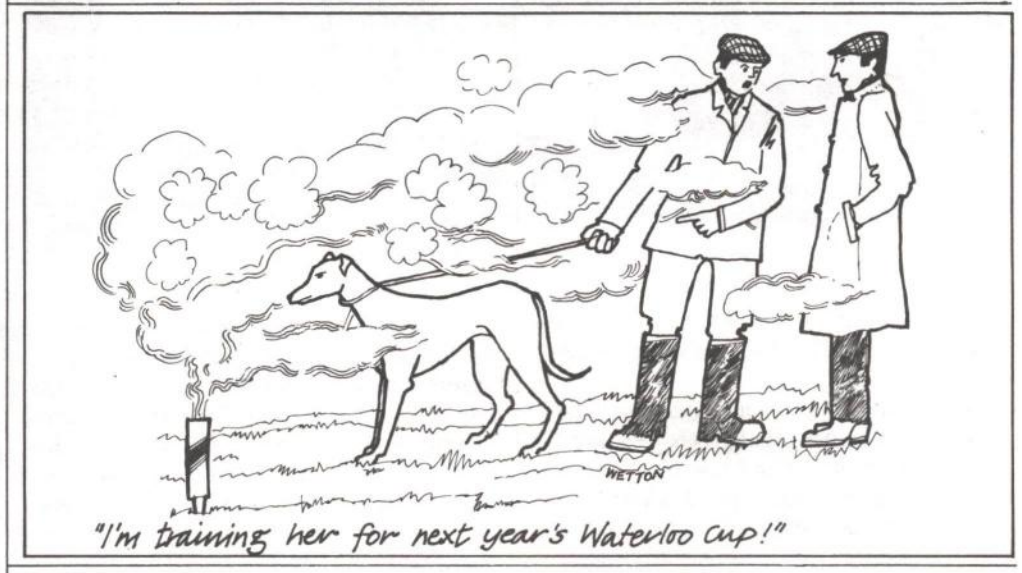
Douglas Ayre, Joint Master of the West Somerset Vale FH said that he would not be surprised to learn that the skinned animals *were* foxes, and further stated, "There is a world of difference between fox-hunting and the people who trap and skin animals. I am sure all huntsmen would like to see this cruel practice stamped out." Presumably it's OK for hunters to take the brush, mask and pads of the vanquished fox but to take the entire skin is 'dastardly'!

☐ It seems that skinned fox carcases are likely to turn up in the North too after Darlington Hell's Angels started sporting whole fox pelts, complete with mask, on their helmets. Haggis, a 21 year old chapter member, said, "We could become fashion setters for all the other chapters." Perhaps this perverted practice has already caught on in the West Country.

☐ Still more intriguing are the recently published facts about 'fox-moving' in the North East. (Fox-moving takes place when a hunt country has a shortage of foxes and 'certain' people will supply suitable stock—for a price).

Of the 5 or so hunts in the Darlington area, the South Durham, Zetland and Goathland have denied any knowledge of this practice. But it seems certain that at least two hunts have made approaches to a man in Cockfield, near Bishop Auckland, with a view to buying from a stock of captive foxes on his farm. Kevin Shepherd, a terrier breeder who clears foxes from farmland, said, "I refused to get foxes for two hunts. I am not a hunting man but I know it happens." Jack Clark, Master of the Goathland said, with typical pro-hunting ambiguity, that fox-moving was "fairly wide-spread" but it was being carried out by "thugs with terriers" .ho were paid £10 a pelt by furriers. "Nothing to do with hunting."

It doesn't surprise us that the whole affair has been denied by the hunting fraternity, after all if it did get out . . . the blushes would be nationwide!



"I'm training her for next year's Waterloo Cup!"

OLAC CLOSURE

OLAC Western Ltd, breeders of animals for laboratory experiments, have closed down their huge cat and dog breeding station at Capel Issac, Wales. This followed a history of bad publicity, largely contributed by the *Sunday People* newspaper.

The RSPCA stepped in to handle the homing of the 700 or so beagles and the Cats Protection League helped deal with about 200 cats. Many of the animals were considered 'unhomeable' which wasn't surprising as previous reports had described their living quarters as small wire-mesh cages.

Previous to the demise of OLAC 11 beagles were sprung by animal rescuers in an attempt to draw attention to the premises.

The amount of publicity given to the closure resulted in thousands of the usual apathetic general public coming forward to offer homes. One wonders what all these so-called 'animal lovers' do in the way of fighting animal exploitation the rest of the time. Perhaps it's a case of 'what the eye doesn't see . . . .'

ROYAL JUBILEE

As a special treat to commemorate the Royal Jubilee junketings we promise not to mention Royalty in the next issue!

BUT MEANWHILE . . .

The Royal Family are also doing their bit for *Animal Welfare Year*. While dear Mark and Anne are regularly taking part in the bloodsport scene, the voice of the people, namely, Prince Philip, has this to say about the Wildfowlers Association of Great Britain & Ireland, in his role as President. "The more members of the shooting fraternity to join this Association the more effective it will be in looking after their interests."

It has been admitted that man-about-the-minesweepers, Charles, doesn't like the kill when he joins his blood-letting sister on one of her mediaeval jaunts. It's also been let out of the bag (no, not the fox this time) that Charles doesn't like to get letters from antis 'cos it upsets him, so all those avid pen-pushers . . . !

Of course the Royal family are concerned about the amount of wildlife that will be left for future generations. A lady-in-waiting to the Queen was reported as saying "They're kept terribly busy. It's a tremendous burden keeping the number of stags down and culling the grouse."

COMMON MARKET BAG

☐ Eight French business men slaughtered 268 pheasants and 20 ducks in Garandon Park, Leicestershire on a day trip from Paris costing them £250 each. It is expected that this financially viable practice will be continued and more day trippers will be giving a one way ticket to our wildlife on other estates in the Midlands in the future.

☐ Perhaps a shortage of wildlife in France has driven them over here as 1975 official Government figures show an over-indulgence in the art of potmanship. Gallant French "sportsmen" shot a total of 25,875,000 thrushes, 7,500,000 pheasants, 7,500,000 partridges, 4,000,000 water-fowl, 3,150,000 hares, 58,000 roe buck, 48,000 wild boar and 6,600 stags. The British must share the guilt in this carnage, we import the thrushes—pickled.

TICKHAM TERROR

Almost a year after three members of the Tickham Hunt attacked and whipped 60 year old Fred Piddock, two of the assailants, George and Ann Clinch appeared in court at Maidstone, Kent, charged with causing 'actual bodily harm'.

The police presented a typically understated case for the prosecution when George and Ann pleaded guilty to the offence. Their action resulted in their defence giving a long, tedious and fictitious account of what they considered to be mitigating circumstances. This successfully prevented any of Fred's four witnesses from being able to present the true facts.

The verdict given was 'conditional discharge' for one year and the following words of comfort were offered to Ann and George, "It may be that they went marginally further than the law permits". If this is not a licence for hunt brutality what is?

Fred Piddock is now taking out a private prosecution.

The hunt officials were so concerned about the incident that they have since promoted George from amateur whipper-in to official 2nd whipper in!

FUR FLIES

Amongst the many activities by Animal Activists have been a series of fur demos throughout the country, including a sit-in at Harrods' £5,000,000 fur exhibition. The sit-in, carried out while other AA members were picketing fur shops in Oxford St., closed down the exhibition at a peak shopping time. Harrods' heavies sealed off the fur hall and harrassed the activists for almost an hour before they agreed to leave.

Although Harrods sighed with relief they were more than upset to find, the following Saturday, another 25 AA members picketting outside their infamous store. As a result of this last demo AA got the chance to show the real facts of the fur trade on the 'London Programme' (ITV) two weeks later.

If you want to know more about AA write to **PO Box 6, Crowborough, Sussex.**

WE NEED HELP!

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

TO: HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION PO Box 19 Tonbridge Kent

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

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