Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer 2004

HOWL 81

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

HUNTSMAN GUILTY OF HOUND CRUELTY

GROUP NEWS ROUND UP

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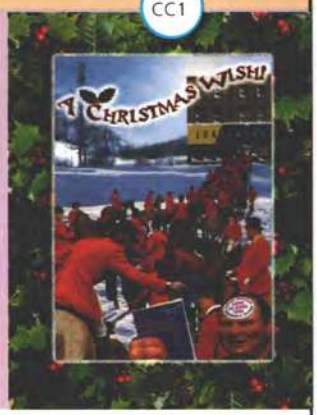
HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

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HOWL 81

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to 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 / donations should go towards the running of the H.S.A and directly helping saboteurs in the field.

Editor	Dan & Mr. D
40th Editor	Dawn
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big taverymuch to	The office crew, & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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♻
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The views expressed in *Howl* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the HSA 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. That would be naughty.

EDITORIAL(S)

Welcome to Howl 81...
and it's a howl that isn't arriving late – fancy that.

Since the last edition we have seen the final last meets of the season as it comes to a close and gives us a little breather before we start those stalls and other fundraisers throughout the Summer (don't remind me!) to carry us through the rest of the year. So this gives me opportunity to suggest you support your local group either directly in the field or financially through stall or in a form of a donation. After all without funds no animals can be saved directly in the field, nor can the HSA continue to operate.

I am really pleased to welcome Mr D, who is assisting in the making of howl for the foreseeable future. He has already lifted some of the pressure, and already he has proven to help out no end. I'd also like to thank Cher, who I have sang along with for the past two days while sat here putting together the pieces that has become *Howl* 81.

So all is left for me to say now is many thanks to all those who have sent in stuff, however useful or crap, and I will look forward to our AGM and 40th Anniversary party. I really hope you can join us to celebrate the 40 hard years of the HSA.

Dan
Howl Editor I

As this issue lands on your doormats news will have broken over the decisions to be made regarding DEFRA's badger cull, and of-cause we're left wondering what species might be next. Assuming of-cause it won't still be the long suffering Brock.

Rumour is also gathering momentum over the future of hunting with dogs, I'm not even going to attempt a speculation, just to ask all those ex-sabs to please, please, have a little re-think. Your experience of having been an active sab is so much more valuable than training fresh blood. You can be instantly back in circulation with no supervision required. Every sab group would welcome you back at this time and by September this year we might be fighting harder than ever. New faces in a group are great news but old ones, still smiling, are the best.

Welcome to *Howl* 81 anyway, I have re-joined the committee to assist the editing team of our magazine. Comments, observations, questions are always welcome so feel free to drop us an e-mail - *howl.editor@virgin.net*

Lastly, may I just invite everyone who upholds the beliefs of the HSA to attend its 40th anniversary get together, young or, not so, on Saturday 31st July, details to be found on the back cover. This is a special moment for us and we should not let it pass unnoticed. Happy reading!

Mr. D
Howl Editor II

DAVE "THE MAIN MAN" PARRY - OBITUARY

Dave took his own life in January, after the agony of his inherited genetic illness became too much. He was in his early forties. He is sadly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Dave's sabbing days began in 1986 with visits to the Old Berkley Beagles. He had a personal hand in saving the lives of hares, and other hunted wildlife, from then on.

Dave was a big part of the Oxford HSA's exploits for the next five years. He had an instantly likable personality, and unfailing optimism. He could, and would, do "whatever it takes" to save the fox. Dave continued to be the scourge of the hunt with the Oxfordshire Vale HSA, until life took him South West. He was undoubtedly a father figure for the Plymouth HSA of the early nineties. Dave never forgot his mates or his roots, and old friendships were regularly reignited during the Ytene Mink Hunt sabs of that era.

Dave suffered a lot of personal tragedy in his time. He had been sober for the last seven years. He lost a sister prematurely, and was denied the chance to be a father to his daughter Tasha. He was desperately ill for many months, but literally only days before he died, he was talking to me about getting out there and saving lil' ol' brother dusty feet.

Dave The Main Man, rest in peace.

Joe Hashman
January 2004

The South Cornwall FH -the last tally ho!:
Hunt folds as Huntsman arrested for hound cruelty



In February 2004, an end of 30 years worth of animal cruelty, hunt violence and abuse came to an end for the South Cornwall Foxhounds. Now the last huntsman to ever hunt the South Cornwall again has been convicted of causing unnecessary cruelty, its time to look back on what had to be one of the most poorly run and supported hunts in the country, thanks to saboteurs.

First sabotage of this hunt began in the late 80's, early 90's. The hunt country lied between Fowey, Bodmin and St Austell and the main of it was on lease from the neighbouring hunts the Four Burrow hunt and the North Cornwall Foxhounds.

The South Cornwall became the main focus of local sabs for some years. The meets were originally 3 times per week and field support alone was somewhere in the region of 50-70 riders. But once sabs were on the scene regularly, this dramatically changed.

The meets went down to once a week to Saturday, mounted support dwindled to around 10 and the number of supporting members was severely cut. Several times it was confirmed that the hunt was close to collapse because of lack of financial support. The huntsman was also not providing the blood needed to keep the supporters tagging along, and was forced to stand down. This is when the now convicted huntsman and master Steve Parkin took over.

Sabs moved off to do the local, larger hunts, knowing the South Cornwall Foxhounds had lost most of its reputation and that the number of foxes killed were next to none compared to other neighbouring hunts. Even to the day of collapse, the South Cornwall were made a joke of. Violence among the supporters left against sabs had become almost a weekly occurrence.

The South Cornwall was then left for a few years, until more sabs popped up in their direction. It then became a regular for sabs at around 4 or 5 seasons ago. The number of mounted support had gone up. But within two seasons, this was back down again, as sabs can successfully report that not one single fox was killed while they were out with them.

Pubs that hosted meets were starting to become wary and wouldn't host anymore. The hunting country was becoming less at every opening meet. The local sabs also had support from local land owners in the middle of the country. This proved very helpful in the times of need, with their land being used to call hounds on to where they were taken for walkies.

In March 2001, huntsman Steve Parkin hunted the hounds on the busy Par to Newquay railway line. 11 hounds were hit in total, and 3 so badly injured they were shot. A year later the hounds were filmed crossing the line again. In the same year, hounds trespassed on land belonging to an ex RSPCA anti hunt council member and on the same day were filmed entering a Cornwall Wildlife Trust nature reserve, where hunting was not welcome. Many paths and footbridges were damaged.

So in February 2004 it came as no surprise when the RSPCA began prosecutions against the huntsman and master Steve Parkin for cruelty to a hound when he was arrested by the police in September 2003. This hound is still in the hands of an RSPCA rescue centre. An emergency meeting was held by the committee of the South Cornwall Hunt where it was agreed the hunt would close. The rest of the pack has been split between both the Four Burrow hunt and the North Cornwall Foxhounds, and the hunting country given back to those it was leased from.

The hound in question, 11 month old Roxy, was inspected by a local RSPCA officer who found Roxy emaciate, lethargic and unable to stand and weighed just 12.3 Kilos, at least half the suitable weight for a hound of her size. Now she has recovered she weighs 25.7 Kilos. Her mouth was also covered in ulcers and blood was coming from her anus; both attributed to malnutrition, which Mr Parkin later suggested was because Roxy had ingested Rat Poison.

The court also heard how the dogs were kept in filthy conditions, with sodden, urine-soaked bedding. There was a hole in the roof of the building where the hounds were kept, which let all the rain in. RSPCA inspector Rob Skinner told the court: "The poor hound was certainly close to death. As I watched her in the hunt kennels she was swaying from side to side and looked ready to collapse." The vet Michael King who inspected Roxy also spoke in court and said "I would consider the suffering caused would have been over a period of at least several weeks."

Steve Parkin was charged with causing unnecessary suffering which he initially denied, but later changed his story at a later hearing and pleaded guilty to the charges. On the 6th May, Steve Parkin was sentenced at Bodmin Magistrates court. He was banned by magistrates for 5 years from keeping any dogs and was ordered to pay £200. In addition he was also given a 12 month conditional discharge.

So, all in all, not bad coming from a huntsman who is quoted as saying "I look after and care for my hounds as much as I do my own daughter". Lets hope he manages to take her to the vet.

MAN IS FINED OVER FOX KILLING

A Borders forestry worker has become the second person to be convicted under Scotland's foxhunting legislation. Stephen Scott, 20, was fined £300 at Jedburgh Sheriff Court.

Only one other prosecution has been successful under the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act since it was passed in the year 2000.

Scott had pleaded guilty to sending a lurcher and two terriers into a fox's den near his home town of Hawick last January.

His two co-accused, brothers Ian and Paul Marshall, both walked free after prosecutor Graham Fraser accepted not guilty pleas. The court was told that two foxes had fled the den at Flex Farm but one was caught and killed by the lurcher. Sentencing Scott, he said parliament had provided the court with the option of jailing him for up to six months but as he was a first offender a fine of £300 was more appropriate.

The previous successful prosecution under the new act was in Tayside earlier this year.

Speaking after the sentence, Lothian and Borders Police wildlife officer Mark Rafferty admitted he was disappointed with the outcome of the case, but he insisted that the force would continue to prosecute anyone who breaches the act.
March 2004

COVER STORY: LADY CUTS THROUGH THE CHASE





Red-faced stag hunters had to abandon their chase when a well known member of the local landed gentry confronted them armed with an antique shotgun.

Members of the *Ward Union Stag hunt* encountered more than they had bargained for after they had encroached on the lands of Lord Dunsany in Co Meath. And they had to abandon their hunt with their tails between their legs after they were confronted by an angry Lady Maria Dunsany armed with an antique shotgun.

Lady Dunsany, who moved to Ireland from her native Brazil after her marriage to Lord Dunsany, became aware that the riders had encroached on her families land after two Hunt Saboteurs called at her door. She then grabbed an antique shotgun from the walls of Dunsany Castle and went out to confront the trespassers.

'I took an antique from the wall which has not been used for 150 years' Lady Dunsany told the Star. I said 'You are all very pompous, Irish pretending to be English and I am a woman and I like respect'.

Lady Dunsany said the riders - many of whom are neighbours and former guests of the family apologised for the incident the following morning.
March 2004

HUNTSMAN JAILED FOR SEX ATTACKS

A Cornish huntsman and horse breeder has been exposed as an "evil" sex offender after being convicted at Truro Crown Court of three offences of indecent assault.

David Stephens, a dedicated rider with the *Four Burrow Hunt*, was jailed for a total of four-and-a-half years for sexually abusing three young women and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Stephens, aged 44, of Lower Carvinack Farm, Kenwyn, Truro, was convicted of three offences of indecent assault, which he had denied. He admitted having attempted to pervert the course of justice by asking two friends to give him a false alibi.

The jury of seven men and five women were in retirement for more than six hours over two days before returning their unanimous verdicts.

He has been disqualified for life from working with children under the age of 18 and ordered to register as a sex offender indefinitely.
April 2004



TEARS AT ROYAL SHOOT

Norfolk's royal estate issued an apology after a pheasant shoot close to a nearby school left pupils distressed and in tears.

Children as young as eight watched as birds were blasted out of the sky in a field opposite St George's Middle School, Dersingham - a couple of miles from Sandringham House, where the Queen and other members of the Royal Family are enjoying their traditional new year break.

About 230 youngsters were in the playground for their morning break as dead pheasants fell by the school hedge and their corpses were collected by gundogs. Some were so distraught that they chose to write letters of protest, which last night prompted an apology from the estate and a promise not to shoot near the school during break-times again.

By lunchtime, about a dozen children had already started writing letters to pass on to Sandringham, asking for the shoot not to happen again. Some were worried that they could have been shot by accident.
March 2004

NEWS IN BRIEF

Running out of breath in the field?
Not strong enough to lift a pack of Howls? Getting nasty comments about weak and feeble vegans while doing a stall? *www.veganfitness.net*

72% say Irish foxes should be protected
Irish anti-blood sport campaigners are using a web site to poll the public upon whether or not foxes should be fully protected in Ireland. At the time of writing it stood at 72% voting yes and 25% voting no. Take a look by visiting *http://homepage.eircom.net/~foxwatchireland/home.htm*

Otis Ferry
Otis Ferry, blood junkie son of Roxy music star Bryan Ferry is to take a joint mastership with the *South Shropshire FH* from May 1st 2004. Otis last made a name for himself by being arrested for sticking CA posters at the home of Tony Blair in August 2002.

One fat lady shuts up...
...but not nearly enough...
One fat lady Clarrisa Dickson Wright has had to shut down her bookshop in Edinburgh as a result of her financial position after her bankruptcy. "If I hadn't gone bankrupt, I would have kept it open. It never washed its face (pot calling kettle black – Ed), I had to put money into it every year" Clarrisa said.

Uplifting experience
A farmer escaped jail after a sheriff court heard James Forrester used his mechanical digger to impale a landrover and lift it ten feet into the air before repeatedly slamming it onto the ground, causing £6000 damages. He had discovered two shooters inside the vehicle on his land in an area plagued by poachers. On leaving court he commented, "I was in more danger than them. They had guns, I didn't."

League under cover film stops welsh hunt
The league against cruel sports has succeeded in having a welsh gun pack suspended after filming its activities under cover. The film shows foxes not being promptly destroyed according to hunt rules and received national TV news coverage. Even the countryside alliance expressed concern at the activities of the Plas Machynlleth Foxhounds and endorsed the decision to hold an enquiry. Subsequently, a committee of enquiry held by the federation of welsh packs at Builth Wells has rejected the allegations made by LACS of causing unnecessary suffering.

Labour peer
Labour peer baroness Golding has been appointed chairperson of the countryside alliance's campaign for angling.

Digging Out
The Digging Out campaign is a new anti terrier work campaign. Please visit their website at *www.diggingout.org*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gamekeeper cleared on technicality
A gamekeeper caught on film taking a peregrine falcon chick from it's nest has walked free from court after a controversial ruling. A Peebles sheriff decided evidence from RSPB officers was inadmissible as they were on private land without permission. John Mcleod of Hayton estate, near Peebles was filmed taking the protected bird of prey and putting it into a rucksack, in contravention of the wildlife and countryside act. The RSPB are said to be appealing the decision.

Whaley returns
The most entertaining of huntsmen Jeremy Whaley is set to return to the south after a ten year absence spent as joint master of the Berwickshire hunt and joint master and huntsman at the Borders bloodhounds. He wishes to set up a new bloodhound pack in the south. (*I literally cannot wait - Ed*)

Sabbing rated number 4 in top ten
Loaded magazine has accorded its trip out with south east sabs in March 2000, a number four rating in its top ten moments over the last ten years.

First person fined under watson act
The first person to be charged with an offence after hunting with dogs was banned in Scotland under the protection of wild mammals act was fined £300 at Jedburgh sheriff court. Stephen Scott from Hawick admitted hunting a fox with three dogs during January of February 2003. Speaking after the court hearing PC Rafferty, a wildlife liaison officer said. "There is a commitment by wildlife crime officers that we will enforce this act."

Robotic Foxhounds
A serb inventor claims he has designed a tiny robot, which can hunt foxes better than conventional hounds. Zoran Kostic says "the 1.4 kilo robot is small enough to follow the fox into its den. The robot runs on caterpillar tracks and uses high-tech cameras and sensors to hunt down foxes and guide followers to their dens."

Gamekeeper convicted of persecuting protected raptor
Reg Cripps, an experienced gamekeeper from Derbyshire was given a three month suspended sentence at Buxton Magistrate's court for allegedly disturbing a goshawk's nest. He is expected to appeal the conviction.

Illegal traps found on renowned estate
Five illegal gin traps, allegedly found by passers-by, have been found on Scotland's renowned Cawdor estate. Both the estate and the countryside alliance have been quick to try and place the blame with animal rights campaigners in the run up to the vote on snaring amendments to the nature conservation (Scotland) bill in the Scottish parliament.

ANGLERS TO FACE RSPCA INSPECTION



Fish farms and anglers are to face checks by inspectors from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) amid new scientific claims that fish can feel pain.

It has confirmed it will now investigate complaints alleging cruelty and is prepared to prosecute whenever appropriate.

Animal welfare campaigners have long argued fish have sufficient consciousness to feel pain, but anglers say their brains are too small and primitive to produce such self-awareness.

The latest study, published in an academic journal, comes down on the side of those who say fish are sentient and capable of suffering.

In the past five years the RSPCA has investigated 23 complaints of cruelty to fish and taken three other cases to court, but all involved pets or pet shops. It has never investigated cruelty on fish farms or in angling.
April 2004

HUNT CAUSES DAMAGE AND DISRUPTION

Hunters and hounds damaged gardens and disrupted traffic as they chased a fox through Broughton. The chase by the *Warwickshire Hunt*, based at Little Kineton, rampaged into the village streets at around 2pm from the direction of Broughton Grange.

The scenes were captured on camera by anti-hunt group Protect Our Wild Animals (POWA), who filmed the hounds trampling gardens, breaking through a fence and jumping over a garden wall. The terrier man for the hunt was also seen driving a quad bike along the pavement, breaking several traffic laws.

One villager was reduced to tears after seeing her cat chased out of her garden by the hounds.

Hunt master Sharmian Green played down the actions of the hounds.
April 2004

FOUR HEDGEHOGS SPARED AS CULL BEGINS



Four hedgehogs on Uist have been spared slaughter by the Government as the widespread cull of the prickly animal starts.

The hedgehogs have been safely secured by a local woman on Benbecula, who has handed them in but has declined the £80 bounty offered by the rescue consortium.

Scottish Natural Heritage, with its partners the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Scottish Executive, is stepping up its controversial cull to completely eradicate the animals from Uist, but various animal charities set up Uist Hedgehog Rescue to oversee a rescue campaign. While some volunteers will participate in the night-time searches for hedgehogs over the next two months, they will extensively rely on the goodwill of locals to bring in the animals.

It is offering a £20 for each hedgehog safely handed in to the collection point at Taighe Na Cille, 22 Balivanich, Benbecula. The offer lasts from now until the end of May which coincides with the crucial period when the hedgehogs wake from hibernation until they start mating.

Hedgehogs will be located at night by 13 fieldworkers involved in the cull. Captured animals will be taken to a facility where they will be anaesthetised with gas, before being given a lethal injection.

For more information on the rescue campaign and how you can help, please contact *The Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Shropshire, SY8 3PL. Donations can also be accepted at this address.*

HUNT IN DOGHOUSE OVER DOG BITE

The *Cheshire Hunt's* entire pack of hounds is in the doghouse after it was claimed one of them bit an animal rights campaigner.

The pack has been placed on the Cheshire Police dog bite register because it cannot be proved which individual dog was responsible for the alleged attack. The register is used by police to gather intelligence on dog attacks where there is not enough evidence to prosecute, but can be used in evidence if there are other reported incidents.

Chris Owen, a member of the League Against Cruel Sports, says he suffered bites to his hand and arm and a scratched face when the 20-strong pack ran through his garden in Clotton, near Tarporley, looking for a fox. He claims some of the hounds burst through his back door and ran around his house. He says he was bitten as he tried to unbolt a gate to get the dogs out.

The Cheshire Hunt has apologised to Mr Owen for the dogs trespassing. Joint hunt master Richard Thomas, who is also chief executive of Chester Racecourse, claimed Mr Owen was known to have had foxes on his property, which may have attracted the hounds.
February 2004

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE BANNED

The Countryside Alliance have been banned from holding a £250,000 black-tie dinner in the Great Hall of the Royal Courts of Justice.

Jonny Wilkinson, England's rugby hero, and the jockey Frankie Dettori are supporting the fundraiser. But the Court Service cancelled because the alliance is an "organisation that is not conducive with this department's impartiality and independence".

Ian Lucas, the Labour MP for Wrexham, tabled a series of parliamentary questions accusing the alliance of breaching the rules preventing non-charitable campaign groups using the Royal Courts of Justice.

Mr Lucas said: "How the Countryside Alliance thought they could get away with a high-profile fundraiser in the Royal Courts of Justice, the pinnacle of the neutral justice system, is beyond me. They claim to be the persecuted rural minority, but this shows them to be among the rich metropolitan elite."
March *2004*

HUNT FLOUTS RULE TO STAY OUT OF FOREST

An investigation has been launched after hunters illegally chased animals through banned Forestry Commission land, it was revealed.

Dog walkers claim they saw dozens of riders from *Quantock Staghounds* charging through Wind Down Forest, flouting the commission's ban on stag hunting on its land.



They alerted the commission which dispatched a ranger to the scene who confronted a number of riders. A letter will be sent to the hunt warning it about future transgressions.

Yesterday Anne Heritage, a film studies student from Bridgwater, said the incident has put her off walking her dog Dreadlock on the hills. "It was very distressing," she said. "We were frightened that hunt dogs could attack Dreadlock, that we would see a kill. I just wish they would keep off the land they are banned from.

Anne, 44, who was walking with friend Roy Franklin, said they spotted a herd of 20 deer running towards them.

Hunt master Enid Baker admitted the group had trespassed on the commission land, but said it had only been one or two riders chasing errant hounds.
March 2004

HUNTSMANS BALLS



"Our hounds are steady with all forms of livestock and we are proud of the discipline of our pack."
Harvey Paulger, Joint Master of the North Dartmoor Beagles, after hounds strayed onto land causing two lambing ewes to miscarry.
Western Morning News - April 2004.

"We are not cruel or arrogant."
Harvey Paulger (again), Joint Master of the North Dartmoor Beagles.
Western Morning News - April 2004.

"It would be a major contribution to common sense and real democracy in Britain if anti-hunting MPs bothered to get out of Westminster into the countryside on a cold, wet Saturday to witness saboteurs in action".
(We couldn't agree more - Ed)
Michael Clayton in Horse & Hound 19 Feb 2004

"What is the dividing line between sabotage and terrorism I wonder?"
Michael again.
Well, sabotage saves the lives of animals being terrorised by animal abusers and terrorism...
Horse & Hound 19 Feb 2004

"If a fox is doing no harm, leave it alone" Stephen Todd, retiring gamekeeper.
So why hunt them then?
Horse & Hound 19 Feb 2004

"Get out of the countryside and leave us alone you pot headed veggies, go make your self useful, do a days work or join up and shoot some muslims in the deserts."
Email sent to Southern Anti Bloodsports Society from PPhilneale@aol.com
- sorry about the spleling. April 2004



Huntsman in nasty fall
Bedale huntsman Richard Tabberer had quite a nasty fall while out hunting. He managed to crack two ribs and his shoulder, putting him out of action for a few weeks.
January 2004

Gate jumper injured
Newcastle and district huntsman Alasdair Storerer was forced to hunt hounds on a quad bike for a few weeks after trying to jump over a five bar gate, resulting in him requiring hospital treatment and a number of stitches.
December 2003

Master and huntsman hospitalised
The master and huntsman of the Albrighton and Woodland chase Peter Swann had a serious fall when his horse threw him off its back. He was rushed into hospital where they had to operate and wire up his broken arm, and he was forced to stay in hospital for two days.
November 2003

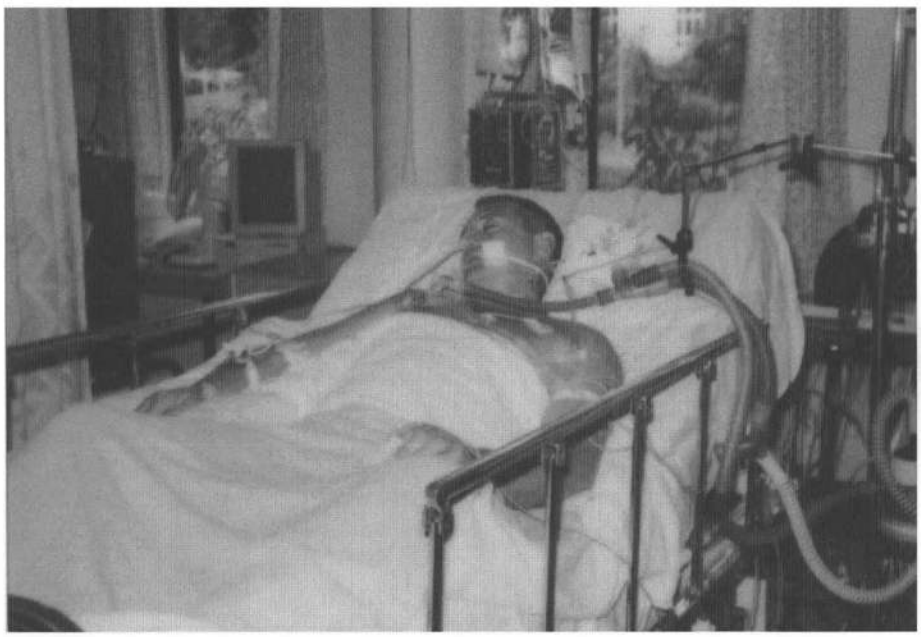
Point to point cancelled
The Holcombe Fox Hounds' point-to-point got off to a bad start. Torrential rain and gale force winds led to the cancellation of this event. The committee made every effort to proceed but at 2 pm they bowed to the inevitable.
March 2004

Death at hunt ball
A member of the Garth and South Berks dropped dead of a heart attack while on the dance floor. Nick Cunningham keeled over at 1:30am at the Trunkwell house hotel, Reading while boogying the night away. Police are trying to establish whether drugs were involved.
January 2004

Riders death
A millionaire Harley Street doctor told yesterday of his heartbreak at watching his daughter die after she fell while trying to clear a fence at a horse-riding event. Dr Ossie Jones said he realised Antonia, 23, would die from a brain haemorrhage. The physician said Antonia, a seasoned event rider, and three friends entered the Hampshire Hunt Pony Club's event. She died the next day.
June 2004

JUSTICE FOR STEVE CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The criminal injuries compensation panel (CICA) sat at the end of April to hear Steve's appeal for compensation. As Steve arrived, along with witnesses the panel immediately adjourned the hearing because his alleged assailant had not been given the opportunity to attend. There is a clause in the recent human rights act that gives those alleged to have caused injury the opportunity to explain their actions.



The Justice for Steve Christmas Campaign is still very active and a full report on developments will appear in the near future. Meanwhile Steve is having to fund things out of his own pocket and he cannot work on medical grounds.

If you can help please send a donation to, JSCC, P.O. box 1072, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2ZT

HARE COURSING EXPOSED

Animal rights groups have released what they say is "shocking" video of hare coursing.

About 10,000 people were expected to attend the three-day Waterloo Cup in Altcar, Lancashire, an event regularly attracts dozens of protesters. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) hopes the footage will persuade people to back a ban.

The video, which has also been backed by the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, shows two hunting dogs chasing down a hare before pulling it in opposite directions while it is still alive.

The campaign against the Waterloo Cup has been backed by vet Emma Milne, from the BBC's Vets in Practice programme, and West Lancashire MP Colin Pickthall. The Labour politician said: "Hare coursing is the most horrible of a wide range of unpopular blood sports.

"The Waterloo Cup, which takes place in my constituency, is its major event. The elected chamber has consistently voted by huge majorities to ban hunting with dogs. Our will cannot be ignored. I am confident that the end of coursing with dogs is nigh."
February 2004



LANDOWNER HITS OUT AT HUNTSMEN

A Forest of Dean man has hit out at huntsmen who he claims have repeatedly trespassed on his land.

Gary Ginger, 34, of Common Grove Cottage, English Bicknor, a nurse, said the Cotswold Vale Hunt went across his land on despite being told they were not wanted. He watched in horror as hounds chased his elderly cat Blackie around the field.

Mr Ginger even fears that the stress led to the death of the cat who died of heart failure three days later. The huntsmen had first gone on to Mr Ginger's land towards the end of November or beginning of December.

Mrs Judy Pullen, one of the masters of the hunt, said she was not aware of any problems between Mr Ginger and the hunt. She said: "Maybe he spoke to someone else and the message didn't reach me, I can only apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Mr Ginger used to run the Forest Animal Rescue Centre from his cottage and kept some of the animals, including Blackie, at his cottage when the centre was closed.
March 2004



HOUNDS INVADE SANCTUARY

An animal sanctuary owner has called for an end to hunting after hounds terrorised her animals for a second time in four months.

Caroline Cannon, who runs Rainbow Animal Sanctuary on the Wiltshire-Dorset border, said 15 foxhounds from the South and West Wiltshire Hunt ran wild across her land and she caught it on camera.

She said that for more than five hours they terrified her eight elderly and frail ponies and her herd of more than 50 goats. It was the first time since October that the hunt has descended on the area of Semley, near Shaftsbury, when Mrs Cannon first spoke out after nine hounds ran amok at her sanctuary.

According to Mrs Cannon, the dogs dug their way out of the pony enclosure and escaped into a neighbouring farm where they sent its flock of sheep into fits of terror and broke an electric fence. But despite assurances from hunt master Adam Waugh that all steps would be taken to stop a repeat of the drama, Mrs Cannon claims the huntsmen made no effort to stop their dogs in the second incident of trespass.

Mr Waugh was not available for comment.
January 2004

SUPPORT

ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Those imprisoned for 'Animal Rights' Offences need your support. Show them you care by sending letters of support - These are greatly appreciated by most prisoners. **Please remember letters are opened before they reach prisoners so don't write anything stupid in them!**

Most prisons now allow stamped addressed envelopes to be sent in with your letters and cards. Please enclose these if you write, so that prisoners don't waste their limited funds on postage.

As well as writing you can help support AR prisoners by sending a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group and the Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG) who provide financial help and support for them.

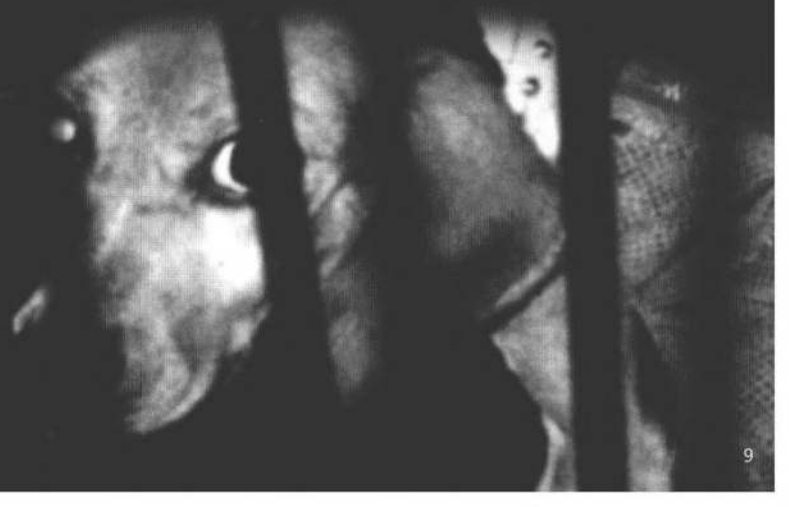
A.L.F.S.G. : Make cheques/P.O's payable to 'A.L.F. Supporters Group'. Send to A.L.F S.G., BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX *www.alfsg.org.uk*

VPSG: PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK.
Tel/Fax: *+44 (0)20 82 92 83 25* email: *info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org*

DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Rye Hill
Onley
Warwickshire
CV23 8AN
Serving 10 years: 3 for GBH on HLS director Brian Cass, 18 months for burglary of 600 Newchurch guinea pigs & 5 1/2 years for possessing explosives.

PAUL LE BOUTILLIER
KA9326
HMP Hull
Hedon Road
Hull HU9 5LS
Serving 5 years in relation to making phone calls to Covance staff, HLS share holders, hunt masters in the North York's area, farmers, agricultural suppliers, shooters etc.

PAUL HOLLIDAY
KA9328, HMP Lindholme
Bawtry Road, Hatfield
Woodhouse, Doncaster
Yorks DN7 6EE
Serving 18 months in relation to making phone calls to Covance staff, HLS share holders, hunt masters in the North York's area, farmers, agricultural suppliers, shooters etc.



CHOO CHOO BOO!

DORSET SABS SUFFER NEW TWIST IN BIAS POLICING

Hunt sabs in Dorset claim the British Transport Police is failing in its duty to prevent trespass by hunts because its officers are ignoring offences. One local protestor said "They are effectively being paid to go out and support the hunt". The Cattistock Hunt has also been lambasted for putting lives at risk through its irresponsible behaviour.

On 7 February 2004, two British Transport Police officers were spotted observing the Cattistock hunt in Dorset who were in the vicinity of the Weymouth-Yeovil train line. While the hunt were a safe distance from the train lines at 3pm, the officers were cosying up in their vehicle watching the hunt search for foxes in a valley. Half an hour later, when hounds trespassed on the train line at Chantmarle, shortly before a train passed through, the officers were nowhere to be seen.

At approximately 3:35pm hounds were spotted below a railway bridge and photographed by two saboteurs. Whilst trying to take the photos one of the sabs was allegedly reversed into by the hunt terrier man's Landrover and received bruising, whilst another was threatened by a supporter of the hunt. Hounds were still on the track, half a mile on from the bridge at 3:37pm as protestors with video cameras arrived. A train passed through at 3:39pm. By this point hounds had been recovered from the track by the whipper-in and terrier man for the hunt.



When anti-hunt protestors caught up with the officers and made a complaint, they claim they were told that the trespass "doesn't matter".

The Cattistock Hunt put at risk the lives of its hounds and its staff as well as the driver and passengers on the train. Their arrogance shows their contempt for other people's rights and the law. The failure of British Transport Police to prosecute hunts when they trespass on railway lines could explain why hunt trespass on rail lines happens regularly each hunting season. We are just grateful that no hounds died in this incident.

" There was no problem at all. No person or horse is allowed to cross the line. We know that and we did no wrong."

Tessa Jackson, master of the Cattistock Hunt

The previous night a local protestor had been phoned by a senior representative of British Transport Police and told that they would not tolerate trespass from either the hunt or saboteurs and that officers are only there to ensure that there is "nothing on the line at all". The call followed a previous complaint about the conduct of the local officers who had been following the hunt and failed to act when the hunt trespassed a few weeks previously.

The local officers have also recently acted out of their jurisdiction when they cautioned a hunt saboteur over an incident that had no connection with the railway. Local protestors claim that this shows an affinity with the hunt and could explain the reluctance to prosecute them. According to the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, "British Transport Police can only investigate crime on or in connection with railway property or railway affairs."

In an article published by the western gazette, Simon Lubin of British Transport Police also went so far as to make a false claim that he admitted he could not substantiate: "We have had problems with hunt saboteurs in the past who have led hounds across the lines - not that we have been able to prove it." So, Mr Lubin, if you can't prove it why are you saying it unless you are pro-hunt and trying to dirty the reputation of hunt saboteurs? Making unfounded allegations sounds like bias to us.

Interestingly, Tessa Jackson, master of the Cattistock Hunt, said "There was no problem at all. No person or horse is allowed to cross the line. We know that and we did no wrong." So, as long as you technically don't break the law, it's OK to put at risk the lives of passengers and train drivers by allowing your hounds to stray onto the line.





To claim that they did "no wrong" in putting hounds' lives at risk is yet another example of how hunting animals can be victims as much as the wildlife that is chased, and how they are viewed as dispensable. It must not be forgotten that thousands of perfectly healthy hounds are shot every year because they are not able to provide a suitable level of enjoyment for hunting folk.

Tessa is also wife of the Director of the Master of Foxhounds Association, Alistair Jackson. The MFHA is the "regulatory body" for fox hunting - the rot goes all the way to the top and the Cattistock are typical of hunts in their attitude towards hounds.





Trespass on a railway line is a criminal offence but it is one which the British Transport Police do not seem to take seriously, with only one prosecution recorded : The Cheshire Foxhounds were successfully prosecuted in May 1994 following a trespass recorded by the League Against Cruel Sports. Three members of the hunt were fined £25. Ouch.

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



***Howl* 82**
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

FROM SUSSEX TO PALESTINE

Dear Editor

At the end of the season 2 Sussex sabs went to Palestine to take part in non violent direct action organized by the international solidarity movement.

We were based in based in Biddu a village on the west bank where the apartheid wall is being built depriving the people of their land, olive trees and water supply. In our time there we went on demos, made solidarity visits, helped volunteer Isreali teachers teach Palestinian kids, took part in a football tournament and visited peoples homes.

We were gassed, shot at with plastic bullets and had stun grenades thrown at us by the Israeli army and saw a young lad shot dead. We did have a worthwhile and constructive time, met lots of good people and ate mountains of good vegan food. If you would like more info *www.palsolidarity.org* or *www.ism-london.org*

Yours in solidarity

M & S

STUCK FOR NUMBERS?

Dear Editor

I wanted to take the opportunity to remind all members of active groups of the importance of pre-spraying. If you find yourselves short handed one day, this really is an ideal method of sabbing a hunt, and in my experience it is comparatively risk free.

I am sure many groups make a point of this anyway, in fact I know some who do. As long as your intelligence is up to date i.e. through keeping hit reports you can do so much to help both the fox and yourselves, with a little bit of tactical pre-spraying. Our group is fortunate enough to have assistance at some meets from an older but equally motivated group, and between us we have covered whole swathes of hunting ground before a meet.

The final meet of our local pack is a perfect example; we knew the meet well (after all they had been in that area three times already this season).

Making a special effort for an earlier start wasn't difficult, as we knew the area well. We split into teams of 4 or 5 and deposited liberal amounts of citronella in all the manageable coverts we knew they would hunt. We also put up a few rookies and attended to any gates they might use, chains used on these gates can were recovered when we knew they had boxed up. Lastly, we unblocked any known setts/earths in the area.

Many times in the past I have seen the very coverts drawn, half an hour after they were sprayed to high heaven. The tactics for pre-spraying are simple and it's done at a walking pace, as long as you're not doing it moments before they hunt through the area you are unlikely to put something up and cause it to run in a dangerous direction. Try it for yourselves next season if you don't already.

A Croydon sab

CAPTION COMPETITION

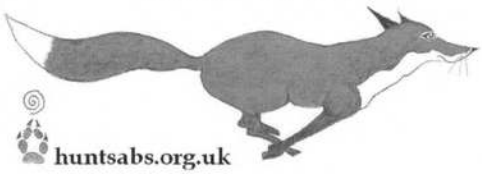


Back by popular demand (and due to so many photos of bumpkins looking mad)

There's an HSA mug up for grabs for the winner of the best caption.

Entries to the new address:
HSA,
HSA BM,
London,
WC1N 3XX.

Temporary Tattoos
in full Colour!



£15 for 100

Cheques made payable to HSA - sent to Reading Hunt Saboteurs, c/o RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS

Just the job for street stalls, green fairs etc. All you need is a bowl of water and a sponge to put them on.

If you knock 'em out at £1 or 50p donation you"ll be quids in....



**"There have been many incidents. Too many to name here.
But some day, when we have won, someone will write a book telling of all that has happened'
Ian Pedlar, 1965.**

And so here we are, *Howl 81*, and the final instalment of the 40th anniversary trilogy. This section brings us up to date with the history of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, covering the late 1980's to the Blair Government ban promises (?) of current day. The infamous Dave Wetton takes us back in time to the all important 'Open Door' programme of 1974, explains how it came about and what it meant for an organisation then still in its infancy. The oft quoted (see above!) Ian Pedlar also takes us through the history of stag hunt sabotage, with a recap on the 'Save our Stags' campaign. (And why has this stuff not been in chronological order, I hear you say...because it's the sodding HSA that's why, my friend. You gotta love us).

Seriously though, putting this stuff together has made me look back on my 12 years as a hunt sab (and 12 years is nothing compared with most of the sabs that I'm lucky enough to know!). I pulled out my first ever *Howl* (Summer 1992, No 49) to have look through again and quickly found that not only could I name some of the sabs in the photos, but I had sabbed with some of them! Some things could have come from any recent edition of *Howl*, such as the photo of the 'Oxford van after being rammed by a tractor', or indeed the piece on 'sabbing angling'. It still made me laugh too, especially the photo caption stating 'Oxford sab viciously assaults two police officers whilst causing considerable damage to the pavement with his face'. You gotta laugh .

The only disappointment was the discovery of a photo I used to used on posters for the Uni AR group I was involved in, when advertising meetings and demos. The photo was of Miles Cooper holding a baby munjac killed by the Vale of Aylesbury. I used to love that damn photo, as to me it represented exactly what sabs seek to prevent. Shame that Miles obviously doesn't feel the same these days...Still, people come and go, and hunt sabotage continue to save lives, here and now.

Here's to another 40 years....Bugger off!

Cheers

Dawn – 40th Anniversary Ed

P.S. A big thank you to all who have taken the time and energy to contribute to this walk down memory lane. Special thanks must go to Dave Wetton – Dave, I couldn't have done it without you, and indeed the HSA wouldn't be what it is without you!

P.P.S You know the bit in the Weekend Guardian Magazine where they do a questionnaire with someone vaguely famous? I always read the answer to the question of 'How would you like to be remembered?', and have always thought that 'With a smile' was the best answer. On reflection I think if I was asked I'd say 'As a hunt saboteur'. 'Nuff said.

For Mike and Tom

This celebration of the Hunt Saboteurs Association 40th season is dedicated to Mike Hill and Tom Worby, two hunt sabs who went out to simply save the lives of hunted animals and who never came back. For those that continue the fight, you will never be forgotten.

The History

of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (Part III)

15 more years - The Battle continues

So, the last two Howls have brought us up to 1988, but there's still a lot of ground (usually freshly ploughed and bloody hard to run across) to cover. Here the HSA's own Research Officer bring us up to date with our final trip down memory lane...

Following its 25th anniversary in 1988, the HSA carried on sabotaging hunts up and down the country with increasing frequency and regularity. Mid-week sabs became the norm in addition to the usual Saturdays and yet more new groups popped up across the country. However, there were arguments among the membership over tactics – in the main regarding the relatively new tactic of 'hunting on' against the more traditional 'stop' tactics. To try and establish 'official' tactics amongst a group of people with such strong feelings as hunt sabs proved to be difficult, other than that they remained non-violent and harmed no animal or human. In the long run, no consensus was ever reached and sabs to this day use one, the other or a combination of the two depending on circumstances...

In the late 80s there was a lot of debate about the direction the HSA should take. Meanwhile the administrative base moved direction to Nottingham, but of course in typical HSA fashion has moved twice since!

In the early 90s, sabbing propelled itself forward into a world of new technology with the advent of the gizmo. A quite simple concept, the amplification of a tape of hounds in cry, it proved devastating on its first outings, with the reaction from hunt supporters being typically violent and destructive. It was not until the mid-late 90s that the gizmo came into widespread use, but it has proved itself a worthy addition to the sabs' toolkit.



The 9th February 1991 marked a dark day in the history of animal rights and more specifically hunt sabotage. The increasing violence that sabs faced at hunts had meant attacks were unfortunately often seen as the norm, but on this day Mike Hill, an 18 year old saboteur out with Liverpool sabs, was killed whilst sabotaging the Cheshire Beagles. He had been one of three sabs who had gotten into the back of the hound trailer in an attempt to prevent the hunt leaving the meet, as sabs feared the hunt would simply go off and hunt elsewhere. However the driver of the vehicle, huntsman Alan Summersgill, drove off at high speed with complete disregard to the safety of those on the back of the trailer (and indeed the hounds).



Mike, in fear of his life, decided to jump from the back of the trailer on a corner as he thought Summersgill had slowed sufficiently for a safe escape. In truth the vehicle was still going far too fast, and Mike ended up under the wheels of the trailer. The two other sabs eventually managed to get Summersgill to stop, but only after smashing the window of the vehicle. They ran back to help Mike, but Summersgill simply drove off. The death of Mike, a dedicated animal right's activist and hunt sab, was a loss felt deeply across the movement. In fact many people where simply in shock that something so terrible could happen. And then there was outrage at the injustice of such a loss. The response of many sabs was to gather at Doddlestone, where the huntsman lived and the beagles were kennelled. Unfortunately, as a result of damage to the kennels during this demonstration, a number of sabs faced charges of riot. Whilst some were acquitted, 14 were found guilty of public order offences and 6 sent to jail. A strange kind of justice metered out prison to people for being present when property was damaged, yet there was no punishment for someone who took another's life. The eventual investigation into Mike's death ruled it 'accidental', but to this day the hunt saboteurs hold the Cheshire Beagles responsible for the death of Mike Hill.

Sabotage of course continued despite the loss of Mike, and indeed he would have wanted it that way. Understandably activity in Cheshire was targeted particularly on the Cheshire Beagles, who were forced immediately to take their sordid activities underground. The Cheshire Police noticeably changed tack, and from the early to mid 1990's a policy of mass arrests reigned within the county. It was not unusual for 40 sabs to turn up on a Saturday in Cheshire, and it was also not unusual for the same 40 sabs to be found confined within the walls of a Constabulary's station for the duration of the days events. Such mass arrest practices represented a mass infringement of civil liberties, and later successful suing cases by sabs put a stop to this outrageous approach.



In stark comparison to such areas, the early '90s saw successful liaison with some police forces. This enabled some groups to sabotage hunts that were otherwise too dangerous, or enabled sabs to reduce the numbers needed due to policing becoming more reasonable. There was a lot of debate and disagreement among sabs who had often been faced with the police acting as agents of the hunt – practically a private police force. However, in addition to enabling some groups to save more lives, police liaison also resulted in the sending to jail of two hunt supporters after a sab was pushed under a moving quad at the *Bicester with Whaddon Chase*.

August 1992 saw the arrival of a new breed of hired hunt heavy in the form of 'private security'. *RKR Security* (above) and *Countrywatch* appeared at the *Northumberland Beagling Festival* and numerous hunts to enforce civil law – using 'reasonable force' to keep sabs off private land. It came as no surprise whatsoever that many of the 'stewards' accompanying these firms were well known violent hunt supporters, local nightclub bouncers or even football hooligans. If there was any initial intention that sabs would only be guided off the land with minimal force this quickly went out the window with reports coming in from across the country of attacks and some arrests and prosecutions. The plan didn't work. In some areas tactics changed, and in others there was large-scale confrontation, but the hunters weren't getting value for money so they pulled the plug on the professionals. Although to this day some hunt thugs still don a 'Steward' armband or hat before trying to kick the crap out of a sab.

1993 saw the largest single gathering of sabs in one place when almost 400 attended a hit on the *New Forest* in response to years of hunt violence. Unsurprisingly the hunt packed up early, which meant sabs were able to move on and pack up the *Wilton FH*, *Surrey Union* and *New Forest Beagles*.



The 3rd April 1993 marked the unthinkable, and saw the HSA mourning the death of a second sab. Tom Worby, only 15 and on his first sab, died after being run over by a vehicle as he sabotaged a meet of the Cambridgeshire Hunt. As with the death of Mike, the unbelievable had happened and hunt saboteurs up and down the country were in shock. The press, rather than be outraged at the waste of a second life, saw fit only to try to dredge up stories where there were none. Forget the obvious story of a young life lost by a boy who was simply trying to safe lives, and instead bring on totally negative press interest which saw the HSA being portrayed as a bunch of neo-nazis indoctrinating children. Yet again sabs had paid the ultimate price, but had received no justice – a story that was to become all too familiar. To rub salt into the wound there was no prosecution – not even for dangerous driving.

As ever, hunt sabotage went on, as to stop would be the ultimate betrayal of those that we had lost, both in terms of human and animal lives. In 1993 the HSA took on yet another technological leap and embraced the internet. Recent events had clearly demonstrated that the usual media channels couldn't be trusted to carry the hunt sabotage message, and the ability to get the truth about hunting out via the website was crucial.

The webmaster at the time commented 'The HSA website started way back in October 1993, a time when most organisations were not even aware of the Internet, much less using it as a campaigning tool. From the start the HSA website has carried tactics info, news, press releases, articles, legal advice and even full publications, putting the HSA (as always) well ahead of the curve in using all means necessary to campaign against bloodsports. In fact, the HSA was so far ahead of the curve in being 'early adopters' of the web as a campaigning tool that at the time the HSA website started, even Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft was dismissing the Internet as 'a fad for geeks'. Ten years on and the web is rightly recognised as a valuable tool for any organisation wishing to communicate it's message to a wide audience - just we saw it first Bill!' The brilliance of the net is that even if media outlets under the influence of the police or bloodsports enthusiasts refuse to run our news, the rest of the world can still read it and we edit it!.

With hunt saboteurs regularly saving lives and spoiling a good days fun, the hunting fraternity decided to pull some strings to get hunt sabotage turned into an illegal activity. An all too willing Michael Howard, then Home Secretary, was all ears (and fangs if you believe the rumours). The result was Sections 68 and 69 of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, also known as Aggravated Trespass and Failing to Leave Land. Whilst it proceeded through Parliament as a Bill, sabs were joined in their opposition to it by ravers, squatters and travellers who were also going to be affected by the Bill, and also by those who opposed it on libertarian grounds or who saw the radical opposition to the Bill as a recruiting ground for their political causes. There were several large demonstrations in London and numerous meetings and events around the country culminating in 'The Battle of Hyde Park' in October '94. The HSA, never backward in coming forward when an opportunity presented itself to get its name out and about, put together a fantastic booklet entitled 'Who's afraid of the CJA?' which outlined the importance of hunt sabotage and, more importantly, why the CJA wouldn't stop it!



WHO'S AFRAID OF THE CJA?

a report on the first season of the implementation of the new offense of aggravated trespass

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

THE HISTORY OF THE CJA FROM 1986-94

Following the Act becoming law, although sabotaging a hunt was not illegal per se, in some circumstances it could be. Some predicted that the Act would spell 'the end of sabbing as we know it', whilst others made it clear they would gladly risk imprisonment and carry on saving wild animals regardless of the law. The implementation of the new CJA, as it became known, was targeted heavily at sabs with only minor usage against other minority and protest groups. Whilst there was a noticeable drop in numbers of sabs immediately after the law came in, activities have returned to a healthier level. And whilst it has made sabbing more complicated in some circumstances, the CJA failed to stop us. And as for the other groups opposed to the Act? When the court cases started they just left us to it. It seems solidarity is an easy word to use when there is no risk of imprisonment or a fine attached to it. Of course, to this day, the cops are still managing to make a hopeless mess of trying to use the law to stop us saving lives. But then, no-one said saving lives was going to be a picnic!

November 1996 saw the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles start a new recruitment campaign. Realising that most of their support were likely to drop dead in the middle of a field any day soon, they decided to recruit new blood with 'National Beagling Day'. Since the early 80s many beagle packs had stopped advertising their meets and virtually gone underground due to the effectiveness of sabs – and the embarrassment caused by having their own pack stolen from under their nose! National Beagling Day involved almost every pack advertising in Horse and Hound.

Consequently, many fox hunts got a reprieve as sabs gleefully adopted a pack of beagles for the day and took them for a kill-free run. The next year, many packs were reluctant to advertise for fear of a repeat and advertised meets had dropped to a third by 1998. The great recruitment campaign had failed miserably and November 2000 saw the last National Beagling Day – thanks to pressure from hunt saboteurs.

The New Forest Buckhounds disbanded at the end of the 1997 season, following almost constant sabbing since 1991. Whilst there have been numerous other closures and 'mergers' during the life of the HSA, this pack is marked out because it was the last remaining registered pack hunting roe deer in England, Scotland and Wales – and the only one hunting deer outside the West Country.

13th December 1997 saw hunt saboteurs thrust into the media again after a mass peaceful sab on the *Hursley Hambledon* was hijacked by persons unknown – possibly the 'Hunt Retribution Squad'. For years the Hursley has had a reputation for violence, hence numbers were required. This provided perfect cover for a trashing spree and numerous vehicles had their windows smashed. The culprits left the area without being caught, but over 40 sabs spent until late on Sunday night in police cells spread across Hampshire. A conspiracy case against three sabs from Portsmouth failed to convict them leading to calls for an enquiry of the police's handling of the incident. Whilst the HSA wanted to distance itself from what had happened, many members of the public who had seen TV footage approached sab stalls asking if that could happen more often! ➲



➲ You can judge something about the country's attitude to hunting when the 'extremist' anti hunters become moderate by comparison!

Countryside All liars

In the late 90s the BFSS reinvented itself as the Countryside Alliance. We couldn't miss out our nemesis in this article but we'll keep it brief in this celebration of sabbing. They have had marches, rallies, you name it – thousands spent on poster campaigns, bent opinion polls and advertising. What they don't quite get is the fact that no matter how many people torture and kill an animal, it doesn't make it alright – in fact it makes it even more of a priority to take action against it as the cruelty is more widespread.



A sab makes use of an unlikely piece of equipment



Copper is coaxed out of the burrow....



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

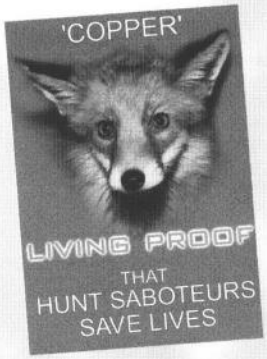


...and placed in a travelling cage.



Copper's cage is carried to a waiting vehicle.

6th February 1999 could have been just another days sabbing on the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray hunt, except for one thing – 'Copper' the fox. When sabs prevented hounds from killing a young fox it went to ground. As per usual, sabs jumped in the hole to prevent a dig out, until a police officer assisted by placing his helmet over the entrance. Copper, as the young fox came to be known, was taken to Hydestile Wildlife Rescue where he was nursed back to help. As well as providing an amusing 'hook' for the press to run a story about sabs saving a fox, the veterinary examination Copper underwent armed the anti-hunt movement with scientific evidence about the way foxes are caught and the stress they suffer. Of course, sabs have known this for years, but now we had some independent professional evidence to back it up. 1999 also saw the arrival of another new job for hunt sabs as what was then MAFF (now DEathFRA) started the infamous badger cull. Sadly it is something that is still requiring attention.



Summer 2000 saw the publication of the Burns Inquiry into hunting. The HSA did not take part in the Burns Inquiry. Firstly, because there was no need for an inquiry – hunting is animal cruelty however you dress it up. Secondly, because the make up of the Panel conducting the Inquiry was proven to have links to hunting. And thirdly because – despite the fact that hunt saboteurs are often closer to the action than anyone else at a hunt – we were not asked to take part! In the end it proved to be a waste of time – and lives – and was merely an excuse to hold up the progress of a Parliamentary ban. What it did do, though, was show how inconsistent many of hunting's claims are and provide us with extra intelligence about some secretive hunting activities.

On 1 September 2000, whilst sabotaging the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Hunt, Croydon sab Steve Christmas was almost killed when he was driven over by a four wheel drive vehicle. Regular readers of *HOWL* will be aware of the lack of action by the CPS in bringing to justice an attempted murder, and for those less versed in these matters the name of Mike and Tom as mentioned above should stand testament to that fact. Strangely, the police et al are always very keen to spend plenty of energy on stopping sabs from saving lives. Although Steve suffered life changing injuries, thankfully he is still alive.

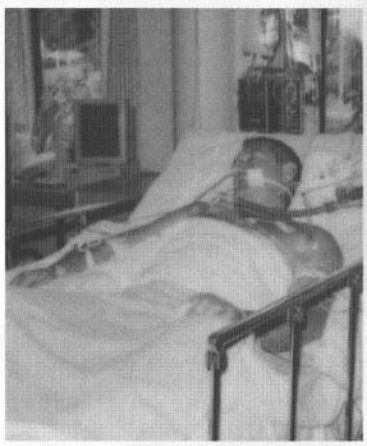
As a result of this attack, the OSBWK has found itself on the receiving end of an 'off field' campaign from the 'Surrey Anti Hunt Campaign' with actions still taking place to this day in support of sabs out in the field.

The immediate response to Steve's attack was for people to gather at the hunt kennels to protest and demand action. However, when hunt staff started swinging at people with weapons, tempers flared and a window was broken. Not much compared to the near killing of a person, but this elicited more resources from the police and CPS. The end result was 2 conspiracy trials. One ended with acquittals after a retrial but in the other case, 5 people were found guilty. Thankfully nobody was imprisoned, but it is still another foul taste of justice that yet again property is placed at a higher value than a sab's life. Steve continues to fight for justice through legal channels to this day, with the ongoing support of the HSA.

Where are we now?

The HSA has now become a firm part of the political landscape regarding hunting with direct mention in Parliament during the passage of the Hunting Bill (for once mentions in Parliament that aren't aimed at further criminalising us), but that has all been covered recently so we'll just take this opportunity to reflect...
Very little has really changed in terms of what goes on. They go out to kill animals and we go out to stop them. What has changed since 1963 is the scale of activity. If it wasn't for the existence of sabs, it is highly likely that there would have been less media interest in hunting, less evidence against it and we might even not be at the stage we are now with the possibility of a ban going through Parliament. Many hunts have merged or disbanded in the period. Others have reduced the number of days they hunt in a week due to persistent sabotage or have had their killing ability reduced. **Thousands of lives have been saved by simple yet effective direct action by hunt saboteurs in the last 40 years** so we think this is something worth celebrating....

There'll be a helluva party at this years AGM so be there!



Sabs speak!

(Scary, but true)



Following on from the more historical accounts of sabbing in the early days which appeared in the last issue, here we present , for your entertainment and delight, a selection of more recent tales from the muddy and sodden world of the hunt saboteur....

Fun with guns! Fun with guns! Fun with guns! Fun with

how mad a days sabbing can be...

'Possibly the best but most continually violent day I have endured as a sab took place at a children's meet of the Surrey Union at Farley Heath in the early 90's. The hunt was sick of being sabbed every day they were out, and had just abandoned Saturday hunting altogether after a national hit.

We stopped them getting one fox right at the start which continued to run in between the pony club kid's horses and their proud parents. About 10 sabs were out but I got knocked out with a riding crop to the head and carted off to hospital for stitches. Although I was seen really quickly at the A&E I was treated but still concussed, which might explain why I thought it was a good idea to go back to the hunt as it was not yet 1 o'clock. I got a taxi back to the hunt and was met by some fairly shocked looking cops who were just helping to load another sab into an ambulance after the huntsman had ridden his horse over the sabs head as he sat in an earth protesting another fox.

When we got back with the hunt the riders, young and old, were lined up happily watching a group of terriermen digging down to a fox in some trampled bracken. As the terrierman dug, he was getting showered with earth from our boots, so much so that he kept having to stop to spit it out and swing a few punches. After about 10 minutes of struggling, he had managed to grip the fox with his left hand and was trying to shoot it with a small pistol. He was waving the gun around and actually pointed it straight in the face of one young female sab - at this point all hell broke loose as we dived on him to get the gun pointing away from anyone. The fox also chose this moment to sink its teeth right into the fleshy part of his hand between the thumb and forefinger, which made him scream even more! A quick thinking sab then somehow managed to grab the fox by the scruff of its neck and its tail, and launched it into mid air away from the terriermen and the riders. The huntsman saw this and sheered the hounds straight onto it, but luckily, we managed to get some spray down and stop them dead with whips and shouts.

The fighting continued from this dig all the way back to the meet which was about 1/2 a mile away, and strangely (as so often seems to happen in situations where the hunt think they have the upper hand) the police were nowhere to be seen.

That day we stopped them killing at 3 different dig-outs (at a childrens meet).My over-riding memory is of that lucky fox, with its legs running in mid air and hitting the ground at full pelt, knowing that we had directly stopped them killing it. A bit of an extreme example of sabbing, but when hunters say we never have any effect, I can think of a few in surrey from that day who could not deny it!'

Loaded gun is snatched by hunt saboteurs

Report by MATTHEW BRACE

A LOADED revolver was snatched from a Cheshire huntsman and thrown into a stream by saboteurs.

The incident happened at a meet of the Cheshire Hounds in Saighton Lane, Aldford, at about 10am on Saturday.

According to a police spokeswoman the huntsman put the gun, a Smith and Wesson loaded with two bullets, on the ground while digging out a fox earth.

A group of sabs

"An early October morning, and we're out cubbing with the Cheshire Foxhounds. This was perhaps my 5th or 6th time out, so I wasn't really sure what was going on...but this was one day out I will always remember! We'd been up with the hunt most of the morning, but had just lost them. The two vans of sabs out (Liverpool and Manchester) came across the huntsman standing in a field at the side of the road. Sabs quickly disembarked and we walked over to see what was going on. It soon became apparent to us that a fox had gone to ground...and it soon became apparent to the huntsman and terrierman present that we weren't too happy about them trying to dig it out,(despite the fact that the terrierman had a loaded gun ready by his side to despatch the fox as soon as he had sight of it). The police quickly arrived, and after no-one voluntered to answer the usual copper's question of 'ok, so who's in charge here?' the situation soon developed into a stand off. 10 minutes into this and the things quickly changed when it was realised that the aforementioned loaded gun had suddenly gone AWOL...Bugger! Much 'Now come on chaps, this is serious' was attempted by the cops, and much poking about in the long grass with a big stick was done by the gormless huntsman (see piccy), but alas the gun was not found. The cops, very unhappy that a loaded gun had gone missing, made sure that the hunt packed up and headed for home, so the fox was left to live another day.

It was later heard that the terrierman was likely to lose his firearm licence due to his carelessness.

A news report a couple of days later mentioned that the gun was eventually found in the river that went through the field we were stood in. Courtesy of a quick-thinking sab with amazing sleight of hand I should say."



Sabs spea

(Scary, but true)

Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days

The Day the Pants Came Down

Autumn 1990 (or thereabouts).....
'As part of the West London crew I had visited the Pytchley foxhunt - although I didn't know it at the time. Back then I just used to show up on a Saturday morning, jump in the back of the van with everyone else and get taken to a hunt. On arrival we would pile out and cause chaos - it didn't matter which hunt it was.

Anyway, after a very productive hour or two with the Pytchley, for a variety of reasons we had to leave in a bit of a hurry. My final memory of that hunt was hurtling away from the hunt in the van only to be confronted by the terrier boys and various hangers on with their vehicles almost blocking the road - there was a gap just big enough to fit a Transit van through. One brave terrier chap saw fit to prevent our escape by standing in the way confident that we would stop. As our need to leave was somewhat pressing our driver put his foot down. We continued on our merry way whilst those of us in the back made disrespectful gestures at the boys as they disappeared into the distance behind us. The twit who had stood in the road had, unfortunately, made a successful dive for safety at the last moment.

We moved onto the North Bucks Beagles who were meeting nearby. We arrived just in time to join the hunt and supporters as they left the meet. Myself and two other sabs made our way into a field, following the huntsman. We saw another sab from our group involved in a minor confrontation with a supporter at the edge of the field. We made our way towards where the sab and supporter were grappling, each having hold of the others shirt collar.

The sab however indicated that he did not need our help. "Get after the hunt" he said. "I'll deal with this clown". The sab in question had something of a reputation for being able to look after himself. We did as he said and continued after the hunt. However, as we turned to go the supporter collapsed to his knees (I'm a little unsure as to how this happened). As he went down he clutched at anything to slow his progress. This included the sab's jogging trousers - which had an elasticated waist and a cord, which had not been tied.
Before the tears of laughter fully obscured my vision I had the image fixed in my mind of the burly sab with his trousers round his ankles (underwear proudly on display) and a hunt supporter kneeling at his feet.

We went on to have a top day with the hunt, saving several hares including one that had run into the middle of the pack.'





"I'd been vegan for a while and drunk heavily whilst attending various university animal rights, earth first and anti-bloodsports meetings...after a while the people there became bored of my alcoholic rambling and wanted some action...i was offered the chance to go sabbing or go to a consort beagles demo..being pissed i said i'd go sabbing...

the next moring, hung-over and regretting everything i left the house at 0700 and cycled to the pick-up point somewhere in east manchester...even tho' i'd worn the 'sensible dark-coloured clothing' and hat it was still f**king cold...i got really lost but eventually made it to the house in time for a cup of tea... it was at this point that my finely-tuned sense of self-preservation began to kick in. luckily the alcohol still kicked harder and i got in the van...

so we trundled off to cheshire on 'mike hill day' for my first sab...the cops were about in big numbers and i seem to remember the van getting searched for turkeys or summink...a very odd experience...anyhow we eventually found what i now believe to be the cheshire foxhounds and so, we piled out of the van...between us and the hunt were a load of coppers who then diverted us onto a footpath away from the hunt but towards a bunch of blokes who up 'til now had been happily blasting pigeons out of the sky....

needless to say the shooting stopped and the possessions of the shooters mysteriously went AWOL..we carried on running as a spotter plane rounded us up and lots of nasty policemen arrested some people and let the rest of us go...feeling a bit worried, i sought sanctuary in a van with some familiar faces only to hear the words 'you're all under arrest to prevent a breach of the peace'. i quickly scoffed my sandwiches before being dragged off, thinking at the time that my mum probably wasn't going to be very happy.

seven years later and with several arrests but no convictions my mum is very happy and i'm still sabbing. and it's still a f**king cool story to tell, especially when the place i first got arrested was called Saighton Woods. blair witch eat your heart out!"





Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days!

September 1994 - Sabbing Shark Angling in Looe, Cornwall

'We stayed in a large house, which had been rented out by the London-based Shark Defence League. Veggie food was provided and we managed to get a decent night's sleep before the harbour-side protests.

We gave the fishermen a noisy send off and had our banners displayed at both sides of the harbour entrance. The Brighton-based Sea Sabs shadowed the convoy of fishing vessels in their fast inflatable dinghy and tried to hinder their progress. The local police were reinforced by a large contingent of officers drafted in from Plymouth. Fishwives came too, and shook their fists at us. We achieved our goal of good media coverage and, because of our actions, in subsequent years the fishermen resigned themselves to tagging the fish and releasing them. Ideally, they should stop catching these highly intelligent creatures altogether.

After marching around the village of Looe we went to beautiful Mevagissey, renowned for its shark fishing trips, to stage a demonstration against an angling shop on the sea front. We decided to have a sit-in in the shop and soon had television cameras in there with us. Eventually the police dragged us out, but we were content that we had drawn attention to our cause and had temporarily prevented any customers from giving their money, albeit temporarily, to one animal abusing business.

After this delightful weekend I returned to my cottage flat in Penzance. The following morning, as I manoeuvred my bicycle out into the road to set off to work, the owner of the small car workshop opposite shouted 'I saw you on TV in the fishing tackle shop - interfering with society!' This was to be the first of many comments to greet me in the morning. I later discovered that the garage proprietor was an ex-policeman.'





Saturday 18 November 2000, Sussex

"We made our way to a meet of the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray Foxhounds* near Billingshurst. I remember it as one of those surprisingly rare Saturdays when it rained heavily all day. The ground had been waterlogged for a long time because of recent flooding. After a gate-securing tour of the area we proceeded to call the hounds away from the huntsman in our usual efficient fashion. However, we did not expect to find ourselves lumbered with almost half the pack. Knowing that the hunt's ability to kill had now been drastically reduced we took the mini-pack on a very long walk much to the amazement of passing ramblers. The hounds seemed quite content with our company and one of us would occasionally blow a horn just to keep them all together.

When it was almost dark we used food to lure them into the sab van and drove back to the meet. Our laps were filled with smelly, steaming canines and I would certainly not recommend them as long distance-travelling companions. The huntsman had not quite finished, so we sped past only to draw the attention of the police. Not wanting to face kidnap charges we quickly swung open the van doors allowing the animals to become reunited with their fellow hounds. A strange howling filled the air as tails wagged and dogs bonded. Shortly after this the hunt packed up without a kill, although by this stage it was not foxes they had been seeking, it was the rest of their pack."



With thanks to....Mister G (AKA 'Fab at 40'), Big D, Taff, Daf, Phil. Not necessarily in that order of course, and not necessarily real names used!

the Open Door breakthrough

In *Howl* 80's 'The History of the HSA (Part II)', Ralph Cook referred to the 'Open Door' programme aired on the BBC in 1975, stating that '...in one jump the HSA had become a force to be reckoned with'. Dave Wetton, a key mover within the HSA at the time and one of those involved in making the programme, describes it as 'a major turning point in the HSA's history'. Here he takes us through exactly how the programme came about, how it was made, and what it meant for the Association. Oh, and how the Tickham FH were also *very* helpful without realising it...



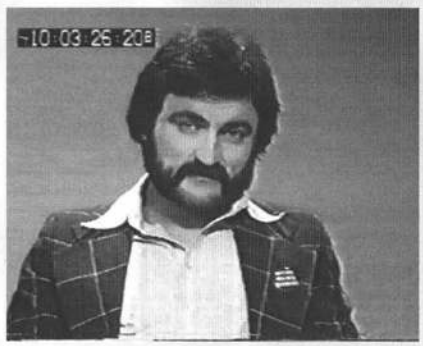
The Sixties had been the learning years for us. We were mainly all in our early 20s with just rudimentary ideas on how such an active group should go about recruiting new members. Certainly for those of us living in the metropolises these were the exciting Beatles/Stones/Carnaby Street years: politically aware times too – the Vietnam War kicked off in this decade. Inevitably there was a fairly high drift in/drift out rate as many of these young folk met future partners and settled down to inactive domestic bliss but some of us stayed the course, seeing ourselves as part of a very worthwhile movement with a clear objective in mind. When it came to expanding our ranks those of us on the committee knew what we were looking for – anti-establishment vegetarians with a liking for rock 'n' roll (well I was anyway). So we placed adverts in 'Private Eye'. 'The Vegetarian' and 'New Musical Express'. A good calibre came in as a result as we slipped into the 70s.

The expansion of the HSA in the 70s occurred in two major jumps. In 1972 The Guardian's Jill Tweedie came out on an otter hunt with us. The resultant half page brought a good number of intellectual lefties and Young Liberals into the fold. We were now getting some hard core individuals in who, with some of the older guard, were to form the basis of what has since become the Animal Rights Movement. By 1975 we were a lot more active against hunts than we'd been before. We were newsworthy and that helped when we applied for one of the 20 minute 'Open Door' spots on BBC TV in October/November that year. We got it, but sooner than expected, due to a vacancy that had arisen.

'Open Door' – Week 1

Our first meeting with the Open Door team was on Friday 7th Nov 1975. Iain McNay (our Chairman) and I (Secretary) were told that we'd be going out to the nation in just 15 days time! We discussed our proposed format and how they could help us with their technical expertise. We'd planned to use a lot of the BBC's news coverage of our activities and started going through old HOWLs and diaries immediately to sort out the dates. This was going to be tight. We all had jobs at the time and simply had to fit in as best we could. On the 10th we spent the whole committee meeting discussing the format. On the evening of the 11th two of us went to the Lime Grove studios in West London to look at whatever clips they'd come up with but most of those we'd referred them to were missing (the British Field Sports Society at work?). So we had to go over to Bob Smith's in SE London – he was the WAPS (Wild Animals Protection Society) cameraman. We went through his 8mm films of hare coursing and WAPS in action (including a training film showing sabs spraying out of a car apparently deep in the English countryside but, in reality, actually round the Keston Ponds area of SE London). This 8mm stuff was less suitable for TV but we had to have something and there was some good basic stuff on fox and otter hunt sabbing in it. Cee, my wife, took the next day off to take them up to the studio for the team to go through. The following day, the 13th, was a series of mad phone calls from the studio telling us that Bob's films were 'no good'. Jesus! Were we going to have to rely on still photos and talking studio heads instead?

Friday the 14th was hectic. It meant another day off work. It took us 2? hours to get to the BBC TV Centre after leaving home at 7.45am. Cee stayed with Bob's films and the newsmen while Iain, Bob, Sue Hough (our Treasurer) and I went to their film editing house nearby where we stayed till 8.30pm with two intermediate trips, one to the BBC canteen and the other to the LACS office to pick up some film. Home at midnight. We were worried because things weren't going as planned. We needed more material. And then the Tickham Hunt stepped in and saved the day for us.







'Open Door' – Week 2

On Sat 15th Nov the Tickham met at 'The Harrow', Stockbury in Kent. They were a fairly regular target. This day there were about 100 of them altogether and 40 of us, including sabs from WAPS, Weald, Brighton & Essex. BBC TV were out too. We were splitting odd hounds away from them with holloas and horns but as soon as they got onto Detling aerodrome we got the whole pack away from them. After a bit of verbal suddenly all hell broke loose. They whipped all of us and rode down many. Many sabs ended up being treated for cuts and bruises at the West Kent Hospital in Maidstone. Several of us then went up to SE London for the WAPS film night. The Sunday Mirror were there taking photos and statements. I don't know if it made the TV – there were no video recorders in those days – but every Sunday paper covered the attack the next day. It was absolutely brilliant publicity. I got numerous calls from sabs nationwide and from the national press. Thank you so much Tickham Hunt! We now had our missing material.
Monday 17th – up to Shepherd's Bush again to test voice overs with the film we were going to use. A bit of script rehearsal in the afternoon and then back to Richmond for an evening's recording of the voice overs. Home by 10.30pm.

Tues 18th – collected stacks of mail from the Tonbridge P.O. Box and started dealing with some of it before going back up to town to dub on sound to the film and then over to Acton to dub on various background noises.

Weds 19th – busy answering phone calls and letters first thing, then a visit to Maidstone nick to see if the police were getting any action sorted against the hunt. Then up to Detling to re-acquaint with the battleground and see how they'd cut us off. Then up to Victoria Station to pick up Fred Piddock and Jenny Simpson, who'd both been whipped and hit on the hunt, and take them to the recording studio. Fred was a lovely old chap and Jenny was a doe eyed teenager who'd been out on her first hunt that day. Both complete contrasts with the standard image of a sab. They were both nice and natural at the recording. Sue and Iain were there too. We had a very welcome drink. Home at 2am.

Thurs 20th – a day off, mainly answering part of the backlog of mail. Also contacted a solicitor about the possibility of court action. Cee made a large *HOWL* banner to go behind us in the studio.

Fri 21st – had a bit of a lie in and caught up with a lot of the mail. Learnt that the Tickham were now out to get me and John Hicks (HSA Committee and Chairman of Animal Activists and nowadays running the Indian branch of International Animal Rescue). He'd had 2 men round at his place yesterday and we'd had a 'gas man' at our place. They apparently knew that we lived down an alley. Gulp!

Sat 22nd November 1975 – the Big Day. Cee and I picked up Fred and we met the others at the studio. We got the backdrops up before lunch. A couple of rehearsals and then it was the final take. The 20 minutes was a mixture of me, Iain and Sue talking to camera (Sue knew she'd never remember her lines so she read them), old BBC archive footage and Bob's 8mm stuff with our voices dubbed over it and then Iain's interviews with Fred and Jenny. Apart from the interviews the rest was scripted down to the last second. We were vying for tape time with the Match of the Day team so we had to get it right first time.
It was very scary but it went OK.
We overdubbed a synthesiser number called 'The Hunt' by Tony McPhee of The Groundhogs. I'd been in a rock band with him at school and he'd turned me onto vegetarianism while we were there. After watching a recording we had a drink with the Open Door team – they'd been brilliant – and then we all went off on our merry ways.
Home in time to watch it all on our own TV. Nice one but what a relief that it was all over.

What 'Open Door' meant for the HSA

Despite the BFSS's every effort, at BBC and parliamentary level, the programme was repeated a week later, on Sat 29th Nov, but this time earlier in the evening (the first showing had been seen by a lot of bleary eyed folks, fresh back from the pub and punching the TV buttons until something interesting appeared on the screen – ours was the most eye catching thing on at the time). Altogether we had about 3,000 responses, including just 7 not very intellectual ones from hunters. Only one other Open Door programme got a bigger response than ours – the one on Cystitis! We printed a special response sheet and sent it out with the latest copy of *HOWL*. The majority of the responders joined. We were definitely in business now.

The 'Open Door' programme was to be a major turning point in the HSA's history. We had responses from all over the UK and, as a result, were able to get groups going where they'd never existed before. Many of those who joined at this time were to go on to undertake direct action against other animal abuses too. I'm very proud to have played a part in that.

We were lucky to get the 'Open Door' spot but, then again, we'd been in the news a few times and were nice and controversial. You can never tell which stories the media are going to pick up on. Often they'll blow the smallest incident up into headline news. It's always been a cyclical thing. But occasionally targeting controversial high profile bad guy(s), like royalty or hunting vicars, can often provide the spark necessary to keeps groups such as ours in the limelight.

Looking back at the 'Open Door' film, tactics have hardly changed at all over the years – it's always been about creating confusion and breaking the bond between the huntsman and his hounds and there are only a limited number of ways of doing that. We didn't have gizmos in those days but we were beginning to experiment with high frequency sound and refining tactics on the hare coursing fields. The one thing that definitely hasn't changed is the foolhardy youthful exuberance of the typical sab. Who, in their right minds, would go into the frightening arenas that we've been going into for the past 40 years if we weren't convinced that, one day, an enlightened government would finally bite the bullet, ban hunting and thereby set us on course for eventual complete animal liberation?

Postscript

The BFSS finally got their 'Open Door' programme on 31st October 1977.
It wasn't very good.

The effectiveness of the HSA by the end of the 70s can perhaps best be summed up by a quote from Douglas Leslie, an old guard hunting type, in his intro to the 1978-79 Baily's Hunting Directory

'...I feel bound to mention, for yet another year, the undesirable activities of the self-styled 'Hunt Saboteurs', who still persist in defiling the countryside wherein we enjoy our sport. Their record throughout the year has been quite deplorable, and although many of them are now living behind prison bars at the rate payer's expense, their very presence at a meet is sufficient to ruin a day in the minds of many who love the country for what it is'.

Good, eh?

SAVE OUR STAGS:

SABOTEURS AT THE DEER HUNT



The Hunt Saboteurs Association has never been just about foxes, and here Ian Pedlar illustrates this by taking us through the 'Save our Stags' campaign which covered half of the HSA's 40 year history...

The three packs of West Country stag hounds (Quantock, Tiverton & Devon and Somerset) have found themselves front-lined by the anti-hunt movement since the formation of the League Against Cruel Sports back in 1924. Though for much of this time the opposition has been of the passive type, with a few exceptions during the late 1950's when the LACS employed a 'secret weapon to spoil the hunt by laying a false-scent trail of chemical to lead the hounds away from places where stags gather.'

On 6th August 1958 the very first 'hunt saboteurs' went into action against the Devon and Somerset Staghounds (DSSH) at their opening meet. The Daily Telegraph's man reported: 'Members of the League were out early yesterday morning spraying the roads round Cloutsham, from which the hunt started. They used an anti-pest spray behind a Land Rover. It rained after the first effort and they returned an hour later and sprayed again. When I arrived two hours before the hunt started the 'secret' chemical smelled strongly of aniseed.'

The hunt master, Louis Murphy, tried laughing off this sabotage attempt by claiming that 'the stag they found was a magnificent animal', then ruined the bravado by adding that the reason the hunt failed to make a kill was nothing to do with antis, but rather that hunt supporters had chased the deer in their excitement and destroyed the scent.



Though League Chairman Ernest Hemingway was more than pleased at the outcome, saying 'the fact that the hunt had to call off their hounds after they had lost a deer...shows only too well how thoroughly the League's volunteers had done their job. This is only the beginning. We shall treat other staghunts in the same during the next few months.' True to his word the League continued its attempts to disrupt the DSSH, carrying on into the November hind hunting season. Such tactics would not be used again by the LACS on Exmoor, though direct action would be taken against the two remaining carted deer hunts during 1961.

The next attempt came when West Country saboteurs tackled their first stag hunt on 4th April 1964, which the HSA's first (and only) News Bulletin reported with true, if not somewhat quaint, 'Boy's Own' gusto:

'Fifteen hardy saboteurs should certainly be awarded medals for courage and devotion to duty for their tenacity and engagement. In the teeth of a Force 7 gale and surrounded by a swirling blizzard of snow, an advance guard of three HQ members spent all night at Dunkery Hill Gate —the highest point of bleak Exmoor. The objective was to outwit the Devon and Somerset Staghounds by exposing their practice of 'harbouring' stags for the hunt in convenient coverts or woods.

Intelligence sources had previously pin-pointed the likely hiding places, and the party spent all night visiting each spot. Using various explosive devices and a number of other strategies the party flushed the harboured stags out of the woods. To do this they had to out-manoeuvre sentries posted by the hunt, but despite the wariness of the opposition it would appear that the saboteurs were highly successful.

Only one stag was spotted by the hunt. One saboteur got between the stag and the hounds and managed to lay a smoke screen. The stag got away and the hunt got nothing.

Special mention must be made here of three HQ members who formed the advance guard – John Prestidge and his two able lieutenants, Barry West and Leo Lewis. Their exploits on Exmoor during their all night vigil in Arctic conditions are in the best 'Commando' tradition.'

The publicity generated by this raid took many of us by surprise, for it soon became apparent that while many local pressmen were ambiguous regarding the cruelties inherent in fox hunting, few had the slightest sympathy for deer hunting. Typical of the coverage was the Bristol Evening Post that gave over its front page under the banner headline 'HUNT SABOTEURS SET UP SMOKE SCREENS'. To the graphic description of deer escaping under cover of heavy red smoke screens were added tales that saboteurs 'would have been using a helicopter as a spotter had it not been for a raging blizzard which hit Exmoor today.'

A few weeks later another strike was made against the DSSH at Comers Gate. Attempts to flush the harboured stag had to be abandoned due to thick fog, which brought visibility down to around 50 yards. This also beat the hunt, which was called off. In the early morning murk a curious meeting then took place between a group of saboteurs and the hunts joint master Bob Nancekivell, who agreed to take part in a public debate on stag hunting.

Interviewed by the Western Morning News Nancekivell said of the saboteurs:

'I shook hands...and told them they would always be welcome at the meet. The saboteurs seemed to be quite reasonable chaps. I think they want something to do to let off steam. My personal view is that they could not have behaved better.' The debate would finally take place two years later, when Nancekivell travelled to Bristol to meet with Dave Wetton and myself.

Following the disintegration of the Brixham HQ, remnants of various West Country groups joined forces to make valiant, but often inconclusive, forays against a collection of fox, hare, otter and, increasingly, stag hunts. Our most notable successes were against the Quantock Staghounds, which proved a much easier target than the DSSH, not only because the field was smaller, the supporters (at this time) less aggressive, but mainly because the area hunted over was nowhere near the size of Exmoor. Hard pushed to raise double figures for an effective strike we turned ever more to undercover methods. It soon became apparent that the most effective tactic against stag hunting was to 'flush' the woods of harboured deer. Over the years we became extremely good at this stunt, with ever more published hunting reports telling of 'blank days' or 'late finds' following our night's work.

The LACS, under its new chairman Raymond Rowley, also got into the act with talk of 'secret weapons' about to finish-off the DSSH. Explaining this miracle device in the Sunday Mirror of 25th October 1964 Rowley was quoted '...it did not need many people to put it into operation. I could almost do it by myself. It's not a false trail and scattering chemicals on the ground is not involved.' So good was this device he was confident that '...we're well on the way to knocking them down for good.' Many hours of harmless fun were had by stag

hunt saboteurs in idle speculation as to the composition of this creation, with the favoured option being some type of oscillator. Though in the end we decided that the League's secret weapon was the HSA!

The flushing tactics continued, with ever increasing frequency, throughout the remaining 60's and into the early 1970's. It was the experience gained during this period that persuaded a number of West Country saboteurs to set up a splinter group in 1973, the Save Our Stags Campaign, that would concentrate solely on the issue of deer hunting. Over the next 12 years there would be hundreds of official, and unofficial, actions taken against the stag hunters, ranging from mass saboteur strikes to individual acts of sabotage against hunt related property and vehicles. During this period dozens of HSA groups from across the country would travel West to help out, while press and TV turned stag hunting into a national issue with feature articles and documentaries.

By the end of the 1978/79 season, what had started out as a general campaign to front-line stag hunting generally, had devolved into a war of attrition against the Quantock Staghounds, following statement's from SOS that it intended to finish off the hunt. The scene had been set during one of the last hunts of the season (28th April 79) when, during a seven hour chase of a spring stag, hunt riders had continually ridden down and whipped saboteurs, rammed anti-hunt vehicles, blocked roads so as to systematically attack the trapped cars, and instigated three pitched battles that resulted in fifteen cases needing hospital treatment.

'Not all the memories of those days are of the violence, many are of the courage and dedication of the saboteurs whose field skills ensured that countless deer lived to run another day.'

From the start of the 1979/80 season SOS was subjected to extreme violence. Led by three individuals, two of which were brothers, a systematic policy of attacking saboteurs was begun by hunt supporters. The brothers would career around the hills on motor bikes looking for the saboteurs, once located they would alert the third and his heavies, relaying our position (in a pre-mobile phone age) by walkie-talkie. This led to vicious attacks on every occasion the saboteurs turned up. As the hunt swelled its numbers from neighbouring packs, so SOS increased with saboteurs pouring in from around the country. Again it was the last meet of the season (26th April 1980) that proved the most violent. After drawing off the pack four times during the day tempers flared around 2 o'clock, when the better part of 150 hunt supporters vented their anger on the saboteurs present. When it was over both sides had many injured, with a fair few again needing hospital treatment.

Not all the memories of those days are of the violence, many are of the courage and dedication of the saboteurs whose field skills ensured that countless deer lived to run another day. Of the many one stands out that was succinctly recalled by Marley Jones during an interview with the American magazine Agenda:

'The most exhilarating moment I had was on 1st January 1981, during a meet of the Quantock Staghounds. We saw hounds and riders streaming past us over the brow of a hill in fast pursuit of a red deer hind.

We were able to circle the hill and race on foot into the combe where we thought she was heading, and arrived just in time to see her coming towards us at full speed. She was covered in sweat, out of breath, her tongue hanging to one side. We froze until she passed, and then we saw the hounds almost upon her. We charged behind her, covering the ground with false scent and at the same time pushing the hounds back with our hands.

At this point the hunt master and a number of riders appeared and we were forced to retreat. But the hind was safe! I think that as long as I live the elation felt by all of us will stay with me.'

Another added bonus never to be missed during this period were the impromptu press statements of the Quantock master Walner Robins who, with the usual dismissive comments regarding the day's activities, could always be relied upon to spice them up with a touch of pure comic genius.

One of the better ones went so far as to endow SOS activists with 'super hero' like powers. For after piling on the '...it's a known fact that some are paid £5 a day for what they do', he concluded by telling the Somerset County Gazette readership that ' I can sympathise with anyone who is genuinely against stag hunting, but a lot of these are nothing better than hooligans. I am convinced they couldn't care less about cruelty to animals; what is more cruel than spraying chemicals on *hounds or catching a hind and spraying it before the hunt, which is what they have been known to do*' (my italics).

The campaign against the Quantock Staghounds dragged on for another four years, during which time they were facing financial ruin, the field had fallen to around twenty riders, with Saturday meets abandoned in an attempt to foil the saboteurs. Unfortunately the violence from hunt heavies continued, which eventually forced the SOS committee to switch its attention to the other deer hunts. The last time SOS went into action was on 14th April 1984 against the DSSH, which also ended in violence when the entire field attacked the saboteurs in a narrow lane near the Exmoor village of Winsford. After that incident it was decided a return to covert operations was the best option, as it had become impossible to sustain current activities when subjected to the such levels of violence.

The future belonged to the more sedate pressure groups such as the New Forest Deerhunt Abolition Alliance, formed in 1983 to campaign against the Hampshire fallow deer hunt. This hunt, the New Forest Buckhounds, was forced to disband in 1997 after the Forestry Commission refused to grant it a licence to operate following public outrage after video evidence was released showing huntsmen drowning a deer in a local river.

In the West Country the Devon and Somerset Residents Association for Deer Protection, formed in 1987, was instrumental in forcing the National Trust to ban stag hunting on its land. While the South West Deer Protection (formed April 2000) has been responsible for supplying some of the most shocking footage of Exmoor hunting to date, courtesy of the very brave Kevin Hill.

Ian Pedler - 2004

The author of the above article is at present attempting to research and write a book telling the full story of the campaigns to end deer hunting. SAVE OUR STAGS: 100 years of campaigning against Britain's most controversial blood sport will cover the period from Henry Salt's attempt to close down the Royal Buckhounds in 1901 through to the failed promises of the Blair government.

He would be most interested to hear from anyone who has taken part in campaigns against stag hunting, retired hunt saboteurs with a good tale to tell, or has photographs, press reports and general printed ephemera relating to deer hunting over the past 100 years.

Ian would especially like to contact an old sab who went by the name of Sunflower (or anyone who remembers him), who was the other half of a back to back with him during the last SOS pitched battle against the Devon and Somerset Staghounds on 14th April 1984.

Ian can be contacted via the HSA - please write to Ian c/o the office (NEW ADDRESS!! HSA, BM HSA, London, WC1N 3XX or email the usual *howl.editor@virgin.net* address, with 'FAO Ian Pedlar' in the subject line.

GROUP NEWS

Midlands

The **Worcester & Birmingham** group mainly concentrated on the *Cotswold Foxhounds* until the end of season, and this resulted in no known kills. Ice and bad weather threw the *Cotswold* out for a few weeks, allowing sabs to go home and 'put up feet with cup of tea'.

On the way home from one of these cancelled meets, the group ran straight into the *Royal Agricultural Beagles* from the Royal Agricultural College. Sabs pilled out of the van and walked on a footpath, which lead right through the middle of where the beagles were chasing a hare. Not a whip was cracked, a horn blown, or a spray.. well, sprayed and the whole hunt stopped dead in its tracks. The hare got away and the only thing left for the whole hunt to do was ring the Police. This stopped them hunting for at least an hour. The police came and soon went away, leaving the hunt on their toes. Luckily there were footpaths into just about every field they were hunting in, making them move on with the hounds rather too quickly,



Regal wave from *Royal Agricultural Beagles posh boy*

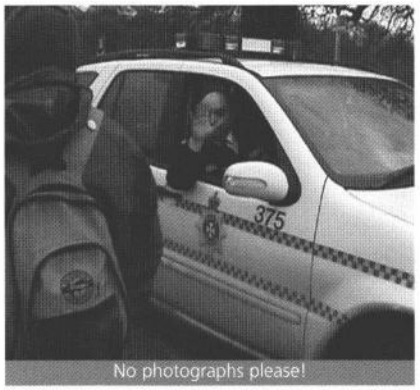


Worcester & Birmingham sab calling hounds

resulting in not a single bay or cry from any of the hounds. The hunt later packed up - earlier than usual, needless to say.

With a bit of funding, thanks to the HSA, the group was able to go out most weeks against the *Cotswold*. The best day sabs had was the closing meet of the *Cotswold* on 4th April. There was much hunt support out that day, due to all the other hunts having had their closing meets weeks before. As always, they were no match for us as most of the time we left them standing.

Hounds were soon on a chase. Much fake holloahing led them the wrong way to where the fox was going. Standing in the middle of a quad bike racetrack, a fox appeared. The landowner allowed us to spray the whole field, resulting in the fox getting away. Later on in the day, a fox broke cover in front of a sab, while the rest of the group led the pack away in the wrong direction for a good mile, on foot, without any hassle from the hunt who were left standing wondering where the hounds were. In fact, it was only after the redcoats got off their horses and had to drive quad bikes were they able to find the hounds and load them into the back of a truck. The only thing left for the terrier boys to do was block the sab van in with all 7 of their quad bikes. Lovely. See you next season, and for the meantime, we will look forward to giving DEFRA the chase around..



No photographs please!

Derby sabs' season started earlier than usual in late August at the opening cubbing meet of the *Meynell and South Staffordshire*. Half our the group were still on holiday so **Northants** and **Leicester** kindly helped out. Unfortunately the hunt killed two foxcubs, aided by some bias South Derbys cops while a **Northants** sab was almost run down in the field by a Landrover (sounds familiar?).

The season kicked off properly then with regular visits to the *Meynell* (Supported by **Wolves**, **Worcester & Birmingham** and **Leicester**), the Albrighton FH (by kind invitation of the Wolves Group) and the odd visit to the *Atherstone FH* and the *High Peak Harriers*.

A large *partridge shoot* near Ashbourne was successfully sabbed in September when **Derby**, **Birmingham** and **Wolves** happened on it while searching in vain for the Meynell. This was despite one ancient shooter and one youth who continued to shoot over the heads of sabs.

The *Meynell* turned nasty mid October when two sabs were assaulted, a video camera was smashed and stolen and a sab van's tyres were slashed. Cheers to **Wolves**, **Northampton**, **Nottingham**, **Leicester** and the impressive convoy from **Sheffield**, **Leeds** and **Bradford** who got the message across quite well at the inevitable Regional Hit.

An interesting time was had at the *Barlow FH* near Christmas supporting **Sheffield**. There were no kills and despite the protests of *Superintendent Williams of South Yorkshire Police*, who rides with *the Barlow*, the Traffic (Derbys) Cops, who were called out, played it fair by firstly doing the terriermen for using an uninsured, untaxed quad on a public road!

The end of the year was finished off nicely by a sab of the *High Peak Harriers* on Boxing Day. Little hunting was done but interestingly by the end of the day the only "support" left were sabs!

In 2004 Derby sabs have supported the **Northants** Group on the *Whaddon and Bicester*, *the Oakley*, and the *Woodland Pytchley*. **Derby** could almost be called the Northants 2nd team with an independent sab of the Northants based *Pytchley FH* with the help of **Leicester** and **Nottingham**. The violent *Northants* stewards are still an issue in the region but **Northants** had a well deserved break, as **Derby** seemed to pull most of the stewards to them!

Derby have also supported **Leicester** on the *Cottesmore*, **Sheffield** on the *Barlow* and **Wolves** on the *Albrighton* and still had time for some more goes at the *Atherstone* and *Meynell*. Since the first sab of the season, no other wildlife has been killed while sabs have been present. Sabs have discouraged a number of digouts including one at a badger sett. Some sabs are now busy dealing with the government sponsored badger interference...

South

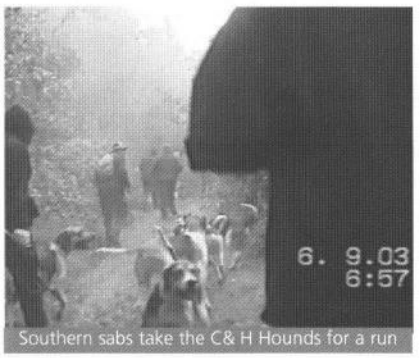
During the second half of the season the **Croydon** group revisited many of the packs they had disrupted during the first half. For news years day one member surpassed themselves providing a rare meet for the *Brighton & Storrington Foot*. Sabs were under strength and unhappily, they killed on the hare rich South Downs, however, it was through no skill of the huntsman more the hounds themselves.



OSB&WK Huntsman Mark Bycroft gets flipped off after trying to ride sabs down

Some bad luck befell two days later for a meet of the *C&H FH* when five sabs were nicked for alleged S.68. Happily all but one has seen their charges dropped. Almost the rest of January was spent with the *Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent* with a foot mileage record being set by the group at their Heaverham meet. By the end of the month sabs had the pleasure of seeing one of the masters fall from his horse at the West Peckham meet. Only moments before, two foxes had broken at once running together from an isolated piece of scrub, with the terriermen watching from just close enough to give the impression that the *OSB* were up to their usual dirty games. Neither fox was caught despite some major hunt trespassing going on.

During the first week of February the group took trips to the *Surrey Union* and back to the *OSB* before heading to the over policed *Southdown & Eridge* where sabs eluded the cops within half an hour and didn't see them again all day. The hunt chased some deer about, but no kills! February also saw further trips to *the Chidd ,Lech & Cow FH* for some mid week action and to the *West Street Tickham* hunt for a run around the Kent marshes. Hounds were still as responsive to sab's calls as they were earlier in the season. By March, the light was at the end of the tunnel of yet another season and we



Southern sabs take the C& H Hounds for a run

Wanna come sabbing?
or
Start your own group?

Contact the HSA

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

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

Get in touch -
You know it makes sense!



C & H whip puts a naughty hound on a lead...



...and still ends up carrying it

celebrated this fact by discovering the whereabouts of the *Wye College Beagles*. Within five minutes chaos reigned with beagles and staff in every direction. Eventually, they tried a sit down type protest in front of the Landy in an attempt to keep sabs from leaving! The little college herberts were persuaded to remove themselves and sabs left these particular bunch of amusing good-for-nothings to find their beagles and box up.

For the final couple of weeks of the season, sabs returned as always to the *OSB&WK*. Their meet at Charcott was long and thankfully without a kill, though it was close at the very end with riders holding up a cover in total cubbing style, before the frightened animal broke cover and crossed a road to freedom. Some good sabbing was achieved this day for sure. They finished their season with an uneventful day, with sabs a little short handed and kept a discreet distance after some extensive pre-meet work around the whole area.

In all this season has witnessed few kills, especially during the cubbing meets and sabs have forced the *Ashford Valley* to abandon advertising in *Horse and Hound* due to our effective tactics. Something they have been doing for the last seven years. Thanks as ever to the **Hastings** posse and to the **Brighton** sabs for the mutual assistance pact.



Mr. Handy, *West Street Tickham* gamekeeper, kindly points sabs to the nearset footpath

During the last season **West Kent sabs** managed to sab 5 foxhound packs, 3 beagle packs and a handful of shoots. The early part of the season was spent with the *Ashford Valley* and the *Old Surrey* with spectacular results, regularly preventing dig outs and in one *Ashford Valley* meet, pulling the hounds off of what sabs suspect was a bagged fox. As the season went on sabs visited the *Wye college* and *bolbroke beagles*, *Weststreet Tickham* , *Southdown* and spent 'Declaration Day' sabbing a couple of *local shoots*.

New years day was spent on the south downs with the *Brighton and Storrington beagles* and 2 days later with the *Crawley and Horsham* where the cops went crazy, called out a helicopter and nicked 5 sabs. Most of the rest of the season was spent with the *Burstow* and sabs finished the season in late March with only 1 arrest and no charges. Cheers to **Croydon**, **Hastings** and those tree huggers from **Brighton**.

The **Worthing** group ended the season on a high. Not only sabbing *Crawly and Horsham*, *Southdown and Eridge* and *Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray* but also helping **W.S.W.P.** to get the *countryside alliance county chairman Jamie Hawksfield arrested*. Nearing the end of the season and visiting the *Crawly and Horsham* hunt midweek (we know where you are, even on a Friday!) a few cowardly huntsmen saw 4 sabs and raced over on horseback to two of them.

Huntsmen raised whips in an aggressive fashion while Hawksfield almost wet himself whilst shouting "you have no-one to protect you now". Bravely he chose the female sab to attack, cracking his whip over her hand. Although pleading guilty, well it was all on film, he only received a



A sab calls the Ashford Valley hounds off a fox

caution but plenty of supportive publicity ensued. The last meet of the season saw a good turn out for a Monday and so it was the *Chiddingfold* who received the attention. No kills and fairly good midweek turnouts mean that the group can say the last few weeks were very successful.

January saw **Reading** sabs getting on the nerves of the surrey union. The group joined sabs from **Croydon, Southampton, west London** and others and had a fantastic day. The hunt were torn to pieces and sabs took to packing up shoots just for something to do. This atmosphere deteriorated somewhat when, on 14th February 7 sabs from local groups were arrested and forced to watch a Valentine's Day massacre. More on that in court, your honour.

Meanwhile, *The Vale of Aylesbury, Garth and South Berks* had had enough of sabs and ensured a bumpkin student video team followed them wherever they went...ahh, students, who said they were apathetic nowadays? The *Hampshire* was the hunt of choice, alas the Filth seem to have taken tips from Surrey Cops on how to control sabs. Of course, it never quite works in their favour, as they were still sabbed the f**k out of.

Reading took a few weeks off from their regular hunts to travel about a bit. In February the group hit the welsh border and got in the Daily Mirror for rescuing a huntsman's horse from a muddy bog. Heroes! Full of valour sabs marched across the border the next week with **West London** and saw the true mettle of Welsh terrier boys. A certain anonymous **West London** sab decided she could take them all on, (below) luckily it was decided 'he who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day.' Too right, mate. The group also visited the *Radley College beagles*, a bit like Eton but not as posh, still ugly, mind. A brief bit of tooting, a touch of the gizmo, a few heated words exchanged and the day belonged to the sabs. Cheers to the cake making team, chocolate fudge cake next time!





Divine intervention: Sabs pack up a Sunday Minkhunt while on their way to church

Reading also stopped a joint meet of the *valley and three counties minkhounds* (above) on a Sunday, would you believe? The first mink hunt of the summer kicked off well with the **Reading** and **South London** advance party stealing some hounds, whilst the **Croydon** and **Reading** second wave cruised in to finish it off. The hunt slunk off with their tails between their legs. We rule!

North and East London sabs kept up the pressure on the *Essex Union* and *Essex Farmers* including sabbing a joint meet of the two, cuts and bruises aside, the group were back the following week to show them (farmers) their continued violence would not scare them off. A couple of visits further north to the *Essex and Suffolk* and *Suffolk* hunts, and also some time spent sabbing *shoots* when the ground was too hard to hunt.

Another season and another knackered vehicle, many thanks to **London Animal Action** for the use of their mini bus. The last Saturday meet of the *Essex Farmers* had a head count of 20 in 2 mini buses plus additional help from the **Essex and Suffolk** and **Basildon** crews. The Essex police were also in large numbers doing there best to help the hunt at every opportunity.

They dropped to a new low taunting sabs with racist and sexist abuse and finally assaulting a female **Suffolk** sab. There were also two arrests, lasting all of 7 minutes. The group also now has its own website -
www.northandeastlondonsabs.org

Over the summer, more fund raising, benefit gigs (big thanks to all the bands and organisers) and a boycott campaign against Ridleys Brewery and its pubs. The Hartford End brewery is used as a regular meet for the *Essex Union* along with other Ridleys pubs. Ridleys pubs are also used for meets by the *Essex* Farmers.

South West

Cirencester, **Pewsey Vale** & **Bath** sabs have concentrated on sabbing the *Avon Vale FH*, with them only able to kill by digging out (with police protection) or bolting the fox. Their main success was in hunting sheep and riding down sabs. When the police worked out that "the worst sabs would do is aggravated trespass" two plain officers followed the hunt on foot, to see for themselves what sabs had to contend with. The terriermen was heard threatening one of the officers and saying 'we know where you live!!'.



After Ms Seed and the terriermen were seen hunting a railway line and informing the police that they had informed "Rail Track" (see article in this edition of howl), policing tactics changed from being confrontational and aggressive to informative and almost supportive!! ("as long as those nasty **Reading** lot don't come down").

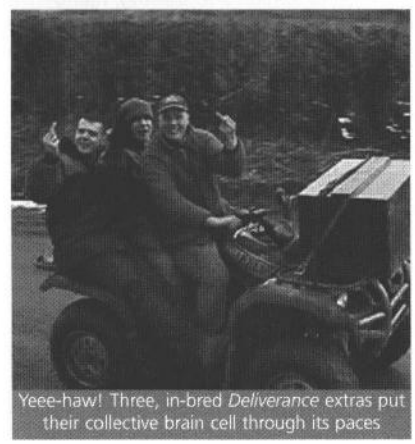
After sabbing the *Avon Vale* home turf, Spye Park, so successfully, Ms Seed was repeatedly phoning the police demanding that sabs are arrested on sight. After the police officers explained if they made an arrest they would have to return to their station to process the arrest, leaving no one to police the rest of the sabs, no arrests were made (all season).

The group also joined with **Worcester** at a joint meet of the *North Cotswolds* and *Monmouth FH*, sabbing them so well they packed up at 3.15pm. The group finished the season with a visit to *Cotswolds Farmers FH*, who disappeared into the wild blue yonder, then again packing up early.

Plymouth along with **Torquay** sabs have continued to hit the *South Devon Foxhounds* with some good results. Clearly annoyed at the constant presence of sabs this hunt stopped advertising their meets and when this failed to deter sabs the hunt stopped going out on Saturdays altogether in another attempt to avoid being sabbed. This failed as sabs began to turn up at their mid week meets instead.

With the *South Devons* no longer hunting on Saturdays the **Plymouth** group were again joined by **Torquay** for hits against the *Dartmoor* Hunt and the *Spooners and West Dartmoor*. At one meet held by *The Dartmoor* the entire mounted field attacked the small group of sabs accompanying them. Despite this attack occurring on public land the Devon and Cornwall Police showed their usual bias towards the hunt by preventing sabs from going back onto the moor instead of dealing with those who took part in the attack.

When the *South Devons* resumed hunting on Saturdays **Plymouth** and **Torquay** sabs were there and continued to disrupt the hunt through out the remainder of the season. For a third consecutive year it was discovered that The *South Devons* were to hold a joint meet with *The Rallye Amour* (a French hunt twinned with the South Devon). Sabs had a good day and kept the hunt on the move all day with no kills occurring.



Yeee-haw! Three, in-bred *Deliverance* extras put their collective brain cell through its paces

Overall **Plymouth** have had a successful season despite a rise in violent attacks against sabs, a sure sign of how effective a small group of sabs can be. This season has also seen a majority of local hunts stopping advertising meets in an attempt to put a stop to activities.....it ain't working!!

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

FIND MORE AT: HTTP://NWHSA.REDBLACKANDGREEN.NET/VERMIN_PATROL.HTML

badger
VERMIN

On 31/3/04 **Leslie Fowell** (34) of St Paul's Road, Rock Ferry appeared before Wirral magistrates charged with eight offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The charges include willfully injuring badgers and cruelly ill-treating badgers. The badger offences are alleged to have taken place in Flintshire. Fowell is also charged with possession of an offensive weapon and possession of a controlled drug. He was bailed until 23/6/04

bloodsports
VERMIN

Damien Penrose (18) of Torrington Court, Park North, appeared at Swindon magistrates on 7/1/04 after he and a 15-year old accomplice shot a male mute swan dead with an air rifle, and hid it in a hedge. They also shot and injured the swan's mate, leaving it to look after the pair's four cygnets with blood pouring from its head. The female bird later died. He pleaded guilty to killing a wild bird, injuring a wild bird, having a loaded weapon in a public place and criminal damage. Penrose was jailed for eight weeks. Half of the sentence is to be served in the young offenders' wing of Reading prison and the rest on licence in the community. Penrose's accomplice was sentenced in November 2003 to four months' detention and training, half of which will be served in secure accommodation and half in the community.

Richard Cartwright (30) of West View, Low Row, near Brampton agreed to help a farmer to rid his land of rabbits ended up in court after straying into a neighbouring field. Cartwright admitted taking 32 rabbits without permission. Carlisle magistrates heard on 11/3/04 that a farmer called the police after seeing Cartwright and two other men **Darren Snowden** (32) of Brookside, Carlisle and **John Taggart** (29) of New Street, Wigton on his land. The court heard how they had a ferret, and a small terrier dog tied to the fence and that the men had been digging in the hedgerow where the police saw 32 dead rabbits. Charges were dropped against Snowden and Taggart as prosecutors accepted that they genuinely believed they had permission to be in that field. Cartwright was given a conditional discharge and warned to stay away from unauthorised land in the future. He was also ordered to pay £43 costs.

A Carlisle man who encouraged his dogs to kill a cat in a savage attack has been banned from keeping animals from three years. After his dogs had mauled the cat **Darren Michael Coady** (33) of Talkin Close, Durranhill, Carlisle, then stamped on its body, picked it up and threw it over a wire fence into some bushes. Following a night out in the pub, Coady was seen and heard by witnesses encouraging his Lurcher and Greyhound dogs to kill the cat by shouting 'Go on lass, kill it'. He was heard shouting this about five times. Prosecutor Linda Vance told Carlisle Magistrates Court: Coady had pleaded guilty to ill treating the animal. On 31/3/04 Carlisle magistrates gave Coady an 120-hour community punishment order and banned him from keeping animals for three years. He was ordered to pay £70 costs.

Two men admitted poaching for rabbits in Wirral at Birkenhead magistrates on 14/4/04. **Gary Fowell** of Alderley Avenue, Claughton, and **Lee Murphy** of Weathersfield Road, Noctorum, were caught at Poulton Hall, Bromborough. The court heard they were dressed in army-style clothes and boots, and were flanked by a pack of five or six dogs. The police saw four males and identified all four of them, in particular Gary Fowell and Lee Murphy. Gary Fowell said they were there rabbiting. They entered guilty pleas to poaching. Both pleaded guilty to trespassing on land at Poulton Hall in pursuit of game, woodcocks, snipe or comies. They were fined £100 each and ordered to pay £65 costs

Nine men were arrested when police and RSPCA inspectors raided a barn and discovered an illegal cockfighting ring on 28/4/04. They found a gang of men betting on the illegal sport in which specially bred cockerels, normally armed with razor-sharp spurs attached to their legs, fight to the death. The police said: 'The RSPCA obtained intelligence that this was taking place at a location in Mundham. 'We caught the men in the act when we burst in and they tried to scarper. But our officers were quicker and we managed to catch them all.' The nine men were all charged under the Animal Cruelty Act. They have all been bailed pending further police inquiries. A total of 15 birds were seized at the address and are being cared for at local RSPCA care centres.

Jamie Hawksfield, West Sussex County Chairman of the Countryside Alliance was arrested on 13/4/04 and taken to Crawley Police Station. Here he was shown video of him threatening and assaulting an anti-hunt protester. The incident occurred at a meeting of the Crawley and Horsham Hunt . He admitted the offence and was given a formal police caution as he is a first time offender.

Huntsman **Jonathan Broise** will appear for trial at Lewes Crown Court on 25/10/04 where he is charged with causing Actual Bodily Harm. Broise appeared for a plea and directions hearing on 27/5/04 at Lewes Crown Court and pleaded not guilty. The case has arisen from an incident during a cub hunt of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray hunt at when Broise is alleged to have ridden into a 60-year-old anti-hunt protester. Broise was arrested on the 27/9/03 but in connection to another alleged assault on a protester. Broise "resigned" as huntsman of *The Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Foxhounds* a week later.

eggs/birds
VERMIN

Assistant quarry manager **Robert Sims** of Perry Grove Road, Coleford in Gloucester, destroyed more than 30 sand martin nests during two incidents. The birds had been nesting in sand that had been stockpiled for several weeks and were probably still incubating eggs when machinery ripped the sandface down. Sims pleaded guilty to two charges of nest destruction at Hereford magistrates on 8/12/03. He was fined £6,000 and ordered to pay £65 costs.

A former pigeon fancier was convicted of deliberately running over a sparrowhawk when he saw it trying to kill a pigeon in a car park. **Jonathan Watson** (19) of Carrington Terrace, Llanrwst in North Wales, pleaded guilty to possession of a wild sparrowhawk, but not guilty to killing it at Llandudno magistrates on 19/1/04. Watson was seen to throw the dead raptor into a car boot. Magistrates found Watson guilty and taking account of his age, he was fined £200 and ordered to pay £120 costs.

Michael Tune of Burleigh Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, started to shoot at mallards on the Nanpanton reservoir, near Loughborough, with an air rifle. He fired about five times as he made his way along the bank and, on one occasion, the pellet was seen to ricochet off a metal post and nearly strike a fisherman. A dead duck was seen in the water but could not be recovered. On 28/1/04 Tune pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded air weapon in a public place and attempting to kill a mallard. He was fined £400 for the air weapon charge and £350 for attempting to kill a mallard and ordered to pay £55 costs.

A nightclub doorman was fined for illegally keeping wild birds in his home. **Adnan Icel** (39) of Crescent, Southend, nicknamed the Iceman and one of Southend's best-known doormen, had his home raided. They found nine goldfinches and was charged with illegally keeping the animals which died soon after they were seized. He pleaded not guilty but was convicted of the offence at Southend magistrates on 6/5/04. He was ordered to pay £1,500 and serve 120 hours of community service.

A man is being investigated by the RSPCA after a raid on 14/5/04 in which 36 wild birds were discovered caged in his back garden. **Hakan Gulcicek** (27) of Ludlow Road, Blacon, Cheshire has informally admitted taking and possessing various types of finches, which appeared stressed and agitated. Gulcicek says he did not know the practice was illegal because it is allowed in his home country of Turkey. A sticky perch with a decoy bird was used to trap the birds, which was seized along with the birds and cages. The birds will be released in due course after they have been properly logged and health checks carried out.

equine

VERMIN

A Silloth farmer has been fined after letting a wound on his Shetland pony become infected with maggots. RSPCA officials say the maggots had been in the deep cut on John Sails's pony for seven to 10 days. **John Sail** of Cowfold Farm, Aldoth, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £500 costs. Sails used a thin rope to tie up his Shetland pony. The rope then rubbed against the animal causing the deep cut. But the RSPCA is disappointed Carlisle magistrates did not ban him from keeping animals. Now the four-year-old animal is being cared for by new owners. On 135/04 Carlisle magistrates found Salis guilty of causing the pony unnecessary suffering by failing to provide him with suitable care and attention.

farmer

VERMIN

A Bangor-on-Dee farmer was fined £12,000 after being found guilty of three waste offences by Wrexham magistrates on 6/5/04. **Richard Henry Brereton** of Cottage Gorse Farm was also ordered to pay the £1,750 costs of the Environment Agency. The court was told that when agency officers inspected the land at Cottage Gorse Farm they saw large quantities of waste material deposited on the site. Investigations revealed the waste included rubble, vegetation, cookers, fridges, tyres, tiles, slates, metal, plastics and an exercise bike. During a covert surveillance operation they found vehicles were routinely coming to the site and depositing waste. Brereton admitted allowing hardcore to be brought on to the land but denied allowing the rest of the waste, which he claimed must have been left by gipsies when he wasn't around. He was fined £8,000 for knowingly permitting the deposit of controlled waste at Cottage Gorse Farm and £2,000 for keeping controlled waste on the land. He was fined a further £2,000 for disposing of controlled waste by burning.

Scores of dead and dying sheep were found littering fields used by a Northumberland farmer after animal health inspectors were alerted by the RSPCA. More than 70 skeletal remains and decomposing carcases were discovered by council officials during checks on land owned or rented by **Leslie Morrison**. Live sheep and cattle were grazing next to dead animals. Four emaciated sheep had to be humanely destroyed to stop any further suffering. On 3/6/04 Hexham magistrates ordered Leslie Morrison (49) of Northside Cottages, Ryal, near Matfen, to pay fines and costs totalling £5,268. But they rejected a prosecution call for him to be banned from keeping sheep. He admitted 28 offences of cruelty to animals, failing to dispose of animal by-products correctly, allowing animals access to animal by-products and breaching regulations on tagging, registration and movement of livestock. The court was told that 18 months ago magistrates had ordered Morrison to pay £1,750 in fines and costs after he admitted 17 offences of failing to dispose of animal by-products and allowing animals access to by-products.

domestic

VERMIN

Anthony Walker (42) of Anchor Lane, Skegness, was convicted of animal cruelty after dragging a German shepherd dog from a neighbour's home to fight his Staffordshire bull terrier in his garden. Walker pleaded not guilty to cruelly ill treating a German shepherd when he appeared at Coventry magistrates on 9/4/04 with co-defendant **Kyle McKusker** (18) of Warden Road, Radford, Coventry. McKusker was found not guilty. Walker was fined £400 and banned from being in charge of a dog for two years.

Martin White (19) of John Street Derry was jailed for throwing a cocker spaniel dog over Londonderry's city walls. White was sentenced to 11 months imprisonment on 19/4/04 for a number of offences including ill treatment of an animal. He was filmed on CCTV cameras having an argument with a woman who was walking a dog at Magazine Gate in the city. He picked up the dog and threw it over the city walls, dropping up to 25 feet on the other side. The dog managed to escape without any broken bones and has made a complete recovery. He was given the maximum three-month sentence for ill treatment of an animal. White was sentenced to a total of 11 months, for offences including ill treatment of an animal, criminal damage and disorderly behaviour and assaults on police officers.

A man who armed himself with a samurai sword and an air rifle to break into an RSPCA shelter to retrieve his dog has been jailed for 15 months. **Paul Lovie** (47) of Rose Street, York, remained holed up at the shelter for one and a half hours. York Crown Court were told on 26/5/04 how Lovie had been devastated when his dog was taken ill and needed to be put down. The RSPCA confiscated the dog after Lovie had been heard saying he would "do it himself with a pickaxe." The court heard how Lovie had armed himself with a samurai sword, air rifle and pellets, lighter fluid and a hammer before breaking into the shelter in York. He appeared for sentence after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence, having an offensive weapon, and causing criminal damage.

A Canning Town man was jailed for six weeks for beating his dog with a metal pole after the animal wet his floor. The attack knocked a tooth out of a Staffordshire bull terrier, and the dog was in so much pain from two severely bruised ears the vet could not examine them. **Jermain Kamara** of Rowland Court, Beaconsfield Road, was also banned for life from keeping any animal by magistrates at Stratford on 29/5/04.

For more vermin and an exstensive back catalogue of animal abusers visit:
http://nwhsa.redblackandgreen.net/vermin_patrol.htm



Legal News

SUSSEX POLICE FORCED TO APOLOGISE FOR OFFICER'S ABUSE

Sussex Police have been forced to apologise after three officers were disciplined over abuse recoded on tape.

The officers; PS Wilson, PC Ashley Sayers, and PC Newman, were caught out by accident after confiscating a video camera from Simon Wild of the West Sussex Wildlife Protection. They had claimed it might contain evidence of Jaine Wild unblocking a badger sett during a meet of a hunt in January 2002 at Coates, West Sussex. They believed this contrary to the Badger's Act. Jaine, who is one of the main organisers of the West Sussex Badger Group pointed out that no offence was committed and that ironically an offence was committed by the hunt for using branches and hard stopping the sett.

Simon Wild also pointed out the police had no powers of seizure and was threatened with arrest. Police were furious and seized the camera. The camera was placed in an evidence bag and then put in a police Landrover still recording - where it picked up officers' conversations.

In January 2003 PC Ashley Sayers and PC Wilson were disciplined by way of "Formal Advice" for threatening unlawful arrest and the seizure of the camera. However it was only several months later that the videotape was returned.

When it was played it included personal abuse against Jaine Wild, threats of violence, talk of "editing" the video and some disgusting remarks. Some abuse is too offensive to mention, but the more intelligent of the remarks include the following:

"That's fucked them right off, hasn't it"

"But to bullshit us, people like them are just anti establishment..." "Scum of the earth, aint they"

"We are going to be so popular, were you impressed with me Dave? Top man, Section 19 was perfect. I know about the fucking Badger Act, I couldn't have done that, that Breach of the Peace, fucking definition of theft, that is about the only thing I know."

"I just love running into Jaine Wild, she's such a bitch, bet she's happy, only thing what are we going to find on her video? Jaine Wild digging badger setts; I am going to write a statement, I'm not going to write it in my fucking notebook."

In relation to Simon Wild:
"Look its getting to that point where you know inside, where you think mate, if you want a fucking ruck, lets fucking have one, but then it wouldn't be any fun with him would it?"

PC Ashley Sayer's voice can be heard saying:
"I can't do fucking everything, fucking stupid cow Jaine Wild looking over me shoulder"

"What are those booklets you've had from the Countryside Alliance? They're our Xmas club books, they give us loads of stuff every year, fucking stupid bitch."

"Ash says she was going around saying 'do you know that landowner'. No of course I don't - she said the badgers are in there pregnant with babies - why have you been fucking with the badger - surely X Ray vision."

The Police Complaints Authority have now agreed that PS Wilson should receive a Written Warning and PC Ashley Sayers and PC Newman should receive Formal Advice about their "unacceptable conduct and failings in this matter". Interestingly PC Sayers and PC Newman both identified PS Wilson as making abusive remarks about Jaine Wild, but PS Wilson claimed he could not identify his voice. The PCA concluded that on a balance of probabilities he had made the offensive remarks. We leave it to you to decide whether this makes him a liar - we know what we think.

JUVENILE PROTESTER CLEARED OF ATTACKING POLICE

A juvenile hunt protester was found not guilty of assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty in a youth court hearing in Sussex at the end of January.

It was the third day of a hearing, which had been spread across 3 magistrates courts and 3 months. The hearing ended a process, which had started 14 months previously at a meet of the Chiddingfold Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt at Rowner Farm, Billingshurst.

During the day a fox that had been mauled by hounds died in the arms of a protester. In the ensuing abuse directed against hunt protesters by hunt supporters, the police took the fox's carcass into police custody.

The juvenile protester was arrested and then interviewed in the back of a police car outside a police station.

The protester was de-arrested but subsequently received a summons several months later for the assault charge and another charge relating to Section 5 of the Public Order Act. It was alleged that the protester had struck an officer filming at the scene. The defence argued that, conversely, the defendant had been struck by the officer and pushed to the floor after the defendant had called him a liar. Other officers had to pull him off the defendant. Protesters at the scene had made complaints and statements about the assault at the time..

When the case started in November 2003, the fox carcass was brought from a freezer in Brighton to 2 hearings as it was going to be used as evidence for the Section 5 charge. Without it entering the court, the magistrates found that there was no case to answer for that charge at the end of the prosecution hearing.

The assault charge, however, remained and the case continued. 5 police officers and 4 hunt protesters (including the defendant) gave evidence. In summing up, the magistrates found that 7 of the 9 witnesses had seen the officer involved make the first physical contact. They also found that 7 of the 9 witnesses had seen the defendant on the ground. Only 1 of 9 witnesses had seen the alleged red mark on the officer's face which provided supposed evidence of the assault and only 1 had related the impact - but not the red mark. No record was made of the injury. As a result, they were not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that an assault had taken place. They therefore did not need to consider if the officer had been acting in the course of his duty and the case was dismissed

Operation Rook saturation of hunts cost approximately £100,000 for the 2002-3 season.

Legal News



LEGAL BRIEFS

A sab from Nottingham charged with Actual Bodily Harm and Criminal Damage relating to an incident with stewards during a cubbing meet of the Quorn during Autumn 2003 now has trial date in September.

Five sabs from the Suffolk & Essex group who were arrested on suspicion of Violent Disorder in October 2003 have had all their charges dropped. They had eventually been charged with S.4 Public Order Act 1986. These charges were dropped in early June. The five agreed to be bound over to keep the peace.

A steward from the Essex and Suffolk hunt was arrested and charged with assault following an incident in late February. The CPS dropped the case (yes really...).

At a joint meet of Monmouth and Avon Vale a Vale & Valleys sab was nicked for possession of offensive weapons (spray & whip). After releasing him on bail the cops chose to take no further action.

A Reading sab was arrested at a midweek meet of the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berkshire. He has been charged with Aggravated Trespass (S.68). He has entered a not guilty plea - case adjourned until October.

Six hunt saboteurs were arrested at a dig out at the Surrey Union in mid February. Charged with Aggravated Trespass (S.69). Not Guilty pleas have been entered - trial date set for August.

A Derby sab charged with an offence under Trade Union and Labour Relations Act and Birmingham sab charged with Aggravated Trespass (S.68) had been due in court in April... cases dropped.

A sab from Eire has an appeal rumbling through the system against a conviction for using an air horn at a Boxing Day demo 2002. He received a two month prison sentence. Likely to be a year before it gets to court.

A West London sab took civil action against Thames Valley following an arrest at the Vale of Aylesbury. The jury was asked to consider three points. The sab won two out of three points but the jury awarded minimal damages.

A sab from the North and East London group was arrested in February after allegedly obstructing a police officer. The case was discontinued in May.

A West London sab was arrested at the Hampshire Hunt on February. He had allegedly used the word "Bollocks" to a police officer. He was released after it was pointed out that the Sex Pistols had proved in the late seventies that bollocks is not an offensive word.

Five sabs were arrested at a meet of the Crawley and Horsham in January. They were all charged with Aggravated Trespass (S.68). Four of the cases have been dropped.

A sab had won an Aggravated Trespass (S.69) case at Maidstone Magistrates court in May. He had allegedly failed to leave private land when asked to do so by the senior police officer at the scene. The magistrates accepted his defence that he feared for his safety if he had left by himself - the other sabs at the scene were not asked to leave.

A sab was arrested for actions likely to cause a breach of the peace at the Isle of Wight Foxhunt. The sab was not charged but chose to accept a bind over.

DRINKIN' BEER IN THE HOT SUN... ...I FOUGHT THE LAW AND I WON

A **Reading sab** has accepted an out of court settlement of £5,600 from Wiltshire Police. This followed a mass arrested at a shoot near Swindon in October 2001. The sab took civil action against the police. The cops chose to settle the case on the morning the trial was due to start. The ten other hunt sabs from Reading and West London are taking legal advice regarding similar claims.



TOP TIP

Sab drivers will be painfully familiar with the police form HORT/1 (also known as producer, seven day wonder, bog paper, fire lighter etc). For those unaware, this is a ticket the police issue to drivers of sab cars/vans/landrovers - and occasionally other motorists as well. The driver is required to produce relevant driving documents at a police station of their choice within seven days. Failure to do so is an offence for which the driver can be summonsed.

A Derby sab has suggested making a note of the page reference of the book the police use to record the details when the documents are produced. He recently received a court summons for failing to produce his documents - despite doing so every week all season. The case was dropped when he was able to prove not only when and where he had produced his documents but also the page reference of the records book.



Shake your

What is the most important piece of kit a good sab needs to take out with them? A spray is critical, a horn and whip less so, but without some decent footwear you're not going very far.

Even worse than simply limiting yourself, if you go out in the wrong shoes you could restrict the activities of your whole group. On one of the first sabs I ever went on, one guy came out in some old DM's and lost a sole half way along a bridleway. The hunt we were going after was considered one of the most violent at the time and it was not considered safe to split up or leave anyone behind, and therefore the whole group then had to slow to his hobbling pace.

Cruelty-free footware (ie non-leather) has historically meant getting some cheap rubbish plastic trainers. All this has now changed especially with the advent of the internet. There are now not just a huge variety of non-leather shoes for all tastes from different retailers but the top end products easily out perform the equivelent leather products which are usually more expensive. There is now no excuse for any sab to be wearing leather!

This is not a comprehensive review of all possible options. Some of the comments are based on personal or group experience of a particular make and may not reflect the general or most up-to-date standard so please do shop around. There are a variety of boots featured here ranging from a pretty cheap £25 to an eye-watering £90. As with most things in life you get what you pay for and if you think what is at stake on a Saturday is it really worth skimping on something this important? Something that slows you down may prevent a life being saved or more importantly may endanger your own.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

Sabbing is probably one of the most extreme activities demanded of your footwear. The perfect boot should be tough and rugged for stony surfaces, waterproof, insulated for cold days, offer good grip for muddy slopes, and yet be lightweight and breathable for running. Inevitably you will never get the ideal boot that can achieve all this perfectly and you will end up with a compromise based on personal preference, budget and how you sab. (I prefer slippers in the driver's seat of the Landy, with the heater full-on!)

DEFINITIONS

A material which 'breathes' has the ability of allowing water vapour (ie perspiration) to escape, which allows your body to breathe and regulate its temperature as nature intended. The trick with modern materials is that they can allow water vapour to escape but prevent water as a liquid (ie rain or puddle) from entering. There is no perfect material despite what the sales people say and the general rule is the more breathable the material, the less water resistant and vice-versa. Breathable clothing is great - to an extent. Say you step into a stream in a breathable boot and the water goes over the top and inside. In the middle of winter your feet will get very cold, very fast. Your feet are heating the water and it is escaping out of the boot as water vapour and taking valuable heat energy with it. With a non-breathable boot this would not happen. Your feet will heat the water inside the boot but it can't escape anywhere so surprisingly your feet - although soaked - will stay toasty warm.

Of course if you wear non-breathable boots on a warm April day, your feet will heat up pretty quick which will be uncomfortable and you are liable to lose a few friends if you take them off in the van on the way home!

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Traditional-style vegan polish and dubbin is available from both Vegetarian Shoes and Vegan Store. Although these keep the water out and keep the fabric supple to prevent cracks it does actually reduce that breathability you bought the boots for in the first place!

A common failure with boots is that they crack under the ball of the foot due to the bending of the toe. This can't really be helped especially if you crouch or run which is pretty common while sabbing. If you've spent something like £60 on a pair of boots you may consider giving your local cobbler some business. Gluing a worn, cracked sole and pinning and gluing a new sole over the bottom (to hold the old one together) will cost you less than tenner (generally).

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

YARD BOOT: A few years ago Famous Army Stores sold an unusual style boot with a moulded rubber foot and nylon fabric ankle support and artificial fleece lining. They cost less than £20 and were waterproof (up to the top of the foot), lightweight (less than 600g per shoe), comfortable and offered a good grip in mud. Not surprisingly, they almost usurped the traditional 'Doc Martin' style boot in popularity for sabbing in the Midlands. Alas FAS is no more but with a bit of hunting (spit!) around I've managed to find an alternative. At £25 with free postage what more could you ask for? The '909 Shires Yard Boot' which is made in China is available from *www.cleesaddlery.co.uk*. Alternatively for offline people contact them on 01472 603918 or visit them at 53 Cambridge Street, Cleethorpes, NE Lincs, DN35 8HD. They are a little on the big side like Wellington boots, so you may be best ordering a size smaller than usual.

EGOLI: Manufactured in South Africa the 'Egoli' looks like a traditional style hiking boot. However, instead of being made of leather the boot is completely moulded from rubber which offers excellent waterproofing but zero breathability. It also comes with an internal steel toe cap which adds significantly to the weight (nearly 900g per shoe!) but gives extra protection against horses hooves! The sole is hard and is very similar to a wellington boot. It offers good grip in mud but is very harsh on rocky ground or tarmac. As with good quality wellies, the rubber is internally reinforced with an impregnated artificial fibre for strength but unfortunately they lack any proper liner. If you order your standard shoe size you will find there's plenty of room for some chunky socks to improve the comfort. They are available in some garden centres but Veganline offer them specifically as a budget sab boot for £26 plus £4.50 postage and packing.

'DOCS': All the bigger cruelty-free retailers offer breathable and rugged versions of this old favourite. The 'Sidewalker' boot made in the US from Veganstore is currently the cheapest at a very respectable £45. It is however on sale and is normally £54.99. Vegetarian Shoes are the next cheapest with the 'Derby' (named after the world renowned sab group perhaps?...) which costs £49.95. Ethical Wares also do the 'Chandler' at 59.95. All these are pretty standard but if you want something a bit more special there is a range of boots which cost a little more but use better quality, more comfortable soles. The 'Airseal' from Vegetarian Shoes costs £69.95, the similarly styled 'Bouncing Boot' from Veganline costs £64 and finally Ethical Wares' 'Derby' at £64.95. With a little care and lots of vegan dubbin all of these boots should last you years. 'Docs' are very comfortable with good ankle support, are relatively lightweight compared to the leather equivelent and steelies, but tough enough to take the abuse that sabs generally dish out every week. Please bear in mind that these boots are designed as street-wear which makes them great for running on firm or rocky ground but none have the sort of tread for extreme mud.

HIKERS: Why compromise with a set of Docs when for the same price or a little more you can get a pair of high tech hiking boots? Long gone are the days of heavy hiking boots, blisters and the wonderful tradition of wearing chunky socks over your trouser bottoms! All the vegan retailers offer a daunting variety of Hikers using the latest high strength breathable fabrics. I could fill up half of *Howl* writing about all the different styles and makes - if I didn't have a life! There are two main camps when it comes to function: super-breathable, non-waterproof, lightweight boots or alternatively semi-breathable, waterproof, heavier boots. One retailer has bridged the gap between the two types with the offer of 'Sealskinz' (not real and not made in Canada) Goretex socks in their top-of-the-range boots. Sealskinz socks can be added to any pair of boots to waterproof them and are available in most outdoor shops for about £20. They definitely beat the old carrier bags any day! The more expensive hiking boots all use two layer or graded density soles which gives you the spring of a lightweight sole but

Booty!

with the durability of the traditional hard, clumpy hiking sole.

The cheapest proper hiking boots I could find are again sold by VeganStore. Called the 'Wanderlust' they cost at the moment £45 (normally £49.95), are lightweight and breathable but would require a pair of Sealskinz to be waterproof. The 'Aspen Boot' is the more expensive option at £74.99 but is water resistant, windproof (aren't they all?!) and breathable.

Ethical Wares offer the high tech 'Tibet' at £69.95 which is part fabric and again would need a pair of Sealskinz for waterproofing. The Tibet uses a 'Cambrelle' lining which is a wicking material. Wicking materials work best nearest the skin and 'wick' moisture away. Sealskinz would waterproof these boots but then you would lose the benefit of the Cambrelle. Take your choice! Vegetarian Shoes offer two nice-looking, well proportioned rugged semi-breathable, water resistant hiking boots (no wussy soft fabric on this site!). The 'Katman' costs £69.95 and the 'Trekker Mk2' costs £89.95.

Veganline only offer one type of hiking boot which is the 'Garmont Vegan' (640g) priced at £75. Garmont specialise in extreme outdoor footwear and are highly thought of by those strange people who think nothing of paying £300 for a 'North Face' jacket and like to suffocate on the tops of high mountains. The Vegan isn't water-proof so Veganline offer a pair of Sealskinz included for an extra tenner. I know a few sabs who have used these in anger. Garmont also offer a 1 year warranty with a free replacement pair if they do fail you. If you prefer to try-before-you-buy Karrimor also sell these boots in their shops but without the Sealskinz offer.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HOWL READERS!

Veganline.Com are offering exclusively to subscribers to *Howl*, the top quality breathable Lorica Safety Boot made in Italy at only £34.50 INCLUDING postage and packing. That's a saving of nearly a half on the RRP and probably makes them the cheapest breathable boot on the market!



Fortunately there are a number of companies in the UK that specialise in vegetarian/vegan footwear and the four main players in the UK that specialise in Vegan footwear are:

Vegetarian Shoes 12 Gardner Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1UP0.
T. 01273 691913 *www.vegetarian-shoes.co.uk*
Ethical Wares Caegwyn, TempleBar, Felinfach, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7SA, Wales T. 01570 471155 *www.ethicalwares.com*
Vegan Store 15 Chichester Dr East,Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8LD.
T. 01273 302979 *www.veganstore.co.uk*
Veganline 2 Avenue Gardens, London, SW14 8BP
T. 02082 869947 *www.veganline.com*

All the above retailers offer secure on-line shopping but only Vegetarian Shoes and Ethical Wares have an actual shop you can walk around the old-fashioned way!



HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation has no paid staff and minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. If you would like your gift to be used for a particular purpose, please tell us. In the event that the government get around to banning hunting with hounds your gift will still be put to good use – the campaign will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature..... Date.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports

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

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

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us. You don't have to go sabbing to join! We value 'supporting' members just as highly as sabs in the field.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of *HOWL* to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Phone the office if you don't already have a salesgoods order form.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

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

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

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

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

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

Address .....

Postcode..... Tel.....

email.....

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

Card No. ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

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

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

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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

Animal Contacts Directory
Lists thousands or local and national campaign and rescue groups.
c/o Veggies, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX
www.veggies.org.uk/acd email: acd@veggies.org.uk

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

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

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
publishes Pisces
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX 01792 464 176
E-mail: pisces@pisces.demon.co.uk www.pisces.demon.co.uk

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

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

Earth First!
A monthly roundup of ecological and other direct action news
c/o 12 London Road, Brighton, BN1 4AJ 07092 039970
www.actionupdate.org.uk mail@actionupdate.org.uk

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

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

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

London Animal Action
publishes London Animal Rights News
BM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. 0845 458 4775
email: laa@londonaa.demon.co.uk
www.londonaa.demon.co.uk

National Anti Hunt Campaign
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3XX
Phone: 01442 240246
email: nahc@nahc.freeserve.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
Publishes Regular Newsletter Update
6 Boat Lane, EVESHAM, Worcestershire, WR11 4BP
Phone: 0845 458 0630 www.shac.net email: info@shac.net

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

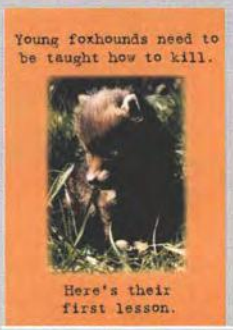
Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG)
PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 82 92 83 25
Emergency arrest line: 07743 536 114
email: info@vpsg.info Visit: www.vpsg.org

HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour, glossy A2 posters. Ideal for stalls, displays, etc
.....**FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**





Full colour, A5
HSA 'Still Legal'
Leaflet. Explains what sabs do and why we're the only viable option for wildlife NOW! Reverse side has salesgoods and membership details. Ideal for stalls and as an insert for 'Animal Rights' publications

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

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

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



Copper the fox is still going strong and so is our leaflet! The famous fox has been immortalised in a superb HSA full colour A5 leaflet which describes his rescue, treatment and the vet's findings. And has lovely piccies of him too!
Please help us to publicise Copper's story as the hunting debate heats up again, by ordering and giving out as many of these FREE leaflets as you possibly can. ***More than 200,000 already gone out!***

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

The HSA also has a range of 'How to...' A5 leaflets
Each A5 leaflet, gives a brief outline of how a hunt operates, how it is sabbed and well-researched arguments against that form of hunting.
Types of hunting included are: Foxhunting, Hare hunting, Hare Coursing, Game Shooting, and Mink Hunting.

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

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











BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

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

Single back issues 50p each

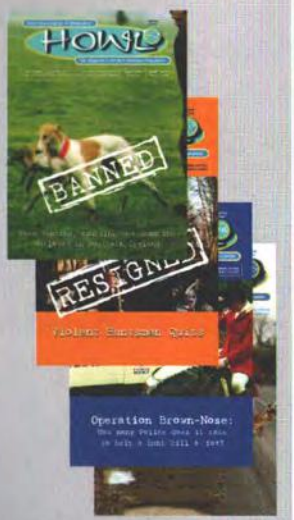
Bulk orders:
10 + issues **FREE!** (+p&p)

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

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

You can also affiliate to the HSA for £30 for 4 issues of *Howl*. Affiliated groups will receive 10 copies of each *Howl* in the course of their subscription. (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

NB: **All 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.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

40th BIRTHDAY PARTY

SATURDAY 31st JULY 2004

6 pm - 12 midnight

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BEFORE 2 pm - 6pm

@

CONWAY HALL

25 RED LION SQUARE LONDON WC1R 4RL

NEAREST STATION IS HOLBORN (CENTRAL AND PICCADILLY LINES)

- CHEAP HSA-RUN BAR (SO NO SNEAKIN' CANS IN!)
- AMUSING VIDEO COMPILATIONS
- YUMMY VEGAN CAKES
- MERCHANDISE, LEAFLETS & *HOWLS* UP FOR GRABS
- RAFFLE (INCLUDING POSH 'LUSH' STUFF)
- DRUNKEN TOMFOOLERY
- COME AND MEET NEW & OLD FACES

