Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Winter 2004

HOWL 82

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

FOUR YEARS ON: STEVE'S STORY

BUMPKINS RIOT IN PARLIAMENT SQ.

THE BENEFIT OF BENEFITS

GROUSE SHOOTS SABOTAGE

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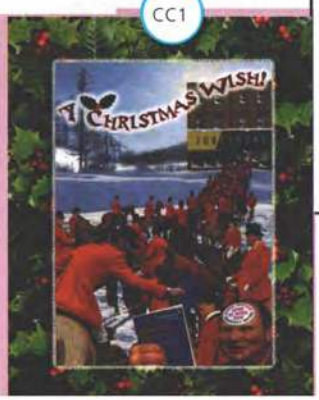
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HOWL 82

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX Tel. 0845 450 0727
Howl e-mail: howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk
HSA e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk
website: www.huntsabs.org.uk

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 Mr. D
Contributors Jake, Southdowns sabs, Sylvia D, Nath Positive Rob, Taff, Jason, Paul T, Andi B
Photos Deidre, Gweedo, P.G., Paul T, Steve Interesting, Croydon, Hastings, Reading and Southampton sabs, Norwich Anti-bloodsports, WSWPG
Vermin Patrol Paul T.
big taverymuch to The office crew, & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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The views expressed in *Howl* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the 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

Welcome to *Howl* 82

No doubt you have all been glued to your TV sets recently, but I hope there is still room for *Howl* to bring you another smile out of recent developments.

It is not common practice for sabs, or even *Howl* editors to be overly optimistic where legislative matters are concerned. However, I might break ranks just enough to say that personally I am more optimistic now than at any previous time, that we are about to get what we've been promised for the past seven years. To this end, it is more important than ever for us to, firstly, stay safe, and secondly, make as much use as possible of the photos/footage we take out sabbing. I know our diligent press officer has been asked for all sorts of things recently and it may well be easier right now to get our stuff to media outlets than for quite some time. On this note, I would like to congratulate the Wild's and Chichester sabs for their recent piece on Trevor MacDonald's *Tonight* show on ITV recently. It was the first programme in a long while to allow sabs to speak about what really goes on in the cubbing season. The footage of hunt violence, although not new to us will undoubtedly have shocked many not so enlightened viewers.

Can I remind the readership of the editors new e-mail address **howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk** for all your letters, group news, and general words of encouragement, etc. Although, you'll need to send your christmas gifts via the BM postal address! Alright, I'll leave the jokes to the Chairperson, she's hilarious.

Lastly, can I just wish everyone a safe main season's sabbing. It is very important that we can save lives out there, but it's more so that we don't need to save each others. 'Play it cool Trig, play it cool.'

Mr. D
Howl Editor

BLOOD JUNKIES GET RELIGION!

A Devon based shooting coach has founded a new religious organisation dedicated to those who hunt, shoot and fish. The free church of country sports is calling for a declaration of support.

Rod Brammer of the 'church' says, "while existing religious organisations do cater well for the needs of those involved in country pursuits, we felt there was a need for an umbrella organisation and a more concerted effort to take care of the pastoral needs of those with strong religious convictions who take part in country pursuits".

Apparently, he rejects suggestions that the 'church' is just a cynical effort to stop a ban on hunting on the supposed grounds, that any subsequent ban would be an infringement of his human right to freedom of worship.
- Heard it all now! - Ed.



Civil War?

The gutter press and the redneck riot



The Countryside Alliance, like the press, are not usually known for their exaggeration....,but in this case, even I was stunned. The pro-hunting demo did of course have all the makings of a kick off, and when it did, it was surprisingly low key. A few terrier men and other knuckle draggers had a go at the police, and of course, as they were trying to move towards Parliament, the police responded by lashing out. Nothing new in that of course, except that of course, for the first time, sabs could sit at home, sipping their cocoa, watching an endless news loop of coppers battering rednecks!

What a turn up!(apparently the next day in Badmington, according to *The Observer*, the villagers at the village store looking at the morning papers"were shaking their heads at images of bleeding scalps of comrades beaten back by the police. Some tried to pick up a copy, but couldn't: their knuckles had been broken by police batons." Bless!!

I know that over the years, I've witnessed stunning brutality on the part of the Met., at various demos in London, on a variety of issues, where many a sab will have tasted a whack of a truncheon. Now, as they only nicked eight people, its fingers crossed, that in the next couple of weeks, every redneck who kicked off in the square, will be woken from their slumber, to find their log cabins invaded by coppers, carting them off to be charged with Violent Disorder! If they were sabs, and had as much as cracked a pane of glass, this would have happened already...and as for the invasion of Parliament, well, it made great news!

The posh boys had no help? Not an inside job? I expect we shall never know, such is the governmental embarrassment. But is was the press reaction over the next few days, which proved to be the usual mix of half truth, woeful ignorance, and arse licking, but not without the odd gem! *The Daily Mail*, have already christened it the new Poll Tax issue, pretty stunningly overblown! (of course, when Thatcher brought in the Poll Tax, her party lost power. Labour was voted in, on an anti hunting platform...) But as for civil war?... words fail me there! If Labour could ignore the wishes of the million strong predominately Labourite anti war march, why will the gruntings of a few frustrated tories, threatening to block a few motorways cause them sleepless nights? And as for not being able to police hunt bans...well, the hunts have always seemed happy with the ridiculous over zealous police presence when the sabs turn up...and, of course, we can always muck in, and help the police with a few citizens arrests!

Every person who got a slap was turned into a celebrity over night, and all seemed to be well enough to be interviewed, as the blood dripped onto their Harris Tweeds. *The Mail* (contrary to what was shown on t.v), was adamant that all injured protesters were attacked unfairly, even though "bottles, cans, food, and banners were thrown, fireworks exploded, and gas canisters went off." David Jukes, huntmaster, said that the police "only needed to say "steady on lads", but instead they started hitting everyone!" Ever been to that thar big town before, Dave?! Their stunning photo spreads of bleeding hunt supporters almost verged on the pornographic (well, sabs will be enjoying them!), but, whatever the CA have said about us, sabs have never done to the hunters, what the police did in an afternoon!

The Mirror weren't quite so complimentary "Toff With Their Heads", and "Tally Hooligans!"- yep, that's better! Rod Little in *the Sunday Times,* stated that "part of me enjoyed seeing those braying Toffs given a good kicking by their erstwhile guardians the police" (couldn't have put it better myself.) And the Parliament invaders didn't really do any better. Ok, world-wide media stars overnight, but, would that have been a big deal to them?..Otis Ferry has already been a bad boy, caught sneaking around Tony Blairs house at night, before invading the Commons.

The plot was apparently hatched in his mothers 1.5 million house in Kensington - later in the day, his mother and girlfriend were also arrested, for refusing to move their cars... oooh! Civil War! And where was daddy Bryan, Well, who actually cares ?

Eton educated Luke Tomlinson was another invader, and being close friends with Princes Willie and Harry, another young chap who will be destitute in the event of a hunt ban, as will aristocrat millionaire David Reuvers, successful horse racer and stud farmer... it goes on in a similar vein. Will these brave, handsome young men give up the silver spoon of privilege to be buggered in the shower? Well, I shall keep an open mind.







So, have they raised any public sympathies in their actions, and talk of civil disobedience? As the more intelligent columnists have pointed out, this argument does stem from the vision of a new Britain - one where some of the land that was stolen from the poor may be given back, and not contained as the playgrounds of the the rich and powerful. The pro hunters bleat on aimlessly about how factory farming is inherently more cruel than hunting, but, maybe, one day that will be banned to. Losing the argument over and over, is no longer enough for the hunters, and instead of kicking the shit out of hunt sabs week after week, they have taken their violence to the doors of Parliament - BIG mistake guys. In the words of *The Observers* David Aaronovitch, "it would be a good idea to have the people on your side. They aren't, as you will discover - possibly painfully - when you, and other friends of the princes, come on your shutting down missions to London or the M25. Honestly, I sympathise. But you aren't Martin Luther King. So prepare to let it go. Drag Hunt. Its Over".

Thank you, David ■





NEWS IN BRIEF

Environment agency hooks licence cheats
The Environment Agency has caught scores of anglers fishing without a valid licence in the South West over the May bank holiday weekend. Following 1,333 spot checks between May 1st - 3rd, 95 were caught without a licence. Fishing without a licence can net you a fine of up to £2,500 and a ban from fishing.

Challenge against minister postponed
Countryside Alliance Ireland's long awaited legal challenge against NI environment minister Angela Smith (formerly with LACS) has been postponed until after the summer. The minister has been responsible for imposing a 12 month ban on killing hares in Northern Ireland.

Scottish council prevents school attending Countryside Alliance day
The convener of Moray Council in Scotland has defended a decision not to allow pupils to attend an outdoor event featuring shooting and weapons handling. The event in question was a day organised by the CA Scotland and would include the use of shotguns - presumably with killing things in mind - Ed.

RNLI rescues helpless Deer
The Dorset RNLI found themselves answering an unusual rescue on June 2nd when they rushed to the aid of a helpless deer near sand banks in Poole, Dorset. The animal probably tried to swim across from Brownsea island but found the tide too strong to cope with, the lifeguards undoubtedly saved its life. It has made a complete recovery and rejoined the heard.

Hunters down under seek fox bounty
Australia's hunters are calling for the government to reintroduce a bounty on foxes, due to the alleged devastating affect on the continents' wildlife. They argue the cull is necessary in order to combat the damage foxes, and other introduced species inflict on the ecosystem.

Welsh first minister blocks appointment of pro-hunter
First minister for Wales Rhodri Morgan has taken a decision not to appoint Gerard Elias as council general to theassembly because of the political nature of the hunting issue in Westminster. Mr Elias is a commissioner with the independent supervisory authority for hunting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pro-Hunt Newspaper at war with C.A.
The notoriously pro-hunt Western Daily Press gave over its front page on August 13th to the headline 'Quit Now!' With photographs either side of CA chief executive Simon Hart and Media boss Tim Bonner. It would appear that throughout the Spring and Summer the CA has bombarded the WDP with veiled threats of legal action if they continued to print anti hunting letters the CA disagreed with, or thought were inaccurate. In the editions editorial piece their succinct reply to the CA threats was simply "get knotted!"

West Ham score own goal
Football fans who watched West Ham Vs Ipswich Town (division one play off, semi final) recently, saw them being led onto the pitch by Ken Hand, huntsman of the Essex farmers and union FH in red coat and blowing his horn. Apparently, West Ham wanted a special tradition for such a special match.

Boar and Mink numbers
The current population level of wild Boar according to government figures is 260, located in Kent, Sussex, Dorset, and Herefordshire. The Mink eradication scheme in the Outer Hebredies has cost £1.65 million and only 200 Mink were caught.

Barry Peachy rears his head again
Former legal editor of the countryman's weekly, ex-policeman and jack-of-all-trades badger baiters friend, Barry Peachy is leading a campaign to improve the reputation of horse dealers by introducing safe guards for those who buy the animals. - How long before he's in court again, answers on a postcard... Ed.

Grouse number down
Red Grouse numbers on Britain's shooting moors are down this year by 33% and many landowners are delaying the start of the glorious twelfth to preserve stocks.

TESCO to sell Whale meat
An investigation by the EIA has learned that TESCO supermarket is selling whale and Dolphin meat. The C Two - network member of the TESCO group sells canned meat products in 32 of its 78 stores. The meat is sourced from the Nissui and Kyokuyo whaling companies. TESCO's PR address is TESCO plc, New TESCO house, Delamare road, Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 9SL

MADonna wins estate battle
Pop star Madonna has won her bid to keep ramblers from walking across her £9 million country estate in Dorset. A public inquiry ruled that the public has no rights of way to 15 of 17 contested segments of land within the 1,200 acre Ashcombe house estate.

NEW NATIONAL SHOOTING HOTLINE LAUNCHED

A new shooting sabotage hotline has been set up by the countryside alliance to provide a 24 hour advice service to deal with incidents, and police liaison in the run up the glorious twelfth and beyond. In case you spot any sabotage and want to do the right thing the number is 0845 225 0486.

TWO SCOTTISH HUNTS IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE

The *Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire* hunt are in talks with the *Eglinton* hunt over the possibility of sharing kennels and hunt staff. The proposals, if approved, would save upwards of £40,000 per annum. At present both the *L&R* and the *Eglinton's* facilities are in need of upgrading to satisfy lease obligations.

The future of the *L&R* had been in doubt earlier this year and meetings were held to decide if the hunt should suspend operations at the end of the current hunting year.

A spokesman for the *L&R* said: "The scottish parliament's ban on foxhunting, and the slow train of the legal appeal process, is seriously challenging the resolve of all hunt supporters. Following 40 years of creeping urbanisation, 20 years of illegal hunt sabotage and foot and mouth disease, the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire hunt have become an icon of scottish tenacity".
In the meantime the joint masters of the *L&R* have agreed to continue to run the hunt on a temporary month by month basis beyond May 1st.

☺ Scottish hunts face further uncertainty
All three Judges turned down the scottish countryside alliance's appeal against the Watson Act (protection of wild mammals (scotland) act). Things are beginning on the criminal front too, with civil matters settled for the moment two cases can go ahead and are scheduled for August, they are Trevor Adams of the *Duke of Buccleuch hunt* and Rory Innes formerly of the *Jedforest*. Both face criminal prosecution under the new act.

☺ Scotland to revise welfare legislation
The Scottish government has published a consultation document on proposals to revise existing animal welfare legislation. It is seeking views on how existing legislation can be improved to prevent cruelty to any animal. It will include such matters as greyhound racing, pheasant breeding for shoots, tail docking, livery yards, and shoeing of horses.

COVENTRY ANIMAL ALLIANCE

JILL'S DAY: 5 FEB 2005



CAA would like to give everybody advance notice of a special event in the animal rights calendar and extend an open invitation to everyone who would like to join them.

Jill Phipps, was knocked down and killed by a lorry delivering tiny calves to Coventry's airport for live exports to Europe. Next year will be the tenth anniversary of her death, CAA is planning to mark this with a significant day of events in Coventry.
The plan is to meet in the centre of the city, where there will be information stalls, speakers, and a film about Jill's life. After which there will be a march around the city divided into the various aspects of animal rights campaigning. The procession will end with free vegan food and a social evening at the West Indian Club.
Further details from Coventry Animal Alliance, PO Box 3605, Coventry, CV1 3WS.

Tel - 07940 077464
Coventry_animal_alliance@yahoo.co.uk

MORE HUNTS FOLD

Three packs of hounds have recently folded and are no longer tormenting wildlife. The ***Mid-Essex Beagles*** have ceased hunting as their country has shrunk due to urban expansion and upgraded roads. ***The Holme Valley and Ecclesfield Beagles*** are to amalgamate due to shortage of country, mostly in the Holme Valley area. ***The North Pennine Foxhounds*** blames its demise on the impact of the foot and mouth hunt ban from which it has been unable to recover.



COURT TELLS HUNT TO SILENCE HOUNDS

The I.O.W. hunt was served a court ruling recently upholding a noise abatement order on its kennels. The order followed a complaint by two neighbours who had been kept awake at night. Andrew Sallis, hunt master expressed concern that animal rights groups could now use the ruling to challenge other packs around the country. However, environmental health officers giving evidence said it was the worst case of dog barking they had encountered in 30 years combined service.

WELSH HOLE DIGGERS COMPETITION!

The Welsh hole digging championships were staged at the end of July, with entries from various Welsh hunts. The competition, where teams have four minutes to dig a hole that a beer barrel will fit deepest into, was won by the Llangeinor, the home team. Apparently, luck played its part as the runners up, the Pentyrch had to deal with stoney ground. - I kid you not, Ed.



HUNTSMANBALLS



'I would no longer want to hunt, partly because I feel that hunting was dying anyway, even without the moves to ban it. The saboteurs must have made it miserable.'
(Minnette Marrin, Sunday Times 19/9/04)

'This is not democracy. This is a denial of democracy'
(Guardian 16/09/04)
What one of the Commons invaders is said to have shouted at Alun Michael. Let's not forget here that that the British Parliamentary system is viewed the word over as the 'mother of *all* parliaments'. Or indeed that the Bill had been considered by the House many times previously, and on each occasion had voted in favour of it. So, bit silly to say that, on balance...

'This government! There's not democracy. You've mucked up pensions, you've mucked up everything!' *(Guardian 16/09/04)*
Another reported utterance from one of the dim-wits (or as Steve Bell liked to refer to them in his cartoon of the same day 'fcukwits) who stormed the Commons chamber. Obviously a lot of thought gone into that one.

'We were just eight pretty half-witted, half baked people who decided to walk in.'
(Guardian 18/09/04) David Redvers, one of the fcukwits. Nuff said.

'No-one got cracked over the head for no reason' *(Guardian 17/09/04)*
Sir John Steven$, Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Bless 'im.

'We don't know enough about various factions and groups within the Countryside Alliance.... and we were not expecting the numbers who were using violence'.
(Guardian17/09/04)
Tim Goodwin, Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner. Perhaps Tim-Nice-But-Dim should do his bloody homework next time. We'll send him some back-issues of *Howl* to help...

'The government has got to realise it is taking on the middle classes. No government has taken on the middle classes and won.' *(Guardian 17/09/04)*
'Friend' of the invading protesters. But I thought the CA said hunting wasn't a class thing.... but now the protest against a ban is?!

'I don't like talking without appointments'
Otis Ferry, refusing to comment on the *Mirror/Observer* exposure of artificial earths. Maybe you should learn a lesson there, Otis. Next time you feel like gate crashing a government discussion, don't just barge in, make an appointment-otherwise, its just not cricket, is it, eh?!

'Cub hunting does not exist anymore. The East Kent hunt does not begin hunting for another 3-4 weeks, and hunting proper, which really just means longer days, will begin around the beginning of November.' *(Kentish Gazette 9/9/04)*
David Potter, Master of the East Kent FH. The East Kent were then seen on local TV on 16/9/04 out hunting!

'We're being searched and filmed at the station just because of the way we are dressed'
(www.indymedia.org.uk)
Outraged huntscum, Brighton. Welcome to our world...well, the ***real*** world actually.

'Georgie Worsley 'Master of the Old Surrey and Burstow and West Ct... er, hunt.'**
(Nicky Campbell on Radio 5 live 15/9/04 as reported in the Daily Mirror 16/9/04)
Worsley said 'It was a real cock-up.' Nice one Nicky, who in the past has been a bit of a west kent himself.



A boy of 13 has been killed after being mistaken for a fox on a September night-time shooting trip in Devon. One of the three adults in the group told detectives he fired the fatal shot. A spokesperson for the Gun Control Network said. "This is about shooting for fun and a terrible tragedy ensuring from the careless use of weapons. It has got nothing to do with vermin."

A US man who tried to shoot a mouse accidentally shot his girlfriend in the arm instead. Donald Rugg, 43, spotted the mouse in his home in Confluence, Pennsylvania, and took a shot at it with his hand gun. But he missed the mouse and hit his girlfriend Cathy Jo Harris, 35, who had walked into the bullet's path. Harris was taken to Somerset Community Hospital by her 16-year-old daughter. Police Cpl. Robert Clark said: "While it's not against the law to discharge a weapon in a home, police advise against it."

A Japanese man set his parents' house on fire as he tried to get rid of a mosquito. Police say the property was gutted in the blaze caused by Tatsuo Onishi lighting a cigarette after spraying pesticide outside. Sparks from his lighter caused an explosion after igniting the flammable particles in the air and flames quickly spread to the building in Matsuyama. Mr Onishi had been taking a nap inside his car parked outside his home when the mosquito began to annoy him. The 22-year-old attempted to exterminate the insect by spraying the area immediately outside the house. He suffered minor burns to his face and neck in the incident. Nobody else was hurt.

A shooting trip turned into a nightmare for 59 year old Roger Fullbrook, when he stumbled and shot himself in the foot. "I bent down to release my dog and as he ran off into a hedge I stumbled, the gun flew out of my arms, hit the ground barrel first and went off".



Changing views of a much loved Home-secretary!

A regular reader of Howl recently supplied a bundle of correspondence he had kept, in the hope it might prove of interest to the readership. He lives within Mr Blunkett's constituency and has had regular contact with his MP over the hunting issue.
The letters he received, show an interesting change in view point as Mr Blunkett increases his political resume.

As Shadow Secretary of State for Education, back in 1995. He replied to a letter about the wild mammals (protection) bill (remember that one? – Ed). Mr Blunkett apologies for being double booked on the day of the second reading, but makes it very clear that he would be there if he had the least doubt of it passing. He finishes with, "I shall be there when the real vote takes place which will abolish hunting."

Two years later and now Secretary of State for Education and Employment, he makes his position very clear by writing. "I have supported previous measures to ban hunting with hounds and will give my support to Mike Foster's Bill as it passes through the House of Commons. I believe there are alternatives for those who wish to take them, which would still allow the same kind of activity but without the cruelty and wanton destruction that currently arises."

By 2000 and still in the same front bench position, Mr Blunkett now attempts to side step the issue by hiding behind the Burns inquiry report of the time. Suggesting that decisions are awaited from the Home Secretary before further discussion takes place. A marked difference to his earlier answers on the exact same subject in 1997, where there can be absolutely no mistaking the language used.

Again, in 2001 he still attempts to reassure his constituent using phrases like. "It is the wellbeing of the animals that comes first." He goes on to write, " you will have noticed, of cause, that I then voted for an outright ban – unlike others who voted the other way or abstained." All still sounding like a New Labour MP, and holding firm to the party pledge to ban hunting with dogs since 1997.

Somewhere though, between 2001 and the present (his last letter to his constituent is dated 23rd June 2004) things went decidedly off the rails. Mr Blunkett is now the Home Secretary himself and possibly in more of a position than ever before to press for the views he has been expressing in his correspondence over the last nine years.

However, this does not appear to be the case any longer. Almost straight away he says, "twice now...I have voted for a middle way approach on the issue of hunting with hounds. I have done so because I believe this is the best way of achieving a massive reduction in the cruelty of hunting with hounds and that stopping hare coursing and the hunting of hares and deer is a top priority. I also believe that there is a way of creating a situation in which we could reduce the cruelty to foxes which I do believe are vermin."

Mr Blunkett couldn't be reached by the editors, to comment upon whether or not he agrees with the sentiment that power corrupts!

LEGAL CHALLENGE OVER RSPB TRESPASS

Readers will be familiar with this story from *Howl 81.* Allegations were made that RSPB investigators, who were gathering evidence against gamekeepers, did not have permission to be on the land.

John McLeod was allegedly filmed taking a peregrine falcon chick from its nest. He walked free, however, after the Sheriff ruled that the RSPB had been trespassing. His ruling has now been appealed by the crown, which is seeking clarification of the legal position on access. Six other cases in which gamekeepers are accused of wildlife crimes await the outcome of the appeal.

Most successful RSPB prosecutions in the past have been due to evidence collected by RSPB staff, volunteers and hillwalkers.

"For many years, Scottish courts have sought and accepted the evidence of RSPB Scotland staff because of their experience and expertise. There is no reason why this should change," said Lloyd Austin, head of policy operations with RSPB Scotland.

HSA Club Draw

RECENT LUCKY WINNERS... ...IT COULD BE YOU!

April
1st F Ford
2nd P Fenn
3rd F Inkley

May
1st P Fenn
2nd M Hugget
3rd M Wall

June
1st Anonymous
2nd B Mayo-Turner
3rd P Fenn

July
1st H Bevan
2nd P Parkin
3rd F Ford

August
1st P Duckworth
2nd I Pallas
3rd N Widdowson

September
1st M Ashenden
2nd P Fenn
3rd S McGregor

BADGER KILLERS

In recent weeks we have all seen the images from the media, of scenes of clashes between pro-hunters and the police. At last, the blood thirsty few who for years have caused misery to thousands of animals have had a small taste of their own medicine. And possibly we will also see the Labour government live up to their promises and ban hunting with hounds.

Away from the glare of mainstream media another sort of hunt is taking place, and the future of this hunt is certainly not being discussed in the House of Commons. The culling of thousands of badgers throughout the UK is being promoted and is fully backed by our government.

In May 2000 a trial started in selected regions in the UK in an attempt to prove the tentative link between badgers and the spread of bovine TB in cattle. This trial was all down to one man, Prof. Krebs, who announced to the government in 1997 that he believed that badgers carried and passed bovine TB onto cattle. Even though badgers have been linked to the spread of TB and have been culled for the past 25 years, these culls had not been evaluated scientifically. To rectify this, a 7 year badger cull trial commenced. Cornwall, Devon, Wiltshire, Herefordshire, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire are just some of the counties the badger cull has taken place to date.

It is not exactly sure how many badgers have been killed or whether the spread of TB amongst cattle is caused by interacting with badgers. None of the government results will be released until the end of the trial in 2005. Many people believe that it is not the badgers who contribute to the spread of TB to cattle but the bad practises of animal husbandry and movement of animals for trade.

But there is still hope for the badgers, throughout the trial period activists within the cull areas have been checking hedgerows, fields and woodlands in search for badger traps, laid out and baited with peanuts for badgers to stroll in and become trapped, ready for a morning visit from DEFRA workers to put a bullet in the badger's head. The animals are then taken away to be analysed for bTB infection.

Committed individuals work long hours preventing badgers from being killed in what they believe to be an unnecessary and intensely cruel exercise. Much of their time is spent surveying badger setts for badger activity and preventing traps from being used effectively. Strong opposition from farmers has caused frequent attacks on activists who are regularly physically assaulted and threatened with dogs and guns.

When a badger is found still alive in a trap there is nothing more pleasing than releasing the animal back into its environment knowing that the badger will have another day to live and the cruel government workers won't have the satisfaction of killing the animal.

Help is always gratefully received in opposition to the cull, your time and money would be very much appreciated by the local badger groups. Donations can be sent to the HSA marked 'badgers'. For more information on the badger cull you can visit *www.badger-killers.co.uk*



blah blah blah blah blah blah



***Howl* 83**
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 to the **new** address:
howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk

BUMPKINS SHOW TRUE COLOURS

Dear Editor

Until a couple of weeks back I was largely ignorant of the 'hunting debate'. My limited knowledge of the issue consisted entirely of newspaper and television reports, and these would rarely receive my full attention.

Whilst on a lunch-break in Westminster, on September the 15th 2004, I encountered a spectacle which I can only describe as an 'eye-opener': Gangs of thuggish men (and women!) fighting pitched battles with the Police; missiles striking innocent Londoners going about their daily business and the overwhelming arrogance of a minority unwilling to accept the democratic, parliamentry process.

This was not how I was led to believe the hunting lobby conducted themselves. In fact, this sort of behaviour is how the popular media usually depicts opponents of hunting, such as the League against cruel sports and your organisation.

Having witnessed first hand, the hunters behaviour I can't help feeling that both myself, and the majority of the British public may have had the wool pulled over our eyes regarding the issue of violence and hunting.

Tina Robinson
Southwark

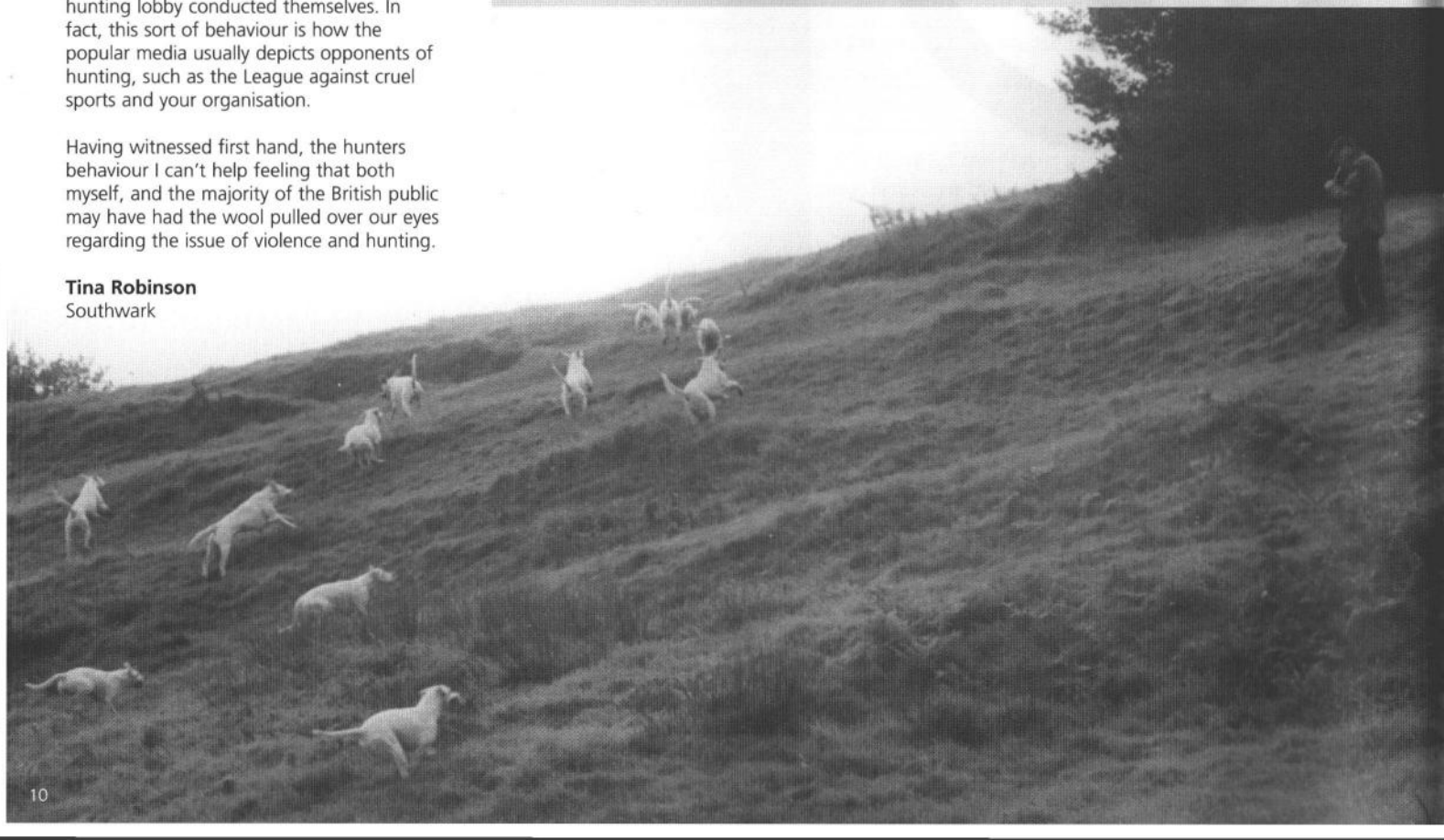
NEVER TOO YOUNG TO OPPOSE BLOODSPORTS

Dear Editor

I am 14 and would like to know if I am too young to be a hunt saboteur or of if I would be any kind of use to helping foxes and other animals. Enclosed is a picture I made purposely to leave lying around the farm where I keep my pony to see what the people think!

THANX Lindsey Browning





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:
HSA,
HSA BM,
London,
WC1N 3XX.

HOWL 81 CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER



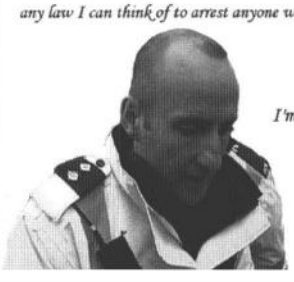
An HSA mug is on it's way to this issues lucky winner - Mark Hammond of Soho, London. Congratulations Mark, and happy slurping!

advertisement

"People say I'm a twat, but meeting up with the hunt, people I want to be like, to help a group of inbred halfwits tear a fox apart and act as their personal bodyguard for the day at the taxpayers expense... Or abuse any law I can think of to arrest anyone who stops the hunt and help them kill wildlife for fun...

I'm not sure I could do that...

nah, actually I could!"



COULD YOU?
POLICE



THE HSA WAS 40

The Hunt Saboteurs Association held its 2004 annual general meeting at Conway hall in London on 31st July. This years meeting was something of a special one as it coincided with our 40th anniversary and being hunt sabs we were not going to let an opportunity like that go by without a good celebratory bash.

In characteristic style the AGM began a little late with the committee each holding forth on their various tasks and responsibilities over the previous twelve months and opening themselves up for questioning before their ordeal was over. What did come to light, however, was the excellent financial health of the HSA, our accounts being openly available at the AGM due to our company status. There were no elections this year as no positions were being contested and the present committee were retained for another year (you lucky people - you). With the conclusion of the committee reports we stopped, with a moment of sobriety to remember those who could not be with us, and who will never be forgotten. With the official business over and no AOB brought about by the membership we adjourned for a spot of tiffin kindly provided by Veggies (excellent burgers) and Mmm...yummy cakes (supplying superb cakes sold in aid of the Save the newchurch guinea-pigs campaign.)

With everyone having taken advantage of the HSA subsidised bar it was time for the video compilations, which this year included not only the past seasons highlights but a trip down memory lane with a viewing of the 1975 BBC 'open door' programme (see *Howl 81*) being hosted by our very own Dave Wetton, (love the suit dave). This was probably something not seen by many sabs before and was therefore a rather special treat I thought. Next up was the ubiquitous horn blowing competition, this year won by a Bournemouth sab. At some point around now there was a raffle with actual prizes, but I will own up here and admit I missed it, so some lucky devil won a load of Lush goodies but I don't have a clue who it was, well done anyway.

After a good deal more beer, catching up and general scheming about the forthcoming season we initiated our master plan of the karaoke. Now I should explain that the original concept for the karaoke was that groups would nominate themselves for it and another group would have to pick the song they were to sing. I'm not sure if this actually happened in all cases as one or two of the performances had the air of preparedness about them! In my book, this would be definitely points deducted, however, we will let it pass as others stepped up to keep it real with the very best impressions of strangling a cat! (Pictured above from left to right: N & E London, Guildford and Southampton sabs)

Feed back from the day suggests it was one of the best AGM's we have ever staged, we sold out of beer at one point and had to go running for a re-supply and the merchandise stall made a veritable killing!

It was a special day for us, for forty years this organisation has existed for the dedicated purpose of saving animals lives and it was right and proper that it did not pass without celebration. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who made this day happen and on behalf of the committee I would like to thank all of those who came along and made the day what it was. Good luck in the forthcoming season.

To protect the pursued.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AGM RAFFLE WINNERS

1st prize - £250 **F. Barnett**
2nd prize - £100 **P. Brailsford**
3rd prize - 1 hour flight **D. Moorhouse**
4th prize - £50 of HSA merchandise **L. Edwards**
5th prize - Lush box of smellies **H. Tutton**
6th prize - Troody skrumptious chocolates **M. Thomas**
7th prize - Troody skrumptious chocolates **JCH. Borthwick**
8th prize - Cocoa Tree chocolates **D.J. Cooper**

PUNKS AND SABS UNITE AND WIN



- the benefit of benefit gigs

The London Punks gig collective is better known as Active Slaughter, In our 3 years together instead of just mouthing off our politics we've aimed to do something more concrete. Nothing's better than being active, but I can't think of any Direct Action group or campaign that could possibly survive without some kind of funding.

The first task we undertook was the punk benefit CD "Direct Action Animal Rights" which was done in support of the HSA and SHAC. Organising our own gigs came about through both lack of understanding with some venue promoters and it seemed a logical way to help groups we support.

A benefit gig can be very hit and miss; sometimes they will raise just a few quid other times you can be looking at clearing a grand to the cause. There are all sorts of things that can be a plus factor. Such as location of gig and are the bands a big "crowd puller". If you can get a gig in a central location with a "crowd puller" then you are laughing, well not always. Most venues in central locations tend to have quite steep overheads, which more often than not pays the wages of sometimes-disagreeable bouncers. The gigs we have organised in London tend not to be in such grand locations but we have managed to draw a few people and get some pretty big "crowd puller" bands. There can also be a problem with some "crowdpuller" bands, despite what some bands may sing about it's often the case they will require a payment which can amount to more than the benefit has raised or worse, more than you are able to make. It wouldn't be fair of me to list bands who I would say will definitely do it, it's pretty hard to guarantee a "crowdpuller" band who will always be up for it at a minimum fee but not unknown.

I can only really speak for punk bands I know a lot of people in the AR movement would rather see benefits with other types of music - which is great if you can get an artist to play for your cause. It's worth chasing people up if you can, importantly if anyone reading has contacts with "artists" sympathetic to say Hunt Saboteurs then try asking. Punk rock has often gone with the territory of Sabbing there are quite a few people who became active through listening to punk and the reason I can only speak for the punk scenes support is there isn't a lot of evident support to such movements as Hunt saboteurs in other genre's of music.
It should be made clear from early on what you are prepared to give a band. It's reasonable enough for a band to be covered for most if not all their travel to the venue, a meal and a few drinks, even a few quid extra if the gig has done well, but don't leave your self short for the benefit. It's very satisfying when a benefit makes anything over around £50 for a small pub gig, if you are lucky enough to get small professional type venues it shouldn't be worth doing unless your sab group is going to walk away with a couple of hundred. That said, benefit gigs are not only about making money for a cause and people getting wrecked. I can say that many activists got involved after coming to benefit gigs. The leaflets and info on stalls is many a people's introduction to say Sabbing.



Sometimes the best gigs in London have been the squat gigs, I'm not about to recommend anyone cracking a squat or not cracking a squat for a one off gig or anything. When there's an established squat with punk bands playing most of the time they are happy for Sabs to put on benefits. There can be no denying the lack of licensed authority breathing down your neck sees a lot more dosh raised than you would get in a "proper" venue. But seeing as there aren't many places outside of London with much of a squat scene it isn't a likely possibility for most of you. Most of the time people in the scene don't come looking for Sabs to put on a gig on their behalf. Whilst it's not unknown you can't wait and hope someone will organise a benefit gig for you when you could do it yourself. You never know, some venues are approachable and support the work of sabs.

If you were thinking about hiring a venue here's a few tips, places that don't charge and have a PA would be ideal but unlikely you'll find somewhere with both. Expect to pay



something for venue hire but unless it's somewhere really great you know you can guarantee your costs back then I wouldn't bother paying anymore than a couple of hundred at the very most. It depends if you want to go and throw some money at a gig you know will fill up then go for it.

If you've not dealt with bands before you need to know a bit of basic about equipment, it's best when a venue has some equipment but unusual for them to have all the back line. It's usually a case of bands having to bring equipment, there's no guarantee that every band is happy to share amps, etc so make sure that the equipment situation is sorted in advance of the gig not as the bands are turning up and frustrated arguments break out. It's basic courtesy to throw an extra tenner on top of travel etc to a band that's provided back line unless of course you make nothing, which should not be the case.

With PA not all venues provide this and it can be task if you have no contacts getting a PA person but these things are usually easy to sort out, if it comes to being really stuck you can always try your Yellow Page directory.

If you can get your own crowd to do the door that is ideal, but not always possible. I don't say never do a gig where they have their own official bouncers just best if you can be in charge of that side of things.

At punk gigs you'll get blaggers and it's hard to say exactly how you should deal with them. If you reckon they are genuinely poor then maybe let them in cheaper, who knows you may get a big donation from another punter.

Be prepared for abuse off some people, not everyone has come to the gig to support the sabs - I'm afraid you'll find most are there to get drunk to a punk band. That said it's always a good idea to take the place over, always have a stall, put posters up most venues allow this, group banner etc. If you're very lucky you might get a gig somewhere with a video projector this can be good too.

Advertise a gig well, the more in advance you can confirm it get it out there, to all AR and music listings, you can never have the gig over advertised but very easily under advertised. If your gig is in a town think about advertising to neighbouring areas and generally let the gig be nationally known about especially if you have a line up people will come for. You don't have to be a graphic designer to do a good flyer and unless you are a graphic designer stay away from hand drawn flyers - well bad ones at least. Do your best to make people want to come through the flyer.

Be prepared for things to go wrong, like bands pulling out at the last minute and worst where it's the band providing all the back line. Have back up plans; if bands pull out communicate with other bands playing to see if they can get anyone else. Worst-case scenario the venue decides they don't want to have a hunt-sabs benefit if they tell you this on the day then usually that is pretty bad news. If you have been given a reasonable amount of time to find somewhere else then that is better than having to cancel altogether. It's rare but not unheard of for a gig to be cancelled because of the cause it is supporting, or rather a venue to bottle out or perhaps have Hunt Scum or Old Bill leaning on them to cancel it.

Over all ask your self why are you doing a benefit if it is because your group is skint then don't put your self out of pocket, unless of course you personally can afford to be on a loan type basis. Go for as cheap option as possible, only pay a band a ludicrous sum of money if you can match the amount in what you are going to raise/how many new Sabs you recruit.
Organising a benefit gig is both a pain and a pleasure rolled into one. I've organised several benefits for Sabs and played a few. I can only think of one that I would rate a disaster where the Sab group walked away with no money, thankfully I was playing their, not organising it!

Finally we are putting out Direct Action Arkangel CD. Whilst it's called Arkangel it's a benefit to be shared across the whole AR movement. The deal is apply to us for some CD's to raise money for your sab/AR group and we'll send you them for you to sell and keep the money, we would more than likely need a few quid for postage but the rest of it's yours. Sab groups in desperate need of some funds get in touch. The comp has been hit with a few delays but should be out before the end of 2004. It's a great full-on punk CD with bands including Active Slaughter, Terminal City Ricochet, Icons of Filth, Resist & Exist, Conflict, Gold finger and many more. Each CD is to be sold at £5, that's £5 for your group to keep so don't hesitate to contact us if you want to sell and keep the proceeds of this benefit- it's really that simple

In the mean time if you have found this useful and want to do a benefit gig I am happy to give you help in getting punk bands to play for your sab group and most other causes.

Contact Active Slaughter/London Punks
Po Box 35913, London, N17 9YP
www.londonpunks.co.uk
activeslaughter@hotmail.com



OBITUARY

ANDREW SEWELL (STIG)

Message from Pete Rose
(Icons Of Filth guitarist)

...At 3.10 a.m., Saturday October 23rd 2004 the vocalist for Icons of Filth, Andrew Sewell, better known as "Stig" passed away. Icons of Filth were playing a gig in a squat in Hackney when Stig complained of feeling unwell and we cut our set short so that he could go outside to get some fresh air. Shortly afterwards he collapsed and died, according to the hospital most likely from a brain haemorrhage but possibly a heart attack. He liked a drink as much as anyone but on this occasion had only drank 4 cans of lager. He didn't touch illegal drugs of any sort but within 4 hours of his death rumours surfaced about a possible heroin overdose. These rumours are of course ridiculous and insulting to a man whose body was not yet cold. What is the matter with some people? Anyway, when you're having a drink tonight, think of Stig and remember a man who lived life on his own terms but cared immensely about the world around him. Cheers, Pete.

Dunn and Dusted

Grouse Shoot Sab 14 August 2004

Once again the start of the grouse shooting season arrived, and as predictable as night follows day the shooting organisation wheeled out their excuses as to why it might be a bad season. These were such lies as its been to wet, its been to dry, a lot of the birds are infected with disease and there's not much heather on the moor this year, etc etc etc. However, despite all these and more they are still determined to go out and blast away at any grouse that was unlucky enough to get in their way.

Sabs from Manchester, Lancaster, Reading, London, Norfolk, Sheffield, Derby and Leeds made their way to Snailsden Moor near Holmfirth, West Yorkshire following a phone call from a local who let us know that a grouse shoot was about to start.



When sabs arrived at just gone 9.00am they were greeted by employees of Country Watch UK (CW) a private security firm hired to protect the shooters from sabs. They were soon circumvented as sabs just ran up the road a few meters and then followed the public footpath onto the moor.



On arrival at the shooting butts (hee-hee you said butts, old Bevis and Butthead joke) we were confronted by more CW bods and various shoot workers who started to push people around, however, due to sabs arriving every minute they soon stopped and a two hour stand-off began.





Two traffic police soon arrived but soon realised they did not know what to do and were seen constantly on their mobile phone to control.

A group of sabs decided to take a stroll around the moor but they were closely followed by security. It soon became clear that things were not as they should have been as they could not be contacted. One sab who had been with them arrived back with news that they had been attacked by some of the shoot workers and it was important that we try and find the injured sabs.

The police were informed that some sabs were missing on the moors and could be injured so they requested if the force helicopter could be called over to help locate the missing sabs.

The helicopter soon arrived but happily within a few minutes of looking the missing sabs were found 'bloodied but unbowed'.



It was now around noon and van loads of police could be seen arriving on the main road, then an inspector arrived on the moors and with a clipboard in one hand and megaphone in the other and began to read out a Section 69 of the Public Order Act (POA).

So the sabs on the moor made their way down to the nearest road. On the way back down the track a pick-up drove up onto the moor, inside was David Dunn (above) boss of CW and three of his cronies all of who looked a bit miffed. Dunn proceeded to get out of his vehicle and rant and rave at sabs but soon got back in and drove off on spotting a police car coming down off the moor.



When sabs reached the road they were greeted by around 20 police officers who using powers under Section 60 also of POA began to search all the sabs.

At 2.30pm a large convoy of vehicles could be seen coming off the moor and head off in various directions, that was the end of their days 'sport'.





As it was now near the end of the days sabs reluctantly decided to visit a local pub and reflect on the days work, the result of which was not one shot fired and better still no grouse killed.

Later that evening two sabs attend a local police station to make statements about their assaults, they also managed to identify three people who made the alleged assaults. Please read future *Howl*'s for the outcome

BUMPKINS B RIGHT ON



After their battering at the hands of the Metropolitan Police's finest (and let us hope honours were even), The Countryside Alliance descended on Brighton on the 26th of September for the Labour Party Conference. Supposedly the purpose was to demonstrate their concern for "working" dogs. Judging by what happened they were there to remove any doubt that they are in fact a peculiar collection of toffs and inbreds whose sole rallying cry is that they be allowed to continue being cruel to animals. Has it ever occurred to them that the reason they're in a minority is because they're wrong?

In readiness for the occasion the CA had forked out for a 40' high 60' wide banner in the town centre. Luckily due to freak vegan weather conditions it collapsed the night before the grand parade.

The day started with a stroke of PR genius (even by the CA's low standards); early in the morning members of the Isle of Wight hunt began dumping carcasses around the town, a move pretty much guaranteed to put urban noses out of joint. "The only dead animals I want round here are in my sandwiches" commented one café owner. The point of dumping a dead horse in front of the train station was lost on everybody, unless it was to illustrate the fact that the foxhunting brigade have been flogging one for years. Our local rag the Argus led with the headline "Sickening" and went into the gruesome details of how a stake had been plunged into the horse's heart and a placard left behind reading "There'll be more of this if you ban hunting"- What, if we don't give in you'll fill our streets with rotting flesh? And they reckon we use intimidating tactics.



Although the scheduled meet up point for the march was on the sea front a large number of bemused scum found themselves wondering around an out of town ASDA courtesy of handmade signs. (Sorry about that, but we've been trying to point you in the right direction for years).

Eventually the green wellied freedom fighters gathered on Madeira Drive by the sea. Caught up in this intoxicating atmosphere some couldn't restrain themselves from leaping naked into the sea, like rats chasing a sinking ship. Quite frankly some of them could have done with keeping their clothes on, although luckily "Fatty" Soames was nowhere to be seen. In total they probably numbered about 2,000 (Funny how they can get quarter of a million out when they pretend it's all about rural post offices and just a handful when it's about foxhunting). Braying idiots made unconvincing speeches and calls were heard for the bunny girls to lead the march not "ugly, hairy terriermen."





Never ones to miss a commercial opportunity South Downs Sabs, for once not heavily disguised and posing as anti-war activists, managed to dupe a fair few of the bumpkins into buying T-Shirts with the slogan Tony Blair – Lying Bastard. "I guess they just don't understand our townie ways" Altogether we made about £800 quid Thanks guys, that'll help buy us a new(ish) Land Rover.

Frustrated from attacking the conference by the numbers of police, and serenaded with the "Duelling Banjos" theme from Deliverance, the marchers tried to vent their fury on the "antis". Unfortunately for them there are far too many nose piercings and hooded tops in Brighton so they endeared themselves further to Joe Public by bellowing "Lesbian tree-huggers" at random passers-by.



The day out in the Big Smoke ended at three (You don't want to let the sun set on you here boy - you sure have a pretty mouth) and the bumpkins piled back onto their coaches (" Look Seth – a horseless carriage"). They left town under a hail of abuse from locals, outraged by the animal dumping, who came spilling out of pubs to give the CA a few home truths.

OUTDATED, OUTVOTED, OUTFOXED

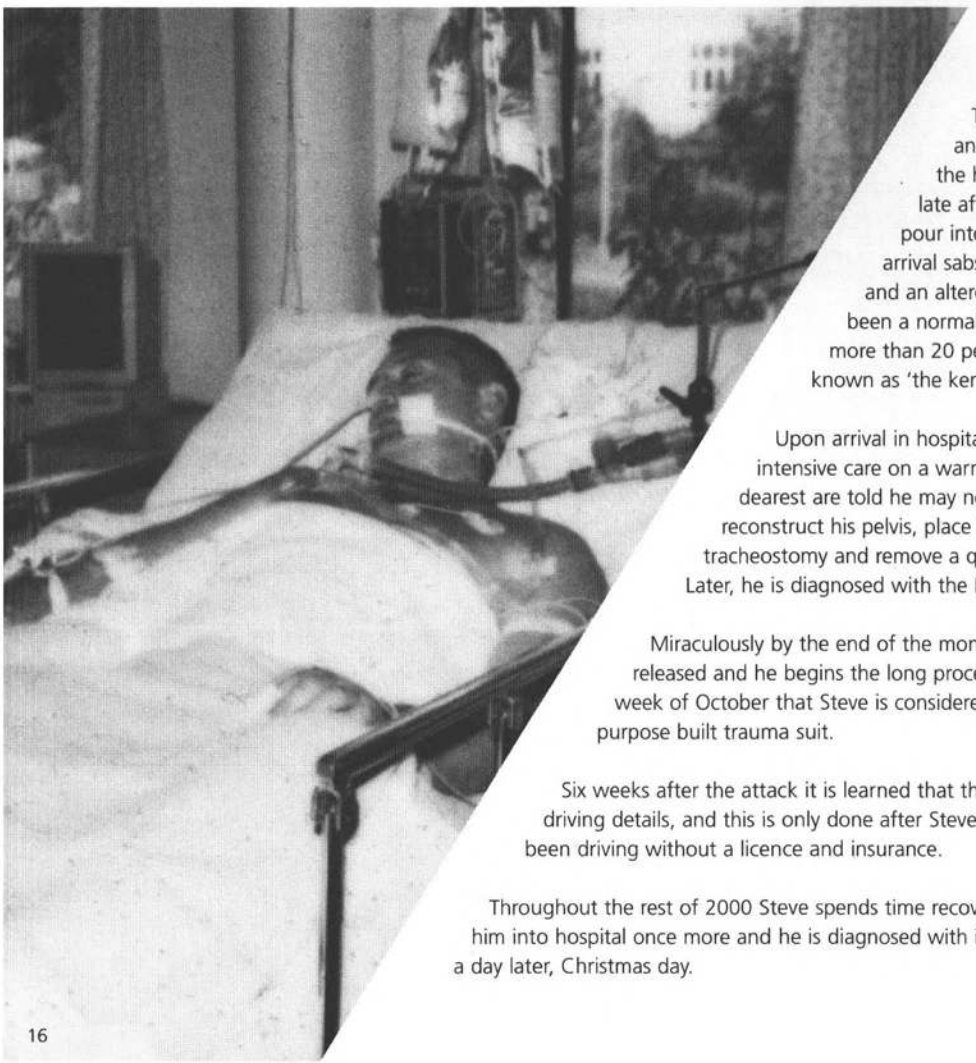
Steve's Story

or how to get away with attempted murder (allegedly)

Steve's story begins as every hunt saboteur's worst nightmare. Run down by a 4x4, airlifted to hospital, months of recovery and no sign of justice. If Steve were a weaker man he would have undoubtedly become the third hunt sab to have been murdered within the space of nine years. It is a testament to his resilience and the quick thinking of his comrades that day that he did not. Four long years later and at last the full story can be told. Below is an account of Steve's ordeal and his quest for justice, a quest that ultimately led to betrayal.

1st September 2000 and the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds (OSB&WK) are out cub hunting in the south of their country, five sabs are present that morning to peacefully disrupt the killing. At 7.30am they are crossing an open field where the corn has recently been cut, from somewhere behind them a large vehicle enters the field and increases in speed. Realising it is driving directly at them, the sabs scatter, but Steve is run down, the vehicle slows and then reverses as if to make another run, by now Steve is writhing in agony and his fellow sabs believe he may die at any minute. Frantic 999 calls are made and he is airlifted to hospital in a critical condition, while details of the vehicle are given to the police.

The vehicle that ran Steve down is owned by Martin Maynard who is tracked down and arrested at 5.20pm that day. He is charged and bailed. Maynard doesn't give a statement to the police for 11 hours after the incident, after leaving the scene he drives to the coast to pick up his family.



That evening word has begun to spread of the incident and feelings begin to run high. A demonstration against the hunt is hastily organised for the following day and by late afternoon sabs from across the region are beginning to pour into East Grinstead for the short drive to the kennels. On arrival sabs are immediately met with club welding hunt employees and an altercation takes place, within minutes what would have been a normal protest is ended and sab van drive away. Weeks later, more than 20 people are arrested in connection with what becomes known as 'the kennels incident'.

Upon arrival in hospital Steve's condition is assessed and he is place in intensive care on a warning order-which lasts for four days. His nearest and dearest are told he may not survive. They begin immediate treatment to reconstruct his pelvis, place him on a life support machine due to seizures, conduct a tracheostomy and remove a quantity of intestine which has become gangrenous. Later, he is diagnosed with the MRSA virus.

Miraculously by the end of the month his condition had stabilised sufficiently for him to be released and he begins the long process of learning to walk again. It is not until the first week of October that Steve is considered well enough to be interviewed by Sussex police in a purpose built trauma suit.

Six weeks after the attack it is learned that thus far the police have not checked into Maynard's driving details, and this is only done after Steve himself requests it. It is discovered that Maynard had been driving without a licence and insurance.

Throughout the rest of 2000 Steve spends time recovering, until 24th December when sever chest pains force him into hospital once more and he is diagnosed with inflammation of the lungs. Mercifully, he can be released a day later, Christmas day.

It is not until the spring of the following year that his doctors allow the possibility of a return to work but on the strict grounds that it must be light duties only. However, this small return to something resembling normality is halted after 18 months and since then he has been signed off work permanently. The first half of 2001 is also spent putting the case together against Maynard by the police and Crown Prosecution Service. While nothing is ever open and shut the general feeling among all is that any defence used by Maynard simply won't stand the test of cross-examination. Plans are even made by Chichester crown court to have the waiting area divided up so as to keep supporters on both sides apart. By mid-summer the stage is set and the commencement of a trial looms, which has everyone on tender-hooks wondering if this will be the first time in HSA history that real justice is seen to be done against those who, up until now, have literally got away with murder.

31st August 2001 is possibly the most significant date in this whole story after Steve's attack, and again for all the wrong reasons. It should have been the beginning of the end for Maynard, with a long jail term firmly in front of him. However, things were going on behind the scenes that, up until now we had no idea of. Late in the day Steve's partner receives a phone call from a desk clerk informing her that Maynard has been acquitted of causing GBH with intent in a closed session at Chichester, presided over by 'his honour' Judge Thorpe (regular readers will be familiar with Thorpe's particular brand of justice, he recently threw out a case of assault against a huntsman caught on camera beating up a female hunt sab). What follows is a four month battle to have the CPS explain exactly why the prosecution failed. In a letter from the CPS, dated 4th December 2001 they simply state 'we are under no obligation to involve Mr Christmas in the decision to terminate proceedings'. Their explanation is that because the principle witness in the case against Maynard is now in jail himself; he could not be put forward as a witness of truth and therefore there would be no realistic prospect of a conviction. Worse still, because Maynard has been acquitted of the offence no re-trial can take place.

Not being one to suffer injustice in silence Steve lodges an application with the European Court of Human Rights and also asks for a judicial review to be heard.

By the beginning of 2002 he has also made a claim for compensation with the Motor Insurers Bureau (a government body set up to compensate victims of uninsured drivers).

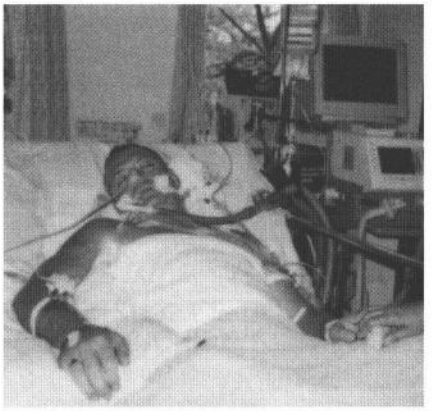
Spring 2002 and things reach a new low. The MIB refuse Steve's claim on the grounds that the attack took place on private land and not a public highway ruling out the possibility of an award. His application to the European Court is dropped because he is told that a judicial review must come first, and lastly, the very same judicial review is discontinued on legal advice as he would be going up against a panel of Judges with very little prospect of success. The cost implications of this also make it prohibitive.

Where there is a will there is a way, and in the summer of 2002 all efforts and remaining funds are concentrated upon a civil action. This also requires the hiring of a private detective to look into the financial background of Maynard. Over the next 12 months information is collated about his assets, his employment, spouse's financial details and a DVLA check.

" Steve's partner receives a phone call from a desk clerk informing her that Maynard has been acquitted of causing GBH with intent in a closed session at Chichester, presided over by 'his honour' Judge Thorpe "

Further more investigations are conducted into the possibility of suing the masters of the OSB&WK and the landowner on whose property the attack took place. These two avenues prove to be fruitless as the OSB&WK successfully managed to disassociate themselves from Maynard. Likewise, the landowner cannot be sued as it could not be conclusively proved that he worked for him.

By early new year Steve was re-admitted to hospital with stomach problems and it is discovered that his stomach muscles have begun to disintegrate.



By August 2003 Steve's legal team have reached a decision on the civil action. Once again he is fortuitously prepared for the worst, as he is advised that Maynard has no assets, being referred to 'as a man of straw'. No obvious income can be discovered and it is believed he earns cash-in-hand shooting deer. Steve is strongly advised to discontinue the action as prospects of recovering against Maynard are nil and weighed up against the rising costs of the action it would be financially disastrous. With these escalating costs in mind he reluctantly agrees to the advice.

There is now only one last area of recourse left open, and all efforts must be directed toward this. In September, immediately after the failed civil action Steve makes a claim to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) against the injuries he sustained exactly three years ago. Within weeks the CICA refuse to consider a claim on the grounds that no criminal offence has been committed. The legal team counter this by requesting a CICA review, which is rejected. An application for an appeal against their decision is made and before the end of the year a date is set for April 2004 for it to be heard.

January and Steve, still plagued by stomach problems, learns that he has developed a double hernia, brought on as a direct result of his injuries. He travels to Plymouth to see a specialist and is told that the condition is inoperable, his stomach lining is now too thin to risk further invasive treatment.

Early spring comes and with it the prospect of the long awaited CICA appeal hearing. All the necessary witnesses are brought to London, including two police officers ready to give evidence in Steve's favour. Before anyone is given a chance to speak the appeal is instantly adjourned as Maynard has not been invited to give evidence, which he is entitled to do under his European rights. The whole process lasts just two minutes and costs £2000.

Mid summer and finally the appeal can be heard in full. Unsurprisingly, Maynard has declined his opportunity to attend the ➲

hearing. Under the weight of testimony, the CICA are forced to accept that a crime did indeed take place and that a vehicle was used. An award for compensation is made in Steve's favour, though the subsequent payout is adjusted by 10% as his attack took place on private land that he did not have permission to be on. So, the 16th August this year became a momentous day in the search for some token of justice in an otherwise catalogue of injustice. It should be mentioned that Steve's final award did not exceed four years of legal costs, never-the-less it was the first time since September 1st 2000 that anyone other than fellow sabs and supporters had accepted Steve had been a victim of a serious criminal offence. To date, Steve is still considering his position in relation to recovering loss of future earnings.

Editors notes

This story will come as no surprise to most active sabs, truly appaling though it is. But the outcome could have been far worse, Steve's size saved him, if any of the other sabs out that day had been hit instead of him they would have died that day – no question. When I visited Steve in hospital that first night I can remember the nurse telling me not to be shocked as he 'looks a bit like a cyberman', he was all but unrecognisable. I remember the subsequent 'Justice for Steve Christmas Campaign' and the home demos outside the kennels and masters houses, something, to get it through to these people that they had nearly killed a man.

It's four years since Martin Maynard got away with what some may view as attempted murder and we are still sabbing the same hunt. We have even occasionally seen the very same man at the hunt itself that they told the world was not a supporter of theirs. Steve himself still works voluntarily for wildlife both with caring for the injured and on the committee, though of course he can no longer actively sab. He wishes me to express just how overwhelmed and grateful he has been for all the donations, cards and messages of support he has received, without this support he could never have carried on his search for justice. I know they meant so much, especially in those first weeks and months.

Lastly, I would like to express on behalf of his old sab group how happy we are that he is still with us today despite his ongoing medical condition. The editors dedicate this piece to the memory of Mike and Tom who went out one morning to save animals lives and never came back, and to Steve Christmas who did. Lest we forget.



Memories of a Granny Sab

In early 1989 I was walking with my four grandchildren in the Surrey Countryside when I came across members of the Surrey Union Foxhunt, I was horrified to find a group of terrier men and their dogs bolting foxes from their earth in order to provide the hunt with it's Saturday enjoyment. Realising what was going on I sat down on the earth, I did this instinctively, as I am sure anyone else who loved foxes would do.

The terrier men tried to shove me from the earth but I did not budge and I reminded them that it would not look to good in the local papers to read Surrey Union terrier men assault old lady, which they knew I wouldn't hesitate to report.

This incident convinced me that something had to be done, so after many telephone calls the' Granny Sabs' were born, we formed an older group and met at my home, we agreed at the very first meeting to be active, writing letters, sending out information packs and most importantly going out into the field and attending as many of the Surrey Union Hunt meets as possible, this being our local hunt.

We purchased C B Radios, hunting horns, video cameras & plenty of anti-mate spray, we were ready to start and start we did.

From mid August or when the corn is cut, the horror of the cub-hunt commenced a secretive affair as the hunt do not want to advertise they are slaughtering five month old fox-cubs.

We continued our protests right through the hunting season up to the end of March. At hunt meets we soon joined forces with the North Downs Hunt Saboteurs and if any meet was cancelled we would move on to another hunt, The Old Surrey & Burstow, The Chiddingfold & Leconfield, The Aldershot Beagles,The New Forest and The Goshen all received the attention of the Granny Sabs or the Grey Army as we were affectionately called.

Coming face to face with fox-hunters and the terrier and spade brigade was an experience none of us forgot. We decided to tackle the Surrey County Council and petition for a hunt ban on all Surrey County Council owned land. We lobbied Councillors and sent out information packs and after 3 attempts we won, we then continued to do the same on Guildford Borough Council and Waverley Borough Council land. We won again and again, we achieved a lot and by our hard work I hoped we saved a lot of foxes from the horror of hunting.

On many occasions we found ourselves in court, where we were only too pleased to provide video evidence for hunt saboteurs that had been wrongly accused by the hunt, for we witnessed plenty of violence during our years out sabbing.

After nearly 10 years of sabbing I think I can speak for all Granny Sabs - we found hunt saboteurs to be caring, courageous lads and lasses, our experience with them can only be filled with admiration. We found that angels do not only come dressed in white but in camouflage gear. Hunt saboteurs put themselves on the line to save the lives of animals, we have seen them pull a fox from a pack of foxhounds and run with it to the nearest vehicle and off to a vet, so tell me, who could possibly be braver than that.

Keep on sabbing for our thoughts are always with you.

Sylvia D
For and on behalf of all the granny sabs



Class of '89: Granny sabs with North Downs sabs


WEIRDOS in WAISTCOATS
THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT MINK HUNTING
Hi!
BAD T-SHIRT TOO
Lev ell ers
THE FIRST TIME I SABBED A MINKHUNT I HAD BAD HAIR + BAD SPOTS....
BUT MOST OTHER SABS LOOKED PRETTY FUNNY THEN.....
I'M SO GLAD YOU FOUND THAT MEET FOR THE YTENE MINKHOUNDS
WELL BY LOOKING AT THE 86/87 MEETCARD I WAS ABLE TO CROSS REFERANCE BLAH BLAH OBVIOUSLY THE CULMSTOCK OTTERHOUNDS ONLY OFFICIALY DIS BANDED IN BLAH BLAH BLAH
HAYWIRE
IT WAS A MENTAL DAY WITH LOTS OF REALLY BIG LADS CARRYING STICKS.....
YOU IZ AAL 'OMOZEXUAL
....AND STACKS OF COPS
ALL FOR A LOAD OF WEIRDO'S IN WAISTCOATS..... AFTER A STUPID LITTLE RAT THING
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS STUPID YOU LANKY TOSSER AND YOU'VE DRAWN ME ALL WRONG I'M A MINK AND YOU'VE MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FRIGGIN' CAT
YEAH I'VE GOT LONG HAIR SO WOT!
BUT LAST YEAR WE FOUND THE 3 COUNTIES MINK HUNT AND THEY PACKED UP AS SOON AS WE ARRIVED!
I MIGHT FLUSH MY GLASSES DOWN THE TOILET WHEN I GET HOME
I SAID DON'T CALL ME FLUFFY -JUST COS I'M PART OTTERHOUND
AGAINST ALL BLOODSPORTS
FOR MORE IN-JOKES AND THIN STORY LINES CHECK OUT THE NEXT HOWL (IF I'M ALLOWED BACK). POSITIVE ROB (C)



GROUP NEWS

Midlands

Derby and **Nottingham** had a bit of a break after joining the very successful grouse shoot sab in August. The late harvest delayed the start of the cubbing season until September.

A combined **Derby** and **Nottingham** group visited the *Quorn FH* at their first Saturday of the season. **Northants** kindly helped out by keeping up with the hunt all day. This freed up the local groups to train the new sabs in the art of interception and pre-spraying. After the first covert the hunt failed to penetrate another one until they finally packed up with no kills.

The next week a motley crew headed for the *Meynell & South Staffs FH*. This was significantly nastier than the *Quorn* aided by some typical bias policing from South Derbyshire's "finest". Despite this a bolted fox was saved directly which was a terrific result and left the hunt fuming! Due to a number of arrests further sabbing was deemed unsafe.

Derby and **Nottingham** ventured forth to the *Grove and Rufford FH* the next week. A good day was had when 2 foxes were saved directly, one of which was heading into a nature reserve. If sabs had not been present it is very likely the hunt would have headed straight in.

After a weekend off **Derby** and **Notts** returned to the *Quorn* and guaranteed another kill-free day. Although the start of the season has been slow, the **Nottingham** group is seeing something of a revival, with numbers getting back to those seen in the mid-90's. Long term forecast: it's looking bleak for the local hunts!

We're starting a Black Country sab group, so people from the **Dudley/Wolverhampton** West of Birmingham area are wanted.

South

Croydon sabs began this seasons cub hunting by checking on the *Crawley & Horsham FH* towards the end of August and luckily found them still puppy walking. So we decided to have an early away day to help old friends in Somerset, which turned out to be a mammoth triple hit of a day as we sabbed the *Cattistock FH* at dawn followed by the *Culmstock Minkhounds* (who ran away the moment we sabbed them), at lunchtime and ending with an evening visit to the *Blackmore & Sparkford vale FH.*

Back in the South East and we've had mornings with the *OSB&WK FH*, the *Chidd, Lec & Cowdray FH*, and a couple of double hits, where we have gone onto the



Crawley & Horsham FH for afternoon meets. (see mentalist support above) One morning with the *Southdown Eridge FH* was particularly hard with one draw lasting an hour in a covert ringed with a fox proof fence. They got nothing and we saved two that the huntsman never even saw. The following week the *OSB&WK* had a panic attack after the hound van suffered a puncture that they refused to mend without police protection. The meet started so late the scent had lifted and they got nothing, last year at the same meet, (midweek) they got five! A week later the *OSB&WK* were at one of their favourite meets and killed one in scrub ringed by yet another fox proof fence, with up to 50 field holding up - how sporting! An hour later and we took the pack in the opposite direction of a fox that had just broken cover, they never even saw it and took the hounds off in completely the wrong way.

Again, we are having a good cubbing season with many double hits seen on saturdays this September. We've seen kills here and there but over all very few considering how many they would get if they were unsabbed.

Thanks as always to our **Hastings** posse and for hook-ups with **Brighton** sabs.

Having had a lot of fun up on the moors with the *grouse shoots*, **Reading** started the hunting season with a midweek trip to the *Vine and Craven*. Sabs staking out a roundabout at 6 in the morning were mildly concerned when a bunch of terrier boys pulled up next to them. It turns out the roundabout was next to the meet and the boys thought we were support. A lot of arsing around Newbury and driving through red lights later and the hunt went back to the kennels. Result!

Reading joined **West London** and **Southampton** for a few extremely successful trips to the *Hampshire*, taking the hounds off huntsman Bob Collins with ease. A selection of 'darling, hunting's going to be banned, we simply must go out at least once' girls thought it would be funny to ride sabs down. Their error in judgement was pointed out to them in no uncertain terms. The same sab crew trundled north of **Reading** to take on the 'might' of the *Vale of Aylesbury, Garth and South Berks.* After we messed with their hounds, a certain slimy field master was seen phoning the cops. A few handcuffs were applied and a number of sabs were being 'detained for the purposes of a search'. More on that in court, your honour. And so to the *Old Berkshire Hunt.* They don't get sabbed very often, and they don't like it up 'em. Various sabs were pushed around, nasty words were shouted and violence was threatened. As usual. A bagged fox was released and chopped and no arrests ensued. Once again, Thames Valley Police did their best. Which wasn't good enough. So to the rest of the season...

Southampton started cubbing in the company of **Dorset and Somerset** sabs with the *South Dorset foxhounds.* This was followed the next week by a day which saw us start with the *Cattistock FH* and move onto the *Culmstock MH.* At the *Cattistock* one of our number managed to get to an earth as a fox entered it - the only witness. Having sprayed the area liberally our sab waited 5 minutes for the pack of hounds (minus a huntsman) to appear. He whipped away the pack from the area and kept an eye on the earth while sabs from the other groups present caused complete chaos with horn calls.

The *Culmstock* saw 9 sabs from **Southampton**, **Dorset**, **Somerset** and even a **Croydon** rep wade across the wide and wet river Axe when the hunt literally ran away after the first few whip cracks and horn calls. Our constant battle with vehicle problems reared its ugly head that day when the AA had to break into the car which the keys were locked inside!



We also had some fun with the *Seavington* - pulling hounds out of the first covert and setting the patter for the day - before settling down to some uneventful sabbing of the *Hampshire Hunt.* We visited the *Chiddingfold* and several other hunts on our radar before the main season kicked in.

After the *East Kent FH* declared that cubbing does not exist anymore, then of course, starting cubbing mid Sept, **East Kent** sabs first found them one dark and cold morning down on the marsh, where banjos still twang...Thanks to the wonderfully generous committee helping us out, our old St Johns ambulance is back on the road, doing what ambulances do..saving lives (and of course, apologies to the pro hunt member of St Johns who was upset by seeing it used for sabbing, we would never want to hurt your feelings, and will of course, have it resprayed ASAP!! Yeah, right....).

With a new whip, the worryingly named Nick Bycroft (whose he? Anyone know?). He does have a disturbing resemblance to a certain mild mannered SE huntsman, but so far, has held on to his temper, threatening to ride people down, but losing his nerve at the last minute..). He has replaced Michael "Yo Slaphead portly" Porter, who told us that he has retired due to being so rich now, after cleaning up shit in a kennels for a number of years. Course you did son, nothing to do with your job possibly being made illegal then?.

Sabs pulled the pack straight off the huntsman, who along with his new inexperienced hounds, and new whip, stayed with the move quick method, hoping to chop some foxes as they moved across the marsh, which unfortunately they did, back on the marsh a couple of weeks later.

Another week found **East Kent** sabs luckily having a lie in, thanks to a pony club meet at 9.30. The hunt barely moved out of a large valley, and even with only four sabs in the field, the hunt was repeatedly taken off two adult foxes that were chased up and down the valley, where the sabs could thankfully hide in a central fenced covert, as the huntsman and whip were not best pleased at having their pack split, and hounds continuously rated in front of a large field. Sabs left the meet, as the hunt and supporters furiously tried to get the rest of the pack back, after most riders had packed up!

Still, so far, no real trouble, one police visit, who were sent packing after being too lazy to chase us, but, it is early days yet... thanks to Taff for the legal talk, sure he would love to visit you all, go on, give him a go!

South West

Somerset and **Newport** sabs had a couple of trips up to the Welsh borders in the summer for the *3 counties MH.* Cubbing started on August the 12th, with the *Cattistock FH* in which the hunt failed to hold a scent. After a couple more trips to the *Catty* a move was made to the *South Dorset* along with **Dorset** and **Southampton** sabs where after some excellent sabbing the terrier men turned a cub back into the hounds resulting in the first kill of the season. The following weekend **Somerset** sabs, with others, achieved a triple, the *Catty* in the morning followed by a lunchtime meet of the *Culmstock minkhounds* then an evening meet of the *Blackmore and Sparkford Vale FH.* A long but successful day.

A couple more very successful *Blackmore* meets including a friday morning where after pulling the pack from their only chase of the day, the 2 sabs were accused of being 'rent-a-mob' by a rather grumpy huntsman, and a tuesday morning with the *Crawley and Horsham FH* later and the



Wanna come sabbing?
or
Start your own group?

Contact the HSA

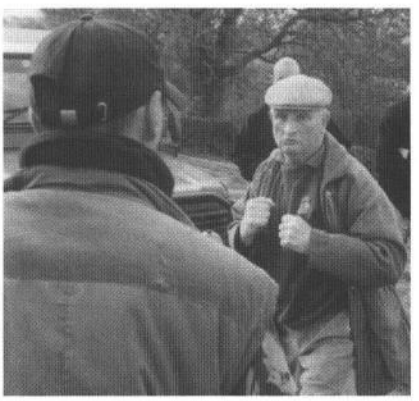


We'll be happy to put you in touch with your nearest local group and/or arrange an informal tactics talk.

We can supply you with free posters, leaflets, and provide limited financial support to new groups.

Get in touch - You know it makes sense!

Seavington FH received a couple of weeks worth of attention in the company of **Dorset** sabs with the hunt running away as they were unable to hold their pack together in the presence of sabs. Sabs then charged up to the wrong side of the M5 for an afternoon meet of the 'dunno why you're bothering with us, it'll be banned soon' *West Somerset beagles* where the beaglers were treated to the grand sight of a sabs bare arse as he mooned them. **Somerset** sabs had a couple of weeks with the *Blackmore*, seeing foxes escape on both days before joining forces with **Dorset** sabs on the 9th of october for a meet of the *Cotley harriers* who hadn't been sabbed for over 10 years. What a day! Sabs repeatedly pulled the almost pure white hounds from under the huntsmans feet (below) resulting in riders charging into several sabs and crazy eyed bumpkins (below!) throwing wild off target haymakers which sabs easily avoided. Too much beef and inbreeding in that part of the world me thinks.



The following week was spent back with the *South Dorset* were terrier men were found showing an unhealthy interest in a badger set but soon backed off once they realised they were being filmed. They later took their frustrations out on a **Dorset** sab, ramming him into a hedge with a quad bike. Cheers especially to the **Dorset** crew though a few less doughnuts and a bit more running may be needed in main season.

Dorset sabs also chased the *Culmstock MH* down the river Axehad, had a few spectacular days out with the *Cattistock* on their own (with the hounds spending plenty of time with sabs) and are the new media darlings, having more front page articles in the local papers than you can shake a stick at and getting on the telly.

Newport sabs also sabbed the *Cotswold Vale FH, Monmouth FH, Ross harriers, and the Curre and Llangibby FH.* Sabs also attended the *Ledbury FH* meet as part of the *Ledbury hunting festival.*

Pewsey, **Cirencester**, **Bath** and a new group from **Bristol** started cubbing with threats from the *Avon Vale FH* huntstaff which soon arrived in the form of 'stewards'!! Their intentions were obvious, - blocking in a sab vehicle and attempting to steal camcorders. The violence continued with huntsman riding down a sab, the police responded by giving out 'producers'. The same day sabs were forced off a track by a landie, with a female sab being grabbed by the hair and dragged backwards by the vehicles occupant who only stopped when one of the reporters, who were following us pulled out his press card.

The Tedworth seemed a lot more friendly, after having the hounds repeatedly taken away thank us for being so nice (I wonder why **Reading**?).

We returned to the *Avon Vale*, where the police informed us that the 'stewards' would have to wear identifying tabards, have appropriate training and take note from both sides (Yer Right!!)

Next we when up to a joint meet of *Haythrop and North Cotswolds* for their newcomers meet, funnily they weren't very welcoming, as soon as a horn was blown we had riders and terriermen requesting we leave!! This was repeated for the rest of the day, with the huntsman complementing our horn blowing.

A new sab group has started up in **Bristol**. We've been out each week sabbing with the **Bath, Pewsey Vale and Cirencester** sabs saving many a fox! We've sabbed various hunts in Wiltshire, Gloucester and herefordshire concentrating mainly on the *Avonvale FH* (who we have extreme hatred for!!) We're low on numbers so if you live in the Bristol area then we need your help!

East Anglia

NE London sabs have been very active over the last few months, fundraising for our new vehicle (as reigning UK sab karaoke champions, we had a £100 bonus to start with) and getting out there into Essex sabbing the cub hunts. we have been focussing on the *Essex union* with other groups from **Essex and Suffolk** and **Basildon**, keeping the hunt on their toes and taking away their hounds with stunning regularity. as a result of our efforts, we have a landrover being worked on now, and we can't wait to get it out and christen it. The generosity of the HSA at the AGM has been put to good effect, and we are going to be getting new equipment to help us soon. In plenty of time for the 6th november we will have the best wheels we have ever had, new horns and a gizmo, and more sabs than in recent memory, due to our london wide recruitment drive. see you all out in the field soon.....

During a good 40 minutes' rest sabs had told the assembled hunt and supporters just what was thought of their sick games.

After it penetrated their thick skulls that the sabs weren't going to be good little boys and girls and kindly move aside, the police were called and the laughably biased Suffolk police force arrived to waste more taxes.

In a stunning display of officers not knowing the law they're supposed to be enforcing, those in front of the vehicle were threatened with arrest. When reminded that the sabs were off the highway, thus being a civil matter, they dreamt up an excuse. Apparently it was a green lane but when asked to see this on a map the officer had a sudden case of amnesia, forgot the whole thing and sabs were forced to remove their scarves instead. By the end of the whole affair, lots of precious hunting time had been wasted.





Norfolk and **Essex and Suffolk** sabs kick arse. June 26 saw hunt saboteurs from different parts of the region come together to sab a mink hunt (above) on landowner, (and new money inbred) James Buckle's land in Hadleigh.

After ten minutes of splashing about and successful sabbing, the hunt moved on calling in reinforcements in the shape of Dad's Army wannabes.

As they loaded up the dogs, sabs moved in, having a rest in front of the hunt vehicle (above right) and stopping them from going off to find some mink to kill.

After a just a short drive the shambles of a hunt pulled up again and this time showed their true colours by assaulting one of the sabs, (right) this miraculously going unnoticed by police eyes. It's amazing considering how many cops were present.

After the assault, hunt members were witnessed trying to force a horse into a trailer by whipping it and shoving it with a broom. More proof of their caring attitude towards animals.What nice people!!

After another half an hour of wasted hunting time, the excuse for a hunt gave up and headed for the hills. Chuffed sabs were happy in the knowledge that the mink were safe (for now) and the blood junkies had been defeated in spectacular style.

S.Essex (CW) sabs Summer was punctuated with a couple of "fine days out" provided by **Suffolk** Compatriots

The group have been out since cubbing started in September, and have some new recruits which is good news - more needed though so don't be shy!







S.Essex (CW) sabs have been able to assist **N&E London** in transport as thanks to an HSA loan and sheer luck(!) Our trusty old Landy has been attendant at meets most
Saturdays this Season

The *Essex and Suffolk* and the *Essex* have received our attention thus far the *Essex* being their usual - Easy to sab, but spikey-selves with a rare and much unexpected trip to the *East Essex* for a cubbing meet which really shocked them!

One of our number went west recently and had a successful day sabbing a hunt on his tod and they were nice to him after he'd rioted the pack - lightweights
If hunts were like that in Essex we'd be a lot happier!

Have you noticed the original names they have round here?
the Essex
the East Essex
the Essex Farmers
the Essex and suffolk
Essex Beagles
unoriginal tossers aren't they?

Fk the hunt T-shirts** available from

East Anglia Animal Rights Coalition
PO Box 487, Norwich,
Norfolk, NR5 8WE
Telephone 07788 404 074
Email eastangliaarc@hotmail.com

Warning: They really do say fuck.



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Legal News



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2003

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 is now well and truly in force. It contains a couple of things that sabs may need to be aware of. It has amended the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 regarding Stop and Search Powers and also has introduced the concept of Street Bail.

Stop and Search Powers

There is no need for a lengthy article regarding Stop and Search – this was dealt with in *Howl 75*.

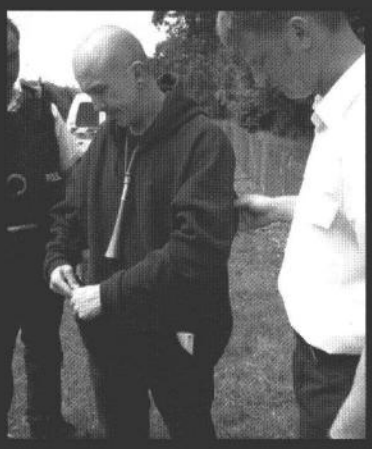
Section 1 of the CJA 2003 widens the list of articles the police may stop and search a suspect for. The plod may now stop and search for "articles made, adapted or intended for use in criminal damage." This change was primarily introduced to allow the plod to stop and search people that they believe may have spray paint with the intention of carrying a little graffiti art. Of course, this has not stopped the cops from using their new powers against hunt saboteurs. The new powers do not permit the police to search sabs for items that may be used to sabotage a hunt (e.g. citronella spray).

For a search to be lawful the officer must have a good reason to believe that a person has possession of an article with the intention of causing criminal damage. The requirement of reasonable belief has not changed. For example, the way a person is dressed can not be a reason for a search.

Bail Elsewhere than at a Police Station

The police now have the power to bail and release a person to appear at a police station on a future date without first taking them to a police station. This is being referred to as Street Bail.

Whilst this may have benefits in suspects being released from custody a lot quicker it may also have a negative impact. For example an over enthusiastic copper on hunt duty now has the option of bailing a sab to appear at a later date. This will enable them to get their story straight with their mates (as if...) before having to justify the arrest to the Custody Sergeant.



The legislation is clear in that the new provisions should not be used to delay taking a suspect to the police station. Also there is no provision for bail conditions to be imposed (other than to surrender to the designated police station at the designated time).

At the time of writing the above two provisions have been used once each against hunt saboteurs. Your legal officer would be very interested to hear of any future incidents.

HUNT SABOTEUR AWARDED DAMAGES FOR ASSAULT BY POLICE

The case arose from the 9th December 2000, when she was punched whilst being arrested on suspicion of having committed Aggravated Trespass at the Garth and South Berks Hunt.



The 6 day hearing was told how the incident occurred towards the end of the day at Benyon's Enclosure, Mortimer, near Reading and the saboteur received a punch on the head that left a 4 cm long bruise and swelling. She was awarded aggravated damages.

The Garth and South Berks was a regular target for hunt saboteurs, resulting in their merger with the neighbouring Vale of Aylesbury Hunt in 2002. At the time, the hunt denied regular sabotage being the cause, putting it down to the laughable excuse of "too many golf courses".

In their latter years the hunt had been the scene of numerous arrests and huge police operations. Hunt Saboteurs Association spokesperson Nathan Brown said, "We obviously welcome this judgement but it is a sad fact that many more hunt saboteurs have been subjected to assaults or wrongful arrests and not been in a position to take legal action. We hope that Thames Valley police will focus their officers on real crime in the future rather than preventing hunt saboteurs from saving lives."

LEGAL BRIEFS

A Leicester sab has been convicted of ABH (a broken rib) on a Quorn hunt steward following an incident at a dig out in September 2003. She was found not guilty of criminal damage (broken glasses). She has been sentenced to 75 hours community service and £500 costs.

Cases ongoing regarding the seven sabs arrested on Surrey Union in February. Five part heard S.69 cases listed for 1&2 November. One S.68 case listed for 2&3 November. The other sab charged with S.68 has case adjourned until New Year.



Following an incident at a minkhunt in July two sabs from Suffolk and Essex group have been charged with assault. Another was arrested for S.68 and is currently on police bail until early November. An estate worker arrested at the same hunt on suspicion of assault has had charges against him dropped.

A sab from Suffolk and Essex group was arrested on 4th September following an incident at Essex and Suffolk foxhunt. She has been charged with S.5 Public Order Act 1986, S. 68 and assaulting a police officer. Pre Trial Review scheduled for 22 October.

A sab from Pewsey Vale accepted a caution after being arrested for assaulting a police officer on 11 September.

A sab from Northamptonshire was arrested on 25 September at Meynall and South Staffs foxhunt. The sab was charged with possession of an offensive weapon (a whip) and bailed not to enter Derbyshire. The case was dropped at the first court hearing.

Two sabs from Norfolk and Norwich group were arrested on 5 October at a dig out at the Suffolk and Essex foxhunt. They have been charged with S.68.

A Dorset sab was arrested on 9 October at the Cottley. He was bailed by the officer at the scene to report to the police station. Apparently this is a new procedure... watch this space.

A sab from Reading was convicted of S.68 at Basingstoke Magistrates on 19 October. This was as a result of an incident on Vale of Aylesbury. The sab in question is taking legal advice regarding the merits of an appeal.

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*

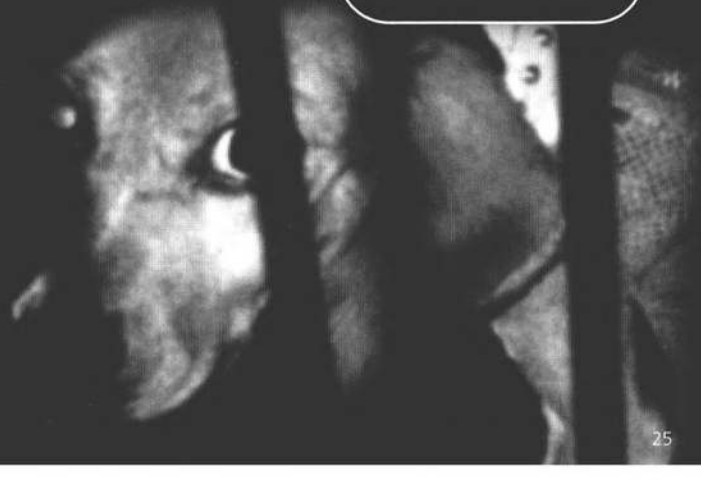
DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Rye Hill
Onley
Warwickshire
CV23 8AN
Serving 10 years: 3 for GBH on HLS director Brian Cass, 18 months for burglary of 600 Newchurch guinea pigs & 5½ years for possessing explosives.

WENDY ATTWOOD
NW4004
HMP Foston Hall
Foston
Derby
DE65 5DN
Serving 3 months.

BARRY DICKINSON
LJ 7846
HMP Blakenhurst
Hewell Lane
Redditch
B97 6QS
Serving 5 months in relation to various animal rights campaigns.

PAUL LE BOUTILLIER
KA9326
HMP Wealstun
Walton Road, Thorp Arch,
Wetherby LS23 7AZ
Serving 2½ 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.

SARAH GISBORNE
LT5393
HMP Edmunds Hill
Stradishall, Newmarket
Suffolk CB8 9YN
Remanded on Conspiracy to cause criminal damage charge



VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

badger
VERMIN

On 13/9/04 three men were given a lifetime ban from keeping dogs and each ordered to pay £1000 in costs after pleading guilty to disturbing a badger sett. **Wayne Robert Hitchcock Senior** (45) **Wayne Robert Hitchcock Junior** (21) both from Norwich Street, Derby and **Ian William Hartley** (29) of Thurlow Court, Oakwood, Derby, admitted the charge at an earlier hearing and then appeared at Derby Magistrates Court. As well as the ban and costs their dogs were confiscated. A youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons also pleaded guilty for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 at Derby Youth Court the previous week and was given a three-month referral order and a five-year disqualification from keeping a dog. A member of the public had tipped off police that the men were digging at a sett. Police officers were dispatched along with a police helicopter which hovered overhead and followed the group back to a layby where their car was. Police were waiting for them at the layby. Two Patterdale terrier type dogs were later recovered shortly afterwards and taken to the vets by the RSPCA. Both were injured, one seriously. The dogs had transmitters on their collars and the men were discovered with locator devices on them. The judge also ordered them each to pay £1,000 costs at a rate of £10 a fortnight. (HOW MUCH!!!)

On 28/9/04 **Leslie Fowell** (34) of Rock Ferry, Merseyside was sentenced to 12 weeks imprisonment at Wirral magistrates for eight offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (four offences of cruelly ill-treating a badger and four offences of willfully injuring a badger). He was also disqualified from keeping dogs for two years. The offences came to light this year when officers were investigating an incident near to a badger sett. Fowell was arrested at his home and during a search of it the police found still photographs and video-tapes showing his Staffordshire Bull terrier and other dogs fighting with badgers. The tapes showed several savage and prolonged attacks by the dogs on badgers. The video also showed the badgers being attacked at night and illuminated by high-powered lamps. When interviewed Fowell admitted that he was present with his dog during all the attacks.

bloodsports
VERMIN



Lucy Ferry admitted her part in the pro-BLOODSPORTS demonstration in London on 15/9/04. She was given a 12-month conditional discharge at Bow Street magistrates on 21/9/04 after admitting obstructing the traffic. Ferry, who was also ordered to pay £40 court costs. **Jackie Coward** (18) girlfriend of Ferry's son Otis, pleaded guilty to the same charge and also received a conditional discharge and was order to pay court costs. Magistrates heard how at 6am on the day of the Countryside Alliance protest in Parliament Square, police were in the process of setting up cordons. As a police carrier came to a set of red lights, two vehicles appeared to park up at the lights. The defendants got out of the cars. They walked away so that when the lights turned green, the carrier was unable to proceed. She said when police spoke to the two women, they refused to move their cars. Coward said: "We were making a political statement and I was quite shocked at what happened. I'm surprised I have had to come back down here. I am a poor student from up in Newcastle". Coward admitted that her car had been blocking the highway.



At Tower Bridge magistrates on 29/9/04 a bloodsports supporter who took part in the demonstration outside Parliament on 15 /9/04 swore and spat at police who tried to move him out of the road. **Brett Parsons** (31) from Stickle Ball Hill Farm, Sticklynch, Glastonbury, Somerset admitted threatening behaviour and obstructing the highway and was ordered to carry out 75 hours unpaid community work and fined £75. Parsons, Parsons was also told to pay £50 towards prosecution costs.

The case against 12 men charged with running an illegal dog fight was adjourned at Nass District Court on 7/10/04. The case was adjourned until 17/11/04. The alleged offences are said to have occurred at Broclagh, Roberstown, Co.Kildare. The men have all been charged under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1911. They are: **Anthony Burke**, Corstown, Oldcastle Co.Meath, **Richard Bernard**, Dark Road, Castletown Carlow, **Troy Jordan**, River Road, Allenwood Co.Kildare, **James Ferris**, Allenwood South, Co.Kildare; **Richard Somerville**, Dunard Drive, Navan Road Carlow; **Paul Malone**, Dunmore Lawn, Tallaght, Co.Dublin; **Karl Bree**, Nangor Crescent, Clondalkin, Co.Dublin; **John Moody**, Coolamber Crescent, Templogue, Co.Dublin; **Thomas Codd**, Cloonmore Crescent, Tallaght, Co.Dublin; **David Deegan**, Maplewood Park, Springfield, Tallaght, Co.Dublin; **Michael Quinn**, Slieve Bloom Road, Drimagh, Co.Dublin and **Joseph Blake**, Loreto Avenue, Rathfarnham,Co.Dublin

Two bloodsport supporters who dumped animal carcasses in the street during the Labour Party conference pleaded guilty at Brighton magistrates on 20/10/04 to



breaching the Public Order Act. **Stuart Trousdale** (33) from Gatcombe (huntsman of the *Isle of Wight Foxhounds)* and **James Butcher** (39) of Ashley Road in Ryde, horrified local residents by unloading two dead calves and a cow from a pick up truck near the conference venue in Brighton. They pleaded guilty to breaching the Public Order Act through threatening and disorderly behaviour. Their defence claimed they are not hooray Henrys, out to make a point. They are hard-working members of their community. "They are countrymen who feel that, as they see it, their way of life is under threat. "This is a crime of passion." Both regretted any upset they had caused. Trousdale, who earns £10,000 a year, was fined £80 and ordered to pay costs of £70. Butcher was fined £167 and ordered to pay £70 costs.

eggs/birds

VERMIN

The ex-owner of an owl sanctuary has been given 240 hours community service and told to pay £10,000 after being found guilty of wildlife offences. **Bruce Berry** (63) was convicted in September, after being exposed in an undercover BBC documentary. A jury at Southampton Crown Court heard on 6/10/04 how he sold and displayed endangered birds illegally and stole a falcon. A BBC investigation also revealed mistreatment of birds at his New Forest Owl Sanctuary in Ringwood. Berry was ordered to pay £5,000 costs for both the defence and the prosecution and was given the maximum length of community service. He was given 80 hours for the theft of the saker falcon and 80 hours, to run consecutively, for selling two marsh harriers without a licence, one of which died. He was also given 80 hours, to run concurrently, for selling a tawny owl for £80 without a licence. He was also sentenced to 80 hours consecutive for displaying tawny owl chicks without a licence and 80 hours concurrent for displaying tortoises without a licence. The court heard that Berry ordered staff not to try to find the falcon's owner when it was handed in to the sanctuary after being found by a member of the public. At his trial, Berry who pleaded not guilty was convicted of a total of five counts, but cleared of releasing barn owl chicks into the wild and using false documents to obtain licences. The New Forest Owl Sanctuary closed in July 2003 and has since reopened under new ownership.

Julian Rous (35) of Mill Road, Maldon was banned for life from keeping animals after the carcasses of more than 30 starved birds were found in an aviary at his home. Chelmsford magistrates heard on 4/10/04 that Rous told RSPCA inspectors he had "lost interest" in the birds, and despite noticing some of the birds were dying because of a lack of food and water, had done nothing about it. The court heard the birds would have suffered a long, drawn-out death because of their treatment. Rous admitted four counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. As well as the life ban, Rous was given an 120-hour community punishment order and ordered to pay £650 costs.

equine

VERMIN

Two farmers were banned from owning horses for five years after magistrates found them guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to ponies. **David Phillips** (70) and his nephew **Arthur Phillips** (57) both of Heathcock Farm, Cwm Tysswg, Tredegar, allowed ponies to suffer due to a lack of care Abertillery magistrates heard on 29/10/04. They were both convicted of two counts of causing unneccessary suffering to two ponies, and Arthur Phillips was convicted of three counts of terrifying ponies in a barn. Magistrates heard how Phillips was seen screaming and waving his hands at three ponies in a barn, terrifying them. David Phillips was fined a total of £1,000 and Arthur Phillips a total of £500. They were both disqualified from owning equines for five years and deprived of both ponies impounded by the RSPCA. The sentences were suspended for 21 days to allow both men to appeal.

assorted

VERMIN

On 16/9/04 a former Shropshire zoo manager sacked for selling monkeys dismissed allegations that he intended to smuggle animals to Spain. **Stephen Riley** (48) barricaded himself in his flat for 23 days with two wallabies and 14 tortoises when he was dismissed from his job as animal manager at Tropiquaria tourist attraction, Watchet, Somerset. An employment tribunal in Exeter heard how Riley had built up a huge personal collection of exotic animals, including rare snakes, a tamarind monkey and a meercat. Judgment was reserved and the parties were told they would be informed of the decision by post.

A Shropshire company and its directors have been fined more than £8,500 with almost £2,000 in costs for breaking animal welfare regulations. Highbury Poultry Farm Produce Ltd of Manor House Lane, Higher Heath and directors **Kevin Sketcher** and **Simon Worsnop** were fined on 27/9/04 at Market Drayton magistrates. They were fined £600 for the first offence regarding welfare of animals regulations. DEFRA claimed the company caused suffering to animals, two live birds, by discarding them in a bin of "dead" animals. The other charge was that Highbury Poultry failed to ensure people involved were acquainted with the provision of the legislation and for this the company was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs. The same two charges were also admitted by the company directors who were each fined £2,500 and ordered to pay £475 costs.

farmer

VERMIN



A farmer escaped prison after admitting animal cruelty and ignoring a ban on keeping sheep. **Joseph Scott** of Wedgewood Road, Flimby was told by West Allerdale and Keswick magistrates on 9/9/04 that his record on animal welfare was appaling and he could have gone to jail. Scott pleaded guilty to six charges and was given a ten-year ban on keeping sheep in October last year for similar offences at Allanby Farm. In 1997 he was prosecuted for mistreating five bullocks and in 1999, he was banned from keeping cattle while in 2000 he was fined for failing to bury animal carcasses. Magistrates fined him a total of £2,000 for all the offences. He was also ordered to pay £300 in costs.

A farmer and his sister were fined £1,400 for transporting sheep which were unfit to travel. Oldham council took legal action against **William Lumb** and **Valerie Lumb**, also known as **Valerie Wimpenny**, after a slaughterhouse vet asked welfare officers to inspect the animals. Oldham magistrates were told on 16/9/04 that one of the ewes was in such a poor condition that it was unable to stand. It had advanced foot rot and a claw from one of its feet was missing. All three were slaughtered and disposed of on animal welfare grounds. William Lumb, of Whitfield Dairy Farm, Smallbrook Road, Shaw, and Valerie Lumb, of Lowerfields Rise, Shaw, both admitted causing a sheep to be transported when unfit, causing it unnecessary suffering. William Lumb also admitted failing to provide a movement licence for the sheep, brought in after the foot-and-mouth crisis in 2001. Magistrates were told that the Lumbs' company is Whitfield Dairy Farm Ltd, where Valerie Lumb is the major shareholder.

A farmer has been fined £3000 for failing to provide adequate food and veterinary care after more than 150 of his livestock starved to death. A large number of animals were still alive but, despite urgent veterinary attention, many subsequently died. Andrew McQuaker of Maybole, south Ayrshire keeps about 800 sheep and 80 cattle, pled guilty at Ayr Sheriff Court on 13/10/04 to charges of failing to dispose of animal carcasses, failing to apply for cattle passports and failing to provide adequate food and prompt veterinary care for his livestock.

domestic

VERMIN

Jerry Allen Bradford (37) of Pensacola, was charged with felony animal cruelty, the Escambia County Sheriff's Office said on 7/9/04. Bradford was being treated at an undisclosed hospital for the gunshot wound to his wrist. Bradford said he decided to shoot the 3-month-old puppies in the head because he couldn't find another home for the shepherd-mix dogs. He was holding two puppies, one in his arms and another in his left hand, when the dog in his hand wiggled and put its paw on the trigger, making the gun discharge (Poetic Justice). The revolver and a rifle were seized from the home. Deputies found three of the puppies in a shallow grave outside Bradford's home. The other four appeared to be in good health and were taken by Escambia County Animal Control.

On 21/9/04 **Dean Brayson** of Fillingham Close, Chelmsley Wood was sent to prison for three months and banned from owning animals for the next ten years by Birmingham magistrates. Brayson pleaded guilty to cruelly kicking a dog, causing it unnecessary suffering. The court heard the the dog had been kicked repeatedly, breaking four of its ribs and causing fragments to puncture its lung. Internal bleeding resulted in the dog being unable to breathe.

➲



Paul Lovie of Rose Street, off Haxby Road York stormed the RSPCA's York headquarters with a sawn-off air rifle and a samurai sword has been banned from keeping dogs for 12 months. York magistrates heard on 10/9/04 Lovie had been discussing symptoms of illness in his Jack Russell terrier with a vet. He was told a home visit would cost £200. During the phone conversation, Lovie said he would take a pickaxe to the terrier to end her sufferings. That prompted the vet to call in the authorities, and an RSPCA inspector took the terrier from Lovie's home in Rose Street, off Haxby Road, because she was in pain. The court heard that the terrier sadly died later in RSPCA care. Lovie pleaded guilty to animal neglect by not getting treatment over a four-day period and was given a 12-month conditional discharge and a 12-month ban from keeping dogs. He is also serving a 15-month jail sentence for offences committed when he went to the RSPCA's Landing Lane.

Part-time fireman **Tony Wain** was banned from keeping animals for 10 years on 8/10/04, after his dog almost starved to death. Derby magistrates heard that the boxer, was left starving in a flat where it howled for most of a weekend. Police broke into the premises, where there was no dog food or water. Tony Wain (27) of Church Street, Alfreton, was ordered to pay £2,035 costs and ordered to carry out 160 hours' community work. At an earlier hearing, he was found guilty in his absence of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. The good news is that the dog has since recovered and has now been found a new home

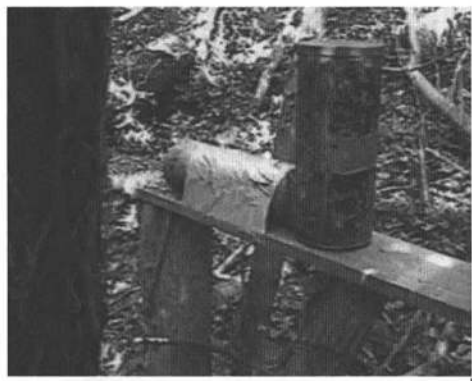
Brenda Parmenter (66) and her son **Roy** (42) of Parsonage, Manorway, Belvedere, Kent both dog breeders and regular Crufts exhibitors admitted on 1/11/04 to causing appaling suffering to their own spaniels. But an anonymous tip-off led to an RSPCA raid on their home, where inspectors found one dog half-blind, three with open wounds and all seven of their animals being kept in "filthy" conditions in steel cages in the hallway. Both Parmenters pleaded guilty to four specimen counts of causing unnecessary suffering. They were banned from keeping dogs for two years and fined £100 each plus £50 costs.

Two experienced greyhound trainers whose dogs died in vehicles parked outside a race-track were cleared of animal cruelty charges on 5/11/04 at Mildenhall magistrates. **James McArdle** of Lester Piggot Way, Newmarket and **Sally Ann Clark** (43) of Brightlingsea Road, Thorrington, Essex whose greyhound puppies died in separate vehicles at the Mildenhall Stadium, were told they had done everything they could to "lessen any risk there was" of heat stroke.

Poisoning

Wildlife and animal rights activists have recently increased their focus on snaring and other damaging activities that take place in the countryside. Rather than taking the form of "bloodsports" many of these practices amount to blanket wildlife persecution, but it is no surprise that they can often be found on land associated with other persecution of wildlife such as shooting estates or hunting coverts. However, sometimes they can be just carried out by individuals who think that anything that moves should be exterminated, so it is worth keeping your eyes peeled when you are out sabotaging a hunt, rambling, checking badger setts or just walking the dog.

These stills from a video passed to the HSA by Nemesis Wildlife Group show a rough and ready "hopper" seemingly designed to target squirrels (who recently seem to have become the latest victim of a mud slinging PR campaign). The squirrels hop down onto the platform and eat the poisoned seeds spilling out of the first tin. The second upright tin, connected to the first, ensures a plentiful supply. If you didn't know otherwise, you could mistake it for something quite innocent. As much as 3kg of Warfarin - a rat poison - is contained in the cans.



Even if squirrels can be poisoned within the law, there is nothing to stop the poison being eaten by birds or dropping from the contraption onto the woodland floor where it could be eaten by badgers, deer, foxes, domestic animals or any of the wide range of British wildlife that is trying to survive in the 'managed' countryside. The danger of damage is obvious. And besides which, just because it's legal doesn't make it right!



What can be done?

The work involved in constantly replacing these devices would test the resolve of many landowners. It may be possible to encourage the Trading Standards office to take action against the landowner. However, you will need proof that the poison used is a banned substance or was not being used according to the legislation that applies to it - which involves costly tests before they will listen to you (if they do at all). In a recent case DEFRA officials denied that it was illegal for poisons to be used in this way but, when pressed, would not give an undertaking in writing that it WAS legal. This seems to suggest that they have little interest in the welfare of wildlife coming into contact with poisons and were seeking to dismiss the person raising the complaint. Until they were pressed to commit themselves .....

This leaves little option but to take direct action. The simplest way to deal with poison is to remove it. If animals don't eat it, it won't kill them or make them ill. However, the Poison can be replaced - although in practice it is often left unmonitored - similar to some snaring practices. Other approaches that the HSA has come to hear about include removing the poison distributor or blocking it up. Again this could be replaced, but obviously takes longer than just replacing the contents. Bear in mind that it could be replaced in a different part of the woodland. As a result of poison being interfered with and protestations from a local badger group, in the case mentioned above, these poison machines have been removed.

In past dealings with poisoned food hoppers the only sensible way of destroying the contaminated food stuff is to burn it. Burying the material will merely place another species of wildlife at risk from it.

Keep alert!!

Did you know?...

Harrier Facts

The word Harrier comes from the norman-saxon for general hunting dog, it has been established in Britain since the middle ages, however, the term Harrier was applied to all hunting dogs in the 18th century. There is some speculation that they were introduced by the Romans and that it was crossed with other breeds, we do know that they were introduced to the united states during colonial times. It is from this era that we can identify the modem day Harrier.

Harriers are used to chase hares and are followed on horse back, the only form of hare hunting that is. Allegedly, hunters wanted a hound that could run the hare faster than the usually used Beagle and therefore would afford them the opportunity of riding across country rather than following on foot. This was partially achieved through the introduction of Foxhound blood into the breed.

A Harrier's height at the shoulder is between 19 and 21 inches with a typical coat being hard, dense and shinny, along with the typical tri-colour markings that are seen on other breeds of hunting dog.

There is a sub-category of Harrier breed in Devon, known as either the Somerset or West Country Harrier. There is some evidence to suggest that this hound was bred either by cross breeding with Foxhounds from a French origin, or cross breeding with English Staghounds. Either way the West Country Harrier is a very close relative of the Harrier hound with a strong, robust nature affording it a fast pace that is said to be able to out-run the Harrier on all terrain. They are claimed to be easily trained with a natural tendency for being a pack animal, which of course is desirable if you want the animal to hunt. Something they are very capable of doing on both hare and fox.

Scotland and Wales do not have Harrier packs, though they are quite common in Ireland and certain parts of England. The South East of the country is devoid of any. Harriers with Oxfordshire or East Anglia being the nearest packs. The West Country holds the majority of registered packs though others can be found as far apart as Lancashire, Herefordshire and Derbyshire. In recent years many packs have switched to hunting purely the fox as hare populations diminish, as mentioned, this is quite a simple procedure for them to follow as Harriers are so adaptable to hunting either quarry.

Sabotaging Harriers that have switched to Foxes only is no different than your usual tactics deployed on your usual Fox hunt. For those packs that still hunt both the Hare and Fox, things can be a little different as the rules of keeping strictly behind them come into play for fear of putting up a Hare that is determined to sit. Occasionally, it can be possible to place yourself in front of a Fox hunt and await the passage of the Fox before attempting to divert the hounds from the line that Fox has just left. This would not be advisable if the Harrier pack are prepared to hunt whichever species they come across first. It can be quite tense to say the least, when you see hounds hunting both Hare and Fox on the same day and Sabs need to be adaptable, just as the Harriers are, to be effective against this form of wildlife persecution.





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

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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, WV10 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,
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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
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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
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Phone: 0845 458 0630 www.shac.net email: info@shac.net

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign
Publishes free newsletter
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0781 565 8371 email: surreyantihunt@yahoo.com
www.sahc.org.uk

Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG)
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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.

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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.
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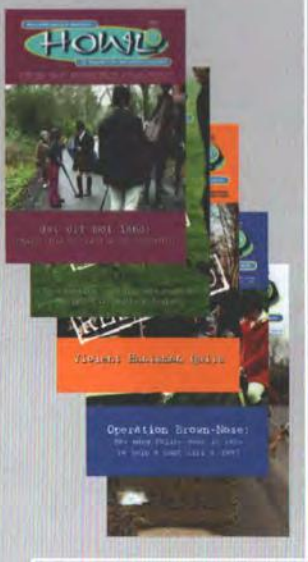
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To keep most of the leaflets etc. free we would ask you to make a donation to at least cover postage.
To give you some idea of the size of donations needed, 1 *Howl* costs 40p to send as do 5 posters.
250 leaflets cost approx. £3.50, 500 leaflets £4.00 and 1000 leaflets £6.00.

18 February 2005

THANK YOU



www.huntsabs.org.uk

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION