Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer 2005

HOWL 83

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

BAN DAY + ONE: WHAT SABS SAW

HUNTING & THE MILITARY

LOADS OF IRATE BUMPKINS!

LAMPING: HOW TO STOP IT

GROUP NEWS ROUND UP

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40 YEARS OF SAVING ANIMALS LIVES
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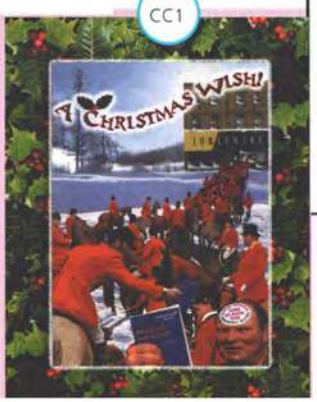
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HOWL 83

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. The H.S.A. committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non-voting posts. All committee members are active hunt saboteurs and all posts are voluntary.
No-one at the H.S.A is paid. We believe that all money raised by membership / donations should go towards the running of the H.S.A and directly helping saboteurs in the field.

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

EDITORIAL(S)

Welcome to *HOWL 83*....

Hunting with hounds is banned! I wasn't sure how I'd feel when I watched every news broadcast the evening before it happened. Of all the wrongs I feel strongly about it was this one I most wanted to see stopped in my own lifetime. There were times when I didn't think I would, like when the previous bill ran out of time and seemed to be ignored. When the 19th Feb arrived (first day out for most after the ban) I didn't follow them in the usual way, I had to get in front and see for myself that a trail was being laid and followed. Only then did it begin to sink in that this might truly be the beginning of the end for this freakish and callous minority.

Now the season is well and truly over, even for the poor devils in the South West, and what a season it was. Most of us expected this one to be quite fraught, I think at times it resembled a return to the days of the early nineties. During the main season there wasn't a week that went by without a sab being injured and by New Year this was rapidly turning into trips to casualty. We knew it would be this way – a virus is always at its worst just before the illness breaks! It is for this reason that I would like to dedicate this issue of *HOWL* to all those sabs who remained active under the increased threat of violence and to those who still had to suffer the repression of excessive policing, despite the writing being on the wall for hunting. I am thinking specifically of Surrey police, who despite all that was happening legislatively, continued to behave in the most bias manner towards sabs.

It remains to be seen what will happen in September, when they would normally be cub hunting. The bumpkins will have to stomach another four year term of office, of the government that put them out of business. Consider the article within, on the defeatist language many hunts are already using regarding their future.

This may indeed be the end of a medieval pastime for the idle rich and the sadistic, who enjoyed killing for fun, but it is not the end of the HSA. In the majority of regions since the ban, we have had to monitor not sab, as the hunts seemed to behave themselves, at least when we were present that is.

Lastly, can I remind everybody that this years AGM will be held once again at Conway Hall in London on Saturday 23rd July 2005 (see back cover). We will have vegan catering of some description and a licence to sell you that most important ingredient of a successful AGM. Please make an effort to attend and be sure your group is represented – it'll be fun, trust me.

Enjoy your summer, if you can't find anything better to do.

Mr D.

....and Welcome to *HOWL 83* again

Strange, that my first editorial comes after the hunt ban...! With this season finally over, the H.S.A can take a deep breath. We expected all hell to break loose, and it did, with an unprecedented concentration of violence over the last few months, but luckily, not too many serious injuries. Whilst Labour MPs have languished safely with their 24-hour protection and security guards, sabs have fearlessly attended hunts again and again-as the violence grew, the stronger we became-right up until the end, we were there. Nobody knows what future seasons hold, but none of us believed this day would ever come. So, for Tom, Mike, Gary, and the others who didn't make it through to see the ban in place, lets raise our glasses - We've done it guys, we've f**kin' done it!

Grant.

COPS TO RECORD WILDLIFE CRIMES

Since 1st April 2005 for a 12 month trial period, the police have been recording all reported wildlife crimes. This will include crimes such as killing badgers and interfering with setts and also, presumably, breaches of the new Hunting Act. It is important that all wildlife crimes are reported and that a crime reference number is given. Some police forces may choose to allocate resources based on the number of incidents reported.

The Hunting Ban CLASS WAR?

So, at this point in time, we finally have an anti hunting law in place, albeit, one that has yet to be enforced. After losing the cruelty arguments time and time again (well, when was the last time the CA produced footage of their 'pest control' methods? You can't expect people to believe in an activity that is constantly hidden from their eyes!), the pro hunt lobby have used an avalanche of spin and propaganda to try to change the public's mind. The anti hunt lobby has found unfortunately, that footage of hunting is always deemed to upsetting and controversial to show on television, so hence the years of argument in letter pages, tv studios etc. Since the CA was formed in 1997 as an organization to defend hunting from the new Labour Government, their methods and presentation have changed. Its appearance as an organization devoted entirely to defending bloodsports, unfortunately coincided with a crisis within farming and the rural communities. It is from these areas that they have drawn support, until they (like the BNP), have risen in some areas of the media, to being an authoritative voice on a wide range of issues, not just a single issue group, of no interest to any, but their core of hard-line supporters.

Whilst their cynical changes of board members and key figures to make sure the peers and large land owners take more behind the scenes roles, and the appointment of some non-hunting officers, hunting is what the CA are there to champion. They will use every resource at their disposal to do so, even though they claim to care about the countryside as a whole. They claim to care about social exclusion, then employ a staff which has included bankers and landlords, who specialize in the unequal distribution of wealth.

"...if it had always been an activity enjoyed by the working class, it would have been abolished decades ago."

With all of this in mind, it is interesting that the latest argument to confuse the public is that this issue in not about animal welfare, but simply about "class war," and the Labour governments hatred of hunting people. With the above in mind, and the recent comments of a Labour MP, this throws up some interesting points.

In November of last year, writing in the Sunday Telegraph, a Labour MP made certain comments, which have since caused the CA to crow with delight. Peter Bradley, the Parliamentary private secretary to rural affairs minister Alun Michael, was seen by many to state that the hunting Bill was merely about class issues, and nothing to do with animal welfare. Whilst it is worth pointing out that of course, to organizations such as the H.S.A, it is the welfare of the hunted animal which overrides all other issues for us, hence our tactics of direct action, it is still very difficult to disagree with the points he made. Whilst we will always intervene to save an animal, whether from the spade of the terrier man, or the actions of an upper class huntsman it is the undeniable fact that hunting has been the sport of the privileged for hundreds of years, and it is this influence that has kept it protected from the views of the compassionate majority.

In his article, Peter Bradley states that (my italics-) "we ought to at last own up to it, the struggle over the bill was not *just about animal welfare* and personal freedom: it was class war..this was not about the politics of envy, but the politics of power. Ultimately, it's about who governs Britain". He also stated that the hunting cause is made up of "the privileged minority, which for centuries ran this country from the manor houses of rural England.. The campaign has relatively little to do with rural life or rights. It has a lot to do with preserving the age old privileges of land ownership. The placards of the CA plead 'Listen To Us!', but what they mean is 'Do What We Say!' ...but the old order no longer prevails...a ban on hunting touches them. It threatens their inalienable right to do as they please on their own land. For the first time, a decision of a Parliament they don't control has breached their wrought iron gates... though they may still own the country, they are no longer running it."

The CA and other pro hunt voices have leapt upon this, as pure, vicious class hatred. But as Peter Bradley so bravely admits, the struggle to ban hunting has never JUST been concerned with animal welfare - whilst this is the first, and most important reason for its abolition, if it had always been an activity enjoyed by the lower/working classes, it would have been abolished decades ago. The ban on hunting has been on the cards for years now, and it is the utter typical arrogance of hunt supporters that has prevented them from trying to get their house in order years ago. They have simply sat back and enjoyed their activities, whilst around them society has changed, and they are now finding, for the first time, their backs are against the wall. Whilst it has seemed that since Tony Blair promised the still non enforced hunting ban, the CA have been running not only the countryside, but also the media and not to mention their Governmental influences. But when their last legal challenges to the Hunting Bill have failed, and the law is enforced, not only will it be a most important day for Britain's hunted wildlife, it will mean that the class war is being won, as the boundaries between the classes are eroded.



TESCO'S TO WITHDRAW WHALE MEAT

Following a concerned readers e-mail of complaint to the supermarket, after reading in *Howl 82* of their decision to sell whale meet in their Japanese discount stores, the company have relented. 'At the time, one of the products that C-Two Network was selling, in very small quantities, was canned whale meet. Since then, our Japanese business has decided to stop selling this product'. Well done to our reader, the power of this magazine surprises even the editors sometimes! – Ed.

GAMEKEEPERS WHO BROKE UP ILLEGAL RAVE JAILED

A gamekeeper and her assistant were jailed for three months for firing their shotguns when they encountered an illegal rave. Jessica Allinson, 46, and Alexander Szyndel, 28, who were out shooting rabbits at dawn, shot at loud speakers and car tyres and levelled their weapons at party goers who had been dancing to amplified music since midnight at Netley Heath, Surrey.

The court heard from witnesses who attended the rave and from the defendants, who had earlier pleaded guilty to four counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and causing criminal damage. The pair were jailed for three months on 15 January at Guildford Crown Court, under the orders of Judge John Bull.

Allinson has since lost her job as a gamekeeper and Judge Bull revoked her licence and ordered that the two weapons be confiscated. Both had pleaded guilty to four charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and causing criminal damage.

TROPHY HUNTERS IN SANCTUARY KILLING.

A stag living on West Country land owned by LACS, has been shot and decapitated by trophy hunters. Paul Tillsley, who runs the sanctuary in Somerset, found the stag whilst out on his rounds. He believes it would have been exhausted after the four week rutting season, and that the stag had been targeted by trophy hunters for a private collection. He described the stag as 'the alpha male of the herd' and did not know how its death would affect the other animals.

Tom Yandle, chairman of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, said that it was 'certainly nothing that the hunters would get involved in. It would in no means be in their interest'. Diana Scott, joint master of the hunt, said 'to even think that this could be something our hunt would be involved in just seems ludicrous'.
Stag hunters, killing stags? Surely not! - Ed

DODGY JUDGEMENT?

In 1997, Judge David Selwood, famously sent down three editors of *Green Anarchist* magazine, in a very costly state attempt to silence the reporting of direct action, often ALF actions and hunt sabotage. They were found guilty of publishing information liable to 'incite' others to commit 'criminal damage'. He described the magazines as 'the most contemptuous document I have ever seen in my entire life', and the case cost the taxpayer ten million pounds. In 2004, he was convicted of downloading child pornography, (but was allowed to keep his pension!).

- Judge Roger Davies has just resigned, after spending a year on leave, receiving a £90,000 salary, after being accused of paying rent boys for sex. He was famous for sending May Day protesters to prison. (He will also receive roughly a one million pound pension deal).

With hoards of hunters now queuing up to go to prison, maybe a few years in the nick will help the Judges, Magistrates and hunt masters discuss their problems...in the 'nonces' wing, as I believe they call it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fishermen fined by Environment Agency
Two fishermen have been fined a total of £772 for breaking into a sluice owned by the Environment Agency to increase their catch. The two from Somerset pleaded guilty after officers launched a surveillance operation at Brean Cross Sluice. Both men were also given a two-year conditional discharge.

Tabasco Lettuce
Dutch farmers have come up with a novel approach for protecting their lettuce plantations from being eaten by rabbits. They have started to spray the vegetables with Tabasco sauce, which obviously discourages the animals from temptation. Animal welfare bodies have welcomed the initiative.

Compensation for hunt staff?
The Government is rumoured to be putting together a compensation package worth £50,000 for hunt workers to relocate or migrate when a ban on hunting comes into force. One possible suggestion has been that the compensation would be used to help hunters relocate to areas where hunting is still legal, such as France or Ireland. One minister is alleged to have said that the offer would be 'highly selective'.

Police violence in Parliament Square
The Independent Police Complaints Authority received over 300 complaints concerning allegations of police brutality in Parliament Square at the time of the September debate. The Authority has taken statements from every complainant, many of who suffered head wounds as they tried to break through a police cordon protecting Parliament. Hours of CCTV footage are to be examined as are photographs used by the media. More than 60 police officers were hurt during the violent pro-hunt demonstration.

Broise acquitted yet again
The notorious former huntsman of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt was acquitted in October of assault at Hove Crown Court. Broise was charged following an incident the previous year in which a 60 year-old female protestor was knocked to the ground by a horse allegedly ridden by Broise. Judge Kemp dismissed the charge on the grounds that the evidence (including video footage) could not be accepted as it was too bias to be put before a jury.

Arson attack blamed on pro-hunters
Rail investigators looking into an arson attack in November on the Exeter to Waterloo line, believe hunt supporters may have been responsible. The fire started at around 12.30am, causing damage to signalling cables after 22 concrete lids which covered them were removed. Graffiti near the track read 'NO BAN', and the possibility that the fire was started by hunt supporters is being investigated by British transport police.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sea Shepherd crew attacked at Seal hunt
Eleven crew members of Sea Shepherd ventured out onto ice flow off the coast of Canada in early April to film the seal hunt. As they did so they were attacked by hunters who attempted to grab their camera. Crew members found themselves being punched and hit with clubs to the point that their blood could be seen on the ice flows. As the crew tried to enter the Canadian coast they were all placed under arrest by the coast guard. – Where have we heard this kind of story before?! – Ed.

Special Branch recruit informers
Over a dozen senior members of the Countryside Alliance have allegedly been approached by Special Branch officers who asked them to provide information and advanced warning about potentially illegal protests and hunt meets when the law comes into force on February 18.
It is believed each of the 13 regional directors of the CA have been approached and were advised that if they became informants, they would be 'well looked after.' - Question is, how many of them turned? – Ed.

Badgers to be DNA profiled
A new scheme using DNA profiling similar to that used for humans could help stamp out illegal digging and baiting of the protected badger. The RSPCA has commissioned a database to be set up with hundreds of badger DNA samples from across the UK, which should improve their chances of successfully prosecuting diggers and baiters. Barry Fryer of the RSPCA, said: 'With the extra supplementary evidence the DNA profiling will provide, we are confident the cases we put forward will withstand the scrutiny of a court of law.'

Dead foxes dumped at Sanctuary gate
A sickening sight greeted animal sanctuary manager Viv Harris as she arrived for work recently at the Llanfrechfa sanctuary, near Cwmbran. Outside the gates of *All Creatures Great and Small*, she discovered the bodies of six foxes, some with mutilated stomachs and mouths. She believes she was targeted after speaking out against hunting in a local newspaper a few weeks earlier. The incident has however, generated great publicity for the sanctuary as the story made the front page of the same paper and was given a three page write-up.

Huntsman found not guilty in Scotland
Trevor Adams, huntsman of the Duke of Buccleuch's Hunt in the Scottish Borders, has been found not guilty of hunting a fox near Kelso in 2002 shortly after the introduction of Scottish hunting legislation. The case was heard at Jedburgh Sheriff Court, and was brought under the Watson Act. - This result is not surprising as there were no independent witnesses to his alleged hunting of a fox, however, is it a good indication that the Scottish CPS are taking the new act seriously. -Ed.

SABS RESCUE BEAGLES FROM A-ROAD & RAILWAY

Sabs in East Anglia received a shock on their way home after they had thought their day was over last October. Approximately 10 beagles from the STOUR VALLEY BEAGLES were running out of control across the busy A12 London-Ipswich road. Sabs had to swerve to avoid a collision, as the hounds proceeded to run across a railway line running parallel to the road. None of the hunt were in the vicinity and it fell to the sabs to try their best to recover any they could find, until darkness forced them to stop. Three were later recovered by the huntsman, but others are believed to have remained loose.

This is not the first time this hunt have put the lives of their hounds in danger. They reported three of the pack missing in January last year near Harwich. One was found killed on the road and the other two found in a hedgerow, shot and beaten to death, sparking an RSPCA investigation.

HEROIC LACS SUPPORTER SAVES HUNTED STAG



A local supporter of LACS bravely confronted the Quantock Staghounds recently in order to save the life of a hunted stag that had taken refuge on the League's Alfoxton sanctuary. The supporter said, 'When the stag ran past me it was in an exhausted state, its eyes were bulging and its tongue lolling out. I looked behind me and the huntsman and the rest of the hunt were on Alfoxton Drive, so I shouted to them to keep off and reminded them that it was private property. My wife then phone the League's West Country office.'

When Sanctuaries manager Paul Tillsley arrived the stag was still hiding in a bed of bracken. 'Although I could not see the stag, I could hear its laboured breathing from where we stood about 20 metres away. The hunt had moved off by then, but I decided to stay on to monitor the stag as it was clearly in a very distressed state. Occasionally the stag tried to get to its feet, but was unable to do so.' Finally, some two and a half hours after the stag had arrived, it got gingerly to its feet and walked stiffly off through the wood.

C.A. DIRECTOR SELLS 'DEATH TRIPS'

Sir Edward Dashwood, the CA's Chairman of their campaign for shooting, is co director of the EJ CHURCHULL sporting agency, based in Banbury. Investigators from LACS were provided with prices from the agency for safari trips and the cost of shooting different animals such as rhinos, elephants, and buffalo. The animals are lured into specially designed areas, where hunters can slaughter them and bring them home as trophies.

In a secretly filmed interview at the company's HQ, Dashwood, who claims to have killed up to 400 animals with his own gun, described how to get around bans on killing elephants with a bow, and how he once 'chased (a buffalo) for 25 miles over two days, and it had nine bullets in it...'.

STRIPPER CLAIMS ASSAULT BY HUNTSMAN

Police are investigating an alleged pub bust-up involving a huntsman after a fox ban stripper-gram stunt backfired. Darren Foxley, huntsman with the Brecon & Talybont FH, is to be interviewed by police after a row with kiss-a-gram girl Allyson Capron.

The 24-year-old stripper stunned party-goers at the Three Horseshoes pub in Groesffordd, Brecon, by turning up in a copper's outfit to 'arrest' Foxley as a joke for breaking the new hunting law. But on arriving, birthday boy Darren rejected Miss Capron's advances. The generous kiss-a-gram then offered to perform a lap-dance on another customer and while she was at the bar, Foxley is said to have thrown ice at her. In retaliation, she threw a pint of lager over him. Miss Capron made a formal statement of common assault against Foxley to Aberdare police station. The huntsman, who cancelled a meet of the hunt, has agreed to be interviewed by police at a later date.

BADGER PROTESTERS FIGHT ON!

Two people from the Coalition of Badger Action Groups were found guilty in January of criminal damage to government badger traps, set to trap and kill badgers in DEFRA's controversial bTB badger cull. The protesters claim that the government are acting illegally killing badgers which are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992; it was the first attempt to defend the rights of badgers in a court of law. One female protester said 'we're fighting for the badger, which has the right to live...DEFRA has spent £7million a year killing them and over 48,000 have died. Yet they have no proof that badgers spread TB...'

The pair both received an 18 months conditional discharge and ordered to pay £300 costs and £103 each in compensation for criminal damage. They are appealing the verdict.

MAGISTRATES ORDERED TO ENFORCE BAN OR RESIGN

Magistrates have been warned by Lord Falconer, the Constitutional Secretary, that they must enforce the new law on hunting or resign from the bench. He wrote: ' Should a magistrate be unable to meet that requirement (of the new hunting legislation) I would be unlikely to consider them suitable for office.' Lord Falconer's comments are recognised as being aimed at those magistrates who have signed the Hunting Declaration where they vowed to disobey any law to ban hunting.

One former Magistrate has already done just that. Derek Pearce, 59, of the North Avon Bench, says he cannot administer a ban on hunting. Pearce has hunted for 35 years with the Beaufort Hunt.

A retired policeman with 30 years service has publicly stated that he will risk arrest in his determination to continue hunting after February 18. Reg Willing, from Crediton, Mid Devon, said he would rather look for loopholes but would risk arrest if there was no other way.

Further more, a West Country MP has declared that he will protest against the Hunting Act by supporting a local hunt when the law comes in to force. Hugo Swire, Tory MP for East Devon, reckoned he would probably support the Axe Vale, Cotley, or East Devon on the day.

COMMONS RAIDER GUILTY OF FIREARMS CHARGE



'Fcukwit' David Redvers, 34, pleaded guilty at the beginning of February to failing to comply with a condition of his firearms certificate. Whilst conducting a search of his home police officers found rounds of .22 ammunition on a windowsill and more live rounds in a bowl in one of the bedrooms. Redvers was told by magistrates that they did not accept a 'careless attitude' to live ammunition and fined him £350 and ordered him to pay costs of £55. Redvers is due back in court at the beginning of June charged with disorderly conduct for entering the House of Commons in September last year.

HUNTS TARGETED MARGINAL SEATS AT ELECTION

Anti-hunting MPs in marginal constituencies were targeted during the General Election as part of a 'voting for tolerance' campaign across England and Wales. The campaign focused on anti-hunt MPs who were most vulnerable to a swing against them because of the (alleged –Ed) adverse impact the hunting ban has on the local community. According to research by the Economic and Social Research Council, strong campaigning on local issues can have an impact of between five and ten per cent on the election result and there were 37 MPs in rural areas with majorities small enough to be affected. Strangely enough the campaign failed miserably in its attempts to hoist the pro-hunt Tories back into office.

HUNTS MANS BALLS



"Foxhunting never had much to do with pest control. The sport was always about the thrill of the chase..."
Max Hastings *(The Guardian September 18th 2004.)*

"Living in the countryside would be very boring if there was no hunting..."
Otis Ferry *(Newsnight)*

"Isn't it strange that no anti-hunt protester has ever been hunting? The only ones I have ever met who have, are no longer anti".
Joan Calmady-Hamlyn *(letters page, Western Morning News, Jan 18, 2005)*

"Since the hunting act states that watching a hunt will be an offence, the activities of hunt saboteurs who follow a hunt and record events on film, will be due for prosecution, and a fine of up to £5000".
J. Ward-Hayne *(letters page, Western Morning News, Jan 18, 2005)*

"I am too frightened to speak publicly on the issue. The intimidation from the saboteurs has been terrible".
Leading NFU member discussing farming concerns in Kent *(Kentish Gazette, 25, November 2004)*

"True, it was mostly the toffs that took part in our local hunt, so I quite admired the hunt saboteurs who turned up every Boxing Day".
Charlie Whelan, former press secretary to Gordon Brown *(Western Morning News, Christmas Day, 2004)*

"Lots of you are mentioning that you will still be talking about the ct. Er, that's the West Kent Hunt." He then added "I don't believe it. I don't believe it."**
Nicky Campbell, radio five presenter, making his second gaff (or not – Ed) while introducing an article about this hunt, *7 February 2005.*

POLICE UNABLE TO ENFORCE HUNTING BAN?!

"Instead, he said, the police would have to rely on resources currently used to protect the hunts from saboteurs - "they'll use their resources wisely to protect people. In present circumstances, they're using the existing resources to protect hunts from protest, and from, in some circumstances, saboteurs. Now they will be using the same resources in order to ensure that the new law is imposed."
(David Blunkett - Western Morning News, Nov 22nd 2004)

Obviously, quoted from before his resignation, but still an important point. The biased nature of policing hunts has been a major talking point for the H.S.A over the years, their sheer ability to pull out huge numbers of police for a handful of sabs has never ceased to amaze, along with the courts unlimited funding to secure convictions for minor offences, as well as the full backing of past Governments. In my own experience, I have never doubted that police funding of anti hunt protests, has never fallen into line with their sob stories of lack of funds- over the years, our local group has come up against 10 riot vans at one post CJA meet, definite instances of phone tapping, and police following sabs home, the usage of violence and CS spray from officers, police dogs, and the use of the police helicopter, often to protect hunts of 100+, from 5-10 people, all on (seemingly unlimited) public funds, to protect an activity that the majority of the public is appalled by.



This boxing day, at our local hunt, 7 sabs were harassed by 2 riot vans, 2 squad cars, and 2 landrovers full of officers - one can only speculate how much this one day alone cost. Of course, when masked up supporters were threatening sabs, and redcoats mounting sustained attacks on their horses, the plod were nowhere to be seen.

To illustrate this point, it is interesting to note that some (but not all) police chiefs have stated that the hunting act will be unenforceable. Obviously, with the CA preparing a book to tell their members how to beat the ban legally, thousands of them printing their details on a website, for those who will choose to break the law, as well as the governments own complex, but I believe, comprehensive hunting bill, the police have a lot of the work done for them already. Failure to enforce this law, will be because of ill prepared/lazy officers, or pro hunt prejudice - NOT because of limited funds. A quick synopsis of how much funding the police have had at their disposal in the past clearly illustrates this.

When the Criminal Justice and Public order Act came into force in 1994, a vindictive home secretary brought in legislation to make hunt sabbing illegal - the Government had already failed to do this with the 1986 public order act, but by the end of 1989, nearly 100 civil cases had been brought against various police forces, resulting in over £¼ million being paid out to saboteurs in 91/92. Several forces used the act to create "no-go"areas for sabs, arresting them on sight, which could create some interesting scenes if the hunting bill is enacted with the same level of ineptitude! The mid 90s saw some areas receiving between 50 -100 officers at some hunt meets, single days which would have cost tens of thousands. Areas such as Essex (where interestingly, violence against sabs has recently reached critical levels) saw policing rise to a level where sabs would be arrested on site, and often assaulted by officers - policing as zealous as this, could put the counties foxhunters out of action in a couple of weekends! Other hunts, such as the Surrey Union, received incredible help from officers, with one early 90s meets policing being estimated to have cost around £32,000in tax payers money. One can only ponder how much a years worth of policing for this hunt cost, and of course, the hunts don't have to stump up a penny! On 18/03/93, the then Chief Constable of of Surrey was quoted as saying that "this cost of, of diverting officers from street duties in towns and villages elsewhere, must be measured in terms of reduced service levels, as well as purely financial aspects-on each occasion, the total policing cost was £28,400".

This kind of policing continued right through the 90s, with one meet of the East Kent Foxhounds at Crundale (22/02/970, seeing 60 police personnel present, with 30 officers at the Ashford Valley hunt, and a further 50 officers at an anti live exports demo at Dover docks , and a further 70 officers at a hunt ball demo in the evening at Tunbridge wells. The weekend before, 100 officers policed a hunt Ball in Dover.



John A'Brook, joint master of the Quantock Stag Hounds, died from head injuries after a fall just before their opening meet. The 54-year old farmer from Upton, Somerset was leading the hunt when he fell from his mount. An hour into the hunt the party were travelling down an unclassified road on a farm in Shillingford, Exmoor, when Mr A'Brook suddenly fell from his horse. He regained consciousness and was taken by ambulance to Bristol's Frenchey Hospital, where he died six days later of head injuries. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Mr Murrey Stoddard, 62, of East Coker, near Yeovil, Somerset was killed whilst out riding with the Cattistock Hunt, at Eggardon Hill, Dorset, in November.
The accident happened when his horse bolted, careered down a slope and jumped a five-barred gate into a lane where he was thrown off. Despite the best efforts of paramedics, he was declared dead on arrival at hospital.

As the years have moved on, the police have been handed new powers to deal with sabs, such as Stop and Search, Section 60, and various others that they the police have used for spurious reasons, to intimidate, bully, and harass sabs, even offering sabs money to act as police informants in Jan 2003. The police treatment of hunt supporters in Parliament Square last year, was nothing compared to the treatment meted out to sabs over the years. It's time for the huntsmen to get a taste of that treatment, and if they do not approach it with the zeal they have used on hunt saboteurs, it will be, like hunting, another national disgrace.

ANTI POACHING LAWS TO BE LIFTED?

The Government is preparing to repeal nineteenth century laws, governing the sale of game, which were originally meant to stop the poor from poaching on the estates of rich landowners. The move is seen by some to be a reflection of the pressure being put on the Government to support shooting and to seek the marketing of thousands of game birds, as a healthy food option. The laws were introduced more than 160 years ago, and it is still an offence for restaurants and dealers, to possess game outside defined shooting seasons. "The repeal of the Game Act (1831), is something we've been campaigning for, for a long time", said Jeffery Olstead, of the BASC.

TOUGH WARNING TO ILLEGAL HARE COURSERS

Ely magistrates in Cambridgeshire have issued a tough warning to all would be illegal hare coursers. Their activities on local farms will not be tolerated and any offenders will face tough penalties. Several arrests have been made so far under Operation Dornier, in which police are cracking down on illegal hare coursing throughout the country. In a recent case a court heard how the police used a helicopter to catch eight men hare coursing on Common Farm and Coldmoor Farm in Ely. Three men have so far been convicted, with fines totalling over £1,600 and one lost his driving licence for six months.

NATIONAL HARE COURSING VENUE ATTACKED

The Association of Hunt Saboteurs in Ireland received a phone call in early January from a spokesperson representing the Animal Liberation Front. They were informed that an ALF unit had attacked the hare coursing venue at Powerstown Park Racecourse, Clonmel, Co.Tipperary on the night of Saturday 8, January 2005. In a two-hour operation, ALF members spread nails and tacks at the entrance to the venue and a number of incendiary devices were also placed around the racecourse. The ALF spokesperson said that further attacks were planned on this establishment in the run up to the national hare coursing finals to be held in late January, early February.

FIRST HUNTSMAN TO EMIGRATE AFTER BAN

A Devon huntsman has decided to leave the country for the USA because of the ban on hunting. Jason Marles a 23-year old kennel man from Farringdon, near Exeter, has secured a job in Virginia as first whipper-in for the BLUE RIDGE HUNT. Marles is currently whipper-in for the GLAMORGAN FOXHOUNDS in Wales and also hunts with the EAST DEVON HUNT. He found himself competing with 43 other kennel men, many of them from Britain, for his new job. He said "The jobs are not available in Britain any more because of the ban. My ambition is to be a huntsman and hunt my own pack and the chances for me to do that in Britain look slim."

HUNT HAVOC

MID-DEVON KILL A DEER...

Hounds from the Mid-Devon Hunt killed a roe deer, which was sheltering in a farm outbuilding, at Sticklepath, near Okehampton. The farm owner, Mrs Vola Van Minnen, says the incident has left her devastated and angry. The farm outbuilding has been a shelter for deer and other wildlife, after she and her late husband gave up farming. She saw the hounds on her CCTV, and rushed to the barn, where the deer 'was literally ripped to shreds...it was horrific the hounds were just tearing into the poor deer's belly, and it was screaming like a child in mortal agony. We took it to the vets, but it was too late, and the deer had to be put down'.

Hunt spokesman George Lyon-Smith apologised, saying that 'from time to time this can happen, but it is something we will try to avoid in the future'

SOUTH NOTTS ACCUSED OF PET KILLING

A couple who found their cat dead after a hunt passed next to their land claim he was ripped to pieces by hounds. Margaret and Andrew Wheatley, of Horsley Woodhouse, found six-year old Felix's remains in a thicket on December 12 last year. Only his back legs and tail were recovered and fur was dotted around the area. The SOUTH NOTTS HUNT had been through the area three days earlier. Mrs Wheatley saw 36 hounds running through a private wood owned by her neighbour, she claims there was some commotion in the wood and a huntsman dismounted, and a few minutes later he rode away. Anne Jepson, hunt secretary, said it would be unusual for hounds to target a cat because they were trained to chase only foxes. – Of course they are Anne, and no doubt the word 'riot' was added to hunting parlance just for fun. –Ed.

YET MORE BEAGLES KILLED ON ROADS

A member of the public and his work mates discovered the WYE COLLEGE BEAGLES out of control and roaming across the fields and roads just outside of Wye, on the bank holiday Monday after Christmas. As they tried to warn other motorists of the danger, one of the hounds was hit by a van and killed outright, the friends called the police to the scene and were told that two more beagles had been killed else where on the roads.

HUNT TRESPASS

The masters of the Cotley Harriers have denied claims that a Honiton landowner's animals were left in a distressed state after the hunt rode onto her private property, in early December last year. Landowner Chris Brock, of Dalwood, near Honiton, said she was forced to call the police after she and her husband arrived home to find her ponies and elderly dog in distress after the Cotley Harriers ' lost control of their hounds' in the fields and woods around her home. The hunt quickly became abusive and allegedly ignored her requests to leave land. A spokesman for the hunt said ' I am still piecing the story together...'

blah blah blah blah blah blah



***Howl* 84**
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:
howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk

MY GATE CAME OFF ITS HINGES - I AM MAD!

To whom it may concern,

I would like to strongly complain about the actions of hunt sabateurs in the Cheshire (Tarporley) area. I have been hunting on numerous occasions but that is not the point of this email. On our land we have Pet ducks and chickens or at least we did until the fox that lived in our woods came and killed them in broad daylight.

You may argue that what foxes do is natural. However it is natural for foxes to kill the hundereds of rabbits that roam the fields but it cannot be deemed as natural for a fox to come up to the pond by the house in broad daylight and kill our pets. Having witnessed my younger sister sobbing her eyes out watching the fox run off with 'Henry' her pet duck, the fox was shot after killing no less than 6 chickens and 4 ducks.

We aware we have local trespassers on our land who frequently damage our fences, break the wire so foxes can get through etc... Frequently our gates are opened and usually removed from their hinges, I have a number of horses on the property and the gates being opened resulted in a very valuable young horse who has never been hunting in his life being irreparably injured when he ran into an open gate and injured his shoulder. This meant that a very talented young horse is now unable to lead a full and successful career he was on track for.

Standing in the field with my horse, thinking he was going to die was the worst experience of my life and all because we didn't want our pets to be killed anymore. Calling yourselves animal lovers is a joke, to think that people who claim to act in the best interest of animals would be so stupid and malicious to risk animals lives disgusts me. It amazes me that sabs call their actions peaceful protest when I have had myself and my horse grabbed, struck and terrified in the hunting field. No wonder so many of you get injured with the ignorance and misunderstanding of the practices and aims of a hunt that I have witnessed.

To note whilst not making any accusations concerning the damage to my horse, I am stating that you need to inform your members to stop trespassing on private property. I imagine whoever has been damaging the land and my horse has been boasting of their 'feats'. I only hope that at least some of your members have more sense than this and anyone who knows anything about the trespass makes sure it stops now.

Miss L. Broderick

(Letter reprinted verbatim)

NO REALLY, YOU'RE TOO KIND

Just a quick note to say that *HOWL* is easily the best animal/animal rights magazine in the UK – I thoroughly enjoy receiving it – the contents, design and layout are excellent and it strikes the right balance between humour and serious stuff – congrats to all those responsible.

Best wishes, Mark

Mark Glover, Director
Respect for Animals
PO Box 6500
Nottingham, NG4 3GB
www.respectforanimals.org

THANK YOU DEAR MEMBERS - FROM THE HSA

Dear Howl,

On behalf of the HSA Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all members and supporters (whether active or not), for helping us achieve a ban on hunting with hounds. Whilst we recognise that there is still work to be done in order to finally bring to an end the ongoing bloodlust of the hunting fraternity, we should not lose sight of the fact that it is now illegal to continue hunting as we know it. This represents a massive achievement, and one which we should be proud of.

All members will receive a special letter recapping further on what the current situation means for the future of the HSA, but rest assured that both hunt saboteurs and the organisation behind them will continue for as long as is required. The end of hunting with hounds is imminent. We only wish that Mike and Tom could be here to witness it with us.

Yours

Dawn – Chair, HSA Committee.

YET ANOTHER LAW TO STOP HUNT SABOTAGE

Dear Howl Editor

For years the hunts allied with the forces of the establishment have sought to undermine the effectiveness of hunt saboteurs and prevent us from disrupting hunts. The police and courts with the compliance of the media have fought a covert and sometimes overt war against us to limit our effectiveness. We have had laws aimed specifically at hunt saboteurs and dedicated police hunt units formed.

We have faced, and overcome, the 1986 Public Order Act and the 1994 Criminal Justice Act. Both contained provisions designed to make our job harder. Blatantly so in the case of the 1994 Act. Hunt saboteurs have faced violence up and down the country on a weekly basis through the hunting seasons. We have had to deal with random acts of violence from hunt supporters and riders. We have faced organised security firms and less official but no less organised gangs of hunt thugs.

Hunt saboteurs have been threatened in their homes and at their places of work as well as in the hunting field. In some regions, hunt saboteurs have had to deal with the police acting as private security firms for hunts. We have frequently seen riot vans loaded with cops, mounted police and police helicopters. We have suffered random mass arrests and dawn raids on our homes. Hunt saboteurs have sat through court cases and listened to blatantly fabricated evidence from the police in support of malicious prosecutions.

Against all the odds hunt saboteurs have continued, week in, week out, to save the lives of countless animals. Hunt saboteurs have faced all the challenges and remained strong. But now, when all the attempts to limit our effectiveness have come to nothing, when the hunts and their establishment friends have failed, the Labour government has finally succeeded in curbing the activities of hunt saboteurs... they've gone and banned hunting.... THE BASTARDS!!

A pissed off Reading Hunt Saboteur



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

OCTOBER 2004
1st Miss M Giovani
2nd Mr Peter Fenn
3rd Mr M Heady

NOVEMBER 2004
1st Brailsford
2nd J. Insley
3rd F. Ford

DECEMBER 2004
1st A. Bending
2nd B. Dickinson
3rd Peter Fenn

JANUARY 2005
1st Mr I. Pallas
2nd A. Bending
3rd Beryl Chapman

FEBRUARY 2005
1st Nora Widowson
2nd Sue Coyle
3rd Wendy Allard

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 82 CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER



'I be tryin' to find me brain, Jake. forgot to put me earplugs in this marnin.'

An HSA mug is on it's way to this issues lucky winner - Robin Whitlock of Somerset Congratulations Robin, and happy slurping!

BAN DAY PLUS ONE

Saturday 19 february 2005

In general, there were three ways that this day could go for most sab groups; either their hunt of choice would remain within the law and trail hunt, the hunt would ignore the new law and carry on as normal, or the day would degenerate into violence from hunt supporters almost straight away.

What follows is a round up from each region on how this day went and how different, or not, it felt from the previous Saturday.

SOUTH EAST

EAST KENT SABS arrived at the infamous Crundale house meet of the EAST KENT FH with the intention of monitoring as the EK had stated they would not attempt to hunt a fox. Monitoring was difficult from the start as poor road access became choked with vehicles and the threat of violence from the Crundale estate workers intensified. By the afternoon this threat of violence had materialised into the real thing, when a well-known supporter attacked a BBC camera crew on a public road and had to be restrained. By 2pm the hunt had put on their show for the day and packed up, sabs returned to the meet to inform police that they had recognised individuals from a previous assault and could identify them. As they were doing this a pick-up laden with thugs attacked three sabs in a field and shot at others with catapults. One saboteur was particularly badly hurt, and taken to hospital with broken ribs and head injuries. This unprovoked assault was caught on camera by the BBC team and was broadcast that evening, statements were made to the police and of course the hunt have claimed the attackers were nothing to do with them!

CROYDON, HASTINGS & BRIGHTON SABS made their way to Woldingham, Surrey inside the M25 for the meet of the OSB&WK, in tow were various press and media. Thousands of hunt supporters had been promised but in the end it was a few hundred who turned up to support them. They tried to put a brave face on it but they couldn't completely conceal the utter disappointment of this crushing defeat. (as huntsman Mark Boycrofts' expletive outburst on the news that night revealed!) The OSB had made their intention clear that they intended to trail hunt and sabs made it clear that they would monitor this both from within the field and in front of the pack from vehicles. The group can report that they did trail hunt throughout the day and no live quarry was pursued. Violence is never far away with this hunt, though thankfully it did not erupt on the day. A memorable moment occurred as sabs streamed over a gate after the hounds and were pushed back by supporters, who tried to enlist the help of police, only to be told, 'that law doesn't apply now sir', laughing the sabs ran on. The group has vowed to continue to monitor this hunt's activities and record any attempt at illegal hunting.

CHICHESTER SABS decided to observe the CRAWLEY & HORSHAM FH as they had allegedly promised to continue as normal. Sabs soon discovered this to be true and in an episode reminiscent of the early 90's were confronted with private security hired in by the hunt for the day. Sabs did their best to monitor and saw the hunt encouraging hounds into woods near Shipley, West Sussex, the hounds then went into cry. The police response was to turn the Shipley vicinity into a 'no-go' area, and were utterly unconcerned with reports of death threats and assaults by the hunt's rent-a-mob. Later in the day witnesses also saw a fox being thrown to the pack of hounds and it is suspected there were other fox bodies in the boxes on the terrierman's quad bike. By the afternoon the sab van had been rammed several times by hunt supporters in a 4x4 vehicle, however, unbeknown to them an ITV television crew were in the sab van at the time and filmed the incident. The footage was later broadcast nationally on *Tonight with Trevor MacDonald.*

NORTH & EAST LONDON SABS had a busy day visiting three packs and getting hassled all the way! Initially, their first stop was to the CAMBRIDGESHIRE & ENFIELD CHASE near Hatfield, they drove into the meet and found it was a dead end, so beat a hasty retreat. Joining up with the other half of the team they headed to the PUCKERIDGE FH meeting north of Bishops Stortford where it was planned for them to exercise the hounds. Due to this happening and after receiving the second load of police nonsense for the day, the group set off once again, this time into Essex. As soon as the group arrived in Good Easter, the meet of the ESSEX HUNT, the vehicles got another check. They were told by police that checks had been made on hunt vehicles too, but apparently those weren't written in the same notebook, but on 'a bit of paper in the police car'. Sabs later saw a red coat on foot, who appeared to be stooping over the ground, which they attempted to film, when a large group of goons arrived on the scene bringing the police with them. The road was cleared and sabs ushered on their way before being pulled over and the vehicles being checked once again. As far as the group can tell all of the hunts visited were either hound exercising, using the day for PR, or possibly experimenting with trail hunting. As for the police reaction to the new law, it seemed to be 'business as usual'. The group says, 'we are prepared to sab the f*ckers if they try to kill foxes, if not, we will watch them closely so we know the difference'.

SOUTH & SOUTH WEST

READING SABS joined up with **SOUTHAMPTON** and **WEST LONDON** for a trip to the VALE OF AYLESBURY, GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS at the Englefield estate accompanied by a BBC south TV crew and a journalist for *The Observer.* They watched as the hunt left the meet and set a fast pace, they had a large field and a full pack of hounds, but were not hunting, merely riding at speed through fields. So the group decided to check upon the SANDHURST & ALDERSHOT BEAGLES, though they had packed up before sabs could even get to them having paraded, had a few speeches and gone home! Next on the day's itinerary was the HAMPSHIRE HUNT, here too boxes were seen to be leaving as they arrived and the police confirmed they too had finished. The journalist was keen to see them box up and was taken into the meet, minutes later



the vehicle he was in was attacked and the group landy raced to the scene only to be rammed by a quad bike, the driver and passenger were attacked and several assaults followed, cops present were hard pressed to keep control of the situation. Final result: sabs lose a wing mirror, bumpkins have two injured and a rather dented quad bike. The day ended in appropriate style (no, not down the police station-Ed) in a local pub drinking at the expense of *The Observer* newspaper.

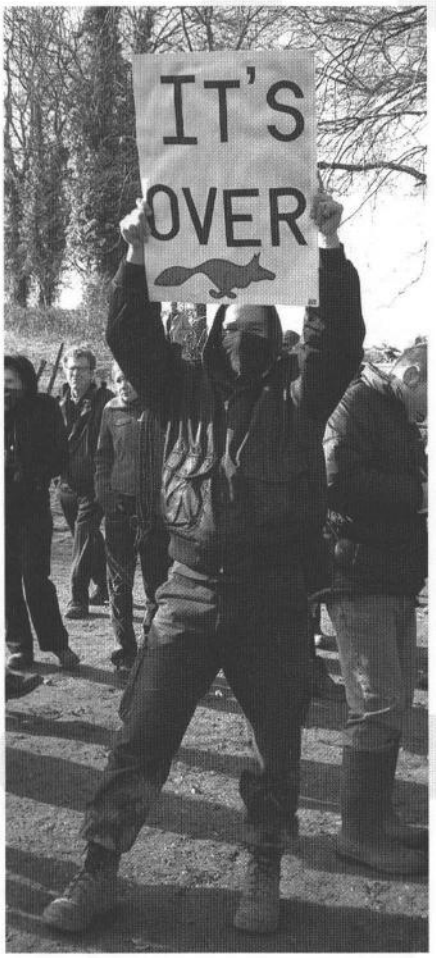
SOMERSET SABS spent the first Saturday after the ban up on the Quantock hills monitoring the WEST SOMERSET FH. Eventually they left the meet and rode about the bridleways for an hour before disappearing into a pub. With nothing going on with this pack the sabs chose to move on to the CHIPSTABLE HOUNDS who were not far away, however they only got a mile down the road before finding the QUANTOCK STAGHOUNDS. It seemed likely they were trying to hunt with a couple of hounds whilst holding the rest of the pack on the road, though the large area of woodland they were in made that difficult to confirm. There was no evidence of any guns if they were trying to flush out which makes this a bit dubious as to their intentions. They finished early as did the foxhounds who were boxed up by half two. Even though both packs were well supported at their meets, very little of their support actually came out with them.

BRISTOL SABS visited the AVON VALE FH after the 'ban' on the 19th and found the hunt still had the law very much on their side! Without one officer monitoring the hunt, the large police presence was focused entirely on trying (unsuccessfully) to arrest sabs. Before the sabs went out their Landrover had its windscreen smashed and tyres on the Landrover and another vehicle were slashed. With 25 sabs and only one seven-seater vehicle they struggled to keep up with the hunt but at one point saw them trail hunting. This was obviously just for show, after losing them at the end of the day sabs heard them announce on the radio that they had killed a fox.

PLYMOUTH SABS headed up onto Dartmoor to attend a mass meet at Postbridge. Five of the moorland hunts were present (DARTMOOR HUNT, SPOONERS and WEST DARTMOOR FH, MID DEVON FH, NORTH DARTMOOR BEAGLES and DEVON and CORNWALL MINK HUNT) and sabs arrived to find the area packed with hunt support. It was anticipated that the hunts would all head off in different directions so it was decided to keep an eye on two of the mounted packs, the MID DEVON and the SPOONERS & WD. Both hunts used a dead fox to provide the trail, the SPOONERS huntsman later admitted that their fox had been dug out and shot that morning. There was a large police presence at the meet but this was to deal with traffic problems as Devon and Cornwall police have given policing the ban a low priority. The media were also out in force and the Plymouth group got some good coverage with a crew from the regional BBC accompanying sabs all day. Interviews were also given to local and national radio stations. Both of the hunts that were observed appeared to have operated within the law, the only kill being the fox dug out to provide the trail. The SPOONERS' huntsman has since claimed to be experimenting with various artificial scents.

MIDLANDS

NOTTINGHAM and **DERBY** groups attended the triple meet staged in Derbyshire by the MEYNELL & SOUTH STAFFS, STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLAND and the DNS BEAGLES at Darley Moor Aerodrome, near Ashbourne. Despite all the talk of 'showing the ban for the farce it is', initially, the day turned out to be a rather non-event, with a hack round the fields for an hour. A full pack went out and later they rode a trail, not drawing coverts, a rider announced that they had laid a scent that morning (there's always a funny smell in the air around these people, isn't there – Ed) and weren't going to break the law.



Up to five patrol cars turned up at the meet and three officers even ventured in on foot, but nothing happened. The highlight of the day was cracking open a bottle of champagne in front of the meet entrance while being filmed by the Beeb!

SHEFFIELD and **LEEDS** groups went along to the HIGH PEAK HARRIERS meet at Bakewell, Derbyshire. The hunt just paraded through the village and went for a little ride before packing up. They were only out for about an hour and no hunting took place. The police were in attendance, and were actually filming the hunt as well as us, which makes a change. If only every day's sabbing was like this!

At the beginning of March three members of the **WEST MIDLANDS** group graced the meeting of the SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT with their presence, dressed cunningly as hunt supporters. Star struck and astounded by the stunning beauty of Otis Ferry (not), they listened carefully as the general addressed his troops. He thanked everyone for their continued support, especially during these last few difficult months. General Otis urged his masses that, while they would be trying to hunt within the law, should they witness the law broken, they must never tell anyone! He went on to ask all car followers, who had large antenna ariels on their cars, to remove them with immediate effect, as you never know who is listening in! He asked that anyone who had a problem with doing this straight away should raise their hands and tell him there and then. Just as the Romans applauded Nero, mounted and foot followers clapped alike. The speech was also witnessed and applauded by the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Shrewsbury and Atcham, Daniel Kawczynski. He spoke afterwards and urged supporters to represent their feelings about the ban in the way they voted in the forthcoming election, (preaching to the converted – Ed). A letter was sent to the Conservative MP for North Shropshire asking why a member of his party could applaud and condone a cover-up of law breaking. In his reply, Kawczynski (who allegedly rides with them) said he would not support any action against the law and applauded the speech as he 'admired his integrity'. How sweet! Maybe Otis's paranoia is justified, we're watching you Otis, smile for the camera!

NORTH

The **NORTH WEST HUNT SABS (NWHSA)** had members at the following hunts, CHESHIRE FOREST, CHESHIRE FOXHOUNDS, HIGH PEAK HUNT, PENDLE FOREST and CRAVEN HARRIERS, BLENCATHRA FOXHOUNDS. Despite all the hot air that thousands of hunt supporters would break the law, they did their speeches, paraded their hounds, rode round a few fields...then went home. NO hunting was conducted and as such NO kills were made. Hunts in the North West have always packed up around the end of February, so only a couple of days monitoring has taken place since the ban came into force. What we have seen has been very encouraging, but we will reserve full judgement until probably about this time next year. So far three of our local hunts, the HOLCOMBE, VALE of LUNE, and PENDLE FOREST & CRAVEN have stated they will now turn to drag hunting. As for the rest of the pesky fecks, rest assured we'll be watching...!

WALES

Sabs from **NEWPORT**, **CARDIFF**, **SWANSEA** and the **FOREST OF DEAN** attended the meet of the MONMOUTHSHIRE HUNT at Raglan, Monmouthshire. The road was littered with scum for approximately three quarters of a mile, with a mounted field of 50-60 riders and not a copper in sight! When they moved off sabs were pleasantly surprised with the minimum of support that stayed on to follow the hunt. The hunt itself did nothing but hound exercising and packed up at 2:30pm with no excitement at all (phew)! A nice easy finish for the sabs on the 19th, but we don't expect it to last.



The pen is mightier than the sword?

Communication is the root of all problem solving, so they say - and language is possibly the most important form that we possess. Over the past few years the Countryside Alliance has attempted to use all forms of communication to get it's message across but none more dramatically than through the language it used. Certainly, when responding to 'incidents' in the hunting fields they brought a whole new meaning to the word 'spin' that would have had dear old Mr Campbell blushing.

Most of us can remember the hugely publicised Declaration Day held around the country on Saturday November 1, 2003 and the bombastic language that came with it. Hunting people everywhere preparing to defy this and break that and the supposed thousands that signed up ready and willing to be hauled off to jail (we discovered later that our local hunt had simply binned the declarations after the day, they had so much faith in their supporters!) Since then there has been a notable sea of change in the CA's rhetoric, especially leading up to the ban on February 18, 2005. Suddenly, it seemed to be no longer about mass defiance and more about compliance, in the vain hope of a change of government in the spring. Nowhere has this dampening down of their vitriol been more clear than in the popular blood sports magazines where even a casual observer could not help to notice the language of defeat.

In recent editions of *Horse and Hound* magazine (10&17/02/05) the editors published the results of a series of, (presumably) phone calls they had with each mounted pack in England and Wales, speaking with various joint masters and secretaries. What was resoundingly clear, page after page, was the general despondent view of so many hunts, here are some interesting examples -

"We're going to have to cut down on hunt staff from the start of next season. It's very regrettable, but we can't continue an establishment of the same size, so we're going to lose our kennel-huntsman and kennel groom." **Albrighton Woodland**

"We plan to reduce to two days a week (from three). Our country includes arable land and some farmers may say 'no thanks'." **Badsworth & Bramham Moor**

"farmers...form a large proportion of our big car-following contingent; I worry there won't be much for them to watch." **Cury**

"We have two big concerns: the amount of forestry in our country and how long finances will continue to come in...I can see it might drop off." **Curre & Llangibby**

"We're trying to persuade the MFHA that hunt days should be fixed to spread police as thinly as possible." **Derwent**

"Previously, we had a purpose on the moor, but now we're not hunting – we're like everyone else walking a dog. We're not breeding hounds this year and my kennel-huntsman is moving...so I probably won't replace him." **South Devon**

"We're in a very difficult position – we're a foot pack in the Lake District, which is 95% National Trust or Forestry Commission, and we've had our licence rescinded." **Eskdale & Ennerdale**

"Our season normally finishes at the end of March but we're not meeting again because most of our hunting territory is National Trust and Forestry Commission land." **Blencathra**

"... have to consider a redundancy among the hunt staff and cut back on the hunt horses and the hounds,..." **Avon Vale**

"We have laid a groom off,..." **Essex & Suffolk**

"The ban has forced us to make one redundancy; our kennel-huntsman is leaving on 1 May." **Hursley Hambledon**

"We'll finish the season about a month early." **North Lonsdale**

"We're not going to break the law and it does look like we may have to lay off some hunt staff." **Llanwnnen & District Farmers**

"We're going to reduce our hunt horses from seven to four, and will have one instead of two grooms. Hunt staff won't have two horse days." **Wilton**

"We're a small pack and a £5000 fine would finish us off if something went wrong." **Dunston Harriers**

"...it's just a question of how the insurance will work. I personally can't risk breaking the law and nor can others – it has too many implications if you run a business." **Granta Harriers**

"The plan is to keep everything together, but obviously finance will be an issue." **High Peak**

Many others made comments about finishing their seasons early, some by whole months, or dropping the number of days they normally hunt. What is really interesting though, is that these were comments made *before* the ban had even actually occurred! The news gets better when you consider two packs in the South who were always going to be badly hit by the ban, the **New Forest** and the **Royal Artillery**.

"Our kennel-man is leaving anyway, so we won't replace him,...Our licence to hunt on the Forest has been taken away, but the masters have had informal meetings with the deputy surveyor, who seems quite happy for us to continue to exercise hounds but we'll be subject to the bylaws like everyone else." **New Forest**

"There is no question that we won't adhere to the law - we're a military pack. We are to convert to drag hunting next season and will join the MDBA. We'll then drag hunt across Salisbury Plain with a new licence from the MOD. Our subscribers were unanimous in choosing to switch to a drag hunting pack." **Royal Artillery**.

The Waterloo Cup too is now a thing of the past, there can be no possible way to conduct that atrocity legally now, it's finished simple as that. Though, I will give the last words to a South West ex-foxhunt, who ended their correspondence by saying simply.

"It's not the police we've got to watch, it's the antis with their video cameras." **Eggesford**

It is tempting to predict the deaths of these institutions of tradition, however, behind all the façade they have attempted to create, the 'fight them on the beaches' Dunkirk spirit, lays a realisation that their 'sport' is coming to an end and ultimately that end will be brought about by the other thing they love so much, money! Time will tell how long it all takes but my guess is it will be sooner rather that later, after another biting election failure and the impossibility of cub hunting, how many but the utter diehards will not begin to think of moving on and accepting the inevitable? It will become increasingly difficult to financially maintain kennels, hounds, staff and vehicles and almost for certain no new blood is going to be attracted, after a time, just a handful of dropped subscriptions could make or break a pack's chances of seeing through another season. For those hunts whose property is owned by the supporter's committee, it will be at that very moment when little internecine feuds break out and the possible revenue generated from the sale of real estate to pay off debts becomes too attractive to ignore. Just two or three seasons from now we might find ourselves in a place we only dreamt of a year ago. So go ahead Mr Hart, prove me wrong!

BADGERING 'TIL THE END

In previous issues of *Howl*, mention has been made about the government's controversial badger cull throughout England. The cull is designed to trap and kill badgers to find a link between them and the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle. As of yet no link has been found and new research is revealing that the spread of TB in cattle is due more to poor animal husbandry than to cross contamination by wild animals.

Protesters from the Coalition of Badger Action Groups were recently found guilty of criminal damage to badger traps at Plymouth county court, the pair are appealing this decision and taking their fight for badger's rights to the crown court. They were defending the rights of badgers by saying that the government is acting unlawfully by killing badgers which are a protected species under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This act states that it is illegal to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger from its sett. The government however, is exempt from this law, protected by crown immunity and claimed in court that it did not require a licence to kill badgers or that it was committing any crime by carrying out the cull.

Of course CBAG are not stopping here, they are taking the matter further through the court system and it will be the first ever attempt to defend the rights of badgers through the British legal system. The Protection of Badgers Act was created for a reason, to protect a species, which for years has been persecuted by hunters and individuals getting enjoyment out of badger baiting. Even with this legal protection the government believe they are exempt from their own laws and continue to wilfully kill badgers. We can hope that the legal fight that the two badger protesters are following will be a success and that badgers will get the legal protection that they richly deserve.

For more information and to be updated with events check out www.badger-killers.co.uk







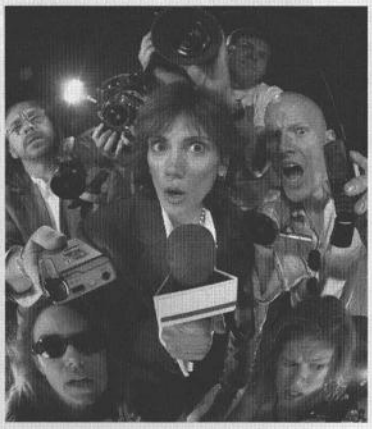
A week in the life of

The Hunt Saboteurs Association Press Officer

The week leading up to the implementation of the Hunting Act was the busiest time I have known in the 3 years I've been doing Press for the HSA. I imagine it's the busiest time any of our press officers have had. Whilst there have been one or 2 incidents that have generated huge volumes of press interest in the past that has tended to be on a short term basis. This was sustained over an entire week. I was so busy that I ended up having to take a couple of days off work just to keep up with the sheer volume of calls! By example, on one of the days in the lead up week I dealt with over twenty calls in an hour. Exhausting but worthwhile. Surprisingly I only got one abusive call, at about 6.20 pm on Friday the 18th February. I was called "w**r" and "c***"" several times and then told "I hope you rot.". It must have taken the wind out of their sails a bit that I was laughing and then asked them what their name was. They put the phone down first. Always remember, stay calm.**

Truth be told, the 3 months since the Act was passed had already seen the press role crank up a gear. At least once every week I was having to try and get the news out about yet another serious attack on sabs somewhere in the country. Check out the website if any of it passed you by. It makes grim reading. Unfortunately, this wasn't always deemed by Editors to make "good copy" and in one instance, even when sabs went to the lengths of showing video footage to a newspaper to back up our release and their witness statements, the story was ditched. The power of the press? Powerful for those who control it, and if they happen to be in the same lodge as the local hunt Master, well, you can be certain of which side of the fence they will fall.

If I was to pinpoint a moment in time when the floodgates opened, it was the Saturday before the implementation –Saturday 12 February. Sabs in Essex had been subjected to yet another ambush and serious attack just after midday (early even by their standards), so I found myself somehow managing to put out a press release with the help of INS news agency whilst running across fields in pursuit of the Surrey Union. The response signalled the start of the media frenzy. Whereas previous incidents in Essex (and there had been plenty of them!) had proved almost



impossible to get reported by the media, now it was all of a sudden newsworthy. The *News of the World* ran a small piece about the attack and regional papers and radio wanted a piece of the action.

Meanwhile a hunt in the South East had dug out a badger sett with the assistance of the police and 2 sabs had been arrested. However, the local sabs decided to retain the story and use it as part of an expose by a national anti-hunting organisation.

From the status of persona non gratis, the HSA became media darlings all because hunting was finally going to be illegal. After 40 years of demonisation, all of a sudden sabs were flavour of the month. And I was supposed to know where every sab group in the country was going to be that Saturday. Jeez, I didn't even know where I was going to end up on Saturday until Friday night!! And even then, as we all know, things can change on the day of a sab. I made sure that word got out about the covert surveillance that hunts could expect to be subjected to and had to do my best to hook journalists up with groups they could work with.

Not every group wants to deal with the media. And I always respect that decision. What matters is that people are out in the field saving lives. That's what we do. If we can get some media focus on it, all the better, but our aim is to save lives, not sell our story. Having said that, when we do manage to get media interest it generally leads to new members or donations to the HSA, so it may be worth groups considering having someone on standby who is willing to talk to the media – even if they are an ex-sab.

The experience pushed my stress levels to the limit. Not so much because I was so busy, but because so many journalists wouldn't listen to what I was telling them. All they are interested in is their line. So if you do deal with the media, be wary of them trying to steer you away from what you are there to do. It is better to have no media interest at all than for that media interest to interfere with our real reason for being there. Rant over.

What follows is a brief round up of what the national picture was, from the point of view of the HSA. It is only indicative and some stuff may have been missed out. It's inevitable because so much happened, but hopefully it will give you a feel for how far reaching the coverage was.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the HSA Committee (especially Dawn who took on the role of deputy, and Paul who dealt with the website enquiries) and all local contacts who responded to the media so professionally over this period. We may not get paid, but we do a damn fine job. Go team HSA!

Newspapers

All of the following newspapers contacted the HSA and got an appropriate response or were hooked up with sabs for the "defiance meets" on Saturday 19th February: *The Telegraph* (who were treated with the contempt they deserve), *The Times, The Mail, The Mail on Sunday, The Mirror, The Independent, The Guardian, The Observer, The Scotsman* and even the *News of the World*! There were also enquiries from regional and local papers from throughout the country.

The *Mail on Sunday* even commissioned us to contribute a piece. This task was carried out by Dawn, who posed for pictures at the Old Surrey Burstow and West Kent. They never printed it in the end, deeming it to be too positive a piece when the overall ban reporting (incorrectly) came from a negative angle. Still, at least we were asked.
An *Observer* journalist who joined Southampton, West London and Reading for the day was treated to a little welcome Hampshire Hunt style when they stole the keys to his car and started squaring up to sabs. Sheer force of numbers of sabs managed to turn the situation around.
Reuters, the *Press Association* and *INS News Agencies* all contacted us for various pieces.

We also found ourselves talking to *The Economist* magazine for quite a while on both the Friday and the following Monday. *The Economist* for fox sake!

TV

As is often the case, I missed most of the coverage of the day, as I was travelling back from sabbing, but here's a flavour of the TV coverage we gained.

A last minute call from another anti-hunting activist enabled me to arrange an ITN cameraman to go out with West Sussex sabs for the last legal day of hunting from Petworth Park with the Chiddingfold on Thursday 17th February. Although the *Mirror* and *Sky* were also given details they failed to stick around for the real action. At the end of the day, 8 brave sabs were attacked by a mob of thugs led by people with a history of violence against sabs. The ITN cameraman fled for his life after catching vivid footage, and the tape was couriered off in time for the main story on ITN news that night. As I was at the BBC studios for a live interview on South Today, I was able to alert the newsdesk to the incident, although confirmation of details from police and sabs at the scene came through too late for that evening's bulletin.

GMTV: What I would consider to be my favourite moment in all my time doing Press was hooking up Aubrey Thomas to speak on our behalf to *GMTV*. What we thought would initially be an outside broadcast turned into Aubrey sitting on the couch with the presenters. The HSA reaching new depths of respectability? Not if our Aubrey could help it! He managed to get plenty of digs in against the cops over their past behaviour which wiped the smirk off the face of Suffolk's Chief Constable (and ACPO Rural Affairs spokespersonj) Alastair McWhirter, and of course Surrey Police came in for special mention. I hear there is a bootleg copy doing the rounds.

Sky had a couple of crews out on the day. 'We were also due to have a headline spot on the Thursday evening primetime bulletin, but late trains and conflicting appearances meant it never happened. (Quite how the Countryside Alliance knew which train to throw the shopping trolley in front of we'll never know...They are so well connected! Can't win 'em all! Channel 4 News had been hooked up with a sab group in the Midlands. Local ITV stations had crews out at various locations, but seemed to be less interested in our angle, although there were a few exceptions.

Countryfile messed us around big time. In the weeks leading up to filming their piece, they chopped and changed their minds several times. First, I had a South West sab lined up to do a piece, then they decided they would film further North. Then with 3 days notice they decided to film in Leicestershire. They assured me that they could carry out an anonymous interview, in order to protect the identity of any sab taking part. A sab from the East Midlands was lined up, and then at the last minute they decided that they couldn't do the anonymous interview. We explained that the sab had suffered an arson attack and couldn't risk his face being shown for fear of what would happen. They weren't interested. Safety comes first, so they didn't get a sab on their piece. Whilst it is a shame, had they let us know well enough in advance we could have found a replacement.

BBC regions had camera crews at a large proportion of hunts and we managed to get coverage in most of the regions including the following:

"From the status of persona non gratis, the HSA became media darlings all because hunting was finally going to be illegal. After 40 years of demonisation, all of a sudden sabs were flavour of the month."

A *BBC South East* team were treated to an attack by supporters of the East Kent, or if the Alliance are to be believed, lurcher boys connected with the hunt in no way whatsoever, no siree, nothing to do with us, never seen 'em before, guv.

I ended up with a reporter from *BBC South* spending the early part of the day following me with a camera man out with other sabs at a meet of the Vale of Aylesbury. Due to the violence being dished out to sabs and the very real risk of things kicking off at meets, the BBC arranged for a security guard to accompany her all day. The cameraman was quite shaken when he was nearly run down by a hunt supporter. Not the only journalist to be on the receiving end of intimidation and violence.....

BBC South West interviewed a sab at the South Dorset meet just outside Dorchester. As the interview started a hunt supporter tried to disrupt it. Nice one.

ITV's *Tonight with Trevor McDonald* had a crew out with West Sussex sabs who attended the Crawley and Horsham hunt at Shipley. This TV crew were in the sabs van when it was rammed and shunted down the road by hunt supporters in a 4x4 (complete with number plate on the bonnet for easy identification of a hit and run). Footage of this, the cops deliberately ignoring sabs, and "security" attacking sabs was broadcast on the Monday night after the ban came in. The West Sussex group did a brilliant job, and as always, Jaine and Simon Wild represented sabs in the most professional way possible.

We also had international interest with Australian TV interviewing sabs from London, and German, Swiss and Dutch TV arranging to be in the field with sabs.

Radio

The Today programme on Radio 4 ran an interview with Dawn, which prompted several calls to the press phone from other media outlets. I also dealt with local BBC and commercial radio stations throughout the country, from Cornwall to Essex to the North East. And then there was the interview with a radio station from Sydney!.....

Overview – hunting's own goals

The hunts and the Countryside Alliance scored several own goals. From attacking sabs on camera to threatening the crews themselves through to parading dead foxes with a smug triumphant grin on TV and in the print media, all they managed to do was convince the public that they deserved to be banned and that people will have to be out in the field to enforce the law. They claimed to have killed 91 foxes nationwide. On the one hand this is less than you'd expect on a normal Saturday. On the other, it showed exactly how ridiculous it is that they are fighting so hard for the right to carry on the killing. Even those hunts that did indulge in digging out or flushing to guns turned the day into a drag hunt of some kind and then they proclaimed what a great day it had been (with the exception of the whinging of Mark Bycroft, sob, sob). This of course has immediately destroyed one of their pre-ban arguments that there is no way that they could switch to drag hunting!

And the official line from the HSA was quite simple throughout:

- The police have enough resources available to enforce the ban.
- If hunts continue to harass wildlife we will be there.
- We will not stop until hunting stops.

HUNTING AND THE MILITARY

On 2 October 2004 *The Times* carried a story about how farmers on Salisbury Plain (as well as Northumberland, Yorkshire and Wales) had withdrawn use of their land from the Army. The piece quoted one Josh Stratton, who runs the 3,500 acre East Farm, Codford, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0PJ. He said that nearly 30,000 acres had been withdrawn from military use and added: "We don't want to inconvenience the military but we think this is a good way of showing our frustration with the Government. What is going on in the House of Commons is pure class war and has nothing to do with animal welfare." This was, of course, an attempt at blackmailing the government into not bringing in a ban on hunting.
It didn't work.

What the piece in *The Times* failed to mention is that Stratton is also Master and huntsman of the Wiltshire and Infantry Beagles. And, as the name suggests, they have (extremely) close links to the military – to the extent of being kenneled at the School of Infantry in Warminster. They were known as the School of Infantry Beagles until 1985. The Secretary of the hunt is one Colonel Peter Sexstone. Whether he is still serving or not, you would think this man would feel uncomfortable blackmailing the Mod.....But then again, a huntsman (sic) from the Wiltshire & Infantry Beagles was quoted in *The Guardian* (31 August 2002) as saying, "We are the bloody establishment!".

The Wilts and Infantry are one of 6 packs that are members of the Army Beagling Association, the others being the Catterick, Pimpernel (Royal Signals), Purbeck & Bovington, Sandhurst & Aldershot and the Stour Valley. The President of the Army Beagling Association is Lt. Col T. Illingworth OBE from Colchester. The Chair is Maj. Gen. Andrew Richie and the Secretary is Lt. Col R.C. Lloyd-Williams RMC, based at Shrivenham in Wiltshire. It would be interesting to know the extent of taxpayers money that is spent – either directly or in terms of "paid time" – by the army in pursuit of hares.

The Catterick Beagles were formed in 1930 and for the benefit of officers of the garrison. The kennels are still located on the garrison in Yorkshire and **the beagles themselves are still the property of the Army!** This hunt also boast that the pack is supported by all ranks stationed at the Garrison, and that representation on the hunt committee is equal between civilians and the military. Currently officers involved with the hunt include Major Blair Radford, Lt. Col. James Stuart and the hunt President is none other than the Camp Commandant The Hon H. Monro CBE.

"It would be interesting to know the extent of taxpayers money that is spent – either directly or in terms of 'paid time' – by the army in pursuit of hares."

The Pimpernel carry the name of the Royal Signals Corps and while they are more civilian based these days, they have held meets at Blandford Camp, Dorset in the past. Their Chairman is Col. Stephen Paul

The Purbeck and Bovington are another pack that is actually kenneled on a military base – the home of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington Camp in Dorset. Lt. Col John Moody OBE is a Master and Lt. Col A. Ledger is their Chairman. Col. Mark Chirnside is one of their meet secretaries. The pack was managed by the officers of the RAC from 1969 until 1993 when a joint civilian/military committee was established. Links are still strong and the introductory pack for new recruits at Bovington even boasts that they can follow "The Royal Armoured Corps Purbeck and Bovington Beagles", the South Dorset Foxhounds or the Ytene Mink Hounds.

The **Sandhurst and Aldershot beagles are owned by the Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**. Among their Masters are two Majors (H.M. McRitchie MC and M.T. Rogers) and a Captain (N. Jordan-Barbour), whilst their Chairman is none other than the Chairman of the Army Beagling Association. Again, they are kenneled on a military base.

The Stour Valley Beagles were formed when the military Colchester Garrison Beagles were merged with the civilian Sproughton Foot in 1994. One of their Masters during that period was none other than then Col. Illingworth, now President of the Army Beagling Association.

The Shrivenham RMCS disbanded in August 2004, but took their name from the Royal Military College of Science, whose officers founded the pack, and boasted as their whippers-in, "various military members". Their ex-Chairman, Lt. Col Lloyd-Williams, is also Secretary to the Army Beagling Association. Again they were kenneled on the army camp.

It is not just the Army that supports beagling. The Britannia Beagles are headed up by Admiral Sir James Eberle GCB, a member of the "Independent" Supervisory Authority for Hunting. They are kenneled at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

However, the involvement of the military does not stop at the persecution of hares. A number of fox hunts have had strong links – the obvious one being the Royal Artillery (Salisbury Plain), who are kenneled at Bulford Camp near Salisbury. The **hounds are the property of the Royal Regiment of Artillery**, and hunt

officials are always drawn from serving officers. It claims to be "self-financing" but you are left wondering how much they receive that is provided "in kind" and not paid for, or at a reduced rate. Recent incumbents have included Lt. Col Nick Foster and Major Jonathan "I'll sue you if you print that I rode down a sab" Seed, now at the Avon Vale. They tend to hunt over large portions of military land, for which you need special passes, and have been known to do a runner into "out of bounds" areas to avoid monitors and sabs.

As if the active involvement of military personnel and the use of military bases as kennels were not enough, up until the ban came in, each year 26 fox hunts were given permission to hunt over MOD land under licence: Avon Vale, Bedale, Blankney, Border, Brecon & Talybont, East Kent, Essex & Suffolk, Irfon & Tywi, Lunesdale, Mendip Farmers, North Shropshire, Old Berks, Sennybridge District, South Pembrokeshire, South and West Wilts, Surrey Union, Tanatside, Tedworth, Tynedale, Ullswater, Vale of Aylesbury, Wensleydale, West Percy, West of Yore, Zetland. Others, such as the aforementioned South Dorset are known to have gone over military land before, and the Bewcastle and Thurlow hunts were permitted to enter land to retrieve hounds although not to hunt.

The licences were issued by "Defence Estates", the agency of the MOD responsible for management of the considerable chunks of land owned (and sometimes taken forcibly) by the MOD. At the end of each season the Hunt had to supply Defence Estates with a report on the number of meets, the number of foxes killed on MOD land and the number found on MOD land but killed on other land.

As can be deduced from the involvement of senior military figures in the hunting fraternity, it is reasonable to suspect that some members of the armed forces were in cahoots with Stratton and co., may even have come up with the idea in the first place and will be applying internal pressure in the hope that they, "the establishment", can thwart the will of the electorate. But as the ban drew closer, the MOD gave notice on 20 January to the Master of Foxhounds Association that the Master Agreement that allowed fox hunting to take place under licence would terminate from 19 February 2005.

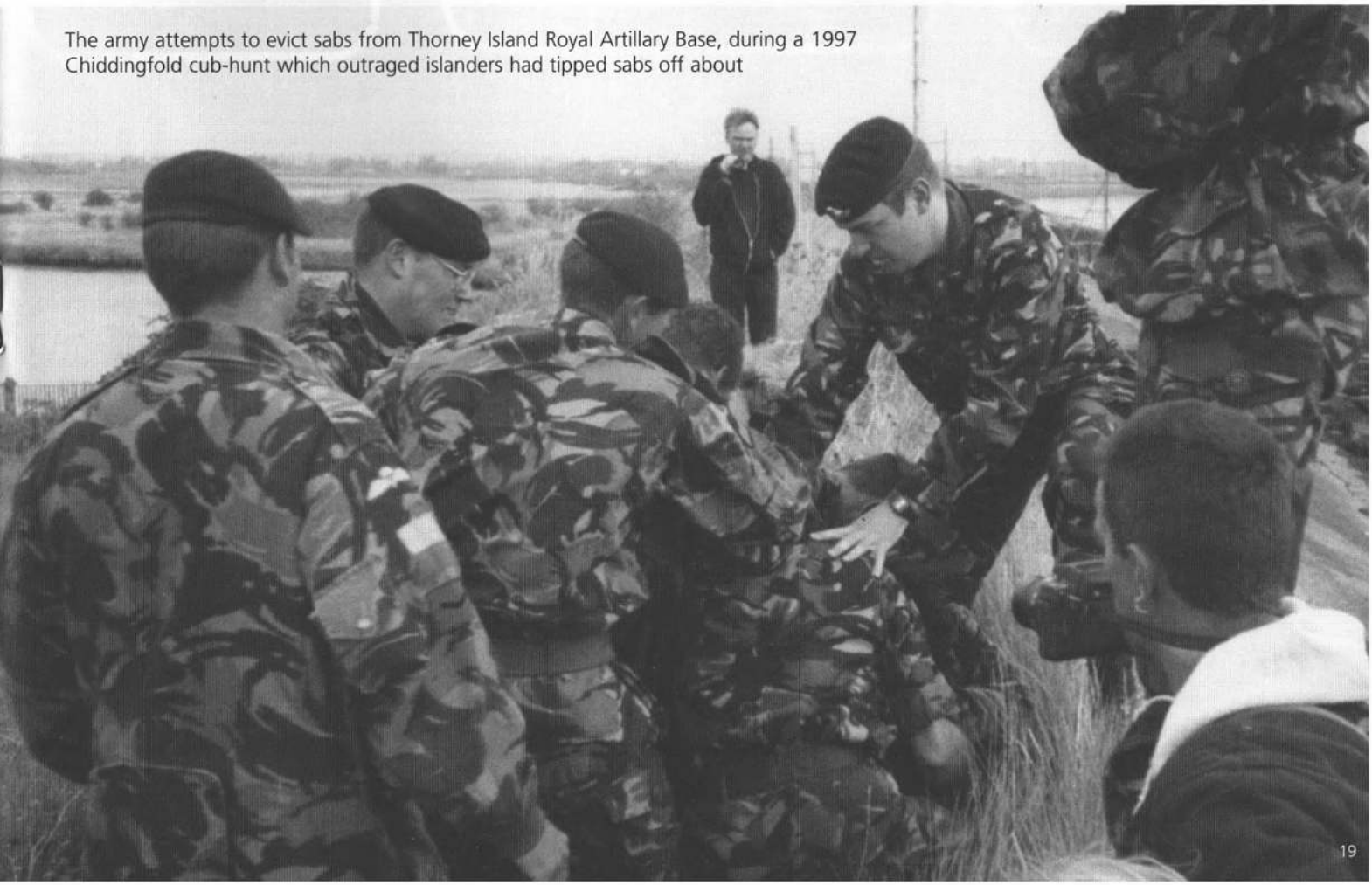
The Royal Artillery met on 19 February but only to parade hounds and cry a few tears. For them fox hunting stopped on that day. For many others, country on which they could "test the law" was considerably reduced.

However, the MOD has an agreement in place with the Master of Bloodhounds and Draghounds Association allowing drag hunting. Any hunt wanting to drag hunt across military land would have to be a member of that Association. This would mean changing to a real drag hunt rather than being a fox hunt claiming to be hunting a drag. They may also have to cease any "fox control" activities i.e. flushing to guns. The Royal Artillery have applied to register as a drag hunt.

A question still exists about what is happening with the military beagle packs – especially the four packs who are kenneled on military bases, and those that are owned by the military. Beagle packs are notoriously secretive about their activities, as they know that the appearance of sabs will put an instant end to their day. Will they be retained as "hound exercise" clubs whereby military officers indulge in high speed dog walking dressed in jodhpurs? Will they be out "hunting rabbits", accidentally happening upon a hare that they thought was a rabbit? Or will the MOD turn a blind eye to those packs they support blatantly breaking the law by continuing to hunt?

The MOD should stop public money and land being used by the military to hunt. Try writing to Geoff Hoon about the kennelling and funding of beagle packs in light of the government banning hunting and see what response you get.

The army attempts to evict sabs from Thorney Island Royal Artillary Base, during a 1997 Chiddingfold cub-hunt which outraged islanders had tipped sabs off about



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BUMPKIN GATE GUARDING follows hot-on-the-heals of past firm favourites, GIT ORF MY LAAND, and YOU NEED A DAMN GOOD WASH! Competitors have to pit their wits against marauding bumpkins eight at a time, armed with nothing more than a citronella spray to assist them in their quest to pass through 'the gate'. You will have to overcome known bumpkins welding spades, ground spikes and nets, using a language barely decipherable in the modern age.

Once through 'the gate' you will encounter further hostile adversaries, mounted opponents in gaily-coloured jackets called Rodney's and Rupert's. They too will speak a dialect unknown to any born without a silver spoon in their mouth - they will attempt to ride you down on sight, your objective will be to pass unscathed by both whip and hoof, while remembering that the intelligent half of your dual foe is the one with four legs.

Should you reach level 3 you will need all the guile you can muster to avoid the servants of the Rodney's. Recognisable only by a highly visible fluorescent outer garment, your only way to avoid these servants will be your ability to explain the difference between Section 60 and Section 60AA, which will leave your adversary baffled and confused.

Before you reach the safe zone known as 'the van' you must once again pass through 'the gate' bringing you to level 4. Troll like bumpkins await you though in greater numbers than ever before, chanting liberties and liveryard, if you can pass through for a second time look out for the holy scroll known as 'the will of the electorate'. With this sacred document you will consign your foes to the history books and win the game.

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GROUP NEWS



SOUTH

READING as usual teamed up with **SOUTHAMPTON** and **WEST LONDON** to form a hardcore crew, some would say (grin). As things began to hot up with the impending hunt ban we tried to place safety as a priority. Alas, such is the passion of some people that high-tailing it into the woods alone comes as second nature. We suffered several scrapes as a result, notably on the SURREY UNION FH, with bumpkins about to lose their liberty and livelihood seeing red. A fine hit on the UNION, however, with **GUILDFORD** in attendance, saw Surrey Police dishing out the violence, more on that in later issues. As far as the sabbing went, the huntsman was seen to be spitting with rage after a massive pincer movement saw the hounds stolen from under his very nose. Visits followed to the VALE OF AYLESBURY, GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS, the HAMPSHIRE HUNT and the SANDHURST AND ALDERSHOT BEAGLES. A trip to the rarely-sabbed VINE AND CRAVEN FH proved a treat as unaccustomed hounds were pulled every which way, with no reaction from the huntsman.

The tension in Hampshire was rising, as terrier boys planned various attacks on sabs. The police told us they 'feared for our safety', yet not concerned enough to actually arrest any bumpkins; I suppose the thought was there. As the hunt ban loomed, we joined various groups for the last legal Saturday on the SURREY UNION FH. **READING**, **SOUTHAMPTON** and **WEST LONDON** met with **CROYDON**, **HASTINGS**, **GUILDFORD**, **BRIGHTON** and **SUTTON** for a fairly uneventful morning, due to police harassment. Heavy sab numbers present meant that a dig-out at the end of the day was stopped and the cops prevented it restarting on the grounds of public order. So sabbing as we know it may have changed, but as we look to the ban, one thing remains clear: we're sabs first and hunt monitors second.



WEST LONDON hunt sabs spent most of the season in the company of the **READING** group and in late November at a meet of the VALE of AYLESBURY with GARTH & S BERKS found hounds flushing a wood in full cry, sabs sprayed the road it was anticipated the fox would cross, which it then did, as hounds followed sabs rated them to a stand still before they headed off in the wrong direction.

The next week we arrived at a meet of the SURREY UNION where it seemed the huntsman was more interested in avoiding sabs than actually hunting. Shortly after 3pm the hounds rampaged through a garden adjacent to a main road, the irate occupants ran out (right) and spent half an hour helping sabs. The pursued animal got away and the new recruits were so impressed they contacted the HSA and joined up for subsequent outings. In December we visited the VINE and CRAVEN FH, HAMPSHIRE HUNT and also the GARTH & SOUTH BERKS for Boxing Day. By the New Year we were back at the HAMPSHIRE HUNT again, within the first hour sabs had pulled the hounds off a fox, allowing it a good head start, we went on to split the pack over several miles, hunting was put on hold as the hunt staff tried to round up the stray dogs. In late January sabs felt sure the SURREY UNION had released a bagged fox and later in the day were forced to stop traffic on the busy B3001as hounds criss-crossed all over it.

A week later and still with the same hunt a female sab was arrested because she was filming heavy-handed attempts by the police to seize vehicle keys. The cops response was to confiscate all the camcorders (all but one actually boys)!



The group was also present on the last day of legal hunting for the hit on the SURREY UNION. Since the ban, we have monitored the same packs and so far, have found them to be trail hunting.





SOUTH EAST

The opening meet saw an untimely return to days gone by for **CROYDON** sabs, as we were attacked by thugs from the OSB&WK. This was to become a theme with this hunt throughout the season, although they did not deter us from sabbing them as they had hoped. Throughout November **CROYDON**, **BRIGHTON** and **HASTINGS** visited four different packs around the South East before returning to hit the OSB again, at this meet sabs saw their approach from high ground and stopped a draw right off the bat, later effective spraying saw a fox continue on its way and when the 'tough guys' of this hunt tried it on again with spades in their hands sabs stood their ground and the bumpkins backed down. Afterwards sabs were told by a source that the hunt thought it the worst day's hunting they had had and that the antis seemed to know where they were all the time!



December saw visits to the SURREY UNION, C&H and a Boxing Day visit in the morning to the GARTH & SOUTH BERKS and in the afternoon to the SANDHURST & ALDERSHOT BEAGLES. After the new year sabs found the SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE high up on the downs over looking the sea, many foxes were put up and sabs had a long, tiring day stopping hounds as they pursued 'charlie' from one piece of scrub to another, ending in a protracted hunt of a strip of woodland as they tried to ware down the poor fox. Continual intervention by sabs along this strip led the hunt abandoning it eventually, leaving sabs happy apart from the long walk back to the vehicles.



In late January **CROYDON**, **BRIGHTON** and **HASTINGS** sabs arrived back at the OSB&WK, for a meet on the Kent borders. Not much action happened until lunchtime when they put up at the back of an animal rescue centre and hounds were allowed to trespass all over their fields. Some quick work by sabs called the hounds off their quarry before the hunt staff could get through the undergrowth, at one point only a metre gap separated the fox from the lead hound and it still got away! The hunt photographer and general photo pervert received a banana skin in the face as she tried to take snaps of sabs climbing a gate after this little victory.

Just as the ban loomed on the horizon we accepted an invitation from **EAST KENT** sabs to assist them on a notorious meet of the EAST KENT FH. True to form, after an hour of sabbing it kicked off with a gang of thugs hurling missiles at us and sabs fighting a running battle to defend themselves. A photo wanted list (below) now exists of those sought by Kent police for this incident and another unprovoked attack two weeks later. (See *http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/kent/4353215.stm* for more information)

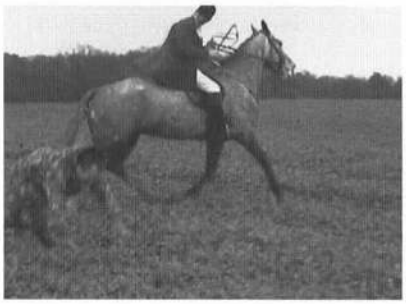


CROYDON, **BRIGHTON** and **HASTINGS** sabs joined the pre-ban hit on the SURREY UNION and managed (with a little help) to stop a dig out at the end of the day. Not an easy thing for sabs to do at this hunt, given just how much assistance they receive from the police in Surrey. Since the ban we have been happily monitoring several packs, and so far wherever we've turned up no illegal hunting has been observed (or do I mean because we turned up). Thanks as always to **BRIGHTON** and **HASTINGS** groups.



NORTH AND EAST LONDON sabs have been out every weekend and a few midweeks in two vehicles, averaging 15-20 well camouflaged sabs. We have had monthly meetings, regular fund-raisers (which bought us a new Landy and video cameras), and a tactics and legal training evening. Boxing Day was spent at the ESSEX, who didn't go out due to the frost, but the PUCKERIDGE did.
We have been mostly sabbing the ESSEX since the ban was announced, but also sabbed the PUCKERIDGE, ESSEX FARMERS, EAST ESSEX, ESSEX and SUFFOLK. The ESSEX have been digging out foxes much more than last season and we've been there to stop them. One dig-out saw two of ours getting nicked for agg' trespass (charges dropped) and a week later we stopped the PUCKERIDGE digging out by the side of the road. Next it was back to the ESSEX, and with the help of our friends from ESSEX and SUFFOLK, as well as a flying visit from the **NORTHANTS** group we prevented them digging out through sheer weight of numbers, the poor old terrier boy had his leg stuck down the hole as sabs piled on top! We have had a good few hairy moments this season, as the ESSEX have reacted to being so well sabbed in the normal fashion, so we have been joining up with **ESSEX and SUFFOLK** group as well as the **BASILDON** group, strength in numbers!





There have been a few visits to hospital with sabs getting whipped, ridden down, driven at by quad bikes, attacked by supporters and damage done to vehicles. Several cases are in the pipeline against the hunt for assault, ABH and criminal damage.



Best news of the season – the ESSEX announced that their last meet would be the 19th Feb; it was going to be a joint meet with the ESSEX FARMERS. We'll still be there as long as we need to be. This season our group has grown in numbers and experience and we are going to be there bugging the hunt scum of Essex and Hertfordshire until the bitter end. Group website is www.nels.org.uk

EAST KENT HSA continued to concentrate on the EAST KENT FH, van problems messed up one late cubbing meet, which resulted in our driver finding himself stuck in a field with a van that wouldn't start and all the terrier men! Strangely, after many threats, they decided to help and got the van started.



Much different tactics from when they used to unscrew the wheel nuts! The opening meet drew out around 60 riders, most of whom couldn't really ride a horse, let alone jump, and the day was spent watching the huntsman zoom from wood to wood, followed by his field – a total change from his tactic of drawing the same wood endlessly, which resulted in hounds barely having a chance to get onto a scent.

The hounds are still responsive to horn and gizmo and no more obvious kills have been witnessed. The next week saw proper hunting, but with appalling scenting conditions they still managed to chop two foxes, almost in front of sabs who were present. Attempts by sabs to get to the foxes' remains, were met by violence from the hunt, particularly one of the masters, who still sees himself as the hunt's one man security service. Sabs showed remarkable restraint, and in front of jeering supporters, waded a river and managed to photograph one of the carcasses, the other had been torn to pieces. One sab returned the entrails to the no longer jeering supporters. Later in the day, the hounds got onto a fox, but sabs intervened and that one escaped with its life.



The Saturday after the vote saw sabs at the WYE COLLEGE BEAGLES' kennels. On arrival, they swiftly holed up in the kennels with the police arriving an hour later, all 10 of them, blocked us in and enacted a section 60AA throughout Kent, apparently for our safety. Sabs went on to find the WEST STREET TICKHAM FH, when we arrived they were just leaving the meet, an hour and a half late, and immediately lost it with lots of pushing and shoving. Their 10 supporters watched as we split the pack and took them for a run across the marsh. An hour later we took the pack in the other direction leaving the teenage hunt staff near tears.

The next week saw the police 'protecting' us again, by slapping a prohibition order on our van; this allowed the EK to carry on unhindered. Due to the order, some of the group travelled up to a hit on the OSB&WK, whose violent terrier men weren't so brave when outnumbered.

Back with the EK, the next two meets saw the hunt hiding out in woods, when we rated hounds off a late scent, a redcoat tried to gallop over a 60-year old sab, followed by another riding over to apologise! Boxing Day saw the expected large turn out of support, one of whom tried to start something. The red coats responded to our sabbing by riding at us in the now usual way. New Year's Eve saw the ex whipper-in hunting hounds, before sabs removed them from under his nose in a very successful day. The next week saw an attempt by police to ambush sabs, which we foresaw and avoided, the day ended early when a fox was run to ground and not dug because of our presence.

A trip to the notorious Crundale turned grim, when a group of 30 thugs attacked sabs in a wood, leaving many injured. Police arrived an hour later by which time the attackers were nowhere to be found. The next week sabs returned to Crundale to sab the Beagles successfully, with no thugs and barely a supporter in sight. Thanks again to **CROYDON**, **HASTINGS** and **BRIGHTON** for helping out.

MIDLANDS

The **NORTHANTS** group started the cubbing season visiting the QUORN FH, BELVOIR FH and MAYNELL and SOUTH STAFFS FH in our sexy new van. Many charlies were saved and the bumpkin violence wasn't too bad. During the main season we sabbed the QUORN FH with just two sabs and saved foxes! The BELVOIR FH and MAYNELL (where two sabs were arrested for the heinous crime of having a whip) were also re-visited as was the BLANKNEY FH and ATHERSTONE FH.

While sabbing the ATHERSTONE, the terrier men went berserk, as we were outnumbered and they managed to get a few punches in. The happy ending for that day came when a sab went back to the hunt with the police to identify the terrier men only to find the hunt had gone home early, wonder why? The WARWICKSHIRE BEAGLES were sabbed and what a sad little bunch they were! We joined **ESSEX** and **NORTH and EAST LONDON** sabs to sab the ESSEX FARMERS and UNION FH, who attacked sabs, however, shooters were found at the end of the day and asked to leave, which they did, which was nice.

New Years Day we joined the **BLACK COUNTRY** sabs and a few **BIRMINGHAM** sabs and we all sabbed the CROOME & WEST WARWICK FH brilliantly, so they tried to beat us at the end of the day, we were leaving anyway lads and now your banned! On Feb 19th the BLANKNEY FH went for a ride and then told us and the press 'we didn't want to hunt anyway', yeah ok then. Then onto the PER ARDUA ➲





➲ BEAGLES who took the dogs, and the support out for a walk. After the 19th we visited the ATHERSTONE FH again, who appear to be drag hunting sometimes and foxhunting when they think no one is watching, more on this later. We also visited the BICESTER & WADDON CHASE FH where stewards tried to attack us, and surround the police station we went to and follow our police escort out of the area.

BLACK COUNTRY hunt sabs joined forces with friends **WORCESTER** sabs as well as the odd hook up with **NEWPORT** group. They visited the NORTH COTSWOLD FH, CROOME & WEST WARWICK, WORCESTERSHIRE FH and the COTSWOLD VALE FARMERS. Several shoots were also disrupted by sabs this season, giving the poor birds a chance to get away from the 'Elmer Fudd' types while they were more concerned with attempting to attack protesters. On one occasion the gun-toting idiots seemed to have roughed up one of their own number who they mistook for a sab!

Other highlights of the season include no known kills while BCHS were present, a hunt supporter directing sabs to the hunt when they had managed to give us the slip, and a landowner threatening to call the police when hunt thugs blocked sab vehicles down a private road.
The hairiest moment of the season was at the New Year's Day meet of the CROOME & WEST WARWICK at Cold Comfort farm near Alcester. The hunt were very much annoyed by the fact that sabs had been with them all day, stopped them every time they got onto a scent and had taken total control of the pack for much of the day. This led to them threatening sabs all day long. Nothing much happened until the end of the day when we were checking that the hunt had packed up and found ourselves in the company of a large number of stick wielding thugs, who had appeared on the back of a number of 4x4 vehicles. Sabs were chased through woods by armed thugs making monkey noises, but we out-manoeuvred them with only one of the our number getting hit over the back of the head, unbelievably one of the group managed to sleep through the whole episode in the back of the van! Sabs were warned not to return, so of course we did, several times. Until next time boys and girls. BC sabs.



NORTH

WEST YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PROTECTION has emerged as a new group. Sabbing has had a bit of resurgence here in West Yorkshire. We formed our group in the autumn of 2004 out of a mix of old and new sabs. Numbers out sabbing are probably at their highest since the late nineties. We have been working closely with **SHEFFIELD** sabs this season and have attended meets of the HIGH PEAK HARRIERS, BADSWORTH FH and BRAMHAM MOOR FOXHOUNDS, plus the GROVE AND RUFFORD FH. We have concentrated on the HIGH PEAK HARRIERS. After a rusty start to the season we have got our tactics right and have totally destroyed their hunting. On one day late last year we rated hounds off three Hares, one of which they looked certain to kill. At the start of February, when a reporter from *Horse and Hound* was hunting, we split the pack and watched while it took nearly two hours for the huntsman to regroup. At this stage it was time to pack up, so off we went to the pub. On February 19th the HIGH PEAK HARRIERS exercised the hounds and did not hunt. They packed up by lunchtime and would you believe it, we went to the pub again! Respect.

The start of the season saw sabs from **MANCHESTER**, **BOLTON** and **LIVERPOOL** busy with the HOLCOMBE HUNT out on the Lancashire moors. November brought with it one of the shortest meets ever of the HOLCOMBE, the start time was noon and the hunt packed up at 12:30pm due to fog after taking the long walk up on to the top of West Pennine moor. Following this farcical meet it was decided that perhaps too much sabbing expertise was being dedicated to this all too comical pack, and that our wealth of sabbing experience could be divided. As such **MANCHESTER** and **LIVERPOOL** sabs switched their attention to the HIGH PEAK HUNT in Derbyshire and **BOLTON** sabs were left to handle the HOLCOMBE on their own. Our first sab on this hunt was attended by sabs from **MANCHESTER**, **LIVERPOOL**, **NOTTINGHAM**, **LEEDS** and **DERBY** and what a great day it was. During the day sabs managed to stop the hunt from killing at least six hares. Towards the end of the day the pack got onto a hare and chased it for half a mile across the moors before sabs (thanks to great driving from the **DERBY** group) managed to get to a point where we were between the hare and the chasing pack and text book sabbing was seen by all as the pack stopped dead at the line of sabs strung out across the field. This was the last straw for huntsman Nigel Cox, a man not renowned for keeping his cool when it comes to sabs (back in 1985 he was convicted of firearms offences and given a three year suspended prison sentence after he blew a hole in the radiator of an occupied sab van with a shotgun). Our Nigel tried to ride into two sabs who were running down a public road to stop the pack of hounds from running all over it and being killed (see *www.nwhsa.org.uk* for video footage).



The extent of the displeasure at sab's fantastic efforts that day was to immediately become apparent the following week. Sabs were in attendance as the HIGH PEAK met south of Buxton. Whilst sabs from **NOTTS** and **SHEFFIELD** followed the hunt from up the road, **MANCHESTER** sabs were positioned ahead of them. Before the hunt even set foot off the road to begin hunting a member of the hunt staff decided to take issue with a sab on the road. The matter ended with an ambulance being called for the sab in question, five stitches to a head wound and one arrested hunter – more details to follow in the future when this goes to court. A big 'ta very much' goes out to **NOTTS** and **SHEFFIELD** sabs who stayed with the hunt all that day and had a great day's sabbing with no kills. Clear proof, if it were needed, that physical attacks don't stop hunt sabs from doing what they do best – saving lives. Nice one to those groups who proved, two weeks later, that attacking one sab can simply help ensure your hunt gets sabbed into the ground!



In the run up to Xmas, sabs in the NW continued with very successful visits to both the HIGH PEAK and the HOLCOMBE. On 27th December sabs from **MANCHESTER** and **LIVERPOOL** attended a meet of the lesser-spotted BLEASDALE BEAGLES at a meet near Lancaster. The hunt lasted a total of ten minutes before they called it a day and packed up. The following day it was off to a meet of the FOREST & DISTRICT BEAGLES on the very wet, cold and windy Wildboarclough near Macclesfield. Again this was another success for sabs who were all over this huge hill and even the hunt supporters knew it was going to be a bad day, with many heading straight back to the meet. Much fun was had by sabs taking the piss out of the very experienced hunt staff, whose average experience seemed to be about five minutes – judging by their success in rounding up the beagles! The bad weather over Christmas forced the mounted pack in Lancs and Cheshire to cancel their meets on Boxing Day.

On New Year's Day sabs attended a very wet meet of the HOLCOMBE near Chorley, and despite their best attempts to kill a hare for the big turnout of support; sabs ensured it was a kill-free day. The approaching anniversary of Mike Hill's death saw sab groups from across the north, plus a few visiting friends, venture into Cheshire to pay a visit to our old friends the CHESHIRE FOREST FH.

Some excellent sabbing saw three foxes get clean away and a very pissed off huntsman blow his top at the cops. Also on this day, one sab managed to get the FOREST & DISTICT BEAGLES to turn tail at their planned meet and head to the safety of the kennels.

The first week of February saw sabs from across the region return to the HIGH PEAK and, despite what was written in the pages of 'Dog and Donkey', another excellent day of sabbing was had. We even had time at the end of the day to sit and watch as the hunt spent nearly an hour trying to find the pack, which had seemingly dispersed to every corner of Derbyshire. It's not often you manage to be in the pub before hunt packs up, but we did that day.

The last Saturday of legal hunting saw efforts split for maximum effect, with sabs from **LIVERPOOL** visiting the VALE of LUNE HARRIERS, while **MANCHESTER** and **BOLTON** sabs took the opportunity to see the season out with the HOLCOMBE. Wet weather made for heavy going at the HOLCOMBE, but the sodden sabs were cheered with the arrival of reinforcements when LIVERPOOL showed up after the VALE of LUNE had cancelled. It seems even the HOLCOMBE knew it was really all over as they packed up at 2pm that day. So much for getting as much hunting done as possible prior to the ban!

Just when we thought it was all over we got one final call giving us the last ever meet of the HOLCOMBE and so with some hastily booked holidays in place (we do have jobs!) sabs attended - well it would have been rude not to. The desperation of the hunt to get one final kill quickly became apparent and heated tempers led to horses being crashed through fences and ultimately in the death of a hare as it was trampled by riders. A very sad end to a very sad hunt, but the knowledge that this was the last hare that they would kill brought some relief.



Wanna come sabbing/monitoring?
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!

The season closed with sabs checking on the post ban activities of their local hunts and to date it seems as if they are sticking to the right side of the law. Rest assured that we'll be out with them again next season to keep the pressure on and even if they don't think we're out we have ways and means of always watching... You can run but you can't hide!

IRELAND

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HUNT SABOTEURS and **BADGERWATCH IRELAND** held a noisy protest at the St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) meet of the WATERFORD FOXHOUNDS in Tramore Co. Waterford. The largely peaceful protest saw an attempt by some hunt supporters to push the protesters around as the horses and hounds left for the day's hunting. Needless to say the sabs stood their ground and the hunt supporters backed off. Sabs spent the afternoon following the WATERFORD FH and managed to distract a number of hounds. Protests planned on the same day for the WARD UNION STAGHOUNDS, Co. Meath and the MEATH FOXHOUNDS did not go ahead because the hunters decided to stay in bed!



On St. Patrick's Day in South East Ireland sabs attended the WOODSTOWN HARRIERS, Waterford for their final meet of the season. Hunt followers set up a vehicle blockade, which blocked in the sab vehicle as the hunt and field left for the day's hunting. After a few minutes of looking at each other the hunt followers drove on and we were able to go after the hunt. This pack hunt a small country so it was no trouble finding them. We stayed with them for the day and managed to confuse riders and hounds with our horn blowing antics. We don't believe any wildlife was killed on the day.

Lamping

By request from the readership recently, the editors have commissioned this Op-Ed piece from an experienced activist on a subject many sought advice on. Below, is his personalised account of lamping, and what can be done about it.

Lamping' takes place after dark and involves shining a powerful light at an animal then killing it! The light reflects off the animal's eyes often stunning it in the process, then typically the animal is shot or trained dogs are set onto it. In my area both forms are common. Rabbits, hares and deer are commonly hunted by setting dogs, such as lurchers or deerhounds after them. Foxes are usually shot, although there are no hard and fast rules. There are a few issues that prevent most sabs from even trying to disrupt lamping. Firstly, of course it is a night time event, secondly, if it's bad enough trying to look harmless and inconspicuous when out sabbing during the day, then the problem is increased five-fold at 11:00pm when you're stalking across someone's fields! and thirdly, you need local knowledge about who's lamping where, when and how.

Lamping is a pretty nasty, although easy form of blood sport. All lampers have to do is walk/drive across land armed with a gun, dogs (or both), a bright light and a very small brain. They shine the light around the area to be hunted and try to detect the eyes of their quarry. Once they've got, for example, a fox, under the spotlight they'll set the dogs on it or shoot it. The spotlights are easy to see from some distance as they are very powerful, and this is what usually gives lampers away.

Shooters will often use a vehicle-mounted lamp or sit in a vehicle and shine a handheld lamp. If hunting foxes, a lamper will typically use something to create the 'squeaking' sound of an injured rabbit before they use the lamp, this is worth listening out for. A bit of polystyrene rubbed against a piece of glass produces the desired effect, the fox comes to investigate and the next thing he knows is a bright light and a bullet. If he's lucky then the shooter misses completely; unlucky and he's killed outright, and if he's doubly unlucky then he receives a nonfatal wound and manages to limp off to die a long and painful death.

If shooters are after foxes in particular, in a given area then they may resort to bait, to entice them out. Usually this will be in the form of a rabbit or hare left lying somewhere out in the open so that the fox has to break cover to get to it. Invariably, the lampers will have shot the bait animal themselves. It's not unheard of, for lampers to use deer staked to the ground, to tempt a wary fox. The deer would be left for a day or two for the fox to feel secure, then the lampers will return and kill the fox while it's feeding.

INFORMATION

A semi-experienced lamper can easily kill three or four animals per night. I personally know of one charming character who has killed eight foxes in one night. This 'gentleman' and his mate typically go out four or five nights a week and cover a huge area. This number of fatalities far exceeds even the scummiest foxhunts. It's probably fair to say that most lampers kill every night they are out and so by stopping them from being successful for just one night, you've already saved lives.

To start with, you need a little local knowledge - so get out there and see what's going on. Lampers can be about anytime after dark, but the most active time is just as darkness falls. In the summertime this may be 10:30pm and in winter as early as 6:00pm. Look out for vehicles parked up, lights in fields, squeaking sounds and barking dogs. If they are lamping from a vehicle, it will be a four-wheel drive, look out for headlights off-road. In your local area, look out for people leaving home at dusk with dogs or guns, note any vehicles they may be using. Some brazen types actually drive around unashamedly in light-mounted landrovers, take a note of any of these you happen to come across.

Lampers are just like the rest of the blood sports fraternity, they hang out in the local pub, country fair, and there's a good chance they may even support the local hunt. Most love talking about their 'hobby' and comparing tips. If you can bring yourself to do it, then get down to your local badger baiter's arms and start feigning interest. This really is as simple as it sounds and after a few visits to the right kind of establishment you're bound to overhear someone telling someone else something of interest! Just agree with them on an issue of conversation, or go in with another stab and start discussing breeds of dog, the difficulties of tracking deer, or something similar within earshot. Likewise at country fairs and terrier shows, just wander around looking as if you belong there.

Favourably comment on some bumpkin's terrier or lurcher and strike up a conversation, failing that just try to be seen around. Once you've established yourself as a local, it's so much easier to gain people's confidence. Talk to local farmers, it might be galling, but this is the way to get information, especially if you're not well known as an 'anti' in a particular area. Quite a lot of farmers don't actually want lampers on their land and those that do tend to have an arrangement with one or two individuals. If YOU offer to tackle Farmer Palmers' fox problem then he'll probably tell you who does it already and what nights they come round.

Always make a note of vehicles parked up during the day, on what you think may be a hunt or shoot, any of the same vehicles parked up at night could be especially significant. Try to find out whether local lampers use guns or dogs, or both. Shooters are supposed to inform the local police what nights they will be out and on whose property in case someone rings in with reports of gun fire. If you do find someone shooting you could always inform the police, if they are not supposed to be there, or they don't have the appropriate gun licence, they could be in big trouble. I know of someone who tried this and the guy got his rifle confiscated and was prosecuted, imagine how many lives this saved! Again for this reason, shooters tend to have a pattern (unlike the 'set my dog on you' types who may not), that way they can inform the relevant authorities of their plans, i.e. Farmer Palmer's fields every Tuesday, Farmer sheep shagger on a Wednesday etc. Get to know this pattern and possibly follow them if you can do so safely.

TACTICS

Pre-beat - this really works! Basically, if you can be out where the lampers are going to be on a certain night then get out there and scare the wildlife away.

It's even better if you've got a dog or two yourself, as it looks less suspicious if you are caught in the act, and the dogs do a better job of scaring the wildlife than you can. Shine a torch and make plenty of noise, with any luck potential victims will associate torchlight with danger and run. I've even been asked by a couple of lampers if I minded not walking my dogs just prior to their arrival every night as it was ruining their sport!



Lampers United?: You can bet your last *Booja Booja* that loads of these dodgy Waterloo Cup supporters are involved in Lamping.

If your resident lampers are in a vehicle, then consider chaining the gates, this could be before they enter the land to be hunted or once they have entered it. Chaining gates to prevent them entering a given area is appropriate if you're confident they won't be able to go off and hunt somewhere else that night, but if you wait for them to enter a field and secure the gates behind them (assuming any other exits have been taken care of first), then it will really piss them off!
I once heard of an irrate farmer who got tired of local thugs ignoring his warnings to 'ger off my land, or else', so he waited for the lampers to drive into one of his fields, padlocked the gate shut behind them and left them to walk the several miles back home. In the morning, when they returned to claim their vehicle (armed with bolt-cutters) they found all the tyres slashed. The farmer denied all knowledge!

Failing everything else, just BE THERE! Pretend you're taking part in a tree hugging ceremony or doing some sort of survey i.e. for bats. Hopefully your very presence will put anyone off slaughtering wildlife, but in the case of lampers using high-powered rifles, they shouldn't really be taking the chance of shooting anyway. Try to complain to the local authorities, public footpaths are open 24 hours a day and you have the right to be there, even if it is 1:00am. Write to your local council and state that your evening walk is being frequently disturbed by men with dogs and guns. Complain to the police, if you're made to feel threatened or intimidated, or you suspect someone is using an unlicensed vehicle or does not have the appropriate firearms certificate etc. Write to your local newspaper outlining your objections to this blood sport and to draw attention to what is going on.

If you really don't want to risk a potential confrontation, but want to let the scum know that you know what they're up to, then a good tactic is to buy a few of those naff 'scare cats' from garden centres (the metal ones with glass beads for eyes), and strategically place them in the bottom of a hedge. The shooters will shine their lamp, pick up the reflection of the eyes and fire on it. When they check out their 'kill' they'll know someone is onto them.
Finally, a few words of warning: Do not do anything that you do not feel confident about, these 'people' have guns after all. If you are out in the field, remember how lamping works. If you intended to leave the area before the lampers arrived but didn't quite make it, or if you're worried about a confrontation for whatever reason, then lie low and keep your head DOWN!
Remember: your eyes will reflect off a lamper's light as well as a hunted animal's. If you don't want to act on any information you have then you can always pass it onto someone who might. If you've used a vehicle and you're pre-beating/chaining gates etc, park it well away from where you think the lampers will be able to see it.

The unacceptable face of hunt protest?



After many years of direct action against bloodsports, and other issues, protesters have been maligned, arrested, beaten up, and basically treated as scum by hunt supporters, "rentamob", paid by some unknown organisation to just cause havoc. How dare we do it? We should all be locked up!

Unless its them doing it, of course. Then it is a "noble" case of "civil disobedience", something to be proud of, and f**k the police/general public. The hunters thought they could riot in Parliament square, throw missiles at police etc, and were then amazed that the Met. gave them a jolly good trouncing!

It remains to be seen whether the hunters will have the balls (and the stupidity) to go through with their plans, and totally alienate the public, police and Parliament against them, but now with a ban in place, we shall see.

The petrol blockades, which obviously had strong connections with the CA, involving pro hunters, and believed in some circles, to have been a trial run of civil disobedience before a hunt ban, provoked much public anger-people will extend much sympathy, until you start to disrupt their lives, or hit them in the pocket!

Not learning from this, the hunters are determined that there stunts will affect normal peoples lives. In a direct copy of RECLAIM THE STREETS (a direct action group, who would invade motorways / streets, and hold large parties/demos), they have already blocked some motorways, and organised go slows with tractors etc. But *the Observer* reported on nov 7th, that hunt supporters may "assassinate " anti hunt ministers. Who came up with this? Otis Ferry, one of the house of commons invaders. He said he would feel "terrible if anyone assassinated someone like Alun Michael.

It would be a disgrace if anything violent happens." Incitement perhaps? Well, any hunt sabs will know that hunters will happily violently attack anyone who gets in their way, and with two dead hunt sabs under their belt, this may not be too far fetched.

MPs and their families are already suffering extreme intimidation, ranging from egg throwing hecklers, to concrete blocks being thrown through windows. *The Sunday Times* reported on oct 24th that the CA are planning road blocks on roads into Exmoor national park, The New Forest, and the Peak District national Park, involving up to 400 horse boxes, and we have already seen the thousand of pounds worth of damage caused to roads/signs around the country, in acts of pro hunt vandalism.

The development of another group, the "real" Countryside Alliance in 2002, who model themselves on the IRA, prompted the CA to issue a press statement , that they had "absolutely no connection with the Alliance", and also criticised the groups tactics of public disruption. Hmmmm..short memories. In 2003, according to *the Guardian*, the CA had already set up a full time unit with the task of organising the "hounding of ministers"- Protection of Harassment Act anyone? In the same article, (July 5th 2003), a huntsman, Jim Greenwood threatened "civil disruption on the scale of the petrol protest. Violence is almost inevitable as frustration grows".

Janet George, ex CA, and leader of The Countryside Action Network, threatened to even "blockade Parliament and Downing Street - some of the more militant types will run off at half cock, and they could do an inordinate amount of damage". Edward Duke, also ex CA, and leader of the Real CA, even threatened to "set fire to motorways and offices". Some would say that that kind of language is unacceptable, but not to the hunters. Whether they will see through these threats remains to be seen, but can surely not only cost them their liberty, but also any public support they may have. In the words of an internet chat room posting, (on Aug 28th, 2002), on the subject of the defacement of chalk figures on hillsides by hunt supporters - "If hunting is supposed to be about a love and respect for the countryside, then why its supporters feel the need to deface that very countryside is beyond me. The simple matter is, old chaps, you have successfully turned me from a person with no real interest in the outcome of any hunting issues, to somebody who truly and deeply hopes that it is made illegal".

And now it has been!



Legal News



WILTSHIRE COPS COUGH A BIG WAD!



27th October 2001 – the Foot and Mouth outbreak is drawing to a close. There are still no hunts to be sabotaged. Information was received regarding a shoot that was due to take place near the village of Ham in Wiltshire. Twelve sabs from Reading, West London and Southampton decided to go along. The group arrived in the area in two Land Rovers – the shoot could be heard but it proved a little tricky finding its exact location. After driving around to area for a while attempting to locate the shoot one of the vehicles suffered an electrical fire behind the dashboard. The vehicle was towed to the nearest civilisation (relatively speaking) and left with its driver to await recovery from the AA. The rest of the sabs crammed into the other Land Rover and returned to the area of the shoot.

The shoot was eventually located, shooting across a public footpath. The sabs left their vehicle and walked along the footpath to where the guns were lined up. As the sabs approached the shooting stopped and each gun was marked by one or two sabs. After some discussion the shooters announced that they were stopping for lunch. After a certain amount of banter they left for a nearby pub. The sabs loaded into their Land Rover and followed the beaters who retired to a nearby farm. After some discussion the sabs decided to find a vantage point where it could be seen if the shoot decided to move off. One of the group, who knew the area, suggested the local beauty spot of Coombe Gibbet. This involved driving along a muddy byway for a couple of miles. Before the final destination was reached a phone call was received from the driver of the other Land Rover, who was still waiting for the AA to show up. "I don't know if you need to be concerned about this but a police helicopter has just flown over and is heading your way".

Sure enough the helicopter soon appeared. After circling the farm where the beaters where having lunch it then hovered over the sab Land Rover. After driving for a while longer a police four wheel drive came into view heading along the track to meet the sab Land Rover. "Could you follow me back to the car park" came the request from the police driver. A discussion followed in the back of the sab Land Rover. A plot was suspected that the police may attempt to delay the sabs whilst the shoot made a getaway. As it turned out this was something of an underestimate.

It was decided to continue along the track to Coombe Gibbet. In the event there was not a great deal of choice. On either side of the track lay miles of open country and a police helicopter hovered overhead. As the sabs reached the car park they could see other police vehicles waiting and blocking the exit.



As the sabs got out of the Land Rover they were all arrested on suspicion of ABH and handcuffed. They were transported to Swindon Westlea Police Station in a number of police vehicles. In one van there were more sabs than seats forcing one sab to crouch on the floor. On being presented to the Custody Sergeant the sabs learnt that they were suspected of causing ABH during a confrontation at a pub in Ham. This came as something of a surprise as no one had been anywhere near a pub that day.

The group was processed and, in the time honoured fashion, gave wall-to-wall No Comment interviews. One by one they were released. The first getting out at about 10pm the last at around 2.30am the following morning. On his release the driver was a little perturbed to learn that his Land Rover had been towed away from the scene of the arrests by a local contractor employed by the police. He was informed that it would cost £140 to get the vehicle back and would not be released until the following Monday. The sabs solicitor got quite cross about this and after a frank exchange of views with the duty Inspector secured the release of the Land Rover that night.

No one was charged – all were bailed to return to the Police Station at a later date. Before this happened all the sabs received letters telling them that the case had been discontinued.

Legal advice was sought regarding civil action for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and assault. One of the sabs was put forward as a test case. The police contested the claim even though the evidence against them was good. The police evidence made very entertaining reading. Highlights included the shoot organiser phoning the police to say that they had been "invaded by antis". The reply "You've been invaded by what?"

Cutting a long story short, after much arsing about, the sab was made an out of court offer of £5000 plus interest – a cool £5600. This offer was made on the day the court case was due to start after fresh evidence came to light. This included records of very dubious conversations between the police station and 999 call centre. The other ten sabs then whacked in their claims. In the autumn of 2004, three years after the event, the sabs were offered £3000 each to shut up and go away.

The upshot – over £35,000 paid in damages and anyone's guess regarding legal costs, wasted police time and wasted court time. All because the cops were ready and willing to jump to it and toady to a bunch of shooters who cried foul when their fun was stopped. I'm glad I'm not a Wiltshire Council Tax payer.

Big up to Iftikhar Manzoor at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors for a job well done.



LEGAL BRIEFS

The cases of seven hunt saboteurs arrested at the Surrey Union on 14 February 2004 finally came to a conclusion. Five of the sabs were charged with S.69. The other two were charged with S.68. Of the five S.69 cases one dropped one halfway through the prosecution evidence when it became clear that he could not have done what was alleged by the police. The other four chose to offer no evidence in their defence. All were found not guilty. One of the sabs charged with S.68 won his case after the court heard evidence from an expert witness suggesting that the hunt may have interfered with a badger sett. The other case was dropped shortly afterwards.

Two Brighton sabs were arrested in February 2004. One was charged with S.69 and was found not guilty at Lewis Magistrates in January this year. The other case is still pending.

Following an incident at the Essex and Suffolk hunt in September 2004 a sab entered a guilty plea to Aggravated Trespass, Resisting Arrest and S.5 Public Order Act 1986. A further charge of Assaulting a Police Officer was discontinued.

On 23rd October 2004 at the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks two sabs from Reading and another two from west London were handcuffed and detained at the roadside whilst an allegedly illegal search was carried out on their vehicle. Legal advice is being sought regarding civil action against the police.

On 20th November at the same hunt, two Reading sabs were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage to a hound. They had been spraying hedgerows with citronella after a fox had passed through. They were (unsurprisingly) released without charge.

A Manchester sab received a serious head wound requiring five stitches at the High Peak. One of the Joint Masters was arrested and later released on bail. He has since been charged with assault. Two weeks later a supporter at the same hunt was arrested after threatening to give the sab stitches in the other side of her head. He accepted a police caution and was not charged.

On 20th January 2005 a Lancaster sab was arrested at his home and charged with assault. This was in relation to an incident on the grouse moors in August 2004 when two hunt saboteurs were attacked. The case was dropped in March.

A West London sab was arrested on suspicion of ABH on a hunt rider at the Surry Union. It was alleged that she ran at his horse, leapt into the air and sank her teeth into his arm (I would like to have seen that). She has not been charged but is currently on police bail.

Two men operating as hunt "stewards" for the Avon Vale Hunt were arrested on Saturday 29th January after attacking hunt saboteurs from Pewsey Vale and Bath.

A sab from the Bristol group was arrested in February whilst filming a dig out at the Avon Vale. They were de-arrested a few minutes later.

A Sheffield sab is still on bail, charged with possession of an offensive weapon, after being arrested at the High Peak in October 2004. The bail conditions not to go within a mile of any hunt were dropped in March.

On 12th February 2005 a sab was arrested on the Surrey Union on suspicion of Criminal Damage to a pheasant pen. He is currently on police bail.

Reading sabs are claiming the first post-ban arrest. On February 26th 2005 a Reading sab was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage to a hunt supporter's car. He was not charged but was bailed to return to the police station in March. On the day he was due to return he received a letter from the police discontinuing the case.

On 5th March a hunt rider from the Essex Farmers and Union was arrested after a sab was allegedly struck with a riding crop. A Master with the same hunt was arrested on 12th March on suspicion of causing Actual Bodily Harm and Criminal Damage.

SUPPORT
ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

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.

KEITH MANN
KJ0365
HMP Winchester
Romsey Rd
Winchester
SO22 5DF
Serving 6 months for a raid on Wickham labs where information on Botox experiments was uncovered.

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 Cookham Wood
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LU
Serving 6½ years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage in relation to Huntingdon Life Sciences.

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*



VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

badger
VERMIN

On the 8/7/04 a **Dean Quantrell** (44) from Liverpool was imprisoned for 3 months and banned from keeping any animals for 3 years. Quantrell was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a Patterdale terrier by failing to obtain treatment for a severe and infected injury to the mouth. The dog had suffered injuries consistent with those inflicted by a badger snout. Several other old scars were also noted on the dog. Quantrell was charged under the Protection of Animals Act 1911.



A convicted badger baiter who was said to "despise" homosexuals has been banned from going within 100m of his gay MP. **Paul Lewis Rees** (38) of Llwynypia, Rhondda, admitted harassing Chris Bryant between 2001 and 2004. Rhondda magistrates heard on 2/3/05 how Rees, harassed the Rhondda MP during political surgeries. A two-year restraining order imposed on Rees also banned him from making attacks on Bryant's sexuality and from threatening or doing anything in terms of harassing him. Rees was also sentenced to a 220-hour community punishment order.

bloodsports
VERMIN

On 16/8/04 at Shrewsbury Crown Court **John Frederick Twist**, gamekeeper for the Marrington Shoot near Chirbury in Shropshire, pleaded guilty to two offences contrary to the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. A police search revealed a number of pesticides, including Cymag and Talunex. Twist was fined £500 and one of his employers, **John Wilde**, from Kenley in Shropshire, pleaded guilty to two charges. These related to failing to provide appropriate instruction, training and guidance for pesticide storage, as well as permitting the unsafe storage of Talunex. Wilde received a12-month conditional discharge and costs of £330.



On 6/12/04 a Derbyshire gamekeeper found guilty of persecuting rare birds in the Peak District has lost his appeal against a three month suspended prison sentence. **John Cripps** (60) of of Keeper's Cottage, Ronksley, Derbyshire, was convicted in February of destroying the eggs of the rare Goshawk. After a three-day hearing, Derby Crown Court upheld the original sentence - which is suspended for two years.

Seven people appeared at Bourne magistrates on 23/12/04 to face charges connected to hare coursing illegally on private property. Warrants were issued to a further 17 people but they failed to attend court to answer. In court were **Joseph Lee** (17), **David O'Connor** (26), **Sean Page** (22) all from Cambridgeshire, each admitted trespassing in the pursuit of game. **Lee**, **O'Connor** and **Page** were each fined £480 with £20 costs. **Martin Doherty** (24), from the West Midlands, was fined a total of £775 with £30 costs after admitting taking game on a Sunday and trespassing in the pursuit of game. **Patrick Doherty** (57), also from the West Midlands, was fined a total of £1,000 plus £30 costs after admitting the same charges. **John Charles Smith**, from Birmingham, admitted trespassing in the pursuit of game and taking game on a Sunday. He will be sentenced at a later date.

A hare courser caught operating on two farms was fined £650 and banned from driving for six months. **Danny Mobey** (35) from Wallingford in Oxfordshire was brought before magistrates at Ely. The court was told that magistrates had a discretion to ban hare coursers from driving under the Criminal Courts Sentencing Act, because vehicles were used during the offence. Mobey admitted he was part of group of hare coursers. Mobey was also ordered to pay £43 costs. Seven other men accused of the same illegal hare coursing were due in court, but had their case adjourned.

Six men accused of taking part in illegal hare coursing are due to appear at Ely magistrates on 3/2/05. All six men have been charged with trespass in pursuit of game. Those charged are **Larry Connors** (22) of Crop Common, Hatfield, Hertfordshire; **Francis Connors** (23) of Pilgrims Lane, Thurrock, Essex; **Thomas Connors** (26) of Carshelton Road, Surrey; **Martin Hanrahan** (33) of The Avenue, Bentley, Doncaster; **Felix Connors** (41) of Brookwood Lane Road, Guildford; and a 17- year-old man from Banstead, Surrey. The men were due to appear in court on 6/1/05 to answer the charges but as all failed to appear the hearings were adjourned until 3/2/05. On 10/2/05 Larry Connors was fined £500 and also banned from taking out a driving licence for the next nine months.

On 13/1/05 two hare coursers were each fined £500 with £150 costs for operating on farms in Ely. The court heard how the police helicopter was used to catch eight men and six dogs hare coursing. **Patrick Connors** (41) of Banstead, Surrey and **Francis Coyle** (45) of Thurrock, Essex, both admitted daytime trespass in pursuit of game. The court was told that Connors' four-wheel drive vehicle was seized by police at the time of the arrest, but the magistrates refused to make a confiscation order for the vehicle this week, after hearing that the loss of his vehicle had put Connors out of work.

A West Pennard farmer who attended the demo at Parliament Square on 15/9/04 appeared before Wells magistrates on 20/1/05 after he admitted threatening behaviour. **Brett George Parsons** (45) of Sticklynch initially appeared at Camberwell Green magistrates when he was made the subject of a 75-hour community punishment order. The community order was revoked and replaced by a £100 fine.

Eight alleged hare coursers appeared before Ely magistrates on 28/1/05. They are **Riley Smith** (28) from Sandy Lane in Waterside, Isleham; **Elijah Wilson** (54) from Hasse Road, Soham; **Sean Page** (22) and **Hiram Wilson** (31) from Sandy Park in Fen Road, Chesterton; **James Ball** (22) from Sandy Park in Skeltons Drove, Beck Row; and **Albert Smith** (20), **Reginald Wilson** (51) and **Terry Smith** (21) from Oxney Road Caravan Site, Peterborough were accused of daytime trespass by five or more people in the pursuit of game. They pleaded not guilty to the charge and were released on bail.

Two men caught illegally hare coursing have been fined and the Land Rover they used to carry their dogs is to be destroyed. On 28/2/05 the men pleaded guilty to entering the land as trespassers in search of game. **Kenneth Smith** (38) of Meadow Road, Farnborough and **Derek Tomlin** (55) of Newbury Avenue, Enfield Lock were charged under the Game Act 1831 after witnesses saw their dogs chase and kill a hare on land. Magistrates fined Smith and Tomlin £100 each for trespassing in search of game and ordered them each to pay £43 costs.

Six men caught hare-coursing illegally on farmland in West Norfolk were all banned from driving and fined a total of £4000 on 22/2/05 . They appeared at King's Lynn magistrates and admitted one charge each of trespassing in pursuit of game. **Joseph Jefford** (21) of Scotland Road, **James Crickmore** (24) and **William Winter** (27) of separate addresses in Fen Road, Chesterton, near Cambridge; **Joseph Lee** (17) of Green End, Landbeach, near Cambridge; **Matthew Wenman** (20) of Ellens Green, Horsham, West Sussex, and **Joe Winter** (31) of White Rose Walk, Cambridge, were all unrepresented in court. Crickmore and Jefford, who have similar previous convictions, were each fined £1000, with the remaining four defendants each given a £500 fine. All were banned from driving until 1/4/05. The bench also ordered the forfeiture of their two vehicles a Toyota and Land Rover and told each defendant to pay £15 towards costs. **John Jefford** (28) of Scotland Road; **Christopher Jenkins** (19) and **Henry Lee**, of separate addresses in Fen Road, Chesterton, near Cambridge, and **John Lee** (31) of Gypsy Lane, Wellingborough, were all convicted of the same offence in their absence. On 22/4/05 magistrates issued warrants for the arrest of two men caught hare coursing in West Norfolk after they failed to turn up at court. The bench at King's Lynn ordered **Henry Lee** and John Lee should be tracked down. The pai were convicted in their absence in March and were due to be sentenced. **John Jefford** and **Christopher Jenkins** both of separate addresses in Chesterton, had been convicted in their absence. Both were banned from driving for 28 days, fined £500 each and ordered to pay £15 costs each.

Two gamekeepers were fined £2,000 each for clubbing a bird of prey to death. **Michael Clare** (23) of Cookshall Lane, High Wycombe was secretly filmed battering a common buzzard with a stick. While under-gamekeeper Clare killed the bird, which was caught in a trap, his superior **Leslie Morris** (36) also of Cookshall Lane, watched on and failed to intervene. Morris and Clare bred pheasants and partridges on the Dashwood Estate in West Wycombe for the Bradenham Hill shoot. Morris and Clare were ordered to pay £500 costs in addition to the fines.

Three hare coursers from Cambridge have been fined £200 each for trespassing while hunting hares with their lurchers. **John Burton** (59), **Norman Burton Snr** (57) and **Norman Burton Jnr** (31) all from Grange Park, Fen Road, Chesterton, plead guilty to daytime trespass in pursuit of game. Both Norman Burtons also admitted obstructing a police officer during the incident and were each given a conditional discharge of 12 months. All three were ordered to pay £35 costs each.

Philip Rowe (50) appeared at Plymouth Crown Court on 21/1/05 accused of the manslaughter of his teenage stepson, who was shot during a night-time "lamping" expedition. **Rowe** of Stafford Lane, Colyford, spoke only to confirm his name.




William Green


James Bird


Stephen Harrington


Bill Smith


James Keet


Ashley O'Brein


Frank Smith


George Ripley


George Stonestreet

On 12/4/05 at Haywards Heath magistrates **Joseph Keet** (54) from North Mundham, Chichester, West Sussex, was jailed for 90 days for organising a cockfight in which one bird was killed and several others injured. **Keet** was found guilty of four charges relating to the illegal cockfight. The RSPCA and Sussex Police raided the cockfight after being tipped off. They went to Keet's Southgate Duck Nursery, in North Mundham, and discovered cockerels already fighting in a pit made out of hay bales.

Keet was given a 90-day prison sentence, fined a total of £5,000, and banned from owning a cockerel for life. Nine other men were each fined a total of £400 for their involvement. **William Green** (28) from Cowplain, Hampshire; **Stephen James** Harrington (29) from Horndean, Hampshire; **James Stephen Keet** (29) from Whitehill, West Sussex; **Frank Smith** (37), from Tangmere, West Sussex; and **George Sean Stonestreet** (19) and **James Christopher Bird** (21) both from Hailsham, East Sussex, had previously pleaded guilty to attending a cockfight. **Bill Smith** (44) from Burgess Hill, West Sussex; **Ashley O'Brien** (35) from Fareham, Hampshire and **George Ripley** (24) from Westham, East Sussex were found guilty of being at the cockfight.

Anthony Mullen (47) of Tarragon Gardens, Northfield, Birmingham was discovered with two pitbull terriers in a RSPCA and police raid - despite a lifetime ban on owning animals. His partner, **Susan Hancock** (48) who lives at the same address, is charged with aiding and abetting the breach.

equine VERMIN

Derek Monkton of 49 Broad Street, Bromsgrove, was sentenced to seven weeks imprisonment and a lifetime ban on keeping horses after causing unnecessary suffering to 3 young ponies in his possession.

A pensioner who neglected 11 ponies admitted 11 counts of cruelty on 19/4/05 at Burnley magistrates. The horses were starving, emaciated, had worms and lice and two were in such a bad state they were days from death. The ponies, two belonging to the grandchildren of farmer **John Askew** (69) of Heights Farm, Rooley Moor Road, Burnley were taken away from land at and nursed back to health in a near £150,000 RSPCA rescue operation. Seven further similar allegations were dismissed. The case was adjourned until 16/5/05 for pre-sentence reports.

A Nantwich farming couple have been banned from keeping horses for the rest of their lives. The ban was imposed by South Cheshire magistrates on 26/4/05 after **Marshall and Susan Foster** of Whitchurch Road, Sound were found guilty of two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to two horses, one of which had to be destroyed. The court was told the Fosters had 57 horses on their farm as well as a variety of other animals. Susan Foster (57) was also fined £500 on each of the two charges and her husband Marshall Foster (57) was fined £250 on each charge. Susan Foster was ordered to pay £4,000 in costs and legal fees and Marshall Foster a total of £1,836.79.

assorted VERMIN

Scotland's first prosecution for illegal slaughter for the smokies trade has resulted in a six-month prison sentence for a man who has previous convictions for illegal slaughter and animal cruelty. **Julian Jones** formerly of Backies Farm, Deskford, was sentenced at Elgin sheriffs court on 3/3/05 for illegally killing 62 sheep to produce singed sheep carcasses in their skin, or smokies. Jones pleaded guilty to five food safety and animal welfare offences, including slaughtering animals without a licence, preparing carcasses for human consumption in dirty, unhygienic conditions and failing to remove specified risk material. Jones was banned for life from keeping animals by a Welsh court in 1999.

A former Uttoxeter farmer banned from keeping animals then later caught half-naked in a dimly lit shed with a goat, has been the victim of an animal rights hate campaign, an appeal court heard. Police and an RSPCA officer acting on a tip-off found Richard Baskerville in an outbuilding on Cannock Chase two years after he received a decade-long prohibition from looking after animals. **Richard Baskerville** (65) of Prescot Avenue, Stafford, was originally banned in 2001 for 37 offences involving cruelty to animals. In April, 2003, he was convicted of breaching the disqualification, then just three months later, he was found partially clothed in a shed, behind a goat which was pinioned in a wooden frame. A mirror was hung on the wall in front. "Forensic tests proved negative and the only matters he faced were having custody of the goat." ➲

A former British champion sheepdog handler denied nine charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. **Gwyn Jones** (60) of Penmachno, near Betws-y-Coed, Snowdonia, also pleaded not guilty to two charges of failing to remove a carcass on his land and allowing a ewe to have access to it. The cases relate to five ewes, two rams and two beef cows. Jones was three times British supreme champion and in 1988 was seen by millions winning the BBC's *One Man and His Dog* competition.

domestic VERMIN

Keith Cleminson admitted leaving 16 pet rabbits to die in sub-zero temperatures at his former home. **Cleminson** of High Croft Cottages in Wetheral, Cumbria admitted 16 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. Cleminson was jailed for 35 days for a separate matter of non-payment of £1,553.90 council tax. On 4/1/05 **Cleminson** (47) of Welsh Road, Harraby, Carlisle said he was too busy working to look after the pets properly. He was banned from keeping animals for life.

When the RSPCA visited the home of **Sacha Smith** (33) from Kidderminster they found an eight-month-old male whippet which was so emaciated that he could barely stand. Smith pleaded guilty to causing the dog unnecessary suffering and was banned from keeping dogs for two years, ordered to carry out a one-year community rehabilitation order and pay £200 costs. The dog has since been successfully rehomed.

A Crufts show judge has been banned from keeping dogs for two years after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to four of her former show spaniels. **Brenda Parmenter** (66) from Belvedere, Kent, had dogs living in filthy conditions in cages stacked in her hallway. Her son **Roy Parmenter** (42) who lives with her at their home, also admitted causing the animals unnecessary suffering. The pair, who have bred dogs for 25 years, were given a disqualification order and the four dogs were handed over to the RSPCA. Mother and son were each fined £100, ordered to pay £50 costs and banned from keeping dogs for two years. The four dogs have made a full recovery and have been successfully rehomed.

Elizabeth and **David Guest** of Winward Street, Leigh, appeared before Wigan magistrates on 17/2/05 and admitted causing unnecessary suffering to 17 cats. Both were banned from keeping any animals for the rest of their lives. David Guest was given a 80-hour community punishment order for each offence, to run concurrently, and was ordered to pay £1,050 costs. Elizabeth Guest was given a 100-hour community punishment order for each offence, to run concurrently and an 18-month community rehabilitation order. She was also ordered to pay £1,050 costs.

A woman starved her pet dog in a case of "pitiful neglect" Southern Derbyshire magistrates heard on 12/01/05. **Audyne Hayden** (23) of Tower Street, Allenton, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. Hayden failed to appear at court, but magistrates heard evidence in her absence. The case was adjourned for sentencing until 22/2/05. The good news is that the dog is now being cared for by the RSPCA.

Eunice Carlisle (49) and **John Mackay** (64) both of Rougham Road, Great Massingham, denied 36 counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals in their care. Magistrates heard that 53 rabbits were crammed into hutches full of urine-soaked bedding, leaving them with as little as 5in of headroom. Four doves were found in filthy cages encrusted in their own faeces, four goats had overgrown hooves and 26 cats with matted fur were kept in hutches. They were both found guilty on 34 charges. Carlisle was also convicted her of breaching a 12-year ban on keeping animals, which she had denied. The pair were bailed.



A couple who kept 10 Great Danes in the back of an Austin Maestro van as they searched for somewhere to live have been banned from keeping animals as pets. **Marilyn O'Donavan** (36) and **Brendan Lynch** (44) travelled from London to Manchester with the animals crammed into the vehicle. They then spent at least five nights sleeping in the van with the dogs as they looked for accommodation in the city. **O'Donavan** and **Lynch**, of Kildare Crescent, Kirkholt, Rochdale, were banned from keeping animals as pets for five years and ordered to pay £150 each towards the RSPCA costs. They were convicted of 11 counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals at the end of a three-day hearing at Bury magistrates. **O'Donavan** is now believed to be living in Surrey.

Sadistic killers who put a pet cat in an oven and roasted it to death had laughed and joked about making "cat stew" and a "cat pie" just minutes before. **Darren Anthony Glover** (24) of St Helen's Street, Elsecar admitted his part in what prosecutor Judith Naylor described as an "atrocity" at Barnsley magistrates court on 4/2/05 and was jailed for 127 days. **David Ronald Anders** (17) pleaded not guilty but was convicted after a full day trial.

Eric Teasdale (50) of Strand Street, Maryport was banned from keeping dogs for ten years after kicking a puppy so hard he broke its leg. Teasdale was also fined £450 for cruelly treating the 12-week-old Doberman. On 23/3/05 he appeared before West Allerdale magistrates and admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the dog.

A former pet shop boss has been told he faces jail after admitting 17 charges of animal cruelty. **Damien Lawrence** (32) of Warner Street, Haslingden, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering by not providing the animals with proper care and attention. Wigan magistrates were told on 11/2/05 that the offences related to nine puppies, a kitten, a hamster, mice, a rat, a canary and a bearded dragon lizard. The animals were found at Paws and Claws, Jaxon's Court, Wigan. Bodies of dead animals found in the shop had decomposed beyond any recognition which meant that a post mortem examination could not be carried out. Twenty three dead animals were removed from the premises, some of them had cannibalised each other. The case was adjourned.



Andrew Gough (28) of Tiryberth Street, Tiryberth, South Wales who mutilated a greyhound and left it on a mountainside to die had his appeal against his conviction dismissed on 1/3/05. Gough was jailed for six months in December 2004 and banned from keeping animals for life after he shot the five-year-old dog, Charlie. Gough was also ordered to pay a further £250 costs.

A family whose cat suffered a massive absess were all found guilty of cruelty. **Stephen Crowther** (49) pleaded guilty at a previous hearing and was fined £100 and ordered to pay £400 costs. **Lorraine Crowther** (51) changed her plea to guilty and was fined £45 and ordered to pay £475 costs. **Emma Crowther** (18) denied the charge, but was found guilty, fined £85 and told to pay £500 costs. **Gareth Crowther** (22) also denied the charge and was found guilty. He was fined £95 and ordered to pay £500 costs. The cat was taken in by the RSPCA which has since found the pet a new home.



A dog breeder from Cumbria locked nine puppies in a car which was "as hot as an oven" while he took a summertime daytrip to Jersey, a Weymouth magistrates heard on 14/4/05. **John Walsh** (54) from Low Row, Brampton, allegedly crammed the puppies in the back of his Vauxhall Astra with no water. He is said to have left them for nine hours in the car park at a ferry port while he travelled to the Channel Islands to deliver six other puppies. Walsh returned to the port later that day but avoided the waiting police by hiding in a van, it was said. The RSPCA began an invest igation and Walsh was arrested at his home four days later. The dogs were removed and taken away by an RSPCA officer. They later made a full recovery. Walsh denies charges of causing unnecessary suffering to nine puppies, abandoning the animals and transporting them in a way likely to cause suffering. The trial continues.

Election to HSA Committee 2005-2006

Anyone wishing to stand for the Committee for the 2005/2006 season should send nominations to the HSA office, for the attention of the Chair, prior to the AGM to be held on the 23rd July 2005. To stand you must be a member of at least 12 months standing, and nominated by two other members.

Calendar

JUNE 2005

Saturday 11th Viva!'s Veggie Roadshow - Southampton Institute Conference Centre, St James Building, Above Bar Street, Southampton.10 am-4 pm. Viva!: 0117 944 1000

11th - 18th 12th Vegan Summer Gathering to be held Mumbles on Swansea Bay near the beautiful Gower Peninsula. SAE to Brynderwen, Crymlyn Road, Llansamlet, Swansea. SA7 9XT or ph: 01792 792442

11th - 19th National Anti-Angling Week CAA:0870-458-4176

Sunday 12th Animal Aid Sponsored Walk. 10 km walk, to be started by Tony Banks MP at 1pm, near Parliament Hill café, Hampstead Heath, with Veggies Food! Phone Karen at Animal Aid: 01732 364546 x23

Saturday 18th Heart of England Vegan Festival. 9.30-5pm at the Carling Academy, Dale End, Birmingham, with 60-80 stalls, inc Veggies Food! Admission free. Organised by Realfood: 0845 458 0146

Saturday 18th Molly's Day. Noon at GlaxoSmithKline, off A1 J7, Stevenage, Herts. To mark the anniversary of the death of Molly the Beagle used as a breeding machine by GSK for 5 years. Stevenage A.R: 01438 220480

Saturday 18th National Badger Day. Call the National Federation of Badger Groups: 020 7228 6444

Sunday 19th McLibel: Anniversary of 1997 High Court Victory! McLibel Support Campaign5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. ph:020 7713 1269. Adopt-A-Store Network:0845 458 9595

Saturday 25th Viva!'s Veggie Roadshow - Newcastle. St James URC, Northumberland Road. 10am - 5pm.

Saturday 25th R S P C A. Annual General Meeting. Kensington Town Hall, London. RSPCA: 08700 010 1181

JULY 2005

Monday 4th International Day for Captive Dolphins. Week of UK events co-ordinated. Cetacea Defence, PO Box 78, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8ST

Tuesday 5th Human Race in Pamplona! Campaign against 'Running of the Bulls'. PETA:020 7357 9229

6th - 8th G8 Summit at Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire. Protests include Action on Root Causes of Climate. Change on final day of Summit on Friday 8th. Details at www.dissent.org.uk

Sunday 10th Freshfields Animal Rescue Open day. 11am-4pm at East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. Fun dog show, kids stuff, vegan ices & beer and Veggies Food! Ph: 0151 931 1604

Fri 15th - 18th Animal Rights 2005. 4-day gathering to be held nr Tonbridge, Kent, with workshops on a wide range of issues and activities related to animal rights campaigning. Also lectures and speeches from a host of speakers, including academics, doctors and activists. Veggies Food! Details at http://ar2005.info

Saturday 16th Uncaged campaigns London-wide Street Collection. You can hold a campaign stall too, to raise awareness of vivisection and campaigns to stop it. To help call Uncaged: 0114 272 2220

Saturday 23rd HSA AGM & Hunt Ban Celebration. Conway Hall, London HSA: 0845 450 0727

Saturday 23rd SPEAK Freedom March & Rally in Oxford. Make your travel plans now. SPEAK: 0845 330 7985

Saturday 23th Viva!'s Veggie Roadshow - Sheffield. Holden Hall, Norfolk Road. 10am - 5pm.

Saturday 23rd Exeter Living Without Cruelty Festival. St. Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street, 10am - 5 pm. Cruelty-free goods stalls and vegan food served all day. Animal Aid, c/o 01404 831763

Sunday 24th Greyhound Remembrance Day. Local group action. Greyhound Action: 01562 745778

Saturday 20th Viva!'s Veggie Roadshow - Plymouth. Guildhall, Tavistock Road. 10am - 4pm.



HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports

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

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

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

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



HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

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

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

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

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

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

Address .....

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

email.....

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

Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

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

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

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

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

A.L.F. Press Office
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: 01623 746470
Email: alfpressoffice@yahoo.com

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

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

Animal Rights Coalition
publishes ARC News PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, 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,
Dorset, SP8 4HZ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs
PO Box 74, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 3WF Tel: 01902 564734
email: info@liberation-now.org
www.liberation-now.org

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

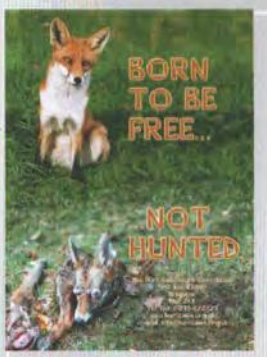
Sea Shepherd
UK (mail only - not an office):
35 Vicarage Grove, London SE5 7LY
USA (International Headquarters):
PO Box 628, Venice, California 90294, USA

SPEAK Campaigns
Publishes Speak Out
PO Box 6712, Northampton NN2 6XR Tel: 0845 330 7985
Mob: 07906 497317 www.speakcampaigns.org.uk
Email: info@speakcampaigns.org.uk

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

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

HSA PROMOTIONALS





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





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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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











BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

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

Single back issues 50p each

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

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

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

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

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



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

.....**FREE!**

(+p&p +DONATION)



POSTAGE AND PACKING

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

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
& 'HUNT BAN' PARTY

SATURDAY 23rd JULY 2005
@
CONWAY HALL

25 RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1R 4RL

6pm - 11pm (AGM 2pm - 6pm)

NEAREST TUBE IS HOLBORN (CENTRAL AND PICCADILLY LINES)

- ☆ CHEAP HSA-RUN BAR (SO NO SNEAKIN' CANS IN!)
- ☆ VEGAN FOOD
- ☆ PUNK ROCK KARAOKE
- ☆ AMUSING VIDEO COMPILATIONS
- ☆ POST-BAN TACTICS DISCUSSIONS
- ☆ RAFFLE (WITH LAVISH PRIZES)
- ☆ COME AND MEET NEW & OLD FACES



www.huntsabs.org.uk

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION