Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer
2006

HOWL 85

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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THE FUTURE OF SHOOTING

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HOWL 85

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 and donations should go towards the running of the organisation and directly helping saboteurs in the field.

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big taverymuch to: the office crew, & anyone else who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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

EDITORIAL(S)

The 2005/06 season is over and with it the first full season since the ban. Every group will have had its own experiences for good or ill over that time and we will all have noticed some changes from the last full season where we had to sab in what was a 'normal' way. At times it has been extremely frustrating and the effects of the ban have been difficult and hard to see at times but they have been there if you know where to look. I maintain that the only problem we still face is the enforcement question, the legislation is fine. All too often various police forces have demonstrated how quickly they could act if it was against those wanting to protect wildlife but how slowly (if indeed at all) against those who wish to harm it. We must still await the result of the first case brought against a huntsman for allegedly breaching the act, over a year since it became an offence. Outrageously, it is a private undertaking, the CPS having rejected evidence after evidence provided to them. There is clearly plenty for us to do. For those readers who are also members of the National Trust there is a job for you straight away. I urge you all to write to them, firstly, expressing how appalled you are at the possibility they may allow the Staghunts to use their land again, after over a decade long denial, and secondly, at the number of 'accidental' killings on their land over the last season.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Grant for his assistance over the last three issues as assistant editor. He leaves us at this point and I wish him well for the future.

As we approach the summer the association will naturally enough hold its AGM. Once again it will be held at Conway hall in London on Saturday 22nd July 2006 (see advert p29) Though, this year there will be less of a party feel to it and more of a business approach. As ever, please ensure your group is represented, as we need everyone's input for an effective discussion. Keen eyed readers will have spotted some new merchandise available in this issue, in the form of 'ANTI' stickers and bags, the merchandise officer would like me to offer you the opportunity of suggesting any new designs for our t-shirts and xmas cards too.

Mr. D

What can I say? Nearly at this seasons end, sabs beaten up all over the country, the return of hunt stewards to some areas...didn't someone say hunting had been banned? The fact that the police as a whole are (seemingly) not taking this new law seriously has made many a sab downhearted lately, with such strong evidence that some hunts are routinely breaking the law...

But we didn't campaign for 40 years in order to give up now. The fact that thugs are attacking sabs who are merely filming now, shows that they are scared of exposure, and of that first conviction, which could start to make all the difference. Recent statements made by the police show they are starting to get fed up of certain hunts taking the piss with the new law. A huge dossier of evidence of illegal hunting now exists, and there are moves within the police forces around the country, to get more powers to properly investigate these allegations - it seems unbelievable that the police still need a landowners permission to go onto land where illegal hunting may be taking place. This, and other parts of the law that hunters have desperately tried to exploit must be tightened up, and the hunts openly breaking the law must be stopped.

But, on the positive side, many hunts are trail hunting, and how many sabs ever thought we would ever live to see that? Not me! The hunters are still hanging on to the hope of a new Tory Government repeal of the ban-but that could be many years away, if at all. There is a lot of damage that can be done to the infrastructure of live quarry hunting before then.

And who's to say that this flagrant lawbreaking shouldn't be the start of a return to conventional sabbing? For those hunts who continue to break the law at least. This flagrant abuse of the law of the land, and open animal abuse could just be the kick start of a new generation of Hunt Saboteurs, doing what Hunt Saboteurs do best...well, if the Police/Government can't sort it out, then who better?

Grant

HARRIER PACK BITES THE DUST

The Aldenham Harriers, who have enjoyed chasing down and killing Hares in Hertfordshire for the past 125 years have disbanded. They are the first hunt to officially do so since the ban was introduced. Naturally, they blamed urbanisation and lack of country as their reason for folding. Despite all the rhetoric of the past none of the hounds were destroyed and were distributed to other packs.

MIDLANDS SABS HELD IN WILD WEST STANDOFF

The Worcestershire hunt attempted to round up a group of Midlands's anti-hunt monitors in January during which one of their riders fell off his horse. Around 10 riders from the hunt encircled the monitors stopping them from reaching their landrover, keeping them against their will. Frightened for their own safety the monitors called the police, however, this did not stop them from being ridden into and allegations of assault being made against one of the red coats. Despite video evidence being taken of the alleged attack no arrests were made.

IRISH FARMER GIVES HUNT BOTH BARRELS

An angry Kilkenny farmer fired shots into the air as he confronted a St. Stephen's day meet of the Kilkenny Hunt. 'These people won't leave me alone. I have asked them time and time again to stay away,' fumed local farmer, Mick Farrell. 'My lands are preserved and people in the hunt know that. I have put up signs stating that fox hunting is prohibited but they have been torn down and flung away. I am at my wits end,' he said. Mr Farrell promised to visit his local Gardai station within a few days to explain his actions and to make a formal complaint.

MORRISSEY TAKES A STAND



Morrissey was recently quoted in the Sunday Times for his support for violence against people who hunt and animal testing laboratories. He said: 'With people in the world such as Jamie Oliver and Clarissa Dickson Wright there isn't much hope for animals.' ' I support the efforts of the animal rights militia in England and I understand why fur-farmers and so-called laboratory scientists are repaid with violence – it is because they deal in violence themselves and it's the only language they understand – the same principles apply to war.' ' You reach a point where you cannot reason with people. This is why the animal rights militia and the hunt saboteurs exist. They are usually very intelligent people who are forced to act because the law is shameful or amoral.' ' In England, animals are hunted to the point of extinction, and then a great effort is made to save and reintroduce animals, and once they are re-established, they are then hunted back to the point of extinction. Everybody needs to hate something, it seems.'

HUNT SUPPORTER FINED OVER LABOUR PARTY DEMO

A hunt supporter was given a fine at the end of March for his part in a violent protest outside a Labour Party conference in Wales. Glazier Simon Evans was one of 250 protesting against the hunting ban. The 40-year-old was one of three men arrested at the protest in which two police officers were knocked down and injured. The Countryside Alliance protest in November 2004 escalated into violence as hunt supporters clashed with riot police on horseback. Father-of-two Evans, who has previous convictions for assault, admitted using threatening words and behaviour. Evans, of Gladstone Road, Aberaman, near Aberdare, was fined £500 with £500 costs.

BADGER BAITING SQUADDIE JAILED!



A soldier was sent to prison for six months at the beginning of February for badger baiting. Craig Trevelyan, 32, a sergeant with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was found guilty of three charges under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 when he appeared before magistrates. Trevelyan, of Caer Bryn Road, Pen y Groes, Carmarthenshire, denied the charges of wilfully killing a badger, digging for a badger and interfering with a badger sett causing damage to it. Trevelyan, who was part of a gang of baiters, was spotted by dog walker Andrew Downie at a coppice in January 2005. After being startled by Mr Downie the gang fled, however, he managed to scratch their registration plate into the mud. At the end of the trial he was given a cash award for what was described as 'exceptional courage' in helping bring the case to court. Magistrates ordered Trevelyan to forfeit any weapon associated with the charges and also banned him from owning a dog for seven years, banned him from driving for 12 months and forced him to forgo his vehicle. A request for bail was refused for fear of further offences and interference with witnesses.

HOLIDAYMAKER FACED WITH GUNS AT BEAUTY SPOT



A Gloucestershire holidaymaker recounted, how in February, she and her family were left 'frightened and distressed' after encountering shotgun-carrying members of the Gogerddan Hunt at a beauty spot. She claimed her family were put 'in the firing line' by the hunt's actions, adding: 'I cannot understand how the Countryside Commission for Wales allows such an activity to take place'. Huntsman Dai Owen commented: '... people like that just don't want to listen'.

The family had been on a public nature reserve when they encountered a hunt follower armed with a shotgun, it was this fact that made their attitude and activity so completely unacceptable to them.
(See Huntsman's Balls for a further classic comment from Owen – Ed).

VILLAGERS SEEK ASBO TO KEEP HUNT OFF THEIR LAND



Residents in the Cotswold village of Elcombe claim the Cotswold Hunt has strayed into gardens, left bloodstains and killed animals illegally in private woodland. Jeanne Berry, a landowner, instructed her solicitor to apply for an antisocial behaviour order and an injunction against further trespass. Gloucestershire Police are investigating the complaint that the hunt illegally killed an animal in the Slad Valley the previous week, and have taken DNA samples of bloodstains found in a clearing. Ten villagers from Elcombe said they first wrote to the hunt last October requesting huntsmen to keep their hounds off private property. But in February they found signs that the dogs had entered their land again. Mrs Berry believes that an ASBO on the hunt would prevent it returning to the valley by banning it from entering a specific area and thus causing more damage. The orders can carry penalties in the criminal courts.

STOP PRESS: By the end of March a 'warning notice' had been issued by Stroud Area Anti-Social Behaviour to individual members of the Cotswold Hunt. This followed the complaint made by the residents and is the first use of the ASBO Act against members of a hunt.

HUNTERS TURN ON EACH OTHER

A prominent farmer and businessman has been convicted of assaulting a former groom by pulling her hair. Cattistock hunt member Richard Alan Fry of Halstock appeared in court foe a two-day trial at the end of March and denied assaulting Melanie Rich by pulling her hair during an altercation in the farm's tack room in January 2005. Fry, aged 55, of Pondsmead farm, Corscombe Road, was fined £1,100 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £946 as well as compensation of £500 to Mrs Rich of Ashcott. Blandford magistrates were told that Mrs Rich was employed as a groom at the stables until October 2004, when she was told to collect her belongings and not return. But she did go back to collect remaining items. Mr Josty, prosecuting, said she was then pulled by the hair, with Fry grabbing her lapels and slamming her against a door. It was then alleged he propelled her out of the door backwards while screaming into her face.

KARMA POLICE

BASC PRESIDENT DIES AFTER A STROKE

BASC president Lord Litchfield has died at the age of 66 after suffering a major stroke. He was being treated in the stroke unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford after falling ill.

BOXING DAY SHOOT BAGS TWO EXTRA

Two beaters were taken to hospital after being mistakenly shot during a pheasant shoot in the West Country. The men aged 40 and 44 were sprayed with shotgun pellets during the private shoot. They were taken to the accident and emergency unit at Torbay Hospital for treatment to skin wounds, wounds around the face and upper body. Both were later discharged. The shooter involved was questioned by police and his firearms licence checked. The Health and Safety Executive has been informed of the incident and will investigate.

HUNT MASTER LOSES CANCER FIGHT

Holcombe huntsman and joint master Alex Sneddon (68) died of cancer at the beginning of June. He was with the Holcombe for 40 years - a record unrivalled by any other huntsman in the country. He began hunting the Holcombe in 1965. Plans have recently been put into place to keep the Holcombe going as a drag hunt in the hope that the ban may be lifted in the future.

CHENEY AIMS FOR SUCCESS

US Vice-President Dick Cheney shot hunting companion, Harry Whittington, spraying him with shotgun pellets in the cheek, neck and chest, during a duck shoot on February 11th 2006.

Doctors have said the 78 year old lawyer, who suffered a heart attack after the shooting, will probably have the pellets in his body for the rest of his life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FURTHER LINK BETWEEN CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL ABUSE

A former gamekeeper has been jailed for chilld sex abuse. The former Dalmeny Estate gamekeeper who indecently assaulted three children over a decade has been jailed and placed on the sex offenders' register indefinitely. Donald Peter Bennie Smith, 57, who worked at the South Queensferry estate in the 1970's, indecently touched the teenagers between 1978 and 1989. He pleaded guilty to three charges of indecent behaviour and was jailed for four years and nine months.

RAT JOINS SINKING SHIP

Richard Bowker, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, and previously Chairman and Chief Executive of the Strategic Rail Authority, has joined the Countryside Alliance. Richard was awarded a CBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours List for services to the Railway Industry. In the past he has also been a member of Richard Branson's top team at Virgin. He lives in Herefordshire and is a keen hill walker and countryman. (Well done Richard, good move, and which lost cause do you want to be part of next year? – Ed).

FOX HUNTER NOW LEADS THE TORY PARTY

The Tory party got its new fox hunting leader in December in the shape of Eton educated David Cameron. Cameron who shouted down Labour Ministers and MPs during the hunting debates in the Commons, wrote in 2002 'Sitting in parliament involves hours of listening to opinions with which you profoundly disagree. I am usually able to do this without shouting, but as soon as I hear Labour members calling for hunting to be banned, I completely lose it'. Cameron is a keen bloodsports enthusiast and rides with the Heythrop hunt.

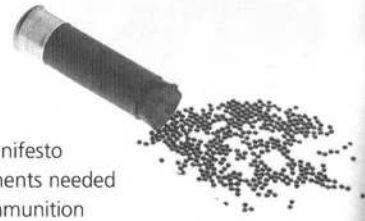
UCSW MEMBERS IN COURT CHALLENGE

Two members of the union of country sports workers have lodged an application for a judicial review of the 2004 Hunting Act in the administrative court of the high court in London. The claim is against the Attorney General and Margaret Beckett MP, The Sec of state of Environment, Food and Rural affairs. They claim that the ban on hunting with hounds breaches assured rights under the European Convention of Human Rights and does not comply with the U.K.'s International Treaty and Convention Obligations. – Yeah, good luck with that one boys, not! – Ed.

SHEFFIELD SABS PRODUCE NEW SABBING ZINE

Sheffield sabs have produced their own general sabbing zine called 'Bite Back'. It is aimed at potential sabs and those with an interest in anti-hunting activism, it provides them with a good grounding in all aspects of what we do and why. Created in a very user-friendly way bite back will be a particularly useful 'how to' guide for anyone new to the issue or thinking they might just like to come out and see for themselves what is really going on in our countryside. For a donation of just £1 (which goes to the HSA – nice people) and an A5 SAE bite back is available from Sheffield University Animal Rights Society, Sheffield Hunt Sabs, Sheffield University Students Union, Weston Bank, S10 2TN, or through carryonclimbing@gmail.com

SALE OF BULLET MAKING MACHINES TO END



The Labour party has promised to criminalize the sale of bullet making machines. Although it has been illegal for anyone to buy or possess ammunition without a firearms licence since 1997, it is not against the law to buy the equipment and constituents to make bullets. In their election manifesto Labour stated, 'we will ban the sale of primers and other components needed to manufacture ammunition to anyone without a valid gun or ammunition certificate.' The proposals also include a promise to raise the legal age for the buying of knives and guns from 16 to 18 years of age.

BASC CALLS FOR BAN ON BATTERY CAGES



The use of battery cages for the production of game bird eggs should be banned, according to the BASC. BASC spokesman Simon Clarke said '...The overwhelming view from shooting men and women is that battery cages for game birds are unethical and a retrograde step, particularly when they are being phased out for domestic poultry'. The issues of concern have always been lack of space, welfare problems both physical and mental and the length of time the birds are confined (in some cases for their 'economic lives'). BASC recommendation is that pheasant laying stock should be provided with a minimum of one square metre per bird and 0.55M^2 per partridge. Christopher Graffius of BASC went to say '...Anyone with the welfare interest of the birds and the future of shooting...in mind will realise that cages are not only unethical but also a Trojan horse used to attack and undermine game shooting'.

C.A. FALLS FOUL OF THE A.S.A. FOR THE SECOND TIME

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) ruled in December that the Countryside Alliance (CA) made untruthful and unsubstantiated claims in its attempt to promote the alleged benefits of game shooting. In a recent brochure, 'On the Front Foot', the CA falsely claimed that a shooting school in Berkshire had raised £1 million for good causes in 2004. Animal Aid, who brought the falsehood to the attention of the ASA, was able to demonstrate that the Royal County of Berkshire shooting school had not raised £1 million for good causes. Accounts lodged with Companies House show that it donated nothing at all to charity during the year in question and had given only £1,060 in the three years for which accounts are available. This is the second recent ASA ruling against the CA, in June 2004, they found that the CA's claim on a poster that '59% say keep hunting' misrepresented the findings of opinion polls and thereby breached the Authority's codes on substantiation and truthfulness.

THE PIGEON FEEDERS - A NEW FANTASY A/R NOVEL

Recently published by Voice of Reason publications comes Jack Mcfarlane's novel about the exploits of a group of committed animal rights activists and their struggles to combat animal abuse through direct action, sometimes extreme direct action!

'The Pigeon Feeders' is a fast paced, whirlwind novel that will amuse and entertain the dedicated activist. Though some of the events depicted are more credible than others, the book provides 250 pages of highly entertaining reading and more than the occasional laugh. No one will be able to read this novel without experiencing a sense of empathy for the characters and in doing so you will want to keep turning the pages.

Priced £9.99 'The Pigeon Feeders' is available from Voice of Reason publications, P.O.Box 54325, London, W2 7EG and all proceeds will be donated to the ALF SG.

OLE RED WINS PUBLIC VOTE!



The red fox, has won the support of a staggering 82% of people as an 'important part of British wildlife', according to a survey of over 12,000 people carried out by BBC Wildlife Magazine. Moreover, the survey revealed that people's feelings towards the fox appear to be shared regardless of where they live, with 81% of urbanites, 82% of suburbanites, and 83% of people living in rural areas believing the fox to be an important part of British wildlife. Only 8% overall regarded the fox as a pest. Fox expert Professor Steve Harris, from the University of Bristol, says: 'The survey results certainly suggest that a majority of people take pleasure in having the great British red fox around.'

SHOOTERS 'MOST WANTED PESTS' OUTRAGE

Endangered species such as eagles, osprey and otters have been named with other protected wildlife on a list of the countryside's 'most wanted pests' published by Shooting Times magazine. The so-called weekly bible of the shooting world is facing condemnation after publishing the list of 30 animals and birds. The golden eagle, red kite, osprey, heron, peregrine falcon and buzzard stand accused with the hedgehog, otter, badger and domestic cat of being 'voracious predators' that affect game shooting and fishing industries. Jim Knight, the Rural Affairs Minister, has joined animal welfare groups in criticising the magazine for vilifying wildlife. Its list of 'most costly pests and the 30 most wanted' was spread over three pages in its Christmas special issue. Goosander and red-breasted merganser, are the 'No 1 pest' because they eat as many as nine young salmon a day in spring. Cormorants are runners-up, accused of devouring half the adult salmon on some rivers. Cats rank ninth but the article says: 'A mog-mauled pheasant can look as if it was killed by a raptor, so maybe cats get off lighter than they should.' Readers will be aware that many of the species on their death list are protected by law, and therefore to kill them would be a criminal offence.



Goosander: 'No. 1 Pest'

KENNEL HUNTSMAN ACCUSED OF CRUELTY



A kennel huntsman in charge of more than 100 hounds was on trial accused of animal cruelty. Phillip Simmonds, who is responsible for the welfare of hounds at The Kennels in Cambridge Road, Barton, is alleged to have stitched a gaping wound on a beagle's leg without giving the animal a local anaesthetic. He is also accused of carrying out the procedure, which should only be performed by a vet unless in an emergency, and two charges of failing to provide appropriate veterinary care for the animal. Simmonds faces another claim that he caused a second beagle unnecessary suffering by delaying having it put down when it was terminally ill with kidney failure and heart problems. A sixth allegation relates to a mink hound, which he is said to have caused to suffer by failing to have it treated for chronic ear problems. He denies all six charges. The charges followed a report to the RSPCA by a helper at the kennels who had become increasingly concerned about the welfare conditions at the kennels. Just before Christmas last year Simmonds was found guilty on all charges by Cambridge Magistrates, after reports were received in January Simmonds was sentenced to 180 hours community service and ordered to pay £750 in costs.

EFFECTS OF BAN BEING FELT ACROSS THE CHANNEL

Two recent developments in hunting within France would appear to have occurred as a direct result of the ban in the U.K. The Pau Hunt hunted foxes in the English style close to the Pyrenees up until the Second World War and since then hunted as a drag hunt. After the announcement of the ban it signalled its intention to reinvent itself as a real foxhunt once again in the English style.

Their application was refused by the Societe de Venerie (hunting's governing body), on the grounds that they could not be seen to be promoting an alien practise. The Societe has always opposed the idea of hunting as tourism and the proposal was openly aimed at British hunting tourists.

■ Secondly, a cross party group of French MP's have tabled a motion demanding a ban on the chasse a courre; hunting with hounds, on French territory. They have cited the British ban as conclusive evidence for their case.

HARE COURSING SUSPENDED IN NORTHERN IRELAND AGAIN



The Government confirmed all killing, netting and trade in the Irish hare, which could face a fight for survival, will be banned again from next month until the end of March 2007.

Their population in Northern Ireland is believed to have dropped from 72,000 in 2004 to 43,700 last year. A special protection order will be used to introduce a further temporary ban under the Game Preservation Act (NI) 1928. A spokesman for the Department of Environment said: 'We consider it appropriate to provide further protection until there is more certainty about the stabilization and sustainability of the population'. Bob Fenton, secretary of a coursing club in Ballymena, Co Antrim, said: 'It's just political correctness and people don't know what they are talking about...It's got nothing to do with coursing.' (That's right Bob nothing at all – Ed).



HUNT

Here's the latest compilation of 'isolated incidents' and 'unfortunate one-offs' if you believe a word the CA spin-machine spouts. You'd imagine that some sort of token effort to avoid bad publicity would be on the cards for this, the first post-ban season...but then again when you're above the law what does it matter?

■ HOUNDS KILL PET PYGMY GOAT

Marauding hounds ran amok in a private garden and savaged to death an adored pet pygmy goat called Flopsy, in December. 26 hounds burst into the 10-acre grounds of retired social workers the Pickett's, who strongly object to blood sports. Mrs Pickett, 67, said: 'It was terrifying. We were in the front garden clearing leaves when we heard this horrendous screaming and baying from the back. We went round as fast as we could and saw a huge pack of hounds chasing our goats. Most of our animals got away but Flopsy was so badly savaged she had to be put down. Her throat, neck and belly were torn and she lost a lot of blood.' East Cornwall Hunt master Graham Higgins apologised, saying it was an 'isolated incident'.

■ RESCUE DRAMA AS HOUNDS PLUNG OVER CLIFF

Yet again hounds of the East Cornwall Hunt caused havoc when police and fire crews were called to a farm near Liskeard to rescue hounds, which had plunged over a cliff. Officers were also joined in their efforts by Caradon District Council's animal welfare team. On the same day as the pet goat, Flopsy was killed one of the hunts hounds plunged 100 feet to its death over the edge of a quarry face and another became trapped after it also fell. In all four or five dogs had gone over the edge but most had managed to make their way back up. Fire crews used ladders to reach the ledge and attach a harness to the animal, which was then winched to safety.

■ HOUND DIES ON ROAD CHASING A FOX

Motorists travelling at 70mph were forced to dodge hounds when they streamed across a dual carriageway near Cirencester. One hound was immediately killed. The Cotswold Hunt was a mile away from the A417 at Daglingworth in the afternoon in the New Year when the hounds picked up the scent of a fox and went after it. Joint master Bob Cooper said: 'We hunt a trail but the hounds come off it if they smell a fox. There's nothing we can do.' Hounds pursued the fox over the busy road at Quarry Junction when two were hit by a car. One died as a result, while the other received head injuries but is expected to recover.

■ VILLAGE SHOCK AFTER HUNT INVASION

Angry residents watched in horror as hounds tore through gardens and killed a fox while huntsmen struggled to catch up with the pack. In late January the Cattistock Hunt hounds ran free in Bradford Peverell for 20 minutes before a huntsman appeared on foot to try to call them away. Deborah Carrington claimed that one hound ran into her house after her terrified cat and tried to follow it upstairs. She said: 'I was really frightened. This hound was frantic to get after my cat and kept running from room to room.' Builders working at her home helped chase the hounds off. But they were unable to save a fox that fled from Mrs Carrington's garden and was killed in the garden across the road. Carpenter Dean Burt saw the hounds close in on the fox as it hid behind shrubs and emerge with blood on them afterwards. He said: 'I don't know what remained of the fox- not much, I expect.' Pat Burns also saw the incident. She said: 'The huntsman did not have any control. The hounds were just everywhere-in peoples gardens, across the river bank, in the river, even in a field with sheep in it.'

HAVOC

■ HOUNDS KILL PET LLAMA

A pet llama from south Devon has died after being frightened by hounds from the Modbury Harriers. The animal was in a field in the village of Aveton Gifford when the death occurred. A vet was called after hounds from the Modbury Harriers frightened the animal so much that it triggered a heart attack. The owner and the hunt have agreed to settle the incident between themselves, but local people are said to be upset. Parish council vice chair Stephen Harding said: 'I have received several calls from villagers. It's outrageous that the dogs were allowed to frighten a pet like this. The dogs should have been kept under control.' (No doubt the llamas owners can expect the traditional kitten thrust at them from the hunt by way of an apology – Ed).

■ HOUND SAVAGE PREGNANT FOX ON GOLF COURSE

The Surrey Union Hunt has been banned by a prestigious golf club after a pregnant vixen was killed and its body left on the club's fairway. Hounds chased two foxes across the course killing one. The entrails of the pregnant fox were left on the 9th fairway causing shock and disgust to golfers. Tony Blunden, the owner of Rudgate Golf Course in Newdigate, Surrey, had to take two green keepers off their normal duties to clear up the entrails and bury the remains of the fox. Mr Blunden commented: 'They chased on to my land and ripped the fox apart. There was at least six witnesses. They haven't even had the courtesy to apologise. But I'm not surprised as they are serial trespassers on the course. I can recall up to 15 incidents. The problem is they think they are above the law.' The incident has been reported to the police who have taken statements. The hunt was undoubtedly trespassing on private property and the police will now investigate if they were hunting illegally.



No change: Surrey Union hounds golf course trespass in 1994

■ HUNT INVADES NATIONAL TRUST LAND

Furious families in a seaside village have claimed huntsmen broke rules to cross National Trust land. Villagers said members of the Percy Hunt gathered in Newton-by-the-sea, near Embleton, Northumberland in early March and stayed there all day although they were not licensed to be there. They said the hunt were abusive and when the N.T. wardens asked them to leave, they refused. Horses, quad bikes and Land Rovers were to be seen from 10:30 am until 4pm. The N.T. said they have written to the hunt expressing their disappointment in them and that trespassing would have serious consequences.

HUNTSMANS BALLS



"Ugly men and ugly women who can't get laid – that's why they need to come and stop our fun".
Avon Vale Foxhunt supporter, explaining why sabs visit her hunt.
Big Issue, November 2005.

There are familiar moans about how city folk "don't understand us", but it'd help if in explaining why people are desperate to continue massacring small animals for fun, something more illuminating than "it's our way of life" was offered.
Guardian newspaper TV guide, in reference to 'a very English village' documentary, 15th September 2005.

"It's a bit like songs of praise", suggested one hunt follower, "they all turn up when they know the cameras are going to be there".
Hunt follower referring to large gathering to try to capture escaped wild boar.
Guardian newspaper, 5th January 2005.

"You can set your baby down in the middle of a pack", a hunter once told me, "and they'll lick him to silly".
Extract from an essay by P.J. O'Rourke.
Guardian newspaper, 7th September 2005.

"We were not intending to be on the nature reserve – we were rabbiting on the farm next door – but the dogs picked up a scent and took off..."
Dai Owen, Huntsman of the Gogerddan Hunt.
Tindle newspapers, 19th January 2006.

"The only good thing to have come from the whole farcical hunting act is that the anti's have finally had to confess their true beliefs. They wanted the public to believe that they hated us because we were cruel, but in fact the opposite was true. It has become abundantly clear that they said we were cruel because they hated us".
Edward Church, letters page, Kent on Sunday, 6th November 2005.

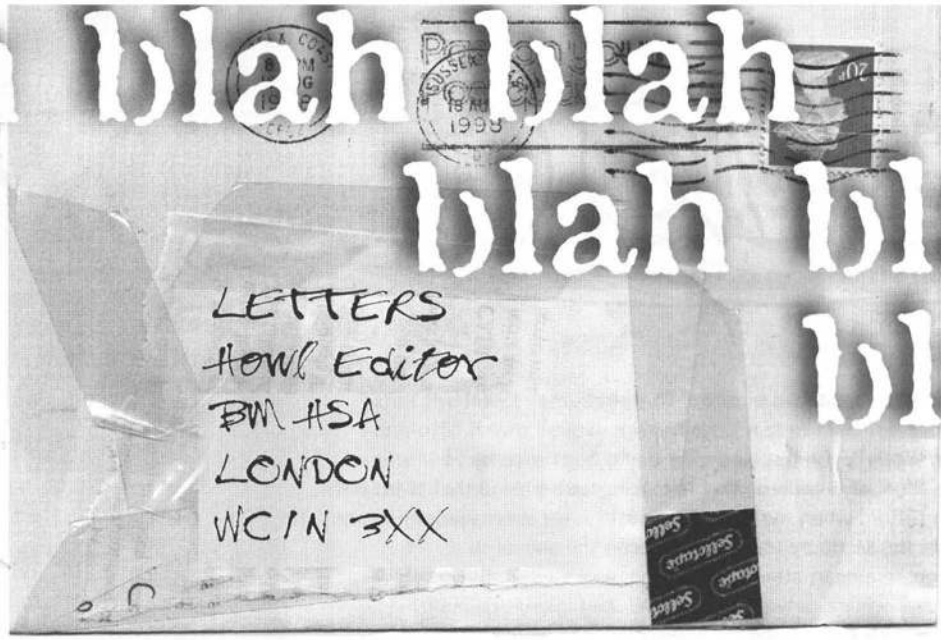
"I have a lot of respect for people who have a view that no animal should be killed or used for anything".
Kate Hoey, new head of the C.A., Observer newspaper, 30th October 2005.

"He claims he is a liberal. He claims he is New Labour Cameron. Environmental Cameron. Fox hunting Cameron. Fox hunting Cameron. Fox hunting! That's a Tory policy he's happy to stick with"!
John Prescott MP, Labour conference, February 2006.
"So what was all that nonsense we heard last autumn about thousands of hounds and horses being put down?"
The Field magazine, November 2005.

"Britain's one million shooters are effectively an unpaid army of conservationists."
Simon Clarke, BASC, Western Morning News, July 18th 2005.

"The hunted fox dies fighting and quickly, not one man in ten who dies in his bed has so easy an end."
Dr Louis Robinson, (quoted by his grandson), letters page, WMN.

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 86
Letters

Come on folks!,
get those pens out
get scribblin'.

To guarantee your rant's considered for the next 'Howl', get it to the address on the right

or e-mail direct:
howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk

BACK TO SABBING?

Dear *Howl*,

As the so-called hunting ban has failed to result in any prosecutions despite more than fifty cases of illegal hunting being presented to the crown prosecution service, is it not time to reconsider old style sabbing tactics?

I was out recently monitoring the Cattistock Hunt, which was blatantly hunting foxes despite the presence of sabs and IFAW evidence gathers. At one point the huntsman cast his hounds through an area of gorse, eventually flushing out a fox. The hounds went into cry and chased the animal. Meanwhile three terrier men blocked the fox's escape route. Sabs were filming the incident and captured it on video. However, it was at that stage that I had to intervene and use voice and horn to distract the pack. This was the first time in a year that I had needed to revert to sabbing. Fortunately, the fox managed to get away despite the hunt going back later to try again.

IFAW monitors were there because sabs had presented footage of a kill a week before to Dorset police. Unsurprisingly the police had taken no action.

Given the choice of filming an animal's demise or intervening to save it, I would ALWAYS opt for sabbing. After all, we are still called the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Phillip Elston
HSA Life Member

OBITUARIES



Donald Watson, founding father of the vegan movement

Donald Watson, inventor (with his wife, Dorothy) of the word 'vegan' and founder of the Vegan Society, died in November 2005 at the grand old age of 95. Brought up in a mining community in South Yorkshire in the first quarter of the last century, his parents liberal approach to life meant he was able to question the world around him and formulate this own approach to life accordingly. He turned vegetarian at the age of 14 after witnessing his Uncle slaughtering a terrified pig, and the experience led him to comment that 'farms – and uncles – had to be reassessed'.

Donald took the next step of removing all dairy products from his diet some 18 years later and, finding that this new version of vegetarianism needed a name, coined the phrase 'vegan'. He and his wife Dorothy came to decide on this as it represented the beginning and end of the word '**veg**etari**an**', stating it was apt 'because veganism starts with vegetarianism and carries it through to its logical conclusion'. A short time later he went on to found the Vegan Society, and he ran this on his own for two years. Today the word 'vegan' has been accepted into everyday language and the vegan movement as a whole has gone from strength to strength. The Vegan Society now represents the UK's 250,000 vegans, has 7,000 members and it is increasingly common-place to find products labeled as 'vegan' – a testament to the foresight and faith of Donald's early approach.

Donald Watson - 1910 - 2005.



Tony Banks, former MP and dedicated fighter for the hunt ban

January 2006 saw the sad departure of one of the real champions of animal rights in the UK. Tony Banks, a former MP with over 20 years spent representing the constituents of West Ham (former constituency of Newham North West), and more recently a member of the House of Lords as Lord Stratford of Stratford (he had stated he would have preferred 'Lord Banks of the Thames'), passed away after suffering a stroke whilst on holiday in the US. He was just 62.

Tony was one of the too few-and-far-between MP's who wasn't afraid to stand up for what he believed him, and tell it like it was. A vegetarian who said he wouldn't eat anything with a face or a family, he was Vice-President of the League Against Cruel Sports and was so dedicated to a hunt ban that when he felt the Government may be endangering the legislation he threatened to resign his seat, thereby forcing a by-election on this issue. He retired as an MP in 2005 and his acceptance of a seat in the House of Lords, seemingly in the face of his previous support for calls to abolish it, was based on the fact that it allowed him to continue to support the causes he was passionate about.

Unfortunately his continuing dedication was not to be, but his supporters should take heart from the fact that he saw the realization of the hunt ban before his untimely departure. He was wise enough on this issue to realize that the ban itself would not be a 'quick fix' to the arrogance of the hunters but saw it more as a slow death, stating that 'Legislative progress is only one part of the whole process of a move towards a civilised society. It will be part of what I call 'the withering on the vine process'. Hunting will gradually disappear and it will be helped by legislation and enforcement'.

During his time in the House of Commons Tony commented that 'If animals could vote, I am quite sure I would have become prime minister by now.' Your friends at the HSA think you probably were right Tony. Thank you, and goodnight.

Tony Banks - 1943 - 2006

CAPTION COMPETITION

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



There's a trendy new HSA record bag up for grabs for the winner of the best caption



HOWL 85 CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER

'Is that a landrover snorkel sonny, or are you just pleased to see me?

Congratulations to the Winner Mr S. Claus of Greenland who wins a years supply of reindeer feed.

Get your crayons out ... it's the HSA 'Design a T-shirt' competition

That's right folks, we want **YOU** the HSA members to help design a new T-shirt.

What do you think would make a fit new piece of merchandise? A cutesy fox 'flipping off' the hunt or maybe a disembowelled huntsman with his partially eaten entrails cascading from his portly gut?



It really is up to you.

Blow up the template on the right and use that if you can be arsed.

As world-renowned tight-arses we'd prefer designs that can be produced using one or two colours, but if you send us something pukka in full colour, then who knows - maybe we'll go mad and print it.

The winner(s) will receive a T-shirt, New bag, mug and anything else they'd care to blag.



■ ...and as if that wasn't enough, we're after a new design for an Xmas card. Our previous best-seller is now looking a bit irrelevant as hunting has now been banned.....so get your crayons, paintbrushes or posh computer software out and get to it.

The winner will receive an array of glittering prizes (as above) and reserve their place in heaven.

CLUB DRAW ☆ WINNERS ☆

As part of our fundraising activities, the HSA operates a 'Club Draw' - Just like the National Lottery (except unlike them we wouldn't donate to 'worthy causes' like the Museum of hunting: Past, present and future) If you'd like to take part fill in the leaflet which should be included in your issue of Howl. If the slip is missing, just write to the HSA office and request an entry form.

SEPTEMBER 2005
1st F. Ford
2nd D. Dunbar
3rd E. Miles

OCTOBER 2005
1st M. Sutclifte
2nd N. Green
3rd Y. Letchford

NOVEMBER 2005
1st E. Miles
2nd P. Littmoden
3rd N. Green

DECEMBER 2005
1st P. Fenn
2nd M. Ashenden
3rd F. Ford

JANUARY 2006
1st D.Westwood
2nd C. Handcock
3rd C & E. Fletcher

FEBRUARY 2006
1st A. Laird
2nd P. Fenn
3rd L. Edwards

MARCH 2006
1st R. Lynch
2nd M. Fleming
3rd P. Fenn



THE FUTURE OF SHOOTING

- WHOSE ARGUING WITH WHO?

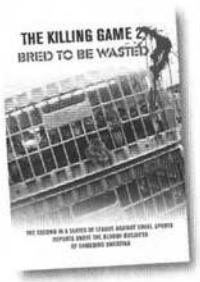


"The Hunting Act is unworkable and deeply flawed. However, the very existence of this law means that the stage is set for an unprecedented assault on shooting". *Simon Hart, Countryside Alliance.*

Since the Hunting Act, the shooting fraternity and their friends (which comprises of...The Countryside Alliance (CA), The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), The middle way group (MWG), The Game Conservancy Trust (GCT), and The Game Farmers Association (GFA) amongst others, have really been in a pickle, fearful that animal welfare groups could now turn their attention towards the cruelties of game shooting.



Both Animal Aid, and The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) unleashed reports that confirmed their worst fears, Animal Aid produced *Assault and Battery* a damning report into egg producing game birds being reared in conditions similar to those of battery hens (already being phased out across Europe), and *Fowl Play*, their case for a ban on sport shooting, whilst the LACS produced similar reports, such as *The Killing Game*, and *Bred to be Wild*. The HSA itself has campaigned for many years for an end to game shooting, and a long article on the subject was featured in *Howl 84*. This article is not to further explore the cruelties of shooting, but instead, to show how the shooters may be getting in a muddle in the race to get their stories straight.



The hunters had *years* to get their house in order, but their arrogance was their eventual undoing. The haste with which the shooting fraternity is racing to delay any bad press shows that they do take the threat much more seriously - which means its right now that their sport needs to be exposed, whilst their internal squabbling may leave weaknesses exposed.

After Animal Aids' footage of game birds being raised in appalling intensive units was plastered across the news in February 2005, the BASC controversially denounced the use of metal battery cage - seemingly abandoning thousands of their members, they declared that such units were "indefensible", and "incompatible with the values of BASC and the future of game shooting", describing scenes in Animal Aids' report as "awful" and "appalling".

'It's right now that their sport needs to be exposed, whilst their internal squabbling may leave weaknesses exposed.'

This is as unlikely as the CA ever agreeing with an HSA exposé, and shows the BASC's desperation to garner public sympathy. Yet, all around them, worse allegations had unfolded, often from people from the "Hunting/Shooting" faith, such as that of the dumping of dead game birds in mass graves.

"Compared with shooting or fishing, foxhunting is a kindly compassionate sport. Millions of pheasants are bred each year specifically for killing, and thousands of them are wounded rather than killed outright... landowners say they cannot give them away, and huge numbers of them end up buried in mass graves."
Alexander Chancellor, The Guardian, Dec 18th 2004

"Game is shot for food, and despite extensive investigation, no one has produced a scrap of evidence to support the allegations of dumping"
Helen Shakur, BASC.

"He said he lived "in dread" of hard evidence emerging of rumored bad practices, such as the burying of game birds".
Report by Jason Groves, Western Morning News, on David Fursdon, vice president of Country Land and Business Association, speaking at fringe Conservative party conference, Oct 2005.

The GFA then asked for their members to "show good intent towards meeting the minimum standards of enrichment set by the association" (i.e., get their house in order!). Animal Aid saw no evidence of this when they again filmed "laying units" in the second half of 2005. Then, in March 2005, the BASC, CA, The Country Land and Business Association, and other pro shooting groups, met to find a way forward. No statement on the meetings outcome has come out as yet.

The pro hunt Parliamentary Middle Way group decided to also stick an opinion in, and commissioned a report on the "wounding levels of shot foxes".

This was torn apart by the RSPCA, *and* the BASC, stating that the report was scientifically flawed in so many ways, that its conclusions were virtually meaningless (even though the report was supposed to be a comment on the ineffectiveness of the Hunting Act, it ended up as a seemingly *anti shooting* report.).

"James Barrington of the MWG criticizes both the BASC and the RSPCA for disagreeing with their seriously flawed fox shooting study...Professor Steven Harris of Bristol University, rejected the paper as being scientifically not worthy of publication, even with substantial revision."
Dr John Harradine, BASC, Letter to Western Morning News, Dec 20th 2005. (It is interesting to note that the Middle way Groups' Jim Barrington used to work for the League Against Cruel Sports, and Steven Harris has a been a consistent opponent of fox hunting!).

Seemingly, people previously on the "same side" are either attacking other shooting groups, or actually agreeing with bloodsports opponents, to suit their own ends. Whilst this internal wrangling goes on, it will be interesting to see whether these disparate organizations will eventually realize that they are stronger as one, and form a new "CA" style organization, such as when the British Fields Sports Society re-branded and re-named itself, to show a more united front, as the threat to their sport became real. But we still have a long way to go, the Labour party has recently cosied up with the shooting fraternity, and we have a long struggle before MPs will treat shooting with the same consideration as they have treated hunting.

"You are trying to misrepresent our intentions or put up facetious arguments to restrict, limit or completely ban or outlaw, the legitimate sports of shooting or angling.... we have produced comprehensive charters on how we think the sports of angling and shooting can thrive and prosper".
Labour MP Martin Salter, in response to the LACS Douglas Batchelor, at Labour Conference fringe meeting, Brighton, Sept 2005.

"The Labour manifesto commitment on shooting is a commitment that the sport will flourish"
Labour Rural Affairs Minister Jim Knight, July 18th 2005

NEW ALLIANCE SAB SMEAR CAMPAIGN

In an obvious sign that the HSA is still being a thorn in the side of the hunters, the CA, in typical form, has decided to spend some more of its resources on maligning sabs/monitors. Various sab groups around the country discovered this season that hunts had suddenly decided it was illegal to film children. Given that the HSA and other anti hunt groups have continually pointed out that taking young children to see animals killed is tantamount to abuse, it seems strange that they are suddenly so worried for the welfare of their offspring.

In Kent, supporters of the **East Kent FH** jumped straight in to this campaign, claiming that it was "sinister" for sabs to be filming children at "cubbing " meets, in a volley of letters to the local press. **The Wye Beagles** then complained to the police that sabs were "frightening" to their children. This seems ironic somehow, when thinking of a previous serious attack on sabs at another Kent hunt a few years ago, the terrier thugs launched an unprovoked attack on sabs in front of screaming pony club child riders...! It was also reported that the **Clifton on Teme** hunt were actually encouraging their children to run in front of sabs/monitors cameras, as the whole hunting world seemed convinced this was illegal/or, that we are *well* dodgy people. It has never been illegal to film children, but this is irrelevant to us, as that's not what we are there to do. And they know that.

Then on 23rd of September 2005, an interesting article appeared in *Horse & Hound* - "New breed of sabs disrupts lawful hunts". As always, the CA seemed desperate to convince the public that sabs were only at hunts in order to cause trouble, but now, under the ban, they had to change tactics. "They call themselves Hunt Monitors, and claim their aim is to ensure the Hunting Act is adhered to"ran the article, but according to *H and H*, we are there to "try to engineer situations that might lead hunts to inadvertently break the law".

Surrey Union FH Master Mark Sprake was visited by sabs who purportedly were "following the drag layer, and spraying where he had been, eventually trying to take the scent doused sock from him by force....". He stated "The obvious solution is that they hoped to force us into a situation where we accidentally break the law".
Those honest and decent trail hunting law abiding folk of the **Crawley and Horsham FH** have had similar problems - Master Anthony Sandeman stated "You have to ask yourself why, if they are coming out as hunt monitors, they are dressed in balaclavas, carrying sticks, sprays and whips, with a clear intent to intimidate and provoke?
If anyone were to walk down the main street in Horsham dressed in similar attire and *video minors*, they would be arrested on the spot". Just like if any other members of the public openly broke a new law every week, and bragged about it, they would also be arrested on the spot. I agree, something is not right here Anthony.

But, of course, they need the police to protect them from these "thugs"? Prior to the Hunting Act, Surrey/Sussex police seemed to have unlimited funds to prevent sabs saving animals, but now, when there is the chance that hunts might be breaking the law..."We cannot justify hanging about at every hunt on the basis that violence might break out...foxhunting is not a priority for Surrey police" said a Surrey police spokesman.

The article was also accompanied online by a photograph of a "sab", complete with balaclava, jeans, and Barbour jacket! Seemingly running at the brave photographer with an iron bar, with what looked like a housing estate in the background. When I checked back to see this photo, it had been replaced by one of hounds jumping a fence! With the line - "The original photo used to illustrate this story online, was a staged image, and we apologize for not including a caption that stated so when it was first published".

All that "trouble" from sabs for over 40 years, and yet they are still not able to take a real photograph of us. Sophie Hill - Shame on you!

Who is 'Felix the Fox'?

Ok, hands up, who has seen the logo - the sinister black fox silhouette, with two fingers raised, usually accompanied by the 'fight the ban' (FTB) logo? As a t-shirt design, it now seems to grace many a thug's inflated chest, and I was curious to know who was behind it.

So with a bit of simple investigation the mastermind behind the creation of Felix was uncovered and turned out to be an estate agent, the son of Wiltshire Conservative politician Toby Sturgis, a gentleman by the name of **Rupert Sturgis**.

Young Rupert is based in Cirencester, where he works for *Knight Frank Estate Agents* (Cirencester Sales, Gloucester House, Dyer Street., Cirencester, GLoustershire, GL72PT. Tel. (01285) 659771 Fax. (01285) 659408)

In his spare time, with a group of 'unnamed' friends, he created 'FTB' (www.fightthеban.com). In his words 'It's all about keeping awareness of the hunting issue going, keeping people together, and fighting - it's very much a young people's thing and we've been bowled over by the reaction from supporters'. So far, so good, it's good that Rupert has a hobby. But what else has Rupert been up to?



Various 'stunts' have been arranged, where Rupert (or one of his chums) dress up in their fox costume and photograph themselves in various parts of the country. They appear at pro hunting events, such as the trial of the 'Westminster 8', where Otis Ferry and others invaded the House of Commons, and a demo against then Rural affairs Minister Alun Michael, where 'Felix' was arrested for Disorderly Conduct, but luckily for Rupert, someone else was dressed up that day!).

Felix has also been posing in various parts of the world (Prague, Rome, Tobago, Malaya, Egypt etc, as Rupert says 'its about having fun!'). Other stunts include erecting 'To Let' signs at Labour party offices and other properties connected with Tony Blair; a 'squirrel hunt' in London's Connaught Square; a 'Fox Aid' concert at his family home in Somerset, with a disco, fairground, camping, steel band and with a hope that his old army buddy pop star James Blunt would top the bill. Well, James Blunt couldn't make it, but I'm sure they had a great time anyway.

On 4th January 2006, *The Western Daily Press* came up with a story headed 'Your chance to shoot a cheetah - One click from fox hunt website'. It seems that Rupert and co. were keen to promote not only the killing of British wildlife, but also that of other countries. In July, the paper exposed the FTB's website as being involved in selling advertising space for other forms of hunting; in this case it was trophy hunting in southern Africa.

When the paper broke the story, Rupert quickly pulled the ads. But just after Christmas, the link reappeared, with a new 2006 price list, where hunt supporters in the UK were encouraged to kill a long list of game animals in Africa, and even have their trophies stuffed and flown to the UK.

Amongst the animals on offer are leopards and cheetahs (at a cost of around £1,300 per animal, on top of a flat fee of £150 a day to take part). The costs to shoot giraffes, wildebeests, ostrichs or zebra is so expensive, prices are only available on request.

A spokesperson for Felix stated that their site merely had adverts "arranged" for them by google, which simply fitted adverts of the above kind to websites based on simple linked words, in this case the word "hunting". So it's not really their fault is it? A website hosted by hunting fanatics whose idea of "protest" is to spend the best part of the year at sunny tourist destinations around the world, occasionally posing for the odd photo, would never be interested in blasting wild animals apart in sunny tourist destinations, now would they?

On 05/10/05, Felix was contacted by PC Tony Day, from Mid Sussex Police. It appears FTB supporters have been busy round the country, "stickerblasting" the countryside, buildings and roadsigns with FTB stickers, something that got the CA into hot water a while ago. PC Day pointed out that there was an offence of "interefering with street furniture", and it was also highly dangerous to spray paint roads with the FTB logo.

Felix published the email on the website, to show he did not "condone illegal actions" and of course, in the hope that it wouldn't backfire and encourage his supporters on to even *more* acts of rural vandalism.

Last but not least, Felix has also set up a FTB Support fund, to assist with the payment of legal fees for those prosecuted under the Hunting Act. From this section of the FTB website it asks 'What do you need when you take your dog for a walk? Answer - Your solicitor's phone number!'

This is followed by yet more bullshit about dog walkers under threat of arrest. '...find out the telephone number of a local firm of solicitors (which do legal aid work)....ring them, and wait until a lawyer arrives, before saying anything to the police, *however nice they are*! Even if you are a millionaire, you get free representation at a police station. So go on, have one on Tony!'

I'd say stick to what your good at Felix and let us know when you find out what that is.

THE BROWN HARE

It is thought that the brown hare was introduced to Britain by the Romans in the first century AD, however, fossil evidence suggests that the animal was with us in the Iron Age. Whenever they arrived they quickly spread and populated all lowland areas of the country, displacing the smaller mountain hare, pushing them to areas of 500 metres above sea level as they did so.

The brown hare population had its heyday in Victorian times, gamekeepers at this time cherished them, and with a combination of land enclosure and predator control, their numbers blossomed to an estimated four million. During these times the hare was steeped in folklore, although shy and majestic they were thought to be magical and a player of sinister tricks. One explanation for this image may well have been the behaviour of the 'mad March hare', standing on its long back legs ready to box. Today, of course we know that often this is the attempt of a female hare to ward off the unwanted advances of a male.



Brown hares are twice the size of rabbits and are distinguishable by their long black tipped ears, almost yellowish fur and their powerful hind legs. These limbs allow them to reach speeds of 50mph and run in skirmish patterns and to leap in the air to evade predators. Their eyes are set high on the sides of the head affording them an almost 360 degree field of vision. The brown hare is a herbivore and along with the rabbit will eat its own droppings allowing food to pass through the digestive system twice.

They live there entire lives above ground in a shallow depression known as a 'scrape' or 'form' and flourish in the drier eastern areas of Britain, particularly Lincolnshire and Norfolk. Changes in farming practises over the last century have threatened their numbers, hares depend on suitable habitat, and the removal of hedges to create huge fields has not helped them. Vast areas of wheat and barley are of no use to a hare once it has grown past 30cm, as above this height the crop is out of reach.

The doe will normally give birth to three or four young above ground and in so doing they will never really enjoy the same security as rabbits born under ground in a burrow. Leverets are, however, born more developed, fully furred and able to run, which is as well as the mother will leave them during the day, returning at dusk to feed them. Naturally, during daylight hours this leaves them vulnerable to predation, in the form of foxes, stoats and birds of prey. Consequently, the survival rates can be quite low.

Mating begins in January and will proceed a gestation period of 42 – 44 days, the doe can produce up to four litters a year. Remarkably, the doe can be fertilised while still pregnant, which under favourable condition can rapidly increase their numbers.

The Game Conservancy estimates that anything up to 400,000 hares are shot every year in Britain by our 'conservation minded sportsmen'.

HARE COURSERS - NO FRIENDS OF THE POLICE?

So, a new law....and no prosecutions yet, against a background of blatant illegal hunting! But, as was barely mentioned on the 19th Feb last year (the date of the start of the Hunting Acts enforcement), two hare coursers were arrested for coursing, charged and convicted under the new Hunting Act. Of course, *before* the Hunting Act, coursing on land with the owner's permission was allowed, but no longer, *any* coursing has now been banned. Simple as that, caught red handed, it's a fair cop style....so why do the police turn away when confronted by other blatant illegal hunting? Do they have a thing about hares? Or could it be the *nature* of the people who hunt hares...?

Whilst sabbing this season, we have found on a couple of occasions when police officers are already lurking around the countryside, strangely not looking for us like in the past, but apparently looking for coursers. Now of course, there are no "loopholes" in the Act with regards to coursing, it's illegal, simple as that. But a newspaper article caught my eye in October...it seems that in Kent, the police had organised special patrols at the end of 2005, and have apparently caught "numerous illegal hare coursers, in the Swale area". The police team even had a name for their operation (Operation Tree, based in Faversham), which not only supplied landowners with an emergency number to call, "the minute that illegal coursers are spotted on their land", but also to identify possible offenders before they reach their destination.

Patrols are also monitoring traffic via roadside checks in and around areas where hare coursing has been prevalent. PC Darren Walshaw stated "Hare coursing relates to many problems experienced by the rural community... often crops are destroyed by vehicles trespassing on land, and fences are cut down...and there is a link between hare coursing and burglaries from sheds and outbuildings..." (would have been interesting to watch him say all that to the baying thugs and mutants at the last Waterloo Cup!!).

So, it seems that coursers are singled out. Not because they kill hares for fun, but because they are also responsible for many rural crimes.....
Could it be that coursers are just easier to catch and prosecute and I'm sure I'm correct in saying, that the majority of coursers are "working class", unlike the majority of Judges/Magistrates/Landowners/Masons who have pompously stated from horseback that they would risk imprisonment rather than give up the chase? (if only!).

If the police would use the same tactics to monitor rogue foxhunters, we may have seen some successful prosecutions by now...but of course, foxhunters don't "steal from outhouses", like the grubby little working class.

Is this still a CLASS WAR? *Please*, prove me wrong.

Information sourced from Kent on Sunday, Oct 22nd 2005

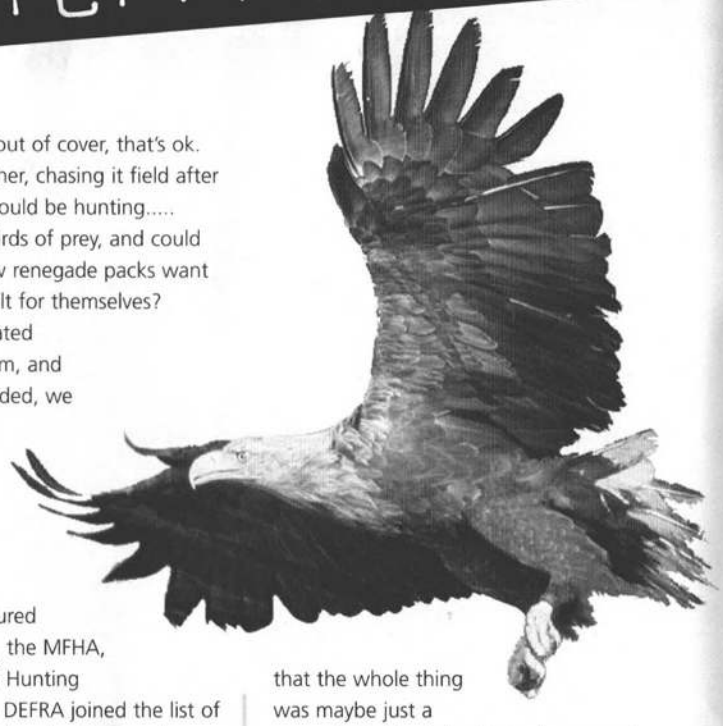




HUNTING

WITH BIRDS OF PREY -

LAST YEARS PUBLICITY STUNT?



It was with no great surprise that I saw hunts stoop to such a low level after the ban, when they suddenly announced last year that a legal loophole was to be found within the Hunting Act, and that they were to exploit the section reserved to enable those connected with falconry, to continue with their own "sport", and would not be prosecuted under the Act.

The purpose of this article is not to discuss the rights or indeed wrongs of Falconry, but to see how the hunters tried to twist the Act's details for their own sordid pleasure, or maybe just to keep their sorry arses in the public eye...

The reports of hunts using birds of prey started towards the end of last years traditional "cubbing" season, when in September, *The Guardian* reported that it believed that around 30 hunts had bought birds of prey (chiefly golden eagles and eagle owls, at a cost of around £6000 each!). This meant that they could "flush" a fox from cover with an "unlimited" number of hounds so that the bird could chase it (rather than using the maximum of two hounds, that the Hunting Act has made law). It was supposed to be initially a "secret" which hunts were testing this tactic, but it soon became clear who the offenders were (such as the Cattistock,the Fernie, North Cotswold and Avon Vale) and the many photographs of redcoats with huge birds of prey on their arms, made for great press. But very quickly, things began to go wrong for these particularly bloodthirsty and assumedly now rather skint packs.

Trouble started when the Hawk Board turned their attention onto the rogue packs. According to Jim Chick (chairman of the Hawk Board), "Hunting and Falconry may be equally ancient field sports, but they are not compatible... the problem is the word "flush". If you move a fox out of cover, that's ok. But going any further, chasing it field after field, that surely would be hunting..... horses don't like birds of prey, and could bolt. Why do a few renegade packs want to make life difficult for themselves? We have disassociated ourselves from them, and warned that if needed, we will be hostile witnesses (if called to court to give evidence against a hunt)".

Similar hostility poured forth from the CA, the MFHA, and the Council of Hunting Associations. Then DEFRA joined the list of detractors, stating that the "exemption does not, in DEFRA's view, allow the use of token birds of prey to let hunting with dogs to continue... employing (whether or not released to hunt) a bird of prey which does not ordinarily hunt that particular wild animal (would be illegal), because in our view, it suggests that the flushing was not for the purpose of enabling the bird of prey to hunt the mammal".



So, even with their own side turning against them, in typically arrogant style, the use of prey birds continued, but does seem to have petered out towards the main part of this season, this maybe to do with the fact that it is a much better tactic to be used only for the cubbing time, possibly in terms of safety. Yet, at the Fernie hunt, falconer Philip Miles suggested in an interview with *The Telegraph* newspaper that the whole thing was maybe just a ruse..."He's (the falcon) caught a couple of rabbits, but I haven't trained him to catch a fox yet...you have to train them to catch *anything*, that's why so few survive in the wild". In the case of the Cattistock hunt, the wildlife officer PC Snelling of Dorset Police, himself an expert falconer, told the hunt its falcon was not large enough to realistically take a fox, and therefore using it was a not a legitimate way to get around the ban. He said "I would seriously question whether having an eagle owl would be a legitimate defense. An eagle owl would be able to take a fox, but they only hunt when they are hungry, and unless they are starving, would not take a fox".

Along with (so far, unsubstantiated) rumors that birds of prey have been killed at hunts whilst being used for this purpose and of course the welfare issues raised by carting around a bird of prey in a box on the back of a quad bike. The whole thing seems to be an act of desperation and should only lead to grief for the hunts concerned. More importantly, the tightening up of this loophole, if (and hopefully WHEN) the Government makes time to readdress the Act's weaknesses.





The last season (2004/5) saw unprecedented violence from hunt thugs all around the country, which was no surprise; given that it was the season the Hunting Act finally became law. Hunt saboteurs were faced with mounting violence from hunt staff, riders and supporters from season start to finish, and one of the worst hit areas was Essex. This timeline shows the remarkable level of violence those months meted out onto the brave sabs of that county, with the follow up court cases, and recent outcomes.

7TH FEB 2004
2 saboteurs receive hospital treatment for head injuries after being attacked at a meet of the Essex Foxhounds at Nether Hall, Essex, (one sab receiving 4 stitches). The sabs claimed they were attacked by riders when trying to stop a dig out.

18TH NOV 2004
Hunting ban is announced after vote in Parliament.

20th NOVEMBER 2004
Essex Farmers at Hazeleigh Hall whilst trying to attack sabs who have taken control of the hounds, intimidate and almost attack a police officer.

4TH DEC 2004
Sabs attacked and whipped by mounted huntsmen by balaclava wearing terrier men at Essex farmers and Union Hunt at Roundbush, dead fox thrown to hounds in front of sabs.

11TH DEC 2004
A saboteur is taken to hospital possibly needing surgery after his wrist is broken in two places allegedly by a terrier man from the Essex hunt, armed with a cudgel. The hunt had met at Tile House Farm, Thaxted and saboteurs were warned at the day's start by the huntsman that "They were going to get fucking hurt today". The hunt staff also later attacked the sabs. (The terrier man in question, Jamie Purser, was cleared in Feb 2005 of causing ABH. He claimed he hit the sab in "self defence")



18th DEC 2004
A female saboteur is ridden down by a rider with the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt, at Broxted, near Great Dunmow, no charges are brought by police. Sabs then told by huntsman "Its no tea party - if you come out here, you know what to expect". Terrier man shows sabs baseball in his jacket at dig out and two sabs are arrested, and the fox is shot. Charges against sabs dropped.

31ST DEC 2004
At the East Essex Hunt, a redcoat points out a sab vehicle to a group of 30 thugs, who attack the vehicle injuring all of the 12 saboteurs and stealing sabbing equipment. 2 saboteurs arrested when trying to stop hunt dig out of fox from a drain –later they are de-arrested, as drain maintained by local council, meaning hunt had no right to interfere with it.

1ST JAN 2005
A pregnant saboteur is taken to hospital, after being ridden down and whipped at a meet at Woolards Ash, Hatfield Broadoak. Countryside Alliance regional representative Liz Mort sends out communiqué to local press, claiming attack did not happen.



9TH FEB 2005
Saboteurs driven into by terrier man of Essex Farmers and Union Hunt on quad bike, then attacked and whipped by rider. One sab falls to ground, and is driven at again, and hit by box on quad. The group's vehicle is later damaged, both wing mirrors are smashed. The huntsman, Simon Upton, is later found guilty on three counts of assault and ordered to pay over £1,500 in fines and costs.

12TH FEB 2005 *(LAST SATURDAY BEFORE HUNTING ACT IS ENFORCED)*
Saboteurs are attacked at meet of the Essex Foxhounds, at Little Bardfield, Essex. Within half an hour of the hunt's start, a van wing mirror was smashed, a sab's finger was broken by a rider's whip, a group of approx 40 thugs ambushed a group of sabs, another sab had his head held under water in a stream, and a 28 year old female sab was repeatedly kicked in the head. The police arrested only one hunt supporter after more than an hour (charges dropped), as well as a sab whose glasses were broken in an attack by thugs, who was taken by police out of the back of an ambulance. No case to answer when it came to court.

5TH MARCH 2005
A member of the Essex Farmers and Union hunt is arrested, after a sab is hit on the head by a riding crop, at Steeple near Maldon, Essex. Terrier men also drove into and punched other sabs.



12TH MARCH 2005
A master of the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt (Douglas Hill) is arrested on suspicion of causing 2 counts of ABH, assaulting a police officer, disorderly conduct, and Criminal Damage. As well as spitting blood into an officer's face at Runsell Green, near Maldon, after a sab is struck by a whip several times, leading to a suspected broken wrist and concussion. Another sab is beaten up during the day. A rider warns sabs earlier in the day, "One of you is going to get it today. One of you is really going to get it".

17 TH SEPTEMBER 2005
A sabs vehicle is rammed by a horsebox, at the Essex and Suffolk Hunt, at Great Bromley - hunt staff also attack the vehicle and its occupants, with sabs receiving head and rib injuries. Police temporarily detain one sab as they try to get video evidence of suspected illegal hunting, also seizing sab's footage from the day.

5TH OCTOBER 2005
A saboteur is arrested at the Essex and Suffolk Hunt, near Hadleigh, Suffolk, after trying to capture video evidence of illegal hunting. The sab is later released without charge.

15TH OCTOBER 2005
At Essex and Suffolk Hunt, a sab Landrover is set upon by hunt supporters and "stewards", the sabs are pulled out of the vehicle and thrown to the ground.

19TH NOV 2005
Spectator journalist out with sabs in Roxwell, Essex. Hunt supporters throw stones and shout threats. The journalist wrote "I was sure we were going to be attacked. I imagined myself going down in a hail of fists, pleading for my life".

GROUP NEWS

SOUTH EAST

Approaching any new season isn't a great feeling. And for **East kent** sabs this was no different! After all the agro of last season, it was with great trepidation that we returned to our old friends, the EAST KENT FH. Turning up at their first 'cubbing' meet of the season, sabs were unsure what to make of the scene-hounds in full cry, so, just in case, called in the plod - only to discover that the hounds were on the trail of a scent laid by a quad bike!

The police did arrive (apparently nearby, looking for hare coursers), and seemed satisfied that they were indeed trail hunting (us calling the police really pissed them off though, with the hunt releasing a press release, and an immediate smear campaign against us ensued in the local press letters page -but being referred to as paedophiles still hasn't put us off, but does reek of desperation!). The hunt continued in this vein for the rest of the season, (with us attending nearly all of their Saturday meets), even attaching a sign to the quad, saying 'East Kent Trail Hunting!'- If only they could all be like this, but the hunts support has already dwindled, with one meet only attracting 10 riders, which set off alarm bells - where were the others?

Meanwhile, the WYE BEAGLES were very unhappy to see us, calling the police, and claiming that we had iinvaded the kennels!' After the police came and blocked us in, we asked them to maybe check the kennels CCTV for evidence of this misdemeanor - they couldn't be bothered though, so we went to the meet, and watched the beagles totally ignoring the Jimmy Saville look-alike OAP running along dragging a scent. Later in the day, the Beagles took off after a hare, and streamed straight across a busy road, with the hunt desperately trying to control them, the staff now all appear to be under 20, and are really nothing more now than an embarrassing joke.

The WEST ST. AND TICKHAM FH were also appalled at our presence, and seemed very uneasy about leaving the meet, but eventually did, again, with a tiny field, and promptly disappeared into the distance, with their handful of support blocking us in. We caught up with them later, and they did seem to be trail hunting, but like the other hunts, packed up mercifully early, being only out for around three hours.

The ASHFORD VALLEY FH proved to be a problem from the start. An early kennel watch left us blocked in outside a farmhouse, by two thugs and a tractor, which then followed us at high speeds around the area, but luckily eventually vanished, as did the hunt. Finding them another day with a lot of support, they did seem to be trail hunting, but had a convoy of thugs with them, who meanwhile, we suspect, were possibly digging out in a nearby wood.



A community-minded sab helps remove some illegal fly-posting

Back to the EAST KENT FH towards the seasons' end at a meet on the CRUNDALE estate, where sabs were ambushed twice last year, leading to many injuries. In a staggering display of confidence, even with a police presence, the thugs were at the meet, masked up with baseball bats...even more remarkably, the police turned a blind eye, and after an hour, vanished, to leave sabs at the thugs mercy...so, rather than provide the thugs with a good days sport, we left, safe in the knowledge, that at least we spoilt their fun this time! The 18th brought the BBC out, but an uneventful day was had, with the EAST KENT FH low in numbers again, and the ASHFORD VALLEY FH losing our tail yet again.

Since the beginning of the cubbing season and our observations on the CRAWLEY & HORSHAM FH, **Croydon** sabs have had quite a testing season though remarkable in that no one got nicked or beaten from September to March! We have concentrated on the OLD SURREY & BURSTOW FH (OSB) and the SOUTHDOWN AND ERIDGE FH, both of who hunt quite normally when not watched. At their meet on Firle Beacon the SOUTHDOWN & E. FH didn't realize for an hour we were



Southern sabs keep a watchful eye on the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent FH

watching them hunt right through a bank of gorse. When the penny finally dropped a supporter drove away a high speed, only to return 10 minutes later with a rag, rope and a bottle of smelly liquid!

Throughout the season we have maintained a discipline of monitoring rather than sabbing, which has proved hard at times as we have found levels of intimidation quite high. With a pick-up truck full of thugs following us around at the OSB FH and badged security shadowing monitors at the CRAWLEY & HORSHAM FH. Never the less the video camera is proving more effective than a hunting horn used to be in sabotaging fox hunts despite their efforts to prevent us from filming.

In December, we stopped the OSB FH digging out close to their Ketche's farm meet in Sussex. They claimed they were digging for rabbits - in a fox earth! We pointed out on camera that it was unlikely a rabbit would seek sanctuary in a fox earth and after much threatening they withdrew the terrier and left the area!

In January, lunatic OSB FH joint master Graeme Worsley got very irate with us being on what he saw as private land and started pushing one of us around. When the rest of the group arrived at the scene he suddenly thought better of it as he realized it was now his turn to get pushed from one sab to the next (allegedly).

BY the last couple of months we were seeing the SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE FH galloping off at every opportunity to avoid being filmed i.e. not hunting. The CRAWLEY & HORSHAM FH using ever more security to prevent filming and tussling with sabs over use of footpaths, and the OSB FH were found to be being hunted by the first whipper-in (who is leaving the hunt for the WEST NORFOLK FH in May). This usually signifies that the huntsman, Bycroft has taken a tumble and can't ride, which means he can't hunt of course, but he occupies himself with sab baiting instead, stirring up the ape-like support in the process.

At their Walters' Green meet in Kent at the beginning of March we saw a fox running to cover and the hunt milling around the copse cracking whips etc. We were heavily out numbered and prevented from getting close but we are sure they had just killed illegally. Their behaviour was a further give away as they tried to get into our vehicle and intimidate us out of the area.

All our packs seemed to finish at their usual time this season and we look forward to the news of a possible hunt closure in the area and of two beagle packs merging in the spring. Our group will be discussing tactics for the next season over the summer along with a possible merger of our own with **Brighton** sabs. As always thanks to them and the **Hastings** posse for all the long journeys.



Spotty Eton posh boy attempts to lay trail

SOUTH

The latter half of the season has involved new tactics for **Reading**. With most hunts only trail hunting on a Saturday and illegally hunting at all other times, we've split into two teams, introducing a hardcore midweek crew. Teaming up with **Southampton** and **West london**, we've attended the VALE of AYLESBURY, GARTH and SOUTH BERKS, the HAMPSHIRE and the VINE and CRAVEN regularly and assorted other hunts as and when.

Tensions are high and violent incidences are on the increase, as the bumpkins realize that they're loosing support. As usual, the cops aren't interested in assaults on us but pull out all the stops to harass sabs when the hunt complains. Same old shit! This crew is looking forward to a long hot summer of fun including a certain amount of mink hunt harassment. Lots of love, Reading sabs.

Southampton sabs have had a varied season, with different hunts visited reacting differently. Some have abandoned any hunting activity when we have been present and taken to following a trail. In some instances we observed the change take place as we arrived and in others we believe they may have planned to carry out 'lawful' activities in the first place. However, there is no accounting for so-called accidents when a trail is laid through a covert so vigilance has been the key. Others have tried to give us the slip and settle down to hunting or carry on hunting as if we were not there. For the most part, the camera is proving to be a useful tool to sabotage a hunt easily. Point it and they stop hunting! We have also had to indulge in a little bit of 'old fashioned' sabbing when the circumstances demanded it.



North and East London sabs stop a dig-out

We have had the pleasure of providing transport for some of our neighbouring groups from time to time, and occasionally blagged the same from the **Reading** group. Hunts covered in the main season include the CATTISTOCK FH, (whose huntsman ditched his red jacket on one occasion to avoid detection - see overleaf for more), HAMPSHIRE HUNT (who attempted to pull people out of the vehicle), PORTMAN FH, SOUTH DORSET FH, SURREY UNION FH (yawn), TEDWORTH FH, V & C FH and even the ETON BEAGLES. At the start of December we were blocked in and subjected to an attack by supporters of the PORTMAN FH, who left us with some new dents in the Land Rover's body, but luckily none in any of the sabs' bodies. The cameras proved in that case to be a lifesaver for sabs rather than wildlife. The police have had little luck in tracing the perpetrators, despite full-face video of them.



Daemon Edwards, Vine & Craven FH Master gets in a tizzy with Southampton sabs

We finished the season with a midweek trip to the SOUTH DORSET FH with the **Dorset** group. Despite their best efforts to give us the slip, wherever this diminished hunt twisted and turned we appeared and they had to keep up the pretence of following a lure. Summer may see us embarking on a few mink hunts.

SOUTH WEST

On December 31st, just three sabs from **Pewsey Vale** followed the AVON VALE FH, filming them illegally hunting all day. They intervened only once to cover a fox's scent, when the huntsman hunted back and forth through a wood to find a fox he had seen, the fox got away.

Early in the New Year, a group of sabs from **Bristol**, **Bath** and **Pewsey Vale** made an unexpected visit to the WILTON FH near Salisbury. They were hunting illegally, without realising that sabs were about, when it did dawn on them they rode right back to the meet!

By the end of January we were back with the AVON VALE FH and right from the start the hounds had blood on them. Later in the day we stopped a dig out when a fox ran to ground in a farmyard, simply by telling the farmer that police were on their way!

Next week we visited the WORCESTERSHIRE FH - as soon as we found them we took the whole pack for a run. Later the same thing happened, however, half of the group was set upon by supporters, and one sab needed hospital treatment.



Bristol and Bath sabs are subjected to a drunken, hand-waving rant

By February **Bristol** and **Bath** sabs put in an appearance at a midweek meet of the TEDWORTH FH and yet again caught them illegally hunting. The hunt got so excited about trespass that they called the cops themselves and then promptly packed up after just 90 minutes.

Another big trip to the WILTON FH proved less fruitful than the previous occasion, though we did put on a very successful benefit gig that night. By late February **Bristol** and **Bath** had a surprise visit to the SOUTH & WEST WILTS FH. This hunt hadn't seen sabs for a long time and we were able to preempt their movements and surprise them when they tried to hunt woods near the meet, they simply galloped off at speed missing several big coverts in the process, eventually they gave up and went home at 2:30pm. The police soon arrived and immediately demanded everyone's details (surprise!)

In early March sabs returned to the AVON VALE FH at their Spy Park meet, soon after the whipper-in allegedly smashed the van's wing mirror. The poor old eagle owl was seen bouncing around its box on the quad bike and its former keeper (ex HURSLEY HAMBLEDON FH huntsman) seems to have been promoted to a redcoat again. To end our season **Bristol** and **Reading** groups attended a joint meet of the TEDWORTH and the V & C FH and managed to take some of the hounds from right under the huntsman's nose!

Somerset sabs have spent the season monitoring various hunts in Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Hampshire and have only found one that was abiding by the law. Sabs have noticed much higher levels of aggression from the hunt supporters this season compared to previous ones.

Early in the season visits were paid to the EXMOOR FH, BLACKMORE & SPARKFORD VALE FH, CATTISTOCK FH, SOUTH DORSET FH, CULMSTOCK MH and the NEW FOREST BEAGLES. In the run up to Christmas, as well as repeated visits to the CATTISTOCK FH, sabs also paid a visit to the notorious PORTMAN FH who finished the day trying to kick their way into the Land Rover.

Over Christmas, discrete trips to the WEST SOMERSET FH and the CLIFTON FOOT BEAGLES were made to see what they were up to. More trips down to Dorset started the New Year as well as visits to the TAUNTON VALE FH and the mad bumpkins on the SEAVINGTON FH. With only moorland pack left out at the end of March, it looks like we'll be heading for the hills for the next month or so. Oh joy! Cheers to **Dorch'** sabs for shouting loudly and definitely not panicking when things were going tits up, and to **Southampton** sabs for erm - Punk rock!

NORTH

Since the end of last season came to an early end due to the ban, **North West HSA** have been spreading the word and raising money to keep the sab vehicle running.

September saw the usual very early starts as sabs looked for the CHESHIRE FOREST FH, a local fox hunt. It was a strange time watching a hunt that should normally be cubbing just walk round the fields with two foxhounds and a motley crew of support carrying shotguns. Both hunt and supporters looked quite bored, so no surprise then when the next time sabs we came across them they were using the old bird of prey excuse. The hunt have tried to use this excuse on many occasions, there but it was obvious that they had no intention of using the bird (a Harrier Hawk, whose normal prey is a rabbits!). Still we persisted on following the hunt round ready to film any indiscretion.



In October sabs were on the way to a hunt when they received a call for assistance at a DUCK SHOOT at Hoghton Tower, near Blackburn. When sabs caught up with the shoot, which numbered about 30, they had been shooting for about 15 minutes but already many birds had been slaughtered in the name of 'sport'. Sabs moved into the field straight away, and the shoot quickly came to a halt.

It was noticed that a pile shot ducks could be seen in the corner of the field, and as sabs with video cameras went to film the ducks it was obvious that not all of the duck were dead. So much for the birds being killed out-right, with the ones that are not being dispatched (have their necks broken) straight away. One sab then did the kindest thing and put the birds that were still moving out of their pain, he did this while the shooters looked on - as if nothing was wrong with the ducks in their eyes! The shoot then all made their way back to the road followed by the sabs. After a long wait in the pouring rain the shoot decided to call it a day.

A visit to HIGH PEAK HUNT in Derbyshire a week later found three police vehicles in attendance for the sabs present (**Manchester**, **Nottingham**, **Derby** and **Sheffield**). Sabs followed the hunt into the fields and were stopped by the huntsman and master, who came over to explain what they were going to be doing during the day! They said they were following a scent and we were more than welcome to stay and watch and follow them around the fields. It was all a bit surreal really. Halfway though the day they got onto the scent of a hare, the hounds lost the scent but the huntsman acted quickly to call them off anyways. He then went on to apologise about what had just happened! Sabs then spent the rest of the day watching, and a couple of times the huntsman and master came up and even asked which way the line had gone. They ended the day by thanking us for our help - you couldn't make this stuff up.

The next few weeks saw sabs alternating between the CHESHIRE FOREST FH and HIGH PEAK HUNT keeping an eye on what they were doing.

Once into November sabs kept the pressure on the CHESHIRE FOREST, and on one occasion even managed to stop a couple of people found rabbiting with their dogs en-route to the meet. Sabs from **Manchester** and **Liverpool** then arrived at the meet late to hear the pack in full cry, and went in to see what was happening. This direct approach wasn't appreciated by some of the hunt support, one of which seemed to particularly resent the fact that sabs were armed with video cameras. One sab present was assaulted and the video camera smashed. The assault was reported to the police, and investigations are ongoing. The day ended with sabs packing up a shoot – so a long day of dedicated action across all bloodsports was had!

Sabs continued to visit the CHESHIRE FOREST FH and HIGH PEAK HUNT through the dark winter months, also managing forays into North Wales and Cumbria to check on what various hunts were up to around the region and neighbouring environs.

February saw a memorable return visit to Derbyshire to check on what the HIGH PEAK HUNT were up to. This time we had a student film crew in attendance that filmed some very interesting events during the day. Shortly after arriving the hunt were caught in pursuit of a hare, (which did get away) and hunt staff could not believe their eyes when they saw a film crew stood in the gateway to a field filming the whole thing (see **www.nwhsa.org.uk** for clip). Footage obtained during the day included the hunt after hares, a hound running into a barbed wire fence, and different excuses as to what they were supposed to be doing on the day e.g. following a scent and hunting rabbits.



North West sabs force a duck shoot to finish early at Hoghton Tower, near Blackburn

As the end of the season approached sabs managed to find the elusive FOREST AND DISTRICT BEAGLES who were either just out for a walk, hunting rabbits or following a trail of coyote urine (!) depending who you asked. They were also found a couple of weeks later - this hunt must have been the smallest one ever - one huntsman, one whip and one supporter who gave up after 30 minutes. And all this in the snow, with gale force winds and freezing conditions. Nice.



Further visits were made to the HIGH PEAK HUNT to check on their claim to be trail hunting, and sabs are pleased to report that this claim did seem to hold water – with the regular attendance of sabs.

Also during March the **North West HSA** orchestrated a letter/e-mail campaign against three golf clubs in Manchester who threatened to cull flocks of Canadian Geese who were feeding on the greens. After a week they all said they all would now not be culling the birds, and would look at humane deterrents.

MIDLANDS

West Midland's sabs have seen our fair share of action this season, covering lots of local (and not so local) hunts and joining up with other groups, when needed.

We've been both monitoring and sabbing, whatever's been necessary to save lives and gather evidence of lawbreaking. Countless lives have been saved from the hunts visited – nearly all the hunts we've seen are blatantly flouting the ban.

Of course, like most groups, we've had our fair share of 'hostility' from the hunting community! Not enough to keep us away though! *Onwards we fight – united we stand!*

Monitors from our area have reported naughty antics from the infamous SOUTH SHROPSHIRE FH. On their first visit, Otis Ferry and his groupies were caught digging out a fox illegally. Ferry, realizing the whole event was being filmed by a monitor, allegedly dragged her away from the scene and ripped the camera from around her neck – tut tut! After a long debate and realizing they weren't going to budge, the dig was abandoned. Ferry concluded, 'it really wasn't worth it'.

The group again traveled to Shropshire to monitor their last meet of the season, at Easton Mascott. Clarissa Dickson was spotted riding pillion on a quad bike (poor quad bike)! The day ended with two riders hospitalized from falling. No known kills and two counts of Common Assault on the monitors, by angry landowners have been forwarded to the police. All in all a good day, more next time.

WALES

After a New Years Eve surprise for the GLYN CELYN BEAGLES involving some effective sabbing and some very angry and violent bumpkins, **South Wales** sabs saw in the New Year along with friends from **Bristol** and **Birmingham** with a visit to the GELLEIGER FARMERS FH. The group picked up the hunt on CB radios saying that a fox had just crossed the valley, and hounds were then taken to it, the group then heard the hunt say that they got the fox. Minutes later the sab land rover was surrounded by farmers on quad bikes who slashed one of its tyres. The police responded to a 999 call and arrested one of the supporters for criminal damage, telling them that they would have to pay for a new tyre. The supporter (below) was not charged in the end and so did not pay for the repair.



Later while sabs were out with the GOLDEN VALLEY FH, filming them illegally hunting, three of them were assaulted and their camera smashed. A police helicopter soon arrived and a violent supporter was arrested and spent 12 hours in a cell - this one does still face charges.

A week later the group were across the border filming the activities of the COTSWOLD VALE FARMERS FH when once again they were attacked and had a camera stolen, on this occasion the police took no action. At the end of January the group traveled to a request by **Midlands** sabs for help on the WORCESTERSHIRE FH, as soon as they found the hunt they managed to take the pack away from them and off for a run, the response from the huntsman was to ride off into the distance.

By early February the group along with **Bristol** were enjoying a great day with the MONMOUTHSHIRE FH. They successfully stopped them hunting through woods and crops through the day, saving a fox in the process, cracking whips to stop the hounds that were right behind it.

A week later and sabs from all over Wales attended a meet of the GELLEIGER FARMERS FH in response to their treatment earlier in the season; they were also accompanied by a Channel Four journalist. Towards the end of the day the group had great success when they found six gunmen from the hunt surrounding a clump of gorse that a fox had run into to hide from the hounds.



Worrcester sabs stumble upon a quality placard

Determined to stand their ground, the sabs managed to force the hunt to withdraw and leave the fox alone. On the anniversary of the hunt ban **South Wales** and **Bristol** sabs returned to the COTSWOLD VALE FARMERS FH and managed for an hour and a half to halt a dig-out, before back-up arrived and they resumed digging. The following week we paid our first visit for years to the LEADON VALLEY BASSETTS, and what fun we had, packing them up in 45 minutes! To end the season sabs had a successful day on the CVF FH again, using horn calls and a gizmo to take the pack from the hunt and leading them away from a fox they had been chasing. Later on, the whipper-in tried to steal a video camera and became very violent. Shortly after, eight cop cars and a helicopter arrived, not to police the hunt, but to police the sabs. No arrests were made despite their heavy-handed approach. It's a shame they don't have the resources to enforce the 'ban'!

Sabs from both these areas have been very active this season with members going out both on a Saturday and in the midweek too, often under very difficult circumstances.

CRACKS APPEARING AT THE CATTISTOCK

The CPS has decided not to pursue prosecutions under the Hunting Act against the Cattistock Hunt, despite claims by anti-hunt monitors that footage submitted clearly shows the hunt in pursuit of a fox. However, the frequent trips huntsman Charlie Watts has had to make to Dorchester police station with a solicitor in tow are obviously getting to him. At one meet in January, sabs in attendance found he had dropped his traditional red hunting jacket in favour of what looked like a green anorak.

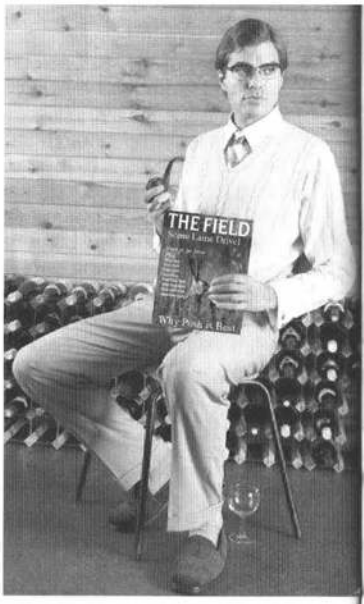


One sab said "The only reason we can think of for adopting this strategy is that he hopes he will be camouflaged and less easily spotted in any video footage of illegal hunting."

The Cattistock has faced several allegations of hunting this season and sabs who have visited the pack claim that it is "business as usual" at one of the most prestigious packs in the country.

In another move that may indicate the pressure is beginning to mount, senior Joint Master (and High Sherriff last year!) Charlotte Townshend has called it a day after over 20 years. We can only hope this indicates that the rot has set in and it is the beginning of the end.

Tales from far 'a field'



As regular readers of Howl will be aware, 'huntsmansballs' is a regular column – and with good reason. Indeed it often presents the editor with a nightmare as to how to cut down the potential pages of absolute drivel to fit the small space available. Hunting as we know it may be banned, but the hunters and their supporting infrastructure are desperately still clinging to their web of lies in the hope that we'll all suddenly realise that hunting is for the good of the fox after all...

So, it was with great surprise, that an article was spotted back at the start of the season that seemed to be telling it like it was, and which would certainly not be deemed to be 'on message' by those camped out in the Countryside Alliance press bunker. The article was in the November edition of *The Field* magazine, and it revealed not just one, but several, truths about the effect of the ban on the future of hunting. It seemed to be an attempt to confirm some hard truths to bloodsports fanatics – maybe in an attempt to get them to 'screw their courage to the sticking post' - but in doing so it seemed to confirm the reality of a post-ban hunting world, and one which can only make us 'antis' smile...And so what follows is a recap on the major points, to help spread the joy, and remind us that this really is the end – albeit that we still do have a sizeable sprint to the finish line.

'...It will be at least five years before there is any question of repeal'.
Brutal reality. Five long years, and then only a 'question' of repeal. And whilst David Cameron may be the new poster boy on the wall of many a hunt kennels now, should (god forbid) the Tories get in at the next election the revival of hunting will not be a priority. Especially as the corpse of hunting will do well to barely still have a pulse by then.

'Masters and hunt committees...[are beginning to] prepare for an uncertain future, and indeed some packs have already been reduced.'
That one undoubtedly was the cause of some serious swearing by Simon Hart! Admitting that any hunt has started to prepare for the worst is tantamount to admitting defeat – and the suggestion here is that we talking about several hunts, not just the one. Joy on this admission is of course tempered by the fact that the clinical language concerning packs 'being reduced' means hounds being shot. But we are hardened to this fact as hunt saboteurs, as we have always pointed out this disgusting fact to press and public at every given opportunity.

'He [Ian Farquhar MFH] says that most hunts have cut some staff and reduced their fixture list, but with an eye to keeping things going as successfully as possible.'
Cutting staff and reducing the meet card at the start of the *first season following a ban* seems a tad hasty – but of course totally welcome from our point of view! Calls to maintain the infrastructure of hunting so that the offensive pastime could continue once the 'silly law' was repealed seems to have fallen on deaf ears here. And those ears don't just belong to anyone you know, good ole Farquhar is a mate of Prince Charles don'tcha know?!

'For all the talk of 40,000 people being prepared to break the law and go to prison, it is pretty clear that most folk will not be prepared to go into the countryside on a regular basis and take part in something that is illegal. Which ever way you look at it, those who want to go hunting will, in the coming years, be paying to watch an artificial form of sport, a sort of faux hunting involving the chasing of old socks soaked in either aniseed or essence of hare or fox – the uncomfortable in pursuit of the undignified.'
Out of all the quotes pulled from the article, this is the one to copy out, laminate and stick in your wallet. What more validation of our efforts could we need?! And how very true – it's easy to say you'll stand up for what you believe in, and so much harder to actually do it. We should know after all, we've been doing it for over 40 years, and are hardly likely to give up until we know that the only thing being hunted is a sock. Bloodsports have been termed 'games for the gutless' in the past - and here we have the final confirmation. Gutless and ultimately unable to defend the indefensible. As a side note how hilarious is it that we have 'faux hunting' to replace 'fox hunting'... indeed when said with the right accent they're almost indistinguishable!

'Foxhound breeding...has been slashed. Whereas lowland mounted packs have reduced the number of litters they are breeding by around 50 percent, the fell packs have bred no litters of hound puppies at all this year.'
Another one to induce tourrettes syndrome in the lovely Mr Hart. Not a lot more to say on this one, as it really harks back to the previous idea of 'keeping the faith'. And it seems those at the heart of this 'sport' have the weakest faith of all.

'...the question facing the Master of Beagles is the same one that faces every other Master of Hounds: will sufficient people be prepared to come out into the field week after week for the next five or 10 years and pay to watch hounds hunting rabbits or old socks?'
We know that the answer here is a simple 'no'. But what an interesting question, especially the part that refers to '10 years' – it seems the author was getting either more depressed or more in touch with reality as s/he penned the article! A quote from Deborah Pratt, Master of the Stour Valley Beagles, was used here, who stated 'To maintain financial support for the pack we must find something legal which involves the whole pack and uses their natural abilities, and is enjoyable for and will be supported by our followers'. The answer for our Deborah, and for all other Master of Hounds, is drag hunting. And for the sake of clarity, what we don't mean here is 'trail hunting', as this requires the death of an animal in order to have something to a lay a trail with. The hunters may have missed the point of the legislation here, but any right minded person knows that the obvious way forward is to follow a false scent across a pre-planned interesting and varied ride (or walk for beagle packs). That's the future, and one that maybe the semi-enlightened author of 'The Field article will write about soon. Unless they've already been taken out the back of the CA offices in Kensington and shot of course. But then again, now they'd know the fate of your average hunting hound – age 7 years.

Nice 'feel good' article, but what's really happening?
Of course, it's easy to take heart from the above, but what we need is clear evidence from the field (rather than 'The Field') that things are really changing. If you believe the papers (which you really shouldn't, at least not without a healthy bucketful of doubt) then hunting continues as normal – across all packs and regardless of quarry.

The obvious place to look for reports on what's really happening up and down the country is on the 'Group News' pages within this issue of *Howl*, but from a personal point of view I can tell you this - in my area of the country (North-West) I've seen a few things this season that confirm to me that the end of traditional hunting as we know it is nigh. One mounted harried pack (admittedly one which had been crap for some time, but this was due to consistent sabbing attention – week in, week out) switched straight away to trail hunting – and who made no apologies about it. Another mounted harrier pack also switched to trail hunting, and their attitude to sabs switched from trying to ride them down on a regular basis (and indeed whacking one of them over the head the previous season with a whip – 7 stitches required) to one of utmost friendliness, even to the point of asking sabs to open gates as they were 'now playing by the rules'!!! Another hare hunt, this time a beagle pack, has seen a spectacular fall from grace, with support plummeting from a massive (!) 20 or so to a record-breaking 5 – and that was including hunt staff. At this hunt one supporter was heard telling a sab that support for hunting was at its highest – when the sab replied that she had sabbed the hunt several times previously and that it had involved more support pre-ban the supporter said the increase in support was true, as he had 'read it in the paper'. This pack was found on very unusual terrain for a beagle pack, and one not deemed to be conducive to hare hunting – maybe loss of hunting land is taking its toll, and quickly.

Not all hunts are suffering quite so obviously, but the signs are there if you have an educated eye. One mounted fox pack; quite a successful and efficient hunt previously, has had a change of huntsman, has been seen out with only half a pack, and has both a much-reduced field and car support in tow. This hunt continues to attempt to hunt traditionally under the cover of a bird of prey, but the immediate change in support and field will have a serious financial effect – and of course the presence of saboteurs to not only monitor its activities but also report it to both police and press will only serve to apply pressure to amend behaviour. This hunt was also typical this season in that it saw an attack by a hunt supporter on a person present to monitor what they deemed to be illegal hunting – with the destruction of the video camera used to capture evidence. An all too frequent occurrence this season throughout the country as we have seen both saboteurs/monitors and their cameras attacked on a regular basis.

And so, in conclusion, things on the ground from our point of view seem very much to be in line with what the all-too-revealing report in *The Field* suggests. Which is good for us, and very, very bad news for them. Not surprising that it should be this way, after all we have just achieved a ban on hunting (and never let that milestone pass you by – even on a bad day!), but such an honest article in a pro-bloodsports magazine is previously unheard of. Maybe, just maybe, those pesky hunters are starting to wake up and smell the coffee... but until they do really wake up and demand a soy decaf latte the fight goes on!

Hunting Situation in Scotland/Ireland

SCOTLAND

As is the case in England and Wales, hunting with dogs remains illegal, after attempts by the CA to overturn the law. The Protection of Wild mammals (Scotland) Act went through a similar long and torturous political route before it became law on August 1st, 2002.

Again, as was the case in England and Wales, the press has greedily leapt on to reports of wholesale slaughter of foxes, with hunts using the 'flushing to guns' clause, but since the ban, changes have occurred. For instance, the Berwickshire hunt has bought a pack of bloodhounds for drag hunting, a new drag hunt has been started up in Fife, the Dumfriesshire hunt has disbanded, and three prosecutions under the new law have taken place resulting in two guilty verdicts.

The Scottish courts have also thrown out CA attempts to show that the Act breaches human rights, with the judge dismissing the claim as 'incompetent'. One of the plaintiffs was Trevor Adams, who was one of those prosecuted under the law, after it was claimed he hunted a fox with 20 hounds. In this instance, he was found not guilty.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland is the only area of the UK where hunting is still legal. It is now up to the reconstituted Northern Ireland Assembly to legislate for the area to be brought into line with the rest of the UK, and for hares, foxes, and deer to be given the same protection they have on the mainland.

On the subject of hare coursing, a poll in 2003 showed 85% of rural people thought coursing was cruel. This is on the back of a temporary Special Protection order which prohibited the killing, taking, sale, or purchase of Irish hares, under the game preservation Act, in 2003. This was extended in 2004, but has now expired. During this time, it was found that there was an increase in the number of hares in Northern Ireland, making nonsense of the coursers claim that coursing is beneficial to the hare population.

■ **Sabs hold large Anti-hunt demonstration in Co.Waterford**



Over thirty members of the Association of Hunt Saboteurs and BadgerWatch Ireland protested at the St.Stephen's Day meet of the Waterford Foxhounds in Tramore Co. Waterford.

Speaking at the protest, John Tierney, Campaigns Director of the Association of Hunt Saboteurs said, " It is time for the Irish Government to act on the issue of wildlife protection. The majority of Irish people oppose gratuitous cruelty to wild animals and want political action to be taken to outlaw bloodsports."

A large Garda force was present to keep the opposing side apart but there were no incidents. After receiving a pre-hunt drink in a local hotel, the hunt left for the day's hunting.

Commenting on the UK ban on hunting, Mr. Tierney said, "Ireland has become one of the remaining countries in the world that permit the hunting of animals with packs of dogs."

"Hunting with hounds is a brutal activity. It exists solely for pleasure and entertainment. It has no role in conservation and the protection of wildlife."

Hunt Saboteurs also attended hunt meets around the country and prevented the deaths of many animals.



Legal News



LEGAL BRIEFS

Seven sabs arrested on the East Sussex and Romney Marsh originally charged with Violent Disorder have had charges reduced to Aggravated Trespass. Pre-trial review was held in April. Trial has been listed for September.

The terrierman from the Essex Foxhunt found himself in court in January charged with ABH following an incident where a sab suffered a broken wrist. He managed to persuade the court that he was acting in self defence and was acquitted.

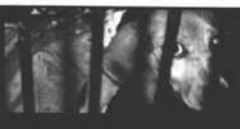
Seven sabs were arrested at the South Dorset in April on suspicion of ABH and Aggravated Trespass. No charges were brought and all the sabs were released on bail until June.

Sabs made a complaint to the police following an incident at the Essex and Suffolk foxhunt in September. After viewing video evidence the police arrested a hunt steward. Unfortunately they decided not to charge. A sab was also interviewed under caution but not charged.

A Suffolk and Essex sab suffered a broken nose after being headbutted by a gamekeeper at the Suffolk foxhunt. Police officers witnessed the incident and immediately arrested the bumpkin. He admitted an offence of ABH and accepted a caution.

A Master from the Essex Farmers and Union was convicted on 10 March of a number of offences following an incident in March 2005. Dougie Hill pleaded not guilty to all charges but was convicted of Assaulting a Police Officer (by spitting blood in his face!), Criminal Damage to the same officer's fluorescent jacket, two counts of Assault on sabs and one offence under S.5 of the Public Order Act 1986. Hill was released on bail pending pre-sentence reports. The District Judge asked the Probation Service to consider all penalties including custody.

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



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

If you would like to send money to prisoners cheques/POs should be made payable to "The Governor", and have the prisoner's name and number printed clearly on the back of the cheque/PO. The prisoner will then forward the cheque/PO to be processed. Please also include a SAE for the prisoner to acknowledge receipt, and indicate in your letter that you have included a cheque/PO.

You can also make a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group or the Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG) who provide financial help for animal rights prisoners.

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

VPSG: Make cheques/P.O's payable to 'The Vegan Prisoners Support group'. Send to VPSG, BM 2107, London WC1N 3XX..
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8292 8325 *email: info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org*

JOSEPHINE MAYO (PR6508)
HMP Peterborough, Saville Road, Westwood, Peterborough PE3 7PD

Serving 4 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who ran Newchurch guineapig farm.

KERRY WHITBURN (TB4886)
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA.

Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who ran Newchurch guineapig farm

JON ABLEWHITE (TB4885)
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA.

Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who ran Newchurch guineapig farm.

JOHN SMITH (TB4887)
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA.

Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who ran Newchurch guineapig farm

DONALD CURRIE (TN4593)
HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK4 4DA

Remanded - Charged with arson attacks.

HEATHER NICHOLSON (NR7271)
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex. TW15 3JZ.

On remand for an alleged section 4a against a hunting family.

GARFIELD MARCUS GABBARD (TV4271)
HM Prison Moorland (Closed), Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster DN7 6BW.

Serving 21 months in connection with the Covance campaign.

SARAH GISBORNE (LT5393)
HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester Kent ME1 3LU

Serving 5+ years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage in relation to Huntingdon Life Sciences.

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Following the closure of the Halls' Newchurch guinea pig farm, a number of animal rights activists were arrested and charged with conspiracy to blackmail. Three men were recently sentenced to 12 years each and a woman to four years, after entering guilty pleas. In response to the media-circus surrounding the case and the likelihood of ludicrous sentences, Jonny Ablewhite (one of the four now convicted) wrote the following before and after sentencing.

LETTER FROM JONNY ABLEWHITE, MAY 2006

Hi,

Just a few notes to clarify my current predicament.

The Judge's indication of 12 years was based upon information presented to him by the police and the CPS only. This was given in the form of a case summary and a "schedule" of events - a chronological diary of every 'criminal' action beginning with the 1999 liberation. By inference I was tenuously implicated in virtually every action - to the point where it became tiresome to read my name, yet again! Such inference was often so transparent as to be laughable e.g identified as "main protestor" (whatever that means - tallest? baldest?) at demos and therefore held responsible for damage done there 2 months later. This specious information would have been presented to the Jury and the inference it stirred up would have led to a guilty verdict - if I had chosen to go to trial. This is what my legal team insisted. This "schedule" (and the gamut of inferences it encouraged) were of course a massive and engineered untruth. But, let's not kid ourselves; the truth was absolutely irrelevant in this case. My mitigation on May 11th could go someway to stratify the case against me but I fear the Judge has already chosen to believe the vaste wave of untruths.

I cannot stress enough how important such 'inferences' are in cases of this ilk. They act as mortar and turn unconnected, nonsensical, irrelevant, inconclusive and flimsy circumstantial suggestion into seeming forensic proof! Combine 'inference' with the outrageous change in the preconviction disclosure law, throw in masses of media-circus supposition and lies and inconsequential inference can - and clearly has - led to lengthy prison sentences. It is a travesty but a grim reality we must all heed. If I wasn't about to spend umpteen years in jail, I would be in cynical hysterics!

It was made absolutely clear to me by my barrister that if I didn't comply with a guilty plea then I would receive the maximum 14 years after trial, irrespective of the truth. The CPS had "bottlenecked" so much "evidence" during the preceding 6 months and finally released it to create deliberate time limitations. Ultimately after the Judge's heinous indication, I was given one hour to consider my fate.

The only logic my Barrister could provide was that a guilty plea would spare me the full 14 years. Any attempt to vindicate my case through a trial was considered by him a hopeless task. My only hope then was that a guilty plea with a "Basis of Plea" would leave me with some vindication. Yet the 'Basis of Plea' was rejected by the CPS, deliberately.

A "Basis of Plea" is an opportunity to outline the parameter of your "guilt" and you should be sentenced and judged accordingly. It would have restored dignity, halted the scapegoating process and detached me from being effectively sentenced for a whole host of actions I was clearly not responsible for, including the desecration.

This, however, would not have served the purposes of the Staffordshire police and the CPS. They would not have been able to conjure up and feed information about an all-encompassing "conspiracy" of mythological proportions to a salivating, voyeuristic and hysterical mass media. They know that such hysteria will off-set recent disasters involving animal tested medication.

So much of this has been purposeful. Here's why. The labelling and sterotyping of individuals as "leaders" of 'organised criminal networks' is a contrived political and semantic tool. It can be used to justify such 'umbrella' conspiracy charges and outrageous sentences. It can also be used to 'infer' that these "leaders" are representative of the entire animal rights protest culture - by demonising one, you demonise all. Compassionate protest and moral aims and arguments are then marginalised by the mass media from the public will and sentiment. This portrayal is then used to convince the public that all political and moral indignation is the habit of such 'extremist' networks. The public can then be cajoled and dissuaded from speaking out or protesting themselves for fear of being similarly demonised. It is tacit but tactical indoctrination. How WE disrupt, interrupt and destabilise this process will be fundamental to our future success as moral activists within a mediascape of stereotypes and scaremongering.

None of the police involved in the inordinantly expensive police operations in Newchurch would admit the reality that there was NEVER an SNGP leadership hierarchy dictating and controlling "criminality". Scattered bands of non-hierarchical, decentered, automonous individuals clearly functions outside of their own operational experience and logic. To admit this reality - that I cannot be held responsible for six years of action would be to admit that there remains an untold sum of "unsolved crimes" in that area. This is despite the millions of pounds of tax payers' money ploughed into their investigations. To admit that reality - that I was not the "controller" of "criminal activity" - would have deeply affected their case, their pride, their media intentions and their promotional opportunities. It would also mean such lengthy prison terms are wholly unjustifiable.

Yet the prospect of a long term sentence is clearly now a reality. But, of course, I have always used the true terror and pain of tortured animals as a comparative tool to measure how much I should complain - NOT MUCH! I am well fed (thanks to the VPSG) and the visits and letters from family, friends, Earth and Animal Rights activists have been inspirational. Thank you for your time and support.

THE SENTENCE

It is clear how Judge Pert had absolutely no interest in reality. All credit and all mitigation was ignored. The fact We categorically stated we had no involvement in the grave desecration was ignored. The appeals we made which led to the resolution were ignored and all facts about animal experimentation again were ignored. March 16th 2005 is still relevant. We were in preparation to put up a symbolic banner concerning the Exclusion Zone granted by the injunction. That can be proven. To suggest otherwise was clearly a convenient lie. It is obvious Judge Pert's concluding speech was previously prepared and paid absolutely no heed to ANY of the mitigating circumstances.

Of course this court fiasco was a publicity stunt for baying media mob. Of course their whole legal fiasco has been manufactured. And of course we will appeal the Judge's decision!

Thankyou to all those who attended court and gave us the strength of many. You're all fekin' fantastic!

FOR BILL ROGERS AND BETTY WANG;
FOR THE ANIMALS, FOR THEIR EARTH,

Jonny

HSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The HSA is run by an Executive Committee, which consists of a maximum of 12 voting posts, and which can also be supplemented by an unlimited number of co-opted non-voting positions. Each year the committee steps down and all positions are up for re-election. In practice, in recent years no elections have taken place, as the number of candidates for the relevant positions have not necessitated this. Instead those officers currently in post and who wish to continue have simply done so.

Any member who wishes to stand for committee, whether for a position currently listed or with a new idea for a post, should contact the Chair in the first instance (email *info@huntsabs.org.uk* FAO Chair – Committee Interest).

If more than one candidate wishes to undertake the same role then an election will be held at the AGM on 22nd July. The candidates must be present, must each be a member of at least one years standing, and be proposed and seconded by a member.

Current committee roles are: -

Chair, Vice chair, Video evidence officer, Webmaster, Press officer, Fundraising, Research officer, Membership officer, Contacts officer, Merchandise officer, Postal officer, Legal officer.

Non-voting committee roles: -

Howl editor.

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

badger VERMIN



Tony Billington (37) of Eaveswood Close, Bamber Bridge, Preston, was found guilty of snatching badgers from a sett. Stafford magistrates heard on 14/2/06 how RSPCA officers found a trail of blood leading from the sett, and 12 holes where someone had been digging. Billington was given 200 hours community service, banned from keeping a dog for 12 months, banned from driving for 6 months, and ordered to pay £1,000 court costs.

bloodsports VERMIN

Michael Connors (21) of Letchworth in Bedfordshire was fined £100 after admitting hare coursing. On 30/12/05 magistrates fined Connors £100 and ordered him to pay £55 costs. However, they deemed the fine had been paid as a result of the time he had spent waiting in the court house.

On 31/12/05 a former hunt kennels worker was banned from keeping dogs for a year for causing unnecessary suffering to a sick golden retriever, lurcher and labrador. Chicken farmer **Richard Talks** (51) of Clavering, Essex had 65 dogs at his home last January. An RSPCA inspector found several dead dogs. Talks got a three-year conditional discharge after saying he had worked for several hunts and took in dogs to re-home them.

On 11/1/06 a former Dalmeny Estate gamekeeper who indecently assaulted three children over a decade was jailed and placed on the SEX OFFENDERS' REGISTER indefinitely. **Donald Peter Bennie Smith** (57) who worked at the South Queensferry estate in the 1970s, indecently touched the teenagers between 1978 and 1989. He pleaded guilty to three charges of indecent behaviour and was jailed for four years and nine months.



Martin Eccleston (53) of Coolham Road, Thakeham, West Sussex, has been cleared of assaulting a group of female anti-hunt protesters. Eccleston who is a Countryside Alliance member clashed with them at a meeting of the Crawley and Horsham FH. He was convicted of causing criminal damage to the women's Land Rover rear window. **Eccleston** was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £60 compensation.

Two men who admitted being involved in hare coursing were fined £250 at Elgin Sheriff Court on 13/1/06. **Alec Reid** (17) of 10 Daldalcroy Road, Croy, near Nairn and **Stephen Stewart** (23) of 17 Longman Caravan Site, Inverness pleaded guilty to deliberately hunting hares with dogs in a field at Alves, near Forres.

On 19/1/06 a kennelman convicted of cruelty to two hunting dogs has been sentenced to 180 hours community service. **Philip Simmonds** (51) who runs The Kennels in Cambridge Road, Barton, was also ordered to pay £750 of £26,569 RSPCA costs in bringing the case.

Otis Ferry (23) of Keeper's Cottage, Eaton Mascott, Shrewsbury who is the master of the South Shropshire Hunt, will be tried for drink driving charges by magistrates in Cirencester on 20/6/06. Ferry is alleged to have been driving while over the limit in Cirencester. At a plea hearing at Cirencester magistrates on 21/1/06 it was said that Ferry had 55 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when he was tested by police. The legal limit is 35mg. Ferry entered a not guilty plea to the charge of driving with excess alcohol.

Four men were charged with poaching after police were called to reports of hare coursing. The men fled the scene were tracked by helicopter. Three of the men appeared at Ely magistrates on 26/1/06. **Patrick Connors** (46) of Carshalton Road, Banstead, Surrey, and his cousin **Patrick Joseph Connors** (25) also of Carshalton Road, admitted day poaching and failing to stop for police. **Patrick Connors** was fined £450 for hare coursing and £150 for failing to stop for a police car. He was disqualified from driving for three months. **Patrick Joseph Connors** was fined £450 for hare coursing and disqualified from driving for three months. The magistrates also ordered the dogs and his car to be retained by police. **Michael Connors** (28) of Carshalton Road, Banstead, Surrey, failed to appear at court due to ill health and he is charged with poaching and escape from lawful custody. His case was adjourned until 31/1/06. And **Patrick Delaney** (21) of Bishopsford Road, Morden, Surrey, who is charged with poaching and escape from lawful custody, also had his case adjourned to 31/1/06.

A huntsman who was accused of damaging a hunt saboteur's Land Rover with a whip has been found not guilty. **Paul Larby** (47) of Ashbourne Road, Sudbury denied causing criminal damage to a sabs vehicle who claimed that Larby had caused £632 damage during a meet of the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt. Magistrates recorded a verdict of not guilty at Southern Derbyshire magistrates on 14/2/06.

Robert Chiplin (22) of West Bagborough, who has long-standing involvement with hunting, was fined £80 for criminal damage at the LACS sanctuary near Dulverton on Exmoor.

A former Deeside gamekeeper who took a shotgun onto a neighbouring estate and aimed it a hen harrier has been fined £500. On 18/2/06 Stonehaven Sheriff Court was told that **Colin Marshall** (22) had "contemplated" killing the protected bird, but made no attempt to do so. Marshall was filmed by members of the RSPB training his shotgun, but not firing, on the Crannach Estate near Ballater. At the time of the incident Marshall was a gamekeeper on the Dinnet Estate, which shares a border with the Crannach. Marshall's shotgun was also forfeited.

Hunt supporter Glazier **Simon Evans** was fined on 28/3/06 for his part in a violent protest outside a Labour Party dinner. **Evans** (40) of Gladstone Road, Aberaman, near Aberdare was one of 250 protesting against the hunting ban outside Cardiff's Holland House Hotel. Evans was arrested at the protest in which two officers were knocked to the ground and injured. **Evans** who has previous convictions for assault, admitted using threatening words and behaviour and was fined £500 with £500 costs.

Barry Marsh (63) of Spout Fold Farm in Rosemary Lane, Over Hulton, Bolton pleaded guilty to seven charges of causing unnecessary suffering to 10 Welsh ponies, relating to the conditions they were kept in and the condition of their hooves. Marsh was ordered to complete a 100-hour community order, banned from keeping animals for life and told to contribute £3,000 towards costs. The RSPCA said all the ponies had been re-homed at sanctuaries.

A Lampeter man has escaped a ban on keeping animals after he admitted leaving a horse without food in a field full of poisonous ragwort. **John Gareth James** (53) of 3 Maes y Felin, pleaded guilty to animal cruelty after his horse died of severe liver damage caused by poisoning. Aberystwyth magistrates heard on 22/2/06 that **James** had not tended to the horse for years leaving it without food.

On 3/3/06 **Lee Howard** (39) of Douglas Street in Middlesbrough admitted causing unnecessary suffering to dozens of animals at a stables in County Durham. 13 horses and ponies, 11 hens, four dogs, and a rabbit had died of dehydration and starvation. Pre-sentencing reports were ordered and sentencing adjourned until 29/3/06. Magistrates also heard that in January Howard was given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay compensation and costs after he admitted fraud in an unrelated case.

assorted VERMIN

Roy Briggs-Price (60) of Millgate, Newark, admitted failing to provide veterinary attention to a horse. He was fined £750 and ordered to pay £1,486 costs at Newark magistrates on 28/4/06, who decided he could have the mare back as he was an experienced horseman.

In January 2006 **Adam Richards** (18) of Hearmoor, Cornwall, was jailed for six months for stabbing and kicking to death a pregnant hedgehog.

On 17/1/06 **Trevor Wellington** (46) of Pennytinney, Cornwall, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal after he shot dead his neighbour's dog after it went on the farmer's land.

On 26/2/06 a 'pest' controller was found guilty at Northampton Crown Court of the murder of a traveller whose body has never been found. **Christopher Nudds** (27) of Stocking Pelham, Herts told a cellmate he shot Fred Moss in the head before burning his remains, the court heard. Nudds was sentenced to a minimum of 30 years.



Damien French (20) of The Fairways Hotel, Ellesmere Road, Colwyn Bay took a rabbit from a compound at Welsh Mountain Zoo and threw it into an alligator pool where it was killed. **French** was given a six-month suspended prison sentence. The sentence also covered two offences of criminal damage, which French admitted. He was also given a 12-month supervision order, which included treatment for alcohol abuse, and disqualified from keeping animals for 10 years.

As a warning to a Leamington man who was 'grassing' on them, **Mark Bale** and **Robert Wesley** decided to carry out savage attacks on his wife's horses. But the animals they repeatedly slashed and stabbed, killing one of them, did not belong to informer Gerald Lewis's wife – but to a magistrate who used the same stables. **Mark Bale** (30) and **Robert Wesley** (22) both of Rankin Close, Rugby, until they were jailed in November for conspiracy to steal from cash machines, pleaded guilty at Warwick Crown Court on 14/3/06 to destroying property and causing damage. The Judge jailed them for four months.

domestic VERMIN

Vicky Simpson (27) from Rhyl was banned from keeping dogs and cats for a year after admitting two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to her dogs.

A mother and son **June and Dean Howell** of Coulthwaite Way, Rugeley, Staffordshire were both found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to their pet cat. Stafford magistrates banned both defendants from keeping any animal for life.

John Hall (19) from Hunton Road in Erdington, beat his dog so hard it lost the sight in one eye. Hall was given a four-month suspended prison sentence and banned from keeping animals for 10 years. He was also fined £1,008, ordered to do 80 hours community service and attend an anger management course.



A man blamed for taking foot-and-mouth disease to Ireland has been banned from keeping dogs for 10 years and fined nearly £35,000 for cruelty. **John Walsh** (55) of Brampton, Cumbria, left nine puppies in sweltering heat on Weymouth quay, Dorset. **Walsh** had three previous convictions relating to animals.



Cambridge University students **David Jordan** (19) of Columbine Road, Ely, and **James Cole** (19) of Philpott Drive, Marchwood, Southampton, admitted sending a hamster through the post. Both were fined and banned from keeping animals for the next 10 years. They are both second year students at Churchill College.

Paul Sanders (39) of Woodhouse Road, Finchley was seen battering a puppy and hanging it up by its collar. He was jailed on 19/1/06 for three months after pleading guilty to animal cruelty and was banned from keeping animals for five years.

On 31/1/06 **James Gregory** of Buckley Road, Gorton, Manchester was banned from keeping animals for life after stabbing to death an American bulldog in front of his children. He was also sentenced to 240 hours community service with £200 costs and ordered to pay £300 compensation to the dog's owners.

Jermaine Clark (25) of St Paul's Cray, Orpington, Kent man was banned for life from keeping animals after he admitted stabbing his dog to death during a family row.



Mark Lionel Edge (35) and **Nicola Jayne Edge** (32) of Berwyn View, Ellesmere were found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to the dog by failing to provide proper and necessary veterinary care.

Two women kept a menagerie of hundreds of animals in "chaotic" conditions at a Norfolk farm, Cromer magistrates heard on 16/2/06. RSPCA inspectors found 352 animals squeezed into kennels. **Beryl Barker** (72) and **Elizabeth King** (53) of Water Tower Farm at Trimingham, near Cromer both admitted six charges of causing unnecessary suffering. **King** had two previous convictions for cruelty to animals. She was fined £180 and banned from keeping animals for three years at Norwich magistrates.



John Robert Keenan (17) (left) from Dale End Road, Harraby, Carlisle admitted animal cruelty after his lurcher dog savaged a pet cat to death **Keenan** and **George Paterson** (23) of Harris Crescent, Harraby Carlisle were sentenced to 150 and 200 hours community service plus £250 court costs.

Mark Murphy (27) of Teviot Tower, Newtown, was given a four-month sentence suspended for two years and banned from keeping any animal for ten years after admitting killing his girlfriends 4 month old kitten.

Three people from Telford pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to two dogs, one of which died. **Wayne Jackson** (24) his partner **Joanne Phillips** (32) and his brother **Darren Jackson** (22) all of Web Crescent, Telford could face jail, Telford magistrates said on the 13/3/06.

Thomas Kennedy (23) of Sapphire Road, Bellshill, Lanarkshire who stamped a 15-week-old pup to death was jailed for four months by Airdrie Sheriff Court on 21/3/06.

Keith Gray (29) and **Lisa Gray** (32) of Denshaw Road, Kings Heath, each admitted four charges of animal cruelty. Keith Gray was given a three month prison sentence suspended for two years while his wife was made the subject of a two year community rehabilitation order. They were each ordered to pay £400 costs and banned from keeping any dogs for 10 years.

On 28/3/06 **Steven Robinson** (19) of Linthwaite admitted putting a firework into a dead Yorkshire Terrier while his friend filmed it on his mobile phone. Robinson pleaded guilty to committing an act of an unlawful, abusive and disgusting nature and outraging public decency. Robinson was given 100 hours community service, placed under a supervision order and ordered to pay £250 towards costs.

On 28/3/06 **Peter Dibden** (39) of Braid Crescent, Billingham, Teesside was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a bull mastiff after he attacked the dog with a Samurai-type sword and left it to bleed to death. **Dibden** was fined £900, ordered him to pay £600 costs and banned from keeping dogs for life.

Richard Kilcommons (41) from Littleton, Hants, stabbed his pet labrador to death after chasing it. Kilcommons plunged a 7in kitchen knife 16 times into the animal's back and sides. He was sentenced to 23 weeks in jail after admitting animal cruelty. He was also banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

Leighton Martin Collins of Bettws, Newport, repeatedly punched his pet dog after it embarrassed him in front of friends, causing it such serious injuries it had to be put to sleep. He was sentenced to 100 hours' community service and he will also have to pay vets' fees and court costs of £1,012.89.

Shaun Andrew Furgusson (24) of Wansford Grove, Hull, pleaded guilty to two charges of animal cruelty at Hull magistrates but fled before sentencing. He was eventually captured and was sentenced on 12/4/06 to four months for the cruelty and to an additional two months for fleeing court.

Duncan and Joanne Norman of Teesdale Avenue, Blackpool, were fined £500 each when RSPCA officers found their abandoned dog locked in a small side alley - her food and water bowls were empty. The dog had matted hair, overgrown nails, was underweight and had open wounds and bleeding sores on her face and neck. On 13/4/06 Blackpool magistrates decided not to disqualify the Normans from keeping animals as their other pets are well cared for!

William (53) and Theresa Fox (52) both of Sycamore Avenue, admitted causing unnecessary suffering when they appeared before city magistrates on 21/4/06. The court heard that they had a previous conviction for causing suffering in 2003. The couple were also fined £1,500 each and banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

Russell Jones (40) his wife **Joanna** (40) and son **Richard** (18) all of Hayford Farm, Westbury, near Shrewsbury, were convicted of cruelty charges. The three have a poultry farm with 16,000 birds. **Russell Jones** was given a three-month jail sentence suspended for two years and 200 hours community work and to pay £7,163 costs. **Joanna Jones** was given 100 hours community work, a seven-year ban and ordered to pay £1,000 costs. **Richard Jones** was given 80 hours community work, a three-year ban and ordered to pay £200 costs.



Dealing with the press



Why an article about dealing with the press? Surely the HSA has a Press Officer to do that? Whilst, the HSA does have a Press Officer, this person has to respond to queries across the whole country, as well as being an active sab and holding down a day job. It obviously puts a limit on how much can be done. If more is done at a local level, it makes the Press Officer role easier and more effective.

So why should local groups deal with the press?
Most news coverage we get is local or regional, except on Boxing Day or more recently when the ban came in.

Most media want a local perspective – that means a local sab rather than the "official spokesperson" who they think is located in London. By the time the media have contacted the national press office and the message has been passed through, the deadline has passed. A direct link to local sabs for the media makes it easier for us to get our side across.

After years of a virtual media blackout that made it difficult to get any story involving sabs in the media, the Hunting Act and our continuing activities have made it easier and more likely to get coverage - but at a local level.

Better penetration of the media. From a national level, it is near impossible to deal with all local media, or even know who they are. Local sabs will know all the possible outlets, and which days they print if they are not a daily, where their studios are etc.
It's your story!

Why you probably don't
- You don't want to be identified/targeted ("sticking your neck out")
- You are worried about saying the wrong thing
- You don't have enough time

However, there are simple solutions
- You can use a pseudonym
- Say what you want to say and then say no more or twist the conversation round to what you want to get across. See below for more guidance....
- You only have to get involved to the level you want to. It's not a job, you don't get paid and when you say "no" you are only accountable to yourself. See below for more...

Levels of involvement
There are different levels of involvement that you can try, and it's up to you how involved you get but they can be pretty much divided into the following:

Putting out press releases
You send out a description of an incident that took place to local media and hope that they will pick up on the story. Although some papers will take statements from press releases, others will want to clarify issues with you, so you ought to have someone available to respond or your side of the story will not feature and potentially a damning piece of news about a sab being attacked turns into the hunt bleating on about how they have been attacked by sabs!

Ensure that the release includes a clear account of what took place, a quote from your group's spokesperson (with a name to attribute it to if possible), contact details for any spokesperson and the group (mobile, email, website) and details of any supporting evidence/witnesses e.g. the police station or officer investigating an incident, whether or not photos or video footage are available etc. Remember that the print media loves pictures and TV needs some form of footage from the incident or an interview. This can make the difference between whether or not a story runs.

Responding to queries
When a journalist is investigating a report of an alleged incident that involves the local hunt or hunt saboteurs, you can provide the local group's perspective or account of what took place. This is all too often our only opportunity. Although some journalists will contact the HSA's press officer, many others will not.

Remember: You can use a pseudonym or just give a first name.

Building up a working relationship with journalists and pro-actively working on stories
Normally if you put out a number of press releases and choose to respond to queries, you have the opportunity to establish a working relationship with a journalist(s). When you get to this stage, you may no longer need to put out a press release - a quick call direct to the right person can put an incident in the local paper. When news is a bit slack in the area, they may call you for a chat, and in the process come up with an idea for a potential feature that relates to the ongoing situation rather than individual incidents. You probably know a lot about people involved in your local hunt which isn't news in itself but may be relevant to other local issues.....

GENERAL TIPS ON DEALING WITH THE PRESS

Decide what you really want to say and why you want to say it
Think of the mid to long term view as well. Are you just interested in getting news out about one incident or story or does it fit into a broader strategy or a wider issue that you want to use this story to bring into the public domain?

Pick 3 points you want to get across
Having 3 points to get across when dealing with the media appears to be the norm for all people working in public relations departments or campaigning organisations. This applies equally to Press Releases or dealing directly with journalists. Any more than 3 points loses focus. If you have 3 points it makes the story seem "deeper" and likely to make better copy/broadcast. And there are 3 angles for them to choose to pick up on rather than one, which makes some level of success likely! There is normally one, very obvious, main point you are trying to get across but it is worth considering what other points this logically leads to. For example, the "news" item that occurred may be that the Bumpkinshire Hunt killed a fox and breached the Hunting Act. The 2 other points that are linked to this could be one of the following:

- that the police have been taking no interest in enforcement, or
- that sabs/monitors have been subject to violence and intimidation to stop them capturing evidence of such an incident, or
- that the Hunting Act needs to be tightened up because such breaches are widespread, or

■ that because the law is not saving animals' lives, your group is giving up evidence gathering and going back to old fashioned sabotage.....

Make sure you steer everything towards your 3 points.
Don't get drawn away from them. This is the way of making sure that you do not just provide background for a different story or an opposing view.

Don't try and be clever.
You will probably get caught out. If you don't know the answer to something just say so, and then steer the journalist back to your main point(s) that you are trying to make. If you're not happy answering a question DON'T. You don't have to. It's not a court of law. If a journalist is hostile then you can always put the phone down or walk away!

If you don't want to do something DON'T DO IT.
If they try to blackmail you e.g. "without your photo it won't get printed", tell them that no story is worth doing something you don't want to do. Value yourself and remember the old phrase that today's news is tomorrow's chip wrapper. We save animals' lives. We don't put on stunts for the media. If they want to cover it, great, but they need to understand they cannot get in the way. And there are no guarantees that you will even make print/broadcast. Some of the best press work I've been involved with ended up on the cutting room floor or in the paper's photo archive....

Many's the time I've left a cameraman half a mile behind because he refused to trespass across a field. My priority was stopping the hunt, not making good telly!

If you are interested in working more with the press, let the Contacts Officer know through your group contact and the HSA will provide you with some support.



HSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAT. 22ND JULY 2006

CONWAY HALL

25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
2pm-6pm

SABBING... OR MONITORING?

Come and discuss 'post-ban' sabbing tactics and have your say on the future direction of the HSA

All Welcome!



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. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA 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.
- 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 .....

Telephone Number.....

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

Card Number _____

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.co.uk

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

Animal Rights Coalition
publishes ARC News
PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV10 7BZ

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

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
publishes Pisces
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX Tel. 01792 464 176
Email: piscrs@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 round-up of ecological direct action news
c/o 12 London Road, Brighton BN1 4AJ Tel. 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

League Against Cruel Sports
Sparling House, 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG
0845 330 8486 info@league.uk.com www.league.uk.com

National Anti Hunt Campaign
27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX
Tel. 01442 240246

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

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
01273 685913 email: schnews@brighton.co.uk
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
Tel. 0845 458 0630 e-mail:info@shac.net www.shac.net

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 82 928325
email: info@vpsg.info www.vpsg.org

HSA PROMOTIONALS

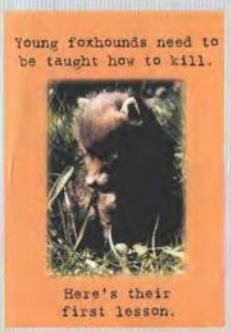




NEW!

NEW! Full colour A5 'It ain't over 'til it's over' leaflet. Explains what sabs do post-ban and why we're needed more than ever to protect wildlife from the hunters.

'It ain't over 'til it's over'
.....**FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**



Full colour, glossy, A5 leaflet explaining cubhunting; the side of foxhunting the hunters want to keep quiet. Help spread the word and 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! ***More than 250,000 already gone out!***

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



'How to sab game shooting' leaflet giving a brief outline of how a shoot operates and how it can be sabbed with well researched arguments against it.

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

BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

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.



NEW!

ANTI
www.huntsabs.org.uk

NEW! Striking 'Anti' stickers - Help promote the HSA by sticking these on your own property and nowhere else. (clearly unsuitable for putting on lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal! Also wholly unsuitable for plastering over the statistically absurd '59% say keep hunting' posters

.....**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.

Cool New Summer HSA stuff

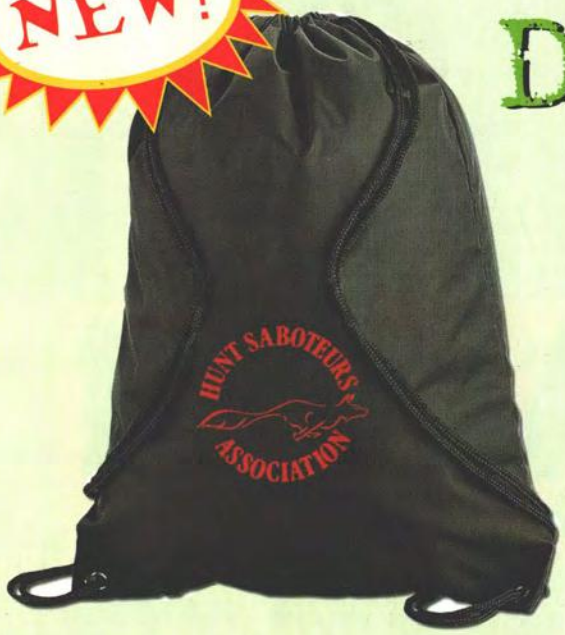
DJ/Courier Bag



NEW!

DJ/Courier Bag with bright red HSA logo. Could you look any cooler this summer?! Grab one while you can... Only **£10** each.

NEW!



Drawstring Bag

Drawstring Bag with red HSA logo. Versatile and trendy, we're practically giving them away at a **£5** each.

See inside front cover for full salesgoods range

www.huntsabs.org.uk

Prepared to Monitor, Ready to Sab

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION