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2006

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HOWL 86

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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HOWL 86

Cover photo: Deidre

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

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. The H.S.A. committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non-voting posts. All committee members are active hunt saboteurs and all posts are voluntary. **No-one on the H.S.A committee 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.

Editor(s)	Mr D
Contributors	Paul T, Dawn, Nath, Roger, NE London sabs, Sea Shepherd
Photos	Deidre, NWHSA, WSWPG, Croydon, NE London, Hastings and So'ton sabs - Ta folks!
Vermin Patrol	Paul T.
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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

We are now well into our second full season since the ban came into force and since the end of the previous one a lot has happened in the world of hunting. Most notable of course is the first ever successful prosecution of a hunter for hunting foxes in this country. We must congratulate the League for their efforts here, money well spent and making legal history to boot! In order to do this whole story justice, you will find an interview (page 18) with one of the monitors who took the footage that day and gave evidence in the case against Tony Wright. Just as hoped, the success of this case has prompted further interest in investigating illegal hunting, not only is the League pushing forward with another case in the South West but at least one police force is taking action against a hunt and another is prosecuting three suspected coursers under the Hunting Act 2004. Though this has been a slow start and should never have required a private prosecution to kick start it, it is never-the-less action that many of us thought we might never see in the dim and distant. It is hard out there to monitor at times, especially if you know the hunt are hunting illegally but we are beginning to see the changes the act has brought. Certain police forces are also now known to be taking a different approach towards us than they did in the past once they see what monitoring involves, and lets not forget the video camera is now the most effective tool of sabotage that we can use.

On the point of filming can I bring to you attention once again the role of the Video Evidence Officer (VEO). This post was created by the committee as a direct result of the hunt ban and exists for you to use as a resource in compiling footage of hunt activities even if they are only snippets. This can be collated and archived by the VEO until it is needed, for instance if at a later date evidence was required to show that a particular hunt has a history of acting in a certain manner. The position exists as a library and all footage sent in is returned, it really is a valuable resource so please use it and not just hold on to material yourselves.

I would also like to ask on behalf of a suggestion from the committee if any reader would like their issue delivered to them electronically? Naturally the HSA has the ability to do this and it is becoming increasingly more popular, if you are interested in receiving further issues this way please drop us a line (electronically or otherwise) for the attention of the Membership Officer.

An interesting piece of information has come to my attention, which I would like to pass on to you. As you will know in the past hunts were allowed to block badger setts with certain materials before a meet. The Hunting Act 2004 repeals those sections of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 which allowed hunts to stop badger setts, therefore any form of badger sett blocking is now illegal. If you discover any such incidents film it, tell the police and inform the Badger Trust who are collecting information about such incidents. They can be found via email *enquiries@badgertrust.org.uk* or by phoning 0207 228 6444.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new Tactics Officer to the committee, who coincidently has written an article for this issue on just such a subject would you believe...Which was nice! And also a big hurrah to the two new monitoring groups who have asked for advice and assistance from the HSA. Hurrah!!

Mister D

MIKE HUSKISSON WINS ASSAULT CASE AGAINST SHOOTER

Prominent anti-bloodsports campaigner Mike Huskisson has won a case against a pub landlord and shooting enthusiast after he was convicted of threatening him at one of the UK leading partridge shoots. Richard Clarke, (below) 48, fired a volley of abuse at Mike who was filming the event at Six Mile Bottom, on the Cambs/Suffolk border. Ely magistrates heard that he then pushed Mike into a car. Magistrates found Clarke guilty of assault and threatening behaviour and fined him £250 and £360 in costs. Clarke, chair of the National Gamekeepers' Organisation and landlord of **The Green Man pub in Six Mile Bottom,** had denied any offence. Mike was able to tell magistrates that he was filming back in January on a public road. He said he was not interfering with the event and did not say anything to provoke Clarke or anyone else involved in the shoot. He said Clarke walked over to him, called him a 'pervert' and then unleashed a volley of foul language, the court was shown some of the footage taken that day. On it Clarke was seen walking over, carrying a stick, and swearing at Mike. Clarke attempted to argue that Mike had antagonised and disrupted the shoot, he was not believed.



CANNIBAL TERRIER MAN JAILED



A hunt terrier man bit off part of a fencing contractors nose when he intervened in an argument he was having with the master of the South Devon Hunt at last year's Devon County Show. In court the prosecution said that Anthony Pearce approached the hunt master in an aggressive manner and started having a go at him for being too soft on anti-hunt protesters. Pearce, 32, from Bickington near Newton Abbot, was jailed after admitting his guilt. The victim was taken to hospital where it was found that the right nostril had been completely severed, the tip of his nose was completely bitten off and the nerves in the left nostril had to be stitched back on. When interviewed, Pearce said he could only vaguely remember what happened because of the amount he had had to drink. Because of the incident he has lost his shotgun and firearms certificates and had his shotgun taken away by police. The precise circumstances leading up to the incident were unclear but the two men involved were both pro-hunt. Pearce, a share fisherman of Farlecombe Farm, Bickington, pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding and was jailed for 15 months.

MAGISTRATE CONVICTED OF POACHING

In June a Cumbrian magistrate was convicted of salmon poaching. Stephen Furniss, of Seascale, was found guilty after a two day trial, he was ordered to pay £2,500 costs and a £500 fine. Magistrates in Carlisle heard how Environment Agency fisheries officers had seen Furniss fishing in a holding pool on the River Ehen, last year. Prosecutors for the agency said the officers watched 56-year-old Furniss catch two salmon using a 'snatching' or 'foul hooking' method. This involves dragging a sharp hook through the water across a fish, so that the hook will become embedded in the flesh of the fish. Furniss was found guilty of using a snatch for the purpose of taking salmon, contrary to section 1(a)(iv) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. His fishing tackle was also confiscated. – He should try illegally hunting foxes, it works out a lot cheaper in the end – Ed.

STALLHOLDERS FINED FOR DISPLAYING OFFENSIVE BLAIR T-SHIRTS



Police issued two stallholders at the Royal Norfolk Show with £80 fines for displaying t-shirt bearing the slogan 'Bollocks to Blair'. Officers questioned staff on two stands after receiving a complaint, subsequently issuing two fixed-penalty notices of £80 for the offending garments. Tom Williams, co-director of the Northampton based clothing firm Splash, who was manning one of the stalls, said that police told him it was legal to sell the pro-hunt shirts but illegal to put them on display.

The notices were issued under Section 5 of the POA as the language was deemed to cause harassment, distress or alarm at an event, where a cross section of people were present including families and young children. Both men now have the right to either pay the fine or challenge the action before the magistrates.

QUEEN'S GAMEKEEPER FACES CHARGES

Dean Wright, 25, of Anmer, near King's Lynn, Norfolk, has been accused of contravening pesticide regulations by failing to collect rat carcasses. He is also accused of causing unnecessary suffering to a tawny owl that was caught in a trap. The incident relating to rat carcasses is alleged to have taken place at Sherborne, in Norfolk, between September 2005 and December 2005. Wright is also accused of setting a trap to cause injury to a wild bird, using a trap to kill or take a wild bird, and causing unnecessary suffering to a tawny owl that was caught in the trap. The case will be heard in August.

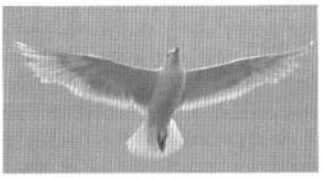
DEVON HUNT FANATIC GUILTY OF ASSAULTING HUNT MONITOR





A Devon hunter has been found guilty of attacking long serving hunt monitor Kevin Hill who works for the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Livestock farmer Christopher Marles (left), 45, of Farringdon, near Exeter, repeatedly punched Mr Hill leaving him with a black eye and cuts to his face, Exeter Crown Court heard in October. Sixteen stone Marles, was found guilty of Actual Bodily Harm and initially bailed for sentencing at the end of October with the judge ordering that in the meantime he should not attend any hunting event. When he returned in late October for sentencing he was ordered to pay £2,500 compensation and jailed for nine months, suspended for two years. At the trial 'Phi Mitchell' lookalike, Marles had denied carrying out the attack, however, the jury were shown 17 minutes of footage from Mr Hill's own camera, which showed him confronting Kevin and then someone trying to take the camera away. Since the case ended the D & S Staghounds, at whose meet the attack took place, have been quick to distance themselves from Marles. Mentioning that he was not a member of the hunt and that no one knew him and he had just come up from south Devon on the day. – Where have we heard that before? – Ed.

COUNCILLOR GUILTY OF KILLING GULL



A Devon district councillor who shot a seagull to stop it " spreading disease" has been found guilty of intentionally killing a wild bird. Dr Brian Boughton, 62, of South Ford Road, Dartmouth, used an air rifle to shoot the seagull that had nested in his roof. He denied the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act section 1(1)A offence. He was conditionally discharged for a year and ordered to pay £400 costs by Totnes Magistrates in May. Dr Boughton, a Labour member in South Hams Council, said he was acting to protect public health and safety. Magistrates ruled that he was not acting within the terms of a government licence that permits householders to shoot wild birds on their property under certain circumstances.

FIRST POLICE ACTION

FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF HUNTING ACT

Two Somerset huntsmen have been charged with breaching hunting laws. Master of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds Maurice Scott, 63, from Watchet, is charged with two counts of hunting a wild mammal with dogs. Peter Heard, 23, a hunt servant from Exford, faces one charge. The alleged breaches are said to have taken place on Exmoor on the 25th April. The two men, who are on bail, appeared before Taunton Deane magistrates in late October. A spokesperson for Avon and Somerset Police said that this was the first time police had brought a criminal prosecution against huntsmen for allegedly breaching the act. STOP PRESS: Just before their appearance in court a third man was also charged under the Act, Donald Summersgill, the Staghunts huntsman, will face two charges. He will therefore join both Scott and Heard in the dock at Taunton Magistrate's court at the end of October.

CAMERON'S FAVOURITE HUNT FACING POLICE PROBE

The Heythrop Hunt is being investigated by police after motorists claimed they were forced to stop on a main road as hounds attacked a fox in front of them. The mastership of the hunt are to talk with police following the alleged incident in early November on the A429 in Gloucestershire. One woman driver told police she was flagged down by mounted huntsmen and then saw a fox being attacked by hounds on the road just feet in front of her car. Gloucestershire police have issued an appeal for other witnesses to come forward. The incident took place at the Heythrop's opening meet at Broadwell, on the Fosse Way between Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton-in-Marsh on November 1st. The witness to the alleged event said: 'There were several hunt people on horses and suddenly, a fox came across the road, closely followed by four hounds. The hounds caught it and all hell broke loose'. 'Within a couple of seconds, the huntsman nearest was bellowing at the hounds, calling them off and they did, the fox seemed injured but it was still alive and it raced off into the hedge'. 'More hounds arrived and followed it...I don't know what happened...I was shocked and dismayed by what I saw.' 'I had thought foxes weren't allowed to be hunted like this.'

NORTHAMPTON POLICE MAKE ARRESTS

UNDER HUNTING ACT

Three hunters are the first to be arrested in Northamptonshire under the Hunting Act 2004. The three, aged 17, 23 and 35, were arrested after police received reports of people hunting with dogs in a field between Horton and Brayfield in the County in mid November. Officers also seized a 4x4 vehicle and an estate car, which are now being forensically examined. The operation, which focused on the Castle Ashby, Hackleton, Horton and Piddington areas, involved the use of marked police 4x4 vehicles and quad bikes. It was suggested that the three arrested persons were hare coursing and that their arrest involved a pursuit over several hours.

KARMA POLICE

Britain's most notorious illegal collector of rare birds' eggs has fallen to his death after losing his footing as he climbed a tree in a Yorkshire wood. Colin Watson, 63, a father of three from Selby, was three-quarters of the way up a 40ft larch near Campsall, Doncaster, when he slipped and fell. To the RSPB, Watson was public enemy number one. He had a string of convictions spanning 14 years for an activity that has been illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act since 1981, though he was first convicted for taking birds eggs as far back as 1980. He last appeared in court ten years ago. At the height of his infamy he travelled to Loch Garten in Scotland and took a chainsaw to a tree that contained the nest, and probably the eggs, of an osprey. After a raid on his home in 1985, the RSPB found more than 2,200 eggs in his house and in that of his disabled son. Specimens included golden eagle, osprey, sparrow hawk and red kite. The society confiscated most of them.

Richard Hill, joint-master and huntsman of the Clifton-on-Teme FH has accidentally shot himself in the leg while trying to put down (read shoot) a sheep! His injury caused him to be out of action for some time, though apparently he is making a recovery.

Richard Sumner, who is the field-master for the Heythrop FH, David Cameron's favourite hunt, suffered a bad fall recently and sustained damage to three vertebrae.

Alistair Beedles, senior joint-master of the South Shropshire FH took a nasty fall while attending the neighbouring North Shropshire FH's point-to-point and suffered a broken ankle. At the time of writing he remained in hospital following surgery.

Huntsman Chris Bennett from Savernake near Marlborough has died following a fall while riding with the Vale of the White Horse Hunt in Gloucestershire. Mr Bennett, 62, loved extreme sports including point to point racing. He was galloping along a muddy path when his horse slipped and he was thrown over its head. He was knocked unconscious and then suffered a heart attack. Hunt members administered first aid until paramedics arrived but they were unable to revive him. Tragic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

HUNTER FINED FOR ATTACKING LACS SANCTUARY

A 22-year-old has been fined £80 for attacking a property on an estate owned by the League Against Cruel Sports in Somerset. Robert Chiplin, of West Bagborough, who has a long-standing involvement with hunting, received the fixed penalty notice for criminal damage at the LACS sanctuary near Dulverton on Exmoor in May. He was also charged with failing to provide a blood specimen following an unrelated allegation of drink driving.

HAS-BEEN ROCKERS DO BENEFIT GIG FOR THE C.A.

Obviously someone on the other side was reading a copy of *HOWL 82* as back in the Spring Bryan Ferry, Eric Clapton and Roger Waters were on the bill for a rural rock benefit staged at Highclere Castle in Berkshire. The concert was staged in support of the Countryside Alliance with tickets a mere £75 (no you can't go). Other forgettables on the line-up were Mike Rutherford and Georgie Fame. Maybe *HOWL* should run a competition for the next issue to see if anyone can remember which band our aged trio used to play for! – Ed.

DNA PROFILING USED TO CATCH DOG MUTILATORS

The sick owners who viciously chopped off a greyhounds ears and then dumped her, are being tracked down by DNA profiling. In early April in the Republic of Ireland a two-year-old greyhound Aoife was found in Tramore, Co. Waterford. She was starving, dehydrated and her ears had been cut off – because they had tattoos, which linked her to her owner. Now the Irish Greyhound Board, using DNA profiling for the first time, has tracked down her cruel owner. A hair sample was analysed and compared to records in a central database of all Irish greyhounds, which revealed its identity and that of its Munster owner. It is believed that Aoife was dumped after not reaching her potential on the racetrack.

NATIONAL TRUST VOTE TO RELAX BAN ON STAG HUNTING

Members of the National Trust (NT) have voted to relax their rules on hunting on Exmoor. If the vote is adopted as trust policy, hunts will be able to follow sick or injured deer on to their land to kill the animal. Trust members voted to allow the hunting of stags at the Holnicote Estate, which forms much of Exmoor. The results at the annual general meeting in Cheltenham were 12,768 in favour of the ban, whilst 20,188 voted against. It is at least ten years since the NT banned stag hunting from their land after a long campaign in the South West.

INTERNAL RIFT MAY FORCE HUNT TO CLOSE

A 'clash of personalities' and internal arguments are being blamed for a membership crisis that could bring about the end of a 150-year-old hunt. The committee and remaining members of the Carmarthenshire Hunt met in September to discuss its future. It says membership has fallen to single figures with some leaving to join other hunts. Acting chair Bill Wade said the organisation was in 'dire straits' and without new members it would fold. Wade said: 'What I shall be asking members for is permission, if we continue to see no light at the end of the tunnel, to wind it up because we are in very dire straits. Yes there have been arguments, there always are between some members. You always have personality clashes.' Though he would not say anything further on the cause. He said the annual running costs, which included the hunt's kennels at Travellers Rest and its pack of 65 hounds, were in excess of £20,000 a year.

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

LOSES YET ANOTHER LEGAL BATTLE

In the summer the C.A. lost their latest fight in a long line of legal scraps to overturn the ban. They had asked the Court of Appeal to rule that the ban in England and Wales breached European human rights, trading and employment regulations. However, the three appeal judges upheld a High Court ruling that it was lawful. The C.A. had cited the European Convention on Human Rights and EU legislation to back their appeal. Master of the Rolls Sir Anthony Clarke, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Buxton said imposing the ban was a 'legitimate and proportionate' exercise of government powers. As we know, a constitutional challenge to the 2004 Hunting Act has already been dismissed by the courts.

SABS (and hunts) RECEIVE 'ICON' STATUS

A government-backed project to identify 'icons' of Englishness has bowed to pressure by including foxhunting on its list. But in a compromise described as 'laughable' by the Countryside alliance, hunt saboteurs have also been given iconic status. Icons Online aims to announce 120 English, not British, 'icons' in batches of 20 through the year on a website in order to 'paint a portrait of Englishness' and to stimulate debate about national identity. Thousands of hunt supporters nominated foxhunting, but it was excluded from the first two batches by Icons Online and its panel of advisers. Jerry Doyle, the managing director of Icons Online, said: 'We need to reflect the strong feelings on both sides. We want to be fair to everybody. We are painting a portrait of England in the 21st century and the reality is that the government banned it. We are not taking sides.'

RACING SUBSIDIES COSTING IRISH TAXPAYERS

€60m A YEAR



Each person who spends a day at the races last year cost the taxpayer in Ireland €38 in subsidies according to a study by the Economic and Social Research Institute. Dog racing was subsidised to the tune of €7 million. Last year, the Irish Government gave close to €60m, a third of the state's total annual expenditure on sport, to horse and dog racing. The industry used half of this to subsidise prize money for major races. The rest of the sports budget, roughly €120m is divided between 60 bodies such as soccer and rugby and for coaching Olympic athletes. Last year was a record year for the industry with 291 racing fixtures attended by over 1.4 million people with prize money of €52.3m. Finance Minister Brian Cowen said the subsidies did not take into account the thousands of jobs the industry creates and the money generated for the economy. – Think we may have heard that one before actually Brian –Ed.



HUNT HAVOC

■ STAGHOUNDS SAVAGE PET JACK RUSSELL

Magistrate Catherine Hodgson used her body as a human shield, in August, against two staghounds as they ripped apart her pet dog in a horrific attack. Mrs Hodgson of East Worlington, near Tiverton, threw herself on top of the family terrier as the hounds attacked just yards from her front doorstep. By the time the hunt intervened, Pippa, a 14-year-old border cross Jack Russell, was fatally wounded and had to be put down by a vet.

The Hodgson's have condemned the actions of the Tiverton Staghounds, which offered compensation for 'shock and trauma' – on the condition she kept the incident quiet. The hunt later withdrew the confidentiality demand when she pointed out her duty to inform the police. Mrs Hodgson, who is chairperson of the North Devon magistrate's bench, said: 'Pippa was old and slow and they caught her barely a stride away from me. One had its jaws into her back and the other had her throat. They literally peeled her apart. I could see flesh opening up and she was desperately wounded.

When we got the hunt's letter offering hush money it made me so angry. We have three young grandchildren who play with the dogs in the garden. I try not to think about what might have happened.' In a letter of apology to Mrs Hodgson, the hunt's solicitor, Hole and Pugsley of Tiverton, offered £1000 compensation for shock and trauma and promised to pay vet bills plus the cost of a new dog. The couple has now accepted the compensation package. Joint master of the Tiverton Staghounds John Lucas said both hounds involved were immediately destroyed. A police spokesman confirmed that officers were treating the incident as a crime allegation.



■ FLOCK OF ALPACAS ATTACKED BY HOUNDS

Hounds from the Oakley foxhunt savaged a flock of alpacas, resulting in the death of one of the animals, in late October. The Oakley were allegedly drag hunting when their hounds got into a field attached to Horsehill Farm, near Harlington.

Farmers James and Elizabeth Smith keep 26 alpacas, llama like herbivorous animals from South America prized for their wool. The dogs attacked several alpacas, three of which needed the attention of a vet, a fourth animal subsequently died of its injuries. Referring to the incident, hunt master Martin Garner said: 'Hounds are trained to hunt and there will be occasions when things go wrong, unfortunately the hounds did slightly get away from us and frightened a couple of animals'.

The Smith's are reported to be discussing the matter with the hunt.

■ HALLOWEEN HORROR IN TAUNTON

Shocked parents watched horrified as hounds belonging to the Taunton Vale Fox Hounds, one dripping with blood, rampaged through Hestercombe Gardens near Taunton during a children's Halloween party.

The hounds stormed through the gardens shortly after a fox had dashed through, just as the children, in fancy dress, were beginning a Halloween trail.
One mother told the local County Gazette: 'My sister-in-law commented on how terrified it looked (the fox) but off it went so we kept walking. The next things we heard dogs barking and the sound of bugles. Shortly after around six to ten dogs ran across the gardens after the fox – one was dripping with blood.

Thankfully my children were not upset by it all but I was shocked by it all – it's a National Trust garden so what were the dogs doing on it, especially with so many children around?'

NEW PRIVATE PACK TO BEGIN HUNTING

– OR ARE THEY?

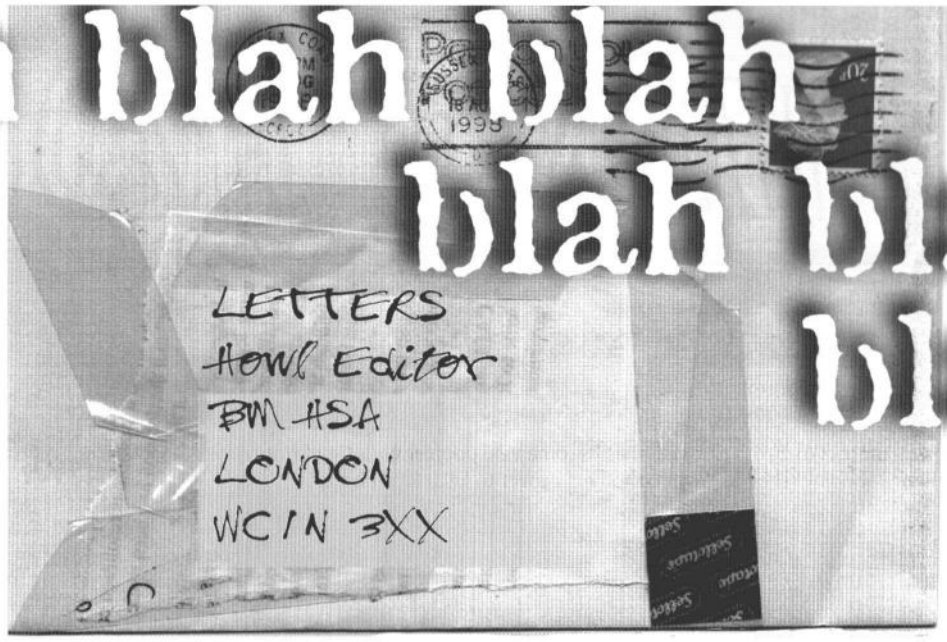
The first wholly new mounted hunt to be created for a quarter of a century has been set up by a nephew of Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond. Roddy Fleming, a financier, is undeterred by the ban and is building his own kennels in Oxfordshire. The Private Pack, as the hunt will be called, will hunt trails laid to simulate both foxes and hares. Its livery will be Royal Blue and it will have no subscribing members – membership will be by invitation only. A more pressing issue for dear Roddy will be where his pack will actually hunt. The two farms he owns are in Heythrop country and a total of seven other hunts, hunt in the area. Fleming says his hunt will be 'peripatetic' and will hunt, when not on his land, in parts of England where there are no formal hunt countries and in Wales and Scotland. As yet though, he has been unsuccessful in registering with either MFHA or the Association of Masters of Beagles and Harriers, and as such they will consider him a 'pirate hunt'. A senior hunting source, who declined to be identified, said: 'All this trouble is the result of personality problems. Roddy's cousin, was turned down by the Heythrop as a master and what Roddy is up to seems to have happened as a result of that. A lot of people don't want to fall out with him or with them.' Fleming has long been a generous benefactor of the C.A.

ALL HIS HART COULD DESIRE



Last summer it was reported that Simon Hart – chief executive of the Countryside Alliance – had joined the Conservative party and was actively eyeing a parliamentary seat. But when asked whether he might be keen on becoming the next MP for his home constituency of Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire South, he replied: 'The Countryside Alliance is a non-party organisation and I don't think it is appropriate for me to express political views in public. A year down the line and Hart has done something of a U-turn. He has been outed on conservativehome.com – the online Tory bible – as being one of those fabled 'A-list' candidates and has now confirmed his intention to go for selection in the specific seat. Hart has said he will quit his position with the CA if he wins a seat in Parliament. If he wins a seat in Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire South he would need to overturn the 1,910-majority of Labour's Nick Ainger. Hart also denies a 'conspiracy' to take over his local Conservative party by signing up scores of his friends to ensure his selection.

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 87
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

SOMETHING FISHY?!

What follows below is a letter to the Angling Times magazine from the HSA press officer after ridiculous accusations by them that hunt sabs were responsible for attacking anglers after the annual Glorious 12th in August this year. - Ed.

Dear Richard

A hopefully enlightening letter on what seems to have become, yet again, a very topical issue - the sabotage of angling. Feel free to publish this letter, ideally without the need for imaginative editing.

To put the record straight (as very few journalists have bothered to ask for our comment on the seemingly endless recycling of an alleged attack on anglers in the North-West), the Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) has ALWAYS considered angling to be a bloodsport. There is no 'new campaign' against angling - it remains an abhorrent and cruel activity, and as such will continue to be included within our remit as an organisation against ALL bloodsports. Our website (www.huntsabs.org.uk) includes details on how to sabotage angling, and this information has been present in our Tactics Handbook for well over a decade. The HSA itself has been around for over 40 years, and has played a major part in securing a ban on hunting with hounds by using non-violent, direct action tactics.

Now call me a conspiracy theorist if you like, but something tells me this whole media frenzy is highly likely to be orchestrated by an increasingly desperate PR (and membership!) team at the Countryside Alliance. Ultimately they have nothing to lose, and seemingly everything to gain (especially new members) by trying to push the 'angling is the next target' angle within the angling community. The hunt ban eradicated the CA's primary reason for existence, and so now they scrabble around trying to rally others to their already lost cause. You'd be a fool to fall for it.

Of course we'll never agree on the issue of angling - it remains a cruel and unnecessary pastime. It's not about 'people-hating', it's not about 'class hatred' and it's not about 'terrorism'. It's about cruelty - plain and simple. If you want to spend an afternoon by the riverbank then by all means do, just take a good book, or maybe a bin bag and gloves so you can clean a bit of our countryside up for others to enjoy. Leave the hooking of a fish out of the equation, and we'll gladly leave you alone.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Preston
Press Officer

P.S. Please do call if you want further comment. Happy to do an interview if you think it would be of use. Number below, or reply to this email.

----Original Message Follows----
From: AT Letters <atletters@emap.com>
To: "Hunt Saboteurs Association" <hsapress@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Open letter to Angling Times from Hunt Saboteurs Association
Date: Mon, 18 Sep 2006 09:47:22 +0100

Thanks Dawn.

I haven't had this before - we'll certainly publish it. If your group is so concerned about the welfare of fish, why is it that no-one from the 'anti-angling' organisations are anywhere to be seen when pollution strikes? No comment about the polluters, no press release, no lobbying - what's your stance on Thames Water's repeated pollution in the London? Silence. Let's face it, deep down it isn't the fish you are concerned with otherwise you'd be far more active in trying to save their environments. If it wasn't for angling, I'm not sure half our rivers would have the bio-diversity they enjoy. The truth is unless it's got fur or feathers, no-one but fishermen really care.

Warm regards

Richard

Ps: I believe the chap who was stabbed with the syringe is still under-going tests.

This is a reissue of a letter sent directly to Richard Lee on the 4th September. You have appeared to have omitted to include or mention it in the latest edition of Angling Times, despite the fact that it is obviously something your readers would be interested in. As such this is a reissue direct to your letters page, for reconsideration...

Dear Richard

Many thanks for your reply. Funny how the first email sent directly to you didn't make it into the publication, but it seems my cunning method of sending it to a generic rather than personal email address has paid off. Result. I'll check at WHSmith tomorrow when I'm down there buying the Guardian. I won't buy AT of course, wouldn't do to try and claim that back on expenses! And if you haven't printed it I will be most upset. But don't fret, I will get over it.

As to your question on environmental matters, we are a voluntary, unpaid and consequently underesourced organisation, concerned primarily with campaigning against bloodsports. Which means we deal with that, as there are other countless, paid and fully resourced organisations who deal with those issues. I'm glad you do worry about that stuff though, or have staff to do it for you. A bit like managing to deal with an incoming email when its first sent.

And on the final mention of the alleged 'syringe stabbing', to put it bluntly we'd have to say you're having a laugh. We're used to the pitiful allegations of 'staves' and 'fenceposts' that the Countryside Alliance trot out at regular intervals, and after years of experience of dealing with such flights of fantasy we aren't surprised at this one.

Fishing is a bloodsport. Not everyone is a fan of it. Deal with it.

Sincerely

Dawn Preston
HSA

REPORT SLAMS SHOOTS

OVER ANCIENT WOODLANDS

The release of millions of pheasants and partridges by sporting estates is damaging many ancient woodlands by swamping them with birds, a report has warned. The study, by the Game Conservancy Trust, is likely to prove unpopular with landowners. This year shoots embarked on their biggest bird release with up to 35m pheasants and 10m red-legged partridges, all cage reared, being released.

The growing popularity of the 'sport' and the demand for ever larger bags means estates are releasing ever larger numbers of birds. Shooting has become very popular with City firms sending executives on 'bonding' shoots. 'Such customers expect to kill a lot of birds,' according to one shoot manager. For woodland plants and animals, however, the arrival of thousands of game birds can be a disaster, the GCT report has warned. 'When too many birds are released into a woodland they destroy native plants such violets, brambles and anything else that has shoots on it in late summer,' said researcher Rufus Sage.



Violets: Under threat

In the five-year study Sage's team looked at mass bird releases on dozens of estates. 'Our conclusion is that no more than 400 pheasants should be released per acre of woodland,' he said, with a figure of 280 per acre for ancient woodlands or those with rare species. By contrast, many large estates release as many as 1000 pheasants per acre, with owners charging £23-£30 for each bird shot there are motives to continue. The shooting industries response to the report came from Ken Butler, chairman of the National Gamekeepers Organisation. 'We want this report to be the beginning of the shooting industry putting its house in order'.

HSA RAFFLE WINNERS

The following lucky people were pulled out of the hat and became winners at this years HSA AGM, they were:

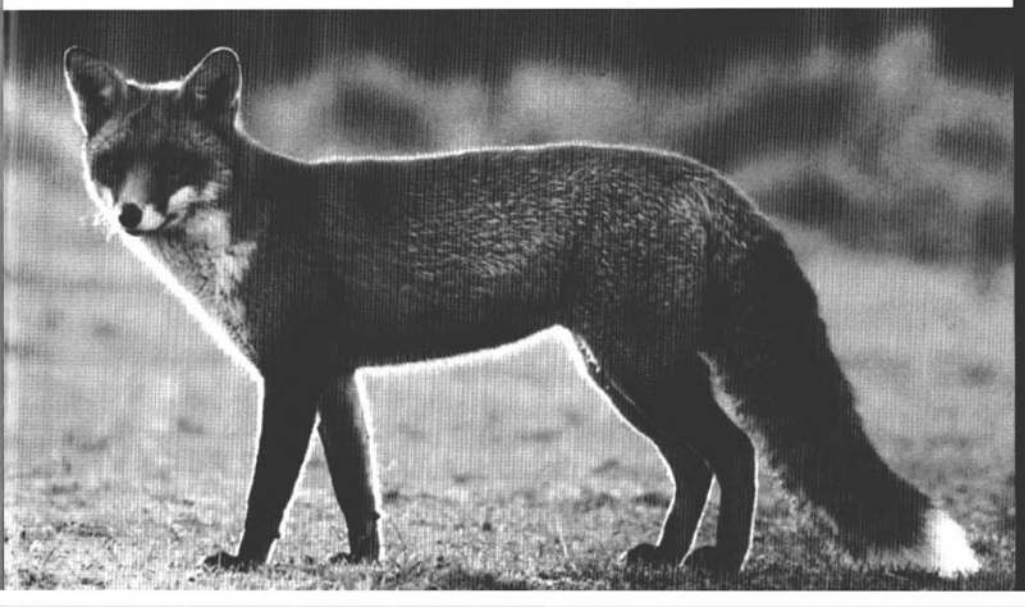
1st prize of £300 went to Mrs W. Allard, of Ipswich

2nd prize of £150 went to Mr Cruse, of Cromer

3rd prize of £50 went to S. Old

Three runner prizes of a £20 sales goods voucher from the HSA catalogue were also won by:

Ms. M. Guess, of Surrey
E. Nice, of London
Ms. C. Lavin, of London



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.

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

APRIL 2006
1st P. Fenn
2nd E. Miles
3rd F. Ford

MAY 2006
1st P. Soane
2nd R. Banham
3rd D. Andrews

JUNE 2006
1st L. Edwards
2nd D. Westwood
3rd J. Roberts

JULY 2006
1st E. Miles
2nd P. Fenn
3rd M. Clarke

AUGUST 2006
1st E. Pyoumi
2nd N. Green
3rd B. Dickinson

SEPTEMBER 2006
1st S. Coyle
2nd J. Hannen
3rd P. Fenn



SABS AND SEA DOGS ABOARD THE SEA SHEPHERD



In December 2005 the seas of the southern ocean were due to run red with the blood of 935 whales. They would be slaughtered by the Japanese Whaling Fleet in the name of 'Research'. This year was to be different; the whales would not be alone. They would be joined by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and their flagship the Farley Mowat.

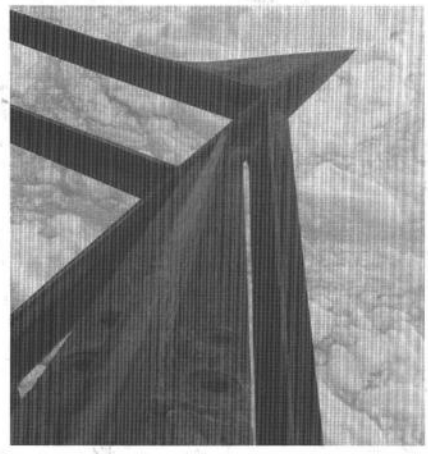


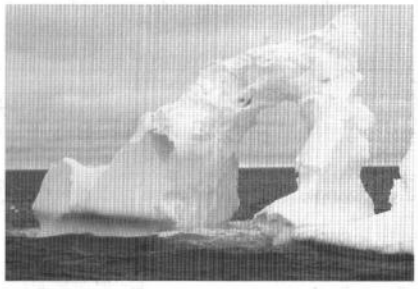
The society was started in 1977 in Vancouver, Canada by Captain Paul Watson co-founder of Greenpeace. He is still a member but started Sea Shepherd with original ocean defender Bob Hunter after the organisation became stale and lacking in action. This is important to note, as we would be joined by Greenpeace in the Southern Ocean. They were there to highlight the plight of the 935 whales, 50 of them being the endangered Fin whale. Our aim was to stop the whaling fleet from killing any whales and shut down the illegal operation.

The whaling fleet consisted of 2 spotter ships, 3 Harpooning ships and a factory ship which has an onboard whale meat processing plant. The meat is frozen, packaged and ends up on dinner tables in Japanese restaurants. As research has shown most whale meat ends up in dog food or is kept in storage, as demand has decreased since the end of the Second World War. The Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research believes that by killing more whales, the more we will learn more about them. I don't see how this works and I am sure it has nothing to do with the government subsidising the multi million-dollar industries!

The whalers would be entering a whale sanctuary to catch their prey. Their numbers did not deter us and we remained confident that we would be successful.

After leaving Australia escorted by dolphins at the bow (front) of our ship, it did not take long for the weather to change. We went from sitting out on deck in shorts and t-shirts to getting our thermal undies on and standing next to the ships nearest radiator. Just days out of port the crew welded a reinforced steel girder to the side of the ship. This was to act as a can opener in theory, to pierce the hull of other ships. It looked very medieval and would help to put the fear into the whalers.





It wasn't long before we got to see the first of many icebergs. It was so quiet and peaceful down amongst the ice. The days and nights just seemed to merge into each other. It remained light for 24 hours a day.

We had been at sea for days and still we found had nothing but our luck was to change. It looked as though Santa Claus had been reading his letters and knew exactly what the crew wanted for Christmas, a confrontation with the Japanese factory ship, Nissan Maru.

On 25th December, 02:00 hrs I was happily working in the engine room when the Chief Engineer appeared proclaiming that we had spotted a ship large enough to be the factory ship. Speed was increased as we closed in. The weather at this point had deteriorated and the fog set in which meant it was hard for us to see the ship, however this also worked to our advantage as the Japanese could not tell who we were. The waves had increased to about 10 ft, tossing our small ship from side to side.

By 04:00 we had caught up with the ship who must have thought we were Greenpeace and decided we were no threat. At this point a handful of us were crouching down on the stern (back of the boat) equipped with our homemade prop (propeller) fouling cables. The idea was to launch these cables attached with a variety of lines from the back of our ship in order to disable their prop, thus achieving our aim - to shutdown the whale hunt for the year.



As we cut in front of their ship the line was launched. At this point the captain of the Nissan Maru saw what was going on and immediately altered his course. The Nissan Maru was now parallel with us. We where matching their speed when we saw the 90,000-ton ship veer onto a collision course with us. They were heading right for our mid ships. As they got closer fear gripped the crew out on deck. People were shouting 'they are going the ram us', but in rather cruder language. Everybody found an appropriate bit of big metal to cling to as we waited for impact. What goes through your mind when you are sabbing and it looks like you are going to get a kicking is, 'Can I run?' 'Where are the coppers?' and 'Where is a bigger sab?'

What goes through your mind when you are sabbing and it looks like you are going to get a kicking is, 'Can I run?' 'Where are the coppers?' and 'Where is a bigger sab? Unfortunately when you are in the middle of the Southern Ocean under international laws these are things that are out of your control.'

Unfortunately when you are in the middle of the Southern Ocean under international laws these are things that are out of your control. Antarctica is not the place where you want to fall overboard and the only back up we had would come from Greenpeace. In this instance I didn't have much faith in the sandal wearing, josh stick lighting banner hangers who had pissed off in the other direction as soon as they saw us!

A huge sigh of relief came when we saw the factory ship change course and speed past us into the blue. Of course I changed my attitude to 'I knew they wouldn't ram, it was obvious', but I think my underwear told a different story. So there it was, our first meeting with the opposition. We had stood our ground and were now in hot pursuit of the factory ship. On Christmas Day 2005 no whales died.

The factory ship continued to run, not taking any more whales onboard. After our little meeting the Japanese whalers were branding Captain Paul Watson a 'pirate' and called his actions dangerous. There were now rumours flying of a warship being sent to 'keep an eye on us'. You thought the Government spent a lot of money policing hunts each week? I can't even imagine how much a warship costs to run per week. Well, up to this point there have been no whales killed so I think we can say the mission was going well.

We took a break on New Years Day to have a little dip in the ocean. It was 0°c and only wearing a pair of Speedo's, well shorts, it was bloody freezing. After most of the crew experienced the icy water we headed off. This time we knew where the factory ship was and we were ready. ▶▶





▶▶ On 7th January we caught up with Nissan Maru offloading whale meat onto another Japanese owned ship, the Oriental Bluebird. It looked like the whalers had run out of space in the fridge. As soon as they saw us again and our can opener, their mooring lines between the two Japanese ships were cut. They were in such a hurry to get away that the Nissan Maru actually backed into the Greenpeace ship, the Arctic Sunrise, leaving them with a nasty dent. Just moments before this, Greenpeace had been doing their bit to end whaling, by painting in very big letters on the side of the Oriental Bluebird, 'whale meat from sanctuary'; good job team!

As we approached the Japanese ships, our helicopter and 3 zodiac boats were launched. I was on the 2nd boat. As the Farley kept on course we sped on to catch up with the factory ship, which was racing away. As we approached the ship we could hear a pre-recorded message in English that told us 'do not obstruct our ship or we will be forced to hose you and fend you off'. Well, I suppose it makes a change from 'get off my land!' As we drew near, their water cannons were turned on and their crew made an awful job at 'hosing us'. We shot past the back of the ship and started to drop our prop fowlers. Our boat was going up to the sides mid ships and we threw our fowlers in the hope that they would be sucked in by the ship's mighty propeller.

With the ever-increasing speed of the factory ship the wake it was creating grew too much, and launching the fowlers we crashed straight though a wave covering all the members our boat. At this point I was convinced we had flipped over. A quick check of the goods and we were ok. After our 2 prop fowlers failed to reach the desired location, we were forced to shoot back to where we had dropped them, pick them up and make another drop. At this point we experienced engine problems and where forced back to the Farley.

The other zodiac took the more dangerous approach. By dropping the end of the line one side of the ship, then cutting in front of the bow and dropping the other, it would act as a clothesline, so in theory the line would be pulled along the hull straight into the propeller.

The second Zodiac stayed out an hour dropping the lines and retrieving them but failed to foul the propeller. It was heart breaking that we had come so close and the whalers had escaped once again.



The next morning I was rudely awoken by my roommate who told me I should get up as we were due to ram a ship in about 3 minutes. What a way to wake up? Not so much as a cup of a tea, unbelievable!

I liked to think I jumped out of my bunk ready for action, but in reality I kind of fell out and scrambled round like a madman trying to find items of clothes. I managed to get myself sorted and ran out of the cabin up to the mess (eating area) whilst still trying to put my survival suit on. All I saw was a huge black object with what looked like white letters painted on it. Then boom!! We had rammed the ship the 'Oriental Bluebird' that the whale meat had been unloaded on to. What I had seen was the white painted message put on the boat by Greenpeace. After a quick check to see there were no holes, we were off.

There was no time to waste. We all shot on deck armed with smoke and stink bombs. If we couldn't get the factory ship then this lot were going get it.

It looked as though we had caught the Oriental Bluebird unaware but not for long. As soon as they realised we were not Greenpeace and weren't going to be armed to the teeth with banners, they legged it.



They weren't stopping for nothing or no one. After we cut in front of them with another prop fowling line, they headed straight for us. They came close to clipping our bow and only just avoided the line before they bolted; we were never to meet up with the factory ship again.

After 50 days at sea and covering 4000 miles we headed for port. We made it back to South Africa with one-day worth of fuel remaining. Straight away we were impounded by the authorities. Apparently ramming ships is a bit of a no no in Cape Town.

We had done what we set out to do. We stopped the whalers from hunting for 15 days and showed the Japanese government that we weren't going to sit back and let this annual atrocity take place without a fight.

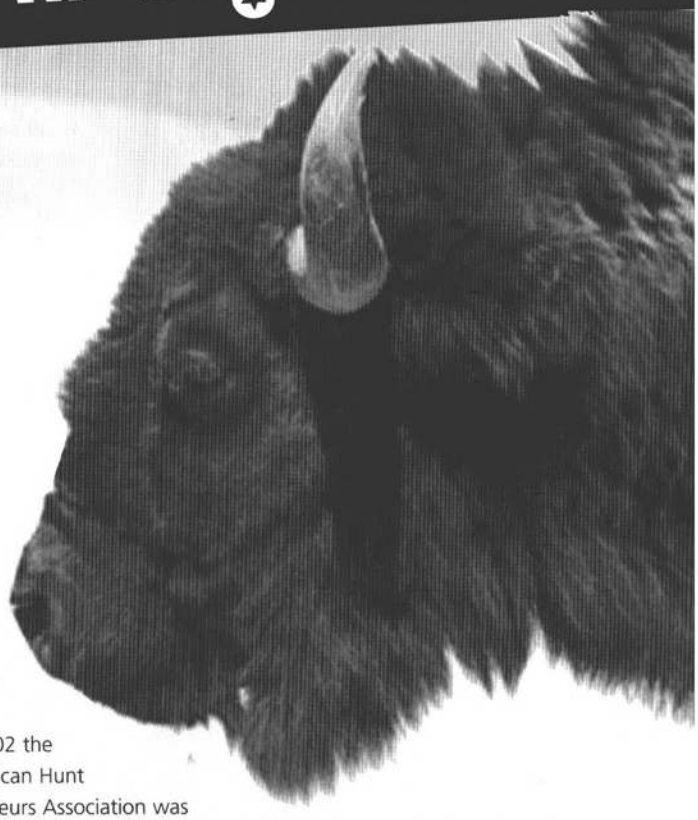
So there we have it, my times onboard the Farley Mowat. Would I do it again? At the drop of a hat.

The whaling season starts again in November. Sea Shepherd is currently campaigning for a faster ship and will be heading to the Southern Oceans again next year. For more information about joining the crew or donating to the organisation please check out *www.seashepherd.org*



OVER THE POND

hunt sabbing in bush country



Welcome to America. If it walks, swims, crawls or flies, there is probably a season for it. If an animal has been hunted to near extinction, then they will be raised on ranches or purchased from zoos, and hunters will be charged a shit-load of cash to kill them in cages. There are approx 295,734,000 people living in the US. Only 5-7% are hunters, but that is still more hunters than the population of Wales, Scotland and Ireland (both north and south).

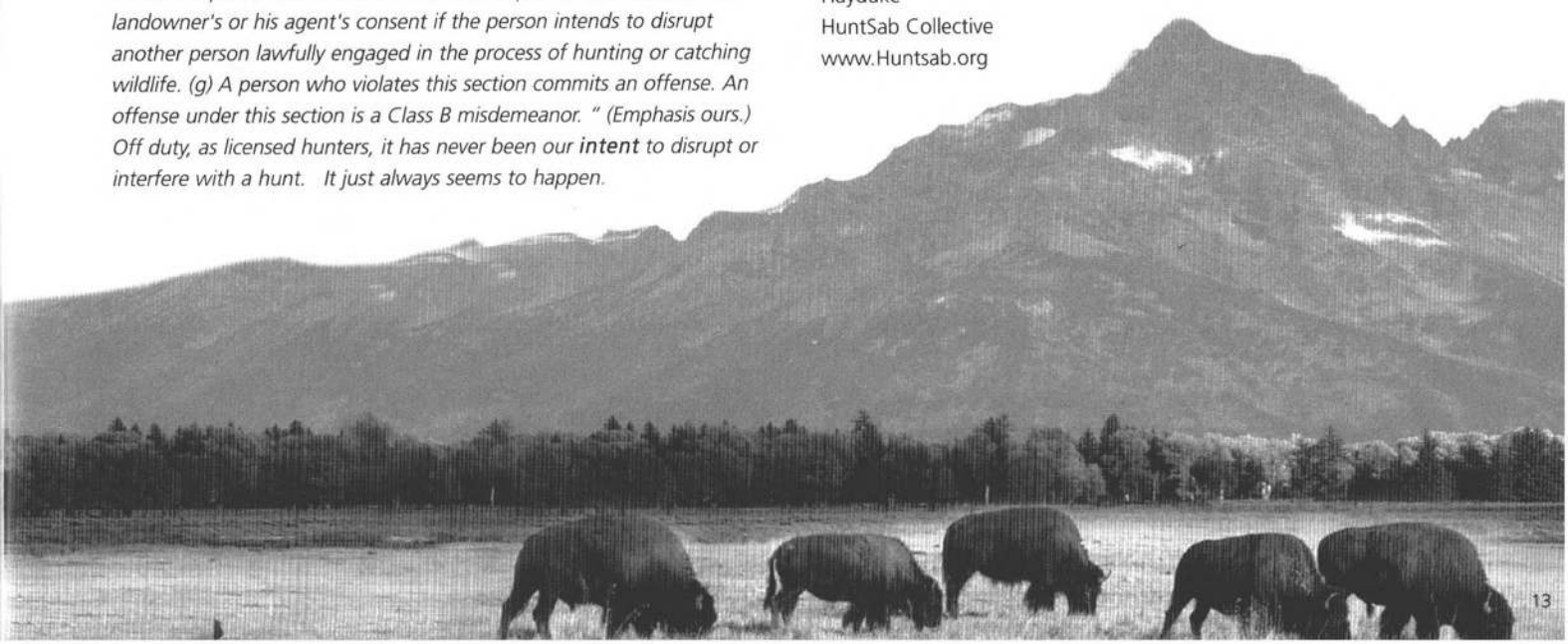
Hunting permit in hand, 300 low-velocity short range steel 12 gauge shells, 2 shot guns, ear plugs, old saxophone mouthpiece and camouflage—two sabs are "off duty" and duck hunting. A few hunters are already at the lake. We hear the first call. The first flock starts to descend. Still out of range, we start to fire. That cloud sure looked like a duck. The flock leaves frightened by the noise, and we hear cursing. We move to another location and repeat until our shoulders are bruised and shot guns are too hot to handle. Letting the barrels cool, we start our own round of calling. The sax mouthpiece is kind of close to the right sound, but the duck can tell. Another frustrating weekend for our opposition; nothing killed at this lake but a day of hunting. We run into some duck hunters a few miles up the road at a gas station and join in the gripe about "the idiots that kept firing at nothing."

Unlike in the UK or Ireland, "harassing a hunter" has become illegal in the 'Land of the Free.' If one talks to a hunter in the woods, he or she can be fined and possibly jailed. Sabs in the US have had to become more creative. Each state is different in its exact legal wording. In our home state of Texas, the Sportsman's Rights Act reads as follows:

Tx. Parks & Wildlife Code § 62.0125 (1997) Harassment of Hunters, Trappers, and Fishermen (c) "No person may ***intentionally*** *interfere with another person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife. (d) No person may* ***intentionally*** *harass, drive, or disturb any wildlife for the purpose of disrupting a person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife. (e) No person may enter or remain on public land or enter or remain on private land without the landowner's or his agent's consent if the person intends to disrupt another person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife. (g) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor. " (Emphasis ours.) Off duty, as licensed hunters, it has never been our* ***intent*** *to disrupt or interfere with a hunt. It just always seems to happen.*

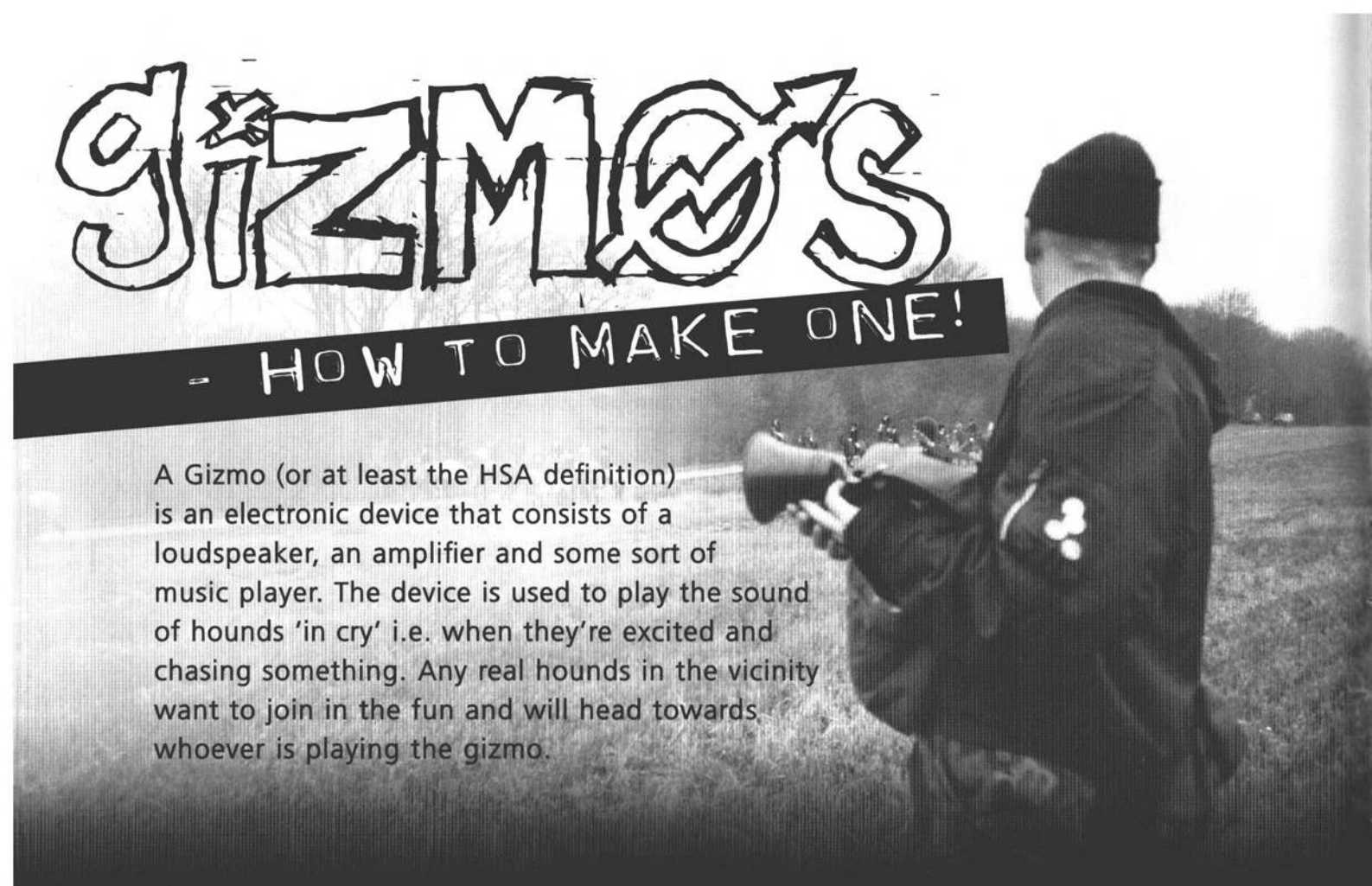
In 2002 the American Hunt Saboteurs Association was founded out of frustration. No organization existed that had the information we needed to effectively engage in sabbing in the US. We grew tired of hearing about Sabs that were, and continue to be, arrested for violating harassment laws. We decided to put all of our collective knowledge on a web site so that others could benefit. We host numerous tactics submitted to us from activists and groups. If no tactic exists, we research and post possible strategies. Most follow the exact letter of the law; others are there for informational purposes only. We accept no donations and have neither members nor address; we exist only to provide a resource for those engaging in sabbing. The web site, www.Huntsab.org, is not a definitive collection of tactics for all species stalked on the continent, but we're working on it.

Hayduke
HuntSab Collective
www.Huntsab.org



gizmos

- HOW TO MAKE ONE!



A Gizmo (or at least the HSA definition) is an electronic device that consists of a loudspeaker, an amplifier and some sort of music player. The device is used to play the sound of hounds 'in cry' i.e. when they're excited and chasing something. Any real hounds in the vicinity want to join in the fun and will head towards whoever is playing the gizmo.

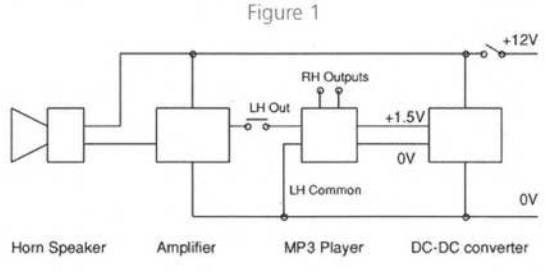
Our standard gizmo got stolen out of our van, not by local hunters, but by local kids one night who must have mistaken it for the next generation iPod or something. I think a gizmo is a pretty useful piece of kit for any sab group (even after the ban!) so I was keen to replace it. The first part of this article describes how to build a basic HSA-style gizmo but slightly updated.

The following table lists the parts you will need:

Component No.	Component & Maplin Code	Cost (£)
1	10W 8ohm Horn Speaker (XQ73Q)	7.99
2	12W (6-16V) Amplifier (N65AW)	7.99
3	12V 1.3Ah Battery (MM22)	9.99
4	128MB MP3 Player (L05BF)	24.99
5	Car Power Adaptor (L17AR)	8.99
6	Car Power Extension Lead (BV47)	2.99
7	Rocker Switch (N50BW)	1.99
8	Aluminium Box (LF16)	3.99
	Total:	68.92

Before everyone gets up and starts shouting "That's way too expensive!" please bear in mind the the two most expensive components are the MP3 player and the battery. This is a very low spec MP3 player by modern standards so you may find somebody who is upgrading to a better player and is prepared to donate their old one for nothing. The rechargeable battery - if you keep it charged up - will last for 6 years or so which is a lot cheaper than 6 years worth of disposables and how much will 8 NiMH batteries set you back?

Figure 1



The basic wiring diagram for the setup is shown in figure 1 below. The aluminium box needs a bit of work on it to fit all the components and switches - see right for the basic positions. It is advisable to lay out the components in the box to give you more of an idea. Get drilling! For the little holes I was using a 4-5mm drill bit. The push button required a hole of 6.5mm. I got the biggest bit I could fit to my drill (1/2") for the really big holes but it still wasn't enough. I spent an hour with a needle file making the holes big enough for the power switch and the cigarette lighter plug. A Dremel drill is recommended for that job!





While I had the drill out I thought it was a good idea to drill a hole in the MP3 player! I drilled a 4mm hole in the battery cover so I could solder wires onto the battery terminals (left). These power leads and the earphone leads (cut off the earphones!) I threaded through into the case (right) and bonded the MP3 player to the back of the case using a 2-part epoxy glue (Araldite or similar).

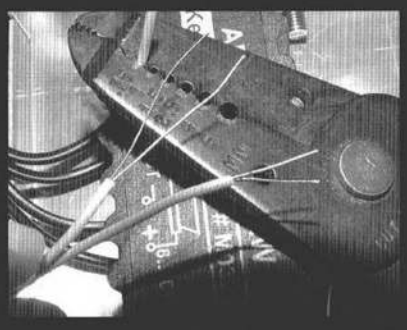


All the wiring for this project came from the voltage converter which was the next item I butchered! The purpose of this component is to convert the 12V supply from the battery into 1.5V which can power the MP3 player. The cigarette lighter plug is also used so the gizmo can be charged up while driving to and from hunt meets - assuming you have a working lighter socket in your van! Try to keep to the colour convention of black/white for positive leads and black for negative to avoid mistakes. Carefully hacksaw around the neck of the converter just above the tip of the dimple where the neck just starts to widen (so it can be retained in the box). The photo left shows how I sawed it a little low down and almost cut into the circuit board! Cut the wires between the circuit board (making the circuit board wires as long as possible) and the cigarette lighter plug. Attach a pair of terminal blocks to the wires connected to the board and add loads of epoxy glue to give strength and offer some insulation without glueing up the free ends of the terminal blocks.

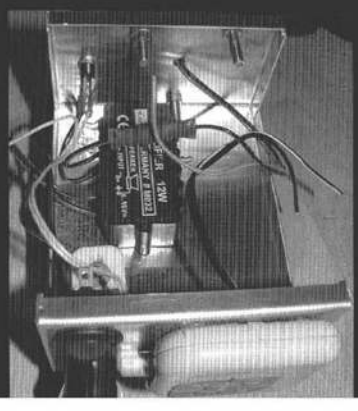


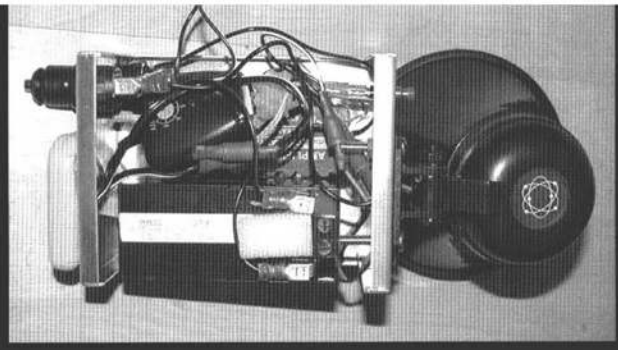
Again like the MP3 player, wires were soldered into the lighter plug to allow it to be connected to the battery inside the box - see right. That's pretty well all the fiddly preparation done and so to turn our attention to the inside.





The earphone leads are very fine so take care when stripping the insulation back. The photo left shows what you should expect to see although the colours may differ. Two wires will be the same colour and these I took as the 'common'. One of the leads I simply snipped back then and used only one pair because this gizmo is mono only. The wires are so fine I connected these to the push button. You will need about 3cm of bare wire. The 'common' I slipped under the base of the button and tightened it up. The 'positive' wire I folded a few times and crimped a small red connector over the top. This will clip onto the push button terminal. The positive input for the amplifier was connected to the other terminal of the push button. See right.





Everything else was fairly straightforward if you know basic electronics and can follow the circuit diagram. I glued the amplifier in place and riveted a bracket to the box behind the lighter plug to prevent it being pushed inside. The battery I only wedged in place (using glued rubber blocks) because after 6 years or so you may want to replace it. The negative battery terminal should be earthed to the case. The power switch should be wired up to allow the battery to be charged in the 'OFF' position and then power go into the amplifier and voltage converter in the 'ON' position. Blue connectors will fit the battery and the power switch. I would recommend using the red bullet connectors to join wiring instead of the blue ones I used for the simple reason that space is tight! The photo above shows everything will fit in the box nice - if not neat!

SUPERSIZE GIZMO

To be honest this small gizmo was the second one I built and now I'll describe the extreme supersized mother of all gizmos which I built first and has been trialled already this last season with great success. My thoughts went along these lines:

"That's crap - that little black speaker kicks out a paltry 5-6W I reckon."
"Next one down - hmm... that's more like it - a 30W horn speaker!"
"All I need now is an amplifier. Aah, here's an amplifier that kicks out 40W with a 4ohm speaker at 16V. Well, the speaker is 8ohm and if I use a 12V battery that should drop the power down nicely to maybe about 20W - perfect - don't want to overwork the speaker!"
That just about sums up the electronic design work!

Here is the table of components required for this project:

Component No.	Component & Maplin Code	Cost (£)
1	30W 8ohm Horn Speaker (XG97F)	19.99
2	40W (6-16V) Amplifier (N67AW)	15.99
3	12V 2.2Ah Battery (MM23)	11.99
4	128MB MP3 Player (L05BF)	24.99
5	Car Power Adaptor (L17AR)	8.99
6	Car Power Extension Lead (BV47)	2.99
7	Rocker Switch (N50BW)	1.99
	Total	86.93

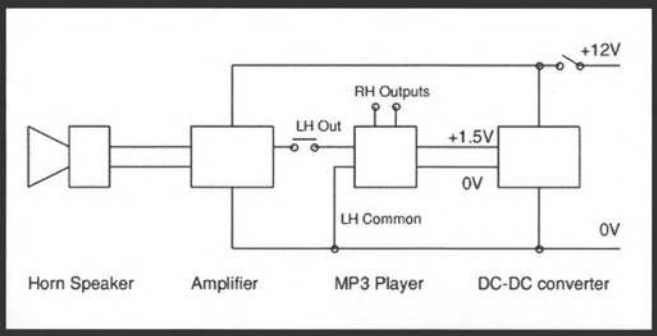


The horn speaker for this gizmo is massive (right), so to cut down on the bulk, all the electronics fit around the horn. This unfortunately requires a specialist case which has to be made out of metal. If you don't have any sheet metal in your garage Maplin again save the day by selling sheets of aluminium so you can make your own box. The dimensioned design is shown in figure 11. It consists of 2 pieces which can be joined together with self-tapping screws. You will need tin snips or a jigsaw with a metal-cutting blade to cut the shapes out and a hammer to form the pieces. ▶▶

▶▶ I used the same basic techniques as previously described with a few notable exceptions:

- This amplifier requires a heat sink and so I used the aluminium case for this purpose and riveted the amplifier directly to it.
- The battery ideally requires suspending next to the horn speaker in this project so it is advisable to rivet some small brackets to the case and zip-tie the battery to the brackets. (Experiment with where to place the battery before fitting the brackets.)
- I used thicker wires between the battery and amplifier because this amplifier can draw 4Amps, so use some 4-5A wire.

The amplifier was again very straight forward to wire up but the circuit does differ from the smaller gizmo and the circuit diagram is shown below.



When things go wrong....

- So you've put it all together and it doesn't work - don't cry just yet!
- Check your wiring to make sure you have connected each component to the next one in the right order and in the right way using the circuit diagram as a guide.
- Check the connectors are all firmly crimped - the wire should not wobble around in the connector.
- For both the gizmos I built I had problems with the power switches. The power switch doesn't light on the big gizmo and on the small one didn't work at all. To test this out simply bypass the switch and wire up the battery directly.
- Check the battery is properly charged with a voltmeter.





USING A GIZMO

Most sabs have probably used a gizmo before so I won't patronise anyone with explaining how to use the smaller gizmo. After switching on the power and the MP3 player you will hear a quiet version of the hounds in cry. This is due to the way the speaker is connected and earthed but don't worry - press the red button and have some fun!

You may have to increase the volume of the MP3 player.
For both of these gizmos I would recommend leaving the power switched on in the field to avoid having to switch on the MP3 player and adjusting the volume every time.

Here's some tips for the larger gizmo:

I recommend fitting a shoulder strap for the ~~poor fool~~ honoured person carrying it around all day. Don't test it out in the van unless you want to cause a crash!

Flick the power switch to 'ON'.

Switch the MP3 player 'ON' and if it requires it press 'PLAY'.

Press the little red button.

You may have to adjust the volume on the MP3 player.
Use the hunting horn and holloa **before** activating it because it drowns everything else out!

Keep your eyes open and watch your colleagues and hunters (if any are around) as you can't hear anything else except the gizmo.

Be prepared to run with the hounds!

Your ears may be ringing for a few moments after using it but I haven't suffered anything more permanent than that.

If you have access to a MP3 player with voice recorder you could also use the gizmo on AR demos by playing a pre-recorded speech!

A gizmo soundtrack is available to download at *http://www.derbysabs.org/extramat/gizmo.mp3* The file size is 28MB and it will take about 30minutes to download with a 1Meg broadband connection. Both of these gizmos will be available at the AGM for people to have a closer look although a try-out may not be possible!

One rule for them...



Lucky bastard Douglas Barrington Hill just managed to stay out of jail after being found guilty of criminal damage and section 5 (threatening behaviour) as well as assaulting two sabs and one copper.

The Essex Farmers' and Union Hunt Joint Master, 63, of West Hanningfield, Essex, was found guilty at Chelmsford Magistrates in March and ended up with a £250 fine, 220 hours community service, plus costs and compensation coming to nearly £3,000, (including £12.45 for a dry cleaning bill!)

The offences took place in March 2005 at the Essex and Farmers' Union Hunt near Maldon, when the hunt had just flushed and shot a fox and Hill went mental, grabbing a sab by the hair and getting a knock on his nose (the sab got nicked but charges were dropped). Hill then spat blood in a policeman's face, and smeared it on his jacket, hence the dry cleaning bill. He then smashed a male sab on the head with his whip and then whacked a female sab on the arm twice, and then on the top of the head. He was nicked at the meet in a different coloured jacket and on a different horse.



Almost of all of this last assault was filmed by a buttonhole camera and this was used in court as prosecution evidence. The defence did their best to get it discredited, and Hill said in court that he was "grabbing his reins", not whacking the sab on the arm that it clearly showed. The camera evidence was instrumental in getting him convicted, and it had the defence witnesses all over the place. On the film played in court he's asked "why do you hit women?" and Hill says "you wanted equality lady". The female Judge turned to look at him. He was sheepish. It was priceless.



'On the film played in court he's asked "why do you hit women?" and Hill says "you wanted equality lady". The female Judge turned to look at him. He was sheepish. It was priceless.'

Hill's barrister told District Judge Margaret Dodd: "He is precisely not the type of person that should go to prison." His summing up was quite interesting, he was trying to suggest a sab/police conspiracy to get Hill done. Ha ha, if only...

He said that sabs were ten things that made them unreliable witnesses and characters: 1 organised, 2 committed, 3 passionate, 4 frustrated, 5 provocative, 6 violent, 7 publicity courting, 8 "cute to the justice system", 9 have a website, and 10 feign injury.

Apparently we all looked at the footage in the pub and spoke about the day's events while one sab was in the hospital and the other in the nick 'til one in the morning. What the fuck were we meant to do?

Anyway, Hill is going for a camera in the footage, but it's battery was dead. So the covert camera did it's job, filmed them doing what they do, and we gave a vhs copy to the plod. They later asked for the original and they went ahead with the case. The prosecution did a good job to be fair, but the coppers were shit witnesses and if it wasn't assault on a copper involved I doubt it would have reached court. The sab witnesses were ace though, it was great to watch him squirm, and all of the Joint Masters gave evidence, one saying that he loved a bit of aggro with sabs, "all part of the game" he said.

Nice one Martin!

But if a sab was convicted of all those charges, I think he or she would definitely be having a bit of porridge with soya milk....

THERE WHEN IT COUNTS

Interview with a Hunt Monitor



Following the well publicized recent success by the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) in their private prosecution against Tony Wright, huntsman for the Exmoor Foxhounds, for offences under the Hunting Act 2004. The editor thought that an interesting way of re-telling the story to the readership would be in the form of an interview with one of the actual league monitors that filmed him on the day of his offence. What follows is an interview with Ed Shephard who both filmed and gave evidence against Wright in what for us has become a landmark case.

BACKGROUND:

The Exmoor foxhunt were being filmed late in their season on the 29th April 2005 by two LACS staff members. Evidence was gained which strongly suggested the recent Hunting Act 2004 had been breached, however, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), were unwilling to take the case to court, leaving it to LACS to form a private prosecution. The allegation stemmed from the fact that at times the hounds were not under the control of the huntsman, that the hounds were not called off the fox so as it could be shot as the act of flushing allows within the Act, that no attempt was made by them to shoot the fox. In fact, at times the hunt marksman was up to a kilometre away from the hounds and that therefore his presence was merely a token gesture.
The verdict was simply that Tony Wright was guilty of offences under the Hunting Act 2004 and duly convicted. The case immediately went to appeal at a higher court (due to be heard in the New Year), this time round, however, the conviction will be defended by the CPS and not LACS.

Well apart from the fact that the case set its own landmark and saw the first huntsman convicted for a crime which we have long known them to be guilty of. It also provided fresh impetus for the police to take a look at how they have prioritised resources in tackling alleged breaches of the Act. Avon and Somerset Police were in court on the day Wright's verdict was heard and since then have been seen to act against a West country Stag hunt. Enjoy the interview.

Q. Congratulations on a really successful outcome, you must be feeling your work is thoroughly justified right now?

Thank you. The decision by Parliament that it is now a crime to chase and or to kill an animal with dogs, for sport, is a landmark ruling. It sets a new standard for the prevention of cruelty to wild animals, and makes cruelty to animals for sport a criminal offence punishable by a substantial fine. Unfortunately we always suspected that some hunts and hunters would not willingly accept the change to the law and that monitoring hunts and hunters would be vital following the hunting ban. It seems that it will continue to be important to monitor the activities of bloodsports extremists for some time to come.

Q. How and when did you first become a monitor for LACS?

I joined the League three years ago as a sanctuary officer, working on the League's sanctuaries in the West Country. At the time we monitored the local hunts to gather evidence of the cruelties of hunting and to protect the sanctuaries from trespass. Since the ban came in we have monitored the local hunts to try to record all the hunt's activities and build a full picture of the day's events.

Q. On the day in question can you say where you were exactly and how many of you there were?

It was one of the final meets of the season and only the second time that I had been to monitor the Exmoor FH. They were meeting at Prayway Head which is a moorland meet right in the heart of Exmoor. There were just two of us out, Graham Floyd another sanctuary officer, and myself. We monitored the hunt from our vehicle or from the road verge all day as this provided us with very good, though sometimes distant, views and film of the area hunted.

Q. When did you first suspect illegal hunting was taking place?

The hunt set off with just two hounds and we also filmed the hunt's terrierman on a quad with a gun. We thought that the hunt would be flushing to guns, one of the exemptions given in the Hunting Act, which has a number of conditions. The exemption is only legal if the person accused can show that it was reasonable to believe that all conditions were being met.

Very soon after the hunt set off the two hounds began drawing across the moor whilst the huntsman stayed on a hill about one kilometre behind them. We felt that he would not be able to control the hounds (as the law requires) from that position should they begin to chase a fox. The terrier man with the gun was also not in a position to shoot the fox 'as soon as possible' should the hounds find one.

Q. Is this something that you have become quite used to in the South West?

The Chief Executive of the countryside alliance told the press last year that hunts were regularly and routinely breaking the law. Based on what we have seen this appears to be the case. The foxhunts all now go out with a full pack and much of their behaviour makes me suspect that they may, either by accident or design, actually be hunting foxes rather than trail hunting.

Q. When you first noticed their activity, and were sure it was a breach of the Hunting Act 2004, what action did you take?

As soon as we returned to the West Country office we secured our original tapes in our safe and later made working copies. We also separately prepared our statements of what we had seen and filmed. The hunt took place over two counties and hence over two police force areas. As a result we reported the incident to both police forces by giving them copies of our video footage along with statements from both of us detailing everything that we saw that day; a map of the area hunted and a covering letter. This letter outlined the main activities of the hunt and pointed out where on the map they had happened. The letter then outlined three particular complaints that we wanted to make against named individuals from the hunt.

Q. During the day did they notice you filming at any time, and if so did they become aggressive towards you?

The League's staff and vehicles are very well known on Exmoor and hunt supporters will go out with the different hunts so we always assume that they know when we are out. We are always very open about what we are doing and verbal aggression from hunt supporters is just part of the job. However on this particular day we didn't have any trouble all day!

Q. Several foxes were put up by the Exmoor FH that day, was there any attempt by them to pull hounds off the line?

Later on in the day we twice filmed a fox being followed by the two hounds. The hunt later claimed in court that they "flushed" more foxes that day but we only saw these two events. During the first chase we filmed the hounds following a fox across the moor until they dropped out of sight into a valley. There was no sign of the huntsman immediately before, during or after this sequence. Indeed the only people seen were on another quad and arrived after the fox and hounds had disappeared out of sight. During the second event we filmed a fox running across the moor and dropping out of sight. The hounds then come across the moor directly on its line with the huntsman beside the second hound. He made no apparent attempt to stop them and we filmed him ride after the hounds into the valley. Again the hunt's marksman was not, at the relevant times, in a position to shoot either fox.

Q. Overall, how important would you say it was to have caught on film the line of three, as it were, fox, hounds and then huntsman?

As a first case this was probably it's strongest point. During the event the huntsman and hounds were very close behind the fox, which is not something that you can film that often. I would hope that future cases could be taken without all three being so close together.

Q. In the light of the League's fantastic private prosecution has there been as increase in your monitoring activities?

We usually go out two times a week on different hunts. This has been fairly constant since the hunt ban came in. As the case took more than a year to come to court our monitoring had already reached a working level. However the prosecution has been a great boost for the work we do and for the volunteer monitors that we rely on down here. As I'm sure you know monitoring can be demoralising and these small victories keep us going.

Q. What do you think this successful prosecution means for hunting in this country now?

Unfortunately I think it will take more prosecutions and a few years to resolve this issue. This case helps to confirm the conditions required for the flushing out exemption but no doubt hunters will test all the other exemptions as well.

Successful prosecutions also make it hard for the Countryside Alliance to argue that the law is unenforceable. Also the more prosecutions we get the harder it becomes to repeal the ban. (A political party would find it difficult to claim that they are a party of law and order if they repeal an Act that has been successfully used to convict people of criminal acts).

> *'Continuous recording is very important. If you film a fox keep the camera running until you are certain the hunt aren't after it.'*

Q. Lastly, would you have any particular advice for our readers that might help them in their own monitoring activities? Such as things to be aware of in court, or in dealing with the police when reporting an incident of illegal hunting?

Continuous recording is very important. If you film a fox keep the camera running until you are certain the hunt aren't after it. If there are gaps in your film between fox and hounds it gives an opportunity for the defence to bring forward statements suggesting a completely different set of events took place and that your filming was highly selective and does not represent the full truth of what happened.

We have a procedure to follow down here when reporting incidents to the police and it may help you to arrange something similar with your local police. If you do have a case that you feel is strong then you need to keep all the original tapes in a secure place and make working copies. When you present the case to the police you should have detailed statements from all witnesses. These need to include your identification evidence of the people involved (and how you can identify them). Maps of the area where the incident occurred with the key places marked are very helpful. These places should be referred to in your statements. A covering letter should detail your allegation and specifically how the Hunting Act has been breached.

Finally, for League monitors, it is essential that the evidence we supply has all been gained lawfully. If the evidence itself was gained by an illegal act, it could be ruled inadmissible in court and the person gathering the evidence could become liable to prosecution for that illegal evidence gathering act.

GROUP NEWS

WALES

South Wales sabs, from the start of the season, have been concentrating on the PENTYRCH FH, after a sab came across them 'sneaking out' on the August bank holiday. Kennel watching was met with some over zealous policing, with cops making sure sabs were not going to break any laws whilst blocking the road allowing the hunt to make a clean escape on a number of occasions. Sabs have also been fundraising for this season, (many thanks to all the bands who played at the benefit, you know who you are, and no thanks to South Wales police for turning up and videoing people and their car number plates as they arrived at the gig because, 'the HSA are a violent splinter group', according to the boys in blue). Now then, lets have a think for a minute about who gets the kickings week in week out, aaahhh yes, its that violent splinter group isn't it!

SOUTH EAST

East Kent sabs have been monitoring the EAST KENT FH over cubbing, and they seem to be towing the legal line (and their old sock from a quad)! They even advertise their meets on a website now, but are never that pleased to see us, miserable sods. Interestingly, their supporters keep giving us meets for the EAST SUSSEX AND ROMNEY MARSH FH, who they say are 'illegally hunting'. Not that this is really new news; the hunt is now so underground, that they didn't even feature in the recent HORSE AND HOUND hunt directory. Still, all this can't be doing a lot for inter hunt relations! The ASHFORD VALLEY FH have been visited, but it is still very hard to get near them, with the hound van leaving the kennels at illegally high speeds and the local rednecks happy to block us in...come on boys, play fair. All their supporters were on the phone at the first sign of sabs, who they were though, remains a mystery. The WEST STREET TICKHAM FH are in the process of selling their kennels, and seem, (not for the first time) to be in a bit of a mess. As for the WYE BEAGLES, well they have yet to be found, not appearing as yet at usual meets.

Croydon and **Brighton** sabs began the season in customary style by tracking down the OLD SURREY & BURSTOW & WEST KENT FH in the very north of their country on the first Saturday that they were out. As was the case last season, when are back is turned they are suspected of continuing to hunt, but as soon as our presence is discovered the all too familiar pantomime of false trail laying begins. We concentrated on this pack throughout cubbing whilst **Brighton** kept a close eye on the SOUTH DOWN AND ERIDGE FH, whoever came up trumps on that day's stake out got the sabs. Several other meets of the OSB&WK FH were discovered either through tip offs or stakeouts. Amusingly, the lunatic huntsman Mark Bycroft has now been joined by his brother this season as whipper-in, we've begun running a book on which of them will have the most tantrums this season! At their Dry Hill meet one sunny Saturday morning we heard hounds in full cry, as we approached a fox charged straight past us in the opposite direction. We could still hear the hounds and as we stepped out of cover the hunt saw us and as if by magic their pet runner, 'Nigel' began pacing his way across the field and the pack were called to a halt while they awaited this new line. This is a situation we have encountered many times now, only to confirm in our minds that our presence has a great effect, but when we're not there, who knows. Otherwise the group can report that numbers are up and apart from the odd bit of dodgy policing near the kennels, we're being left unhassled.

The early part of the season has seen the hardier members of the **West London** crew getting up at stupid o'clock for the annual 'find the hunt' competition. We hooked up with **Reading** and **Bath** for a visit to HAMPSHIRE and much fun was had following horseboxes around the county until we discovered they were all heading for a horse trial. Good job we were there then! The lone sab we left scouring the meets of the GARTH also reported a no show. We returned the **Bath** group's support by heading way out west in October for a visit to the AVON VALE FH. Despite the usual hunt intimidation tactics of riding into sabs, abuse from the local (very large) bumpkins and blocking the Landy in, we stuck to it and put ourselves in several good positions to pop up with a video to stop what appeared to be blatant illegal hunting. Due to this and a smashed wing mirror courtesy of one of the field, we put a call into the cops who surprisingly turned up and 'had a word', which less surprisingly resulted in no action being taken apart from them throwing a hissy fit at us videoing them. The hunt then brought their Eagle Owl into play and managed to put a fox up using two hounds but again good positioning of the terrier man gave the fox a decent enough start to get away and the hunt packed up shortly afterwards. A long and hairy old day, but no kills, no arrests and no kickings, and a good indicator of the tactics needed for the forthcoming season.



Shooters arriving on the grouse moors demonstrate that their 'sport' truly isn't just the preserve of the wealthy. Honest.

Reading and **West London** have teamed up on several occasions to form a 'travel light and fast' crew, doing a bit of undercover work (say no more) and also maintaining the usual overt presence at the usual hunts – HAMPSHIRE HUNT, VINE AND CRAVEN, VALE OF AYLESBURY, GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS. The hunts are still pissed off when we turn up, even though they tell us they're 'only trail hunting'; laying trail through thickets, brambles and well used coverts? Very suspicious. The season continues, and we're all looking forward to the first proper conviction; then, let the floodgates open!

West Sussex Wildlife Protection group has mainly been visiting the CRAWLEY AND HORSHAM FH who have allegedly been cub hunting illegally, holding up coverts with riders clapping and slapping their saddles in the traditional manner. The hunt feels they can get away with this by using an eagle owl. However, we believe the owl cannot fly, let alone kill a running fox, as it is too small. Many in the group have been torn as to whether to return to traditional sabbing, but the majority want to give a further try at monitoring to see if we cannot knock things on the head more permanently.

As such our evidence is going to both the police and the RSPCA special operations. We have also liaised with the League who have been very helpful. We have found the video camera better than a hunting horn in terms of forcing the hunt to call hounds off the scent of a fox and recommend that everyone get one, together with a GPS whenever they are at a hunt. The hunt now go to extraordinary lengths to keep us at bay, and use up to 15 'stewards' (pictured below) to follow us and hunt down group members who are trying to monitor their activities. We are subject to all types of harassment on the road, and attempts are made to track our monitors down when they hide up in the woods. Each attempt only serves to increase our resolve to bring this hunt to book!



After a summer of furious fund raising **North and East London** sabs were up north on the glorious 12th, but didn't punch any nurses! Seven of us had to endure half of a two-week trial at Hastings Mags' for aggravated trespass (see legal pages for more on this). Thanks to local sabs who put some of us up. We finally got our Landy sorted and have been out with **Essex** and **Suffolk** group, and one **Brummie**, to cubbing meets of the ESSEX FARMERS AND UNION FH, the SUFFOLK, and the ESSEX AND SUFFOLK, where we was a fox killed above ground in a beet field, but it was too far away and too quick to save or film. The hunt looked sheepish and plod weren't bothered, as we had no evidence. We are planning to see the PUCKERIDGE FH, EAST ESSEX, and the ESSEX too, as we just bought a second vehicle. Numbers are up for us and we should have 20 out each week this season. Managed to do a cubbing meet of the FARMERS and the opening meet of the ESSEX AND SUFFOLK FH on the same day, no kills but a long day, especially when the stewards and the terrier boy turned up at the pub! (pictured below).



We had a stupid arrest for possession of a whip in Suffolk; the sab was released without charge three hours later. We also packed up the PUCKERIDGE FH before 1pm on the first Wednesday of the season. On the down side we had one conviction for Agg Tress in Ipswich in September; conditional discharge and £250 costs. Roll on April!

SOUTH

Southampton group have spent all of cubbing travelling down to Dorset to address a rumour that the Hunting Act doesn't apply down here. We've had varying numbers – on one occasion teaming up with **Bournemouth** to fill both our Landy and a car – and we have had varying levels of success. The SOUTH DORSET FH took an immediate dislike to our first day out with them from the kennels. Due to our ever-watchful eye the huntsman had to resort to what looked like a very unplanned hound exercise. Supporters didn't take kindly to this and promptly attempted to mow down sabs with a four-wheel drive. To add insult to near injury we were actually on a footpath at the time. Following that they have sent out decoys in attempts to avoid our attentions, so we turned up to the opening meet. It seems like the camera really does the trick.



The same cannot be said for the CATTISTOCK FH who have ignored the camera and allegedly hunted blatantly, on one occasion bringing in local thugs to block sabs' progress (above). On at least one occasion the arrival of back-up from **Southampton** made supporters back off from local sabs so they could continue filming unimpeded with the result that the huntsman lifted hounds in cry and left the covert. We are currently reviewing our tactics and may return to pre-ban sabbing. If we do fireworks are anticipated! Where we place ourselves for the rest of the season will depend very much on where we think we may be most required.

NORTH

North Yorkshire felt the far-reaching influence of the hunt saboteurs association on the 11th of November when the newly formed **Leeds** group hit the WEST OF YORE FH near Ripon. The hunt seemed to spend most of the time hiding from sabs and packed up after an abysmally wet and windy, no-kills day at about 3pm. The local hunts will really have to get their story sorted, as on that day, some of the riders claimed to be 'drag hunting' bur err... hadn't actually got a drag! Anyone in the Yorkshire area who wishes to join up should contact *leedssabs@narn-online.com*

Just to show that anyone can be a hunt sab, on the same day, the neighbouring YORK AND AINSTY HUNT were also 'sabbed' near Boroughbridge. A member of the general public saw a fox go running down a track in front of her while she was driving. Quickly realising it was being hunted by the Y&A hunt she parked her car across the track preventing the hunt from following. Despite the hunt threatening her and backing a horse up to kick her vehicle she stuck to her guns and saved a life!





'spare some change, m'lud?'

Or how the Countryside Alliance continues to throw bad money after bad on legal challenges to the Hunt Ban

It's a fair enough situation really, you're an organisation with the main intention of fighting a hunt ban (which ultimately you know will come in, and so your more recent remit has been to delay it for as long as possible, if truth beknown) but now the horse manure has really hit the fan and it's November 2004 – and the Hunting Act has just been passed by Parliament. What do you do? Well, you can't be seen to simply shrug your shoulders and say 'Sorry people, time's up – we did our best, and we've done some lovely stickers along the way'. So you embark on a series of legal challenges to the new law, and aim to raise £3 million along the way to fund it. And fair play to you really, you've got to save face, give the hunting fraternity something to cling to and ultimately, if your name is Simon Hart, keep yourself employed until you get endorsed as a prospective Tory MP... So, what has happened with the legal challenges, and does the Countryside Alliance (CA) really have a hope in hell of coming good on their £3m investment?

Pre-ban legal moves

Although Parliament endorsed the hunt ban in November 2004, the 3 month lead in time period meant it officially came into force on February 18 2005. But almost as soon as the last 'Aye to the Right' had been counted in the House of Commons on that fateful November night you can bet the CA was moving on a legal challenge plan that had been in existence for a while. You can only live in denial for so long after all!

The argument against the Hunting Act, which the CA took up, was that the 1949 Parliament Act (which MPs used to introduce the Hunting Act after House of Lords opposition) was invalid. The matter was heard first by an Administrative Court in January 2005, and after being rejected there the CA appealed and the matter went in front of three Appeal Court Judges. Just two days before the Act was due to come into effect, they rejected its argument that the Hunting Act was unlawful, and went as far as describing the challenge as 'unusual, and in modern times probably unprecedented.'

Typical CA reporting led to this obvious put down being reported rather more positively with the comment on the CA website that 'The Judges agreed with us on most of the points made but felt unable to make the last step and overturn the Parliament Act. This provides excellent grounds for us to take our case to the House of Lords.' The CA had also hoped that a side effect of their ongoing legal challenges would be that the Attorney General would adopt a 'blanket policy of non-enforcement' of the law, until such time as all legal challenges were exhausted. This, in short, was a desperate attempt to allow more time for hunting as they knew it to continue. The Attorney General refused to take this line however, but stated that he 'would consider with the Director of Public Prosecutions and police what approach to take in relation to such prosecutions' – meaning that it was likely that the police would not initially be pro-active in enforcing the law. The CA, not one to take no for an answer and obviously still with money in the bank, took the appeal to the House of Lords, the highest court in the land, and there it was again refused. Thus proving that the 'third time lucky' phrase doesn't always ring true.

Alun Michael, Minister of State for Rural Affairs and main government voice behind the Hunting Act, stated clearly on the Today Programme in December 2004 that '...we are absolutely confident that the legal challenge to the Hunting Act will fail. But now that Parliament has passed the Act, it's now law, it's now on the Statute Book, the right place for it to be challenged, and the Alliance has the right to do this, is in the court and not through intimidation and violence. We don't expect either the challenge of the Parliament Act nor the Human Rights challenge to succeed.' And so the Act became law and the challenges post ban rumbled on...

Post ban legal wrangling

Prior to the ban coming into force, the CA had also lodged a petition with the High Court for a judicial review of the Hunting Act on human rights grounds. This involved ten claimants from England and Wales who claimed that the Hunting Act contravened Article Seven of the European Convention on Human Rights, including the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions, respect for private life, right to association and assembly for a common purpose, freedom of thought and freedom from discrimination on class grounds. The CA also claimed that the government had contravened the convention's seizure and forfeiture rules, and that the criminal offences created by the Act were not precise enough for people to know when they were committing an offence.

This claim was rejected outright in June 2006, with Master of the Rolls Sir Anthony Clarke, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Buxton stating that

imposing the ban was a "legitimate and proportionate" exercise of government powers. They went as far as saying that 'the state was acting within its discretion in prohibiting an activity that was seen as posing a threat to an interest of high importance.' Despite this second slapping down, the hunting fraternity still failed to wake up to the reality of a post-ban life, with the CA commenting, in a slightly Ian Paisley-esque manner, that the ban was a 'divisive sectarian measure', and that the Act could ruin the livelihoods of thousands of people who earned their living from hunting – no proof of that one though of course. Simon Hart, media professional that he is, stated 'The court failed to engage consistently with our arguments...' – a comment which, in short, is media bullshit for 'We lost. Again'.

Once again though the Government, this time through comment from the Department for Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), stated clearly its thoughts on the matter. The DEFRA website stated that 'The Government accepts the right of the Countryside Alliance and others to challenge the Act through the Courts but is confident that the Act has a sound legal basis. This view has been supported in both the High Court and the Court of Appeal, where the Countryside Alliance's challenge to the validity of the Parliament Act 1949 (which established the procedures under which the Hunting Act was passed) has been rejected...The Countryside Alliance has also launched separate legal challenges on human rights and European Union trade grounds. These cases were heard together in the High Court in July, and were rejected 'in their entirety.'

Where are we now?

The Hunting Act 2004 has now been in force for almost two years, but still the CA continue to press on with increasingly futile legal challenges. The human rights challenge, refuted in a British court, has been taken to the higher European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, with no date set for a hearing as notoriously cases here can take years. No worry though, as a quick look at the CA website seems to show that the 'Legal Challenge Appeal', is still up and running, stating that 'We have sought the best legal advice available and have confidence in the strength of both cases, but these challenges are expensive and we aim to raise at least £3 million to meet costs. By donating to the Legal Challenge Appeal you can help to defeat this bigoted piece of legislation and ensure a prosperous future for the countryside.' No mention of the fact that 'both' legal challenges have failed to date, or that the £3m required has probably been accounted for quite a while ago... Perhaps we could suggest that any new cash forthcoming could be invested in a webmaster, so that information on the site is kept updated? Especially as the link to the 'Legal Challenge Appeal' didn't even work when we tried it. Maybe someone forgot to pay the renewal...?



"Simon Hart, media professional that he is, stated 'The court failed to engage consistently with our arguments' a comment which, in short, is media bullshit for We lost. Again."

In conclusion, what all this means is that we shouldn't be surprised that the CA et al are still trying to stand strong against the hunt ban. They can't do anything other than try to look defiant, chase costly legal challenges, and continue to spout comment that makes no logical sense in light of what is happening all around us. And the reality is that the second season under the hunt ban started after the first successful prosecution under the Act, albeit one privately funded by the League Against Cruel Sports (well done LACS). A second private prosecution is underway, and the first public one has finally been instigated – and we applaud Avon and Somerset Police for their brave move here. Of course all these prosecutions will be fought and funded by the CA, whether directly or indirectly. They should lose on all counts, and continue to do so.

Do not doubt that things are changing, slowly but surely. On the anniversary of the law coming into effect all the CA could do was rant that the legislation was 'derided, discredited and damaged beyond repair'. What followed that comment was a successful prosecution, two more in the pipeline and sense that the powers that be are finally waking up for the need for enforcement, with Defra stating: 'The Government believes that it is now time to move on from the debate over the rights and wrongs of hunting and to deal with any issues arising from the implementation of the Act'. Exactly. And as I think we've said before...

'WORDS MEAN NOTHING – ACTIONS ARE EVERYTHING'

Legal News



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 Drake Hall,
Eccleshall, Staffordshire
ST21 6LQ

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

MADELINE BUCKLER
(PR7492)
HMP Morton Hall,
Swinderby, Lincoln
LN6 9PT

Serving two years in connection with charges relating to the former campaign against the Newchurch guineapig farm

NATASHA AVERY
(NR8987)
UKDS HMP Bronzefield,
Woodthorpe Road,
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3JZ

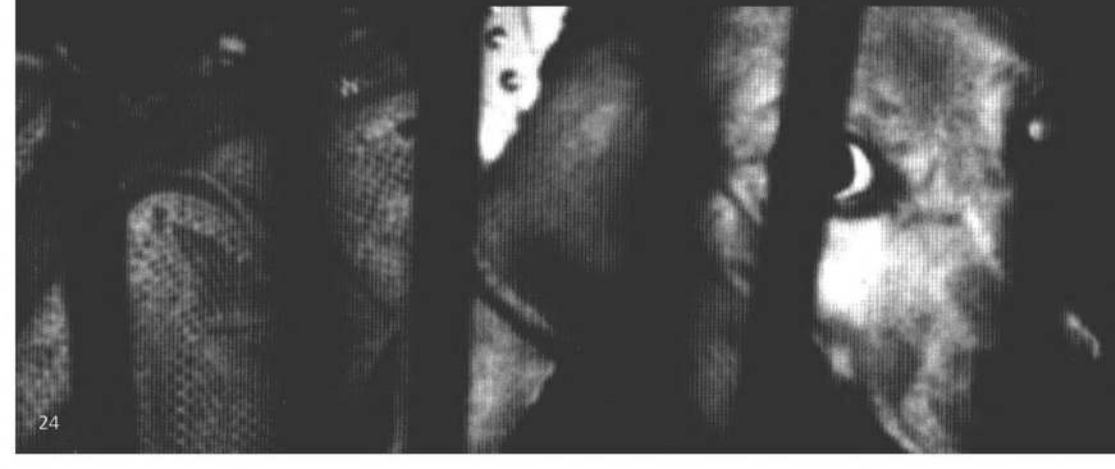
Serving 16 months in relation to affray against a hunting family.

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.



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

Remanded - Charged with arson attacks.

LEGAL BRIEFS

☺ **In May, a farmer admitted threatening a hunt monitor during an angry confrontation at a meet in Devon.** John Poole, 66, was bound over by Exeter magistrates after the incident at the Eggesford FH. The incident happened while the hunt met near Lapford in mid Devon in October 2005. Poole, of Broadclyst Station, Exeter, threatened hunt monitors who had moved their vehicle after inadvertently blocking an entrance to a field. The monitors said such incidents were common since the hunting ban.

☺ **During the spring a Crawley and Horsham FH supporter pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention, having no insurance and failing to report an accident.** On what should have been the first day of his trial, John Wesley pleaded guilty. Horsham magistrates gave Wesley nine points on his licence but he received less than £500 in fines, costs and compensation, and was only ordered to pay £80 of more than £2000 damage he caused, after ramming the Chichester Sab van off the road. The incident had occurred during the first meet of the C & H after the introduction of the Hunting Act in February 2005. Wesley is already banned from driving having been convicted for having no insurance on a more recent occasion. He had been driving an unregistered Range Rover, which could not be traced. However, he was identified some weeks later from video footage taken earlier in the day. His fine and costs are less than the £600 third party insurance that the sab group's minibus had!

While awaiting trial, Wesley continued to attend the hunt, on one occasion bashing his fist on the window as the minibus passed. However, more recently he received bail conditions preventing him from attending the C & H hunt after he was charged with assaulting two female hunt monitors. (Another real piece of work, courtesy of the notorious C & H –Ed).

☺ **The kennel huntsman for the Cumberland Foxhounds has been banned from driving for 16 months after being convicted of driving while more than twice the legal alcohol limit.** Thomas Hudson, 50, of Croft Court, Wigton, was stopped by police at 4pm on July 25th 2006 because one of his rear lights was not working. He was breathalysed after the officer smelt alcohol and was found to have 89 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35. Hudson admitted drink driving and his solicitor asked for the minimum driving ban because of his job. She told magistrates: 'His employment and career is very much in the balance. He wishes to apologise for the offence.' Hudson, who has managed the hunt kennels for 20 years, finished work early and went to the pub for a few drinks before driving home, having felt fit to drive. The court was told his employers would make a decision about his future after the sentencing.

☺ **In early September two Merseyside men appeared before Chester magistrates court accused of hunting a fox with dogs.** Mark Walsh (18) from Bootle and Paul Kelly (20) of Norris Green Liverpool faced charges relating to the death of a fox in Great Barrow Cheshire. They were bailed until October. Another man Paul McMullen (35) from Bootle and a juvenile failed to appear.

☹ **A hunt supporter has been cleared of attacking three people and stealing the video camera they were using to monitor a hunt.** Jeffrey Poulton, 39, of Llandewi Fach, Builth Wells, had denied robbery and two counts of assault. The jury cleared him of robbery and one assault but could not agree on the second. Judge Michael Burr entered a formal not guilty verdict. The Crown Prosecution Service said it would not seek a re-trial. Poulton had been accused of the attack as a group of four people monitored the Golden Valley FH, near Hay-on-Wye, Monmouthshire, in January this year. Part of the case against Poulton had alleged he had driven up along side the monitor's vehicle and pulled the legs from under one of the monitors who was standing on the bonnet for a better view.

☺ **All six of the policemen charged over the pro-hunt demonstration in Parliament square in September 2004 have been cleared.** The six were accused of offences ranging from assault to GBH following the Countryside Alliance's protest. Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said: ' These officers were faced with a hard core of protesters who were both determined and violent, uninterested in lawful protest and intent on breaking barriers to gain entry in to the Houses of Parliament. Police officers –doing what is essentially their job- were faced with a barrage of missiles that included fireworks, sections of scaffolding and barriers. Sixty police officers were injured that day, mainly as a result of crowd action'.

☺ **Frazor Sibley (below) a hunt supporter of Bignor park Road Nursery, Bignor Park Road, Bignor, West Sussex was found guilty at Chichester Magistrates Court in mid October of causing assault to a hunt sab during a meet of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH on 17th February 2005.** The last day of legal hunting in England and Wales. Sibley was given a two-year Conditional Discharge and ordered to pay £250 costs.



Footage shown to the court that was taken by a cameraman for ITN news, showed Sibley punching the sab six times in the back of the head. Sibley argued he was defending a hunt rider, when in fact the rider was deliberately riding into the sab to stop him filming an attack by Wayne Spencer, (see next paragraph). Seconds before the attack, the sab in question had filmed Spencer kicking another hunt sab in the head. In finding Spencer guilty of assault the judge fined him £400 with £700 costs.

☺ **A hunt supporter has been found guilty of assaulting a sab but cleared of ABH.** Wayne Spencer, 39, of Oakhurst Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex admitted kicking a sab while supporting the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH during the last meet of legal hunting on February 17, 2005. Spencer admitted kicking him on the legs while he lay in a ditch towards the end of the hunt and admitted he wished he had 'done a lot more to him than that'. Spencer was captured on video taken by Sabs and an ITN news crew. During the trial at Lewes Crown Court in August, he denied one charge of causing actual bodily harm and another of unlawful wounding and claimed another man present at the hunt or a horse hoof inflicted the injuries.

☺ **A Hastings sab was found not guilty of ABH at Lewes Crown Court after an incident on 29th January 2005 at a meet of the Crawley & Horsham FH.** Towards the end of the day with the pack split, hunt supporter Neil Millard drove his 4x4 at sabs before braking at the last second. He jumped out and picked up a stray hound so roughly it yelped and tried to bite him. He then pulled a fence-post out of his vehicle and struck a sab with it. In a scenario all too typical, the sab was subsequently arrested! Under oath, Neil Millard appeared aggressive and unco-operative, and even gave 'no-comment' replies to the defence barristers questions about him wielding a fence-post! Sophie Hill (C.A Evidence gatherer) proved to be an equally inept witness (again!). After initially claiming she held no data on sabs, a private email the prosecution had mistakenly disclosed to the defence showed she held data on sabs and had liaised with Millard before appearing in court. D'oh!. The judge and jury accepted the sabs truthful admission that he had hit Millard a few times in self-defence but were rightly wary of the hunt witnesses concocted stories. Not Guilty! The sab would like to thank Bindmans solicitors for all their work and his defence witnesses.



☺ **A Hastings sab has been awarded £6000 in an out-of-court settlement with Surrey Police.** The sab was arrested at a December 2002 meet of The old Surrey & Burstow FH for disorderly behaviour after running down a footpath! During arrest the sabs head was forced into a hawthorn hedge causing cuts to his face. Whilst in custody a charge of assault PS materialised from nowhere followed by a sec. 5 charge months later relating to the use of a whip.

In court 'acting' Police Sergeant 2277 Cooke was made to look an utter tit as his web of mis-truths was pulled apart by sabs irrefutable camcorder evidence. Cooke claimed repeatedly that the sab had told him to 'fuck off', yet the sabs video showed the only person shouting 'fuck off' was a Surrey Police officer! The video also showed no assault PS, but instead showed PS Cooke attempting to trip the sab over whilst fumbling with his CS gas in a situation which clearly didn't merit its use. PS Cooke also claimed the sabs facial injuries had been caused prior to his arrest, yet again the video evidence showed otherwise. A crock of shit from start to finish. Big up Irwin Mitchell solicitors, PS Cooke - Thank you, from the heart of my bottom!

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

badger

VERMIN



Craig Trevelyan (32) of Caer Bryn Road, Pen y Groes, Carmarthenshire appeal against his conviction for illegally digging for badgers in a Gloucestershire forest will take place in September. The hearing, due to take place at Gloucester Crown Court, was adjourned in May 2006. The court heard that Trevelyan now wants to take a job in Iraq. He was a sergeant with the Royal Welch Fusiliers but then left the Army. Trevelyan was released on conditional bail and told his appeal. He was convicted by Gloucester magistrates of wilfully interfering with a badger, killing a badger and digging in a badger sett. Trevelyan was jailed for six months, banned from owning a dog for seven years, banned from driving for a year and ordered to forfeit his car. Later, the court released Trevelyan on bail pending his appeal and reinstated his driving licence.

bloodsports

VERMIN

A gamekeeper has been convicted of shooting a short-eared owl on a Lanarkshire grouse moor in May 2004. **Mark Palmer** (23) gamekeeper for a shoot on Abington Farms Estate (often known as the Leadhills Estate) was seen driving across the moor on a quad bike then stop the bike, take out his shotgun and walk towards the spot where an owl had landed on the hillside. When it flew up, he fired three shots at it, and it fell to the ground. He collected the spent shotgun cartridges, but failed to find the owl. After a search of the heather, the two witnesses found the bird, still alive but badly injured. It died a few minutes afterwards. Palmer was later detained at his home, where clothing was recovered matching the description provided by the witnesses. Palmer was convicted of killing a short-eared owl and fined £500. It was his first conviction. He remains employed on the estate.

Robert Chiplin (22) of West Bagborough was fined £80 for attacking a property on an estate owned by the League Against Cruel Sports in Somerset. Chiplin, who has long-standing involvement with hunting, received the fixed penalty notice for criminal damage at the LACS sanctuary near Dulverton on Exmoor, on 4/5/06. He was also charged with failing to provide a blood specimen following an unrelated allegation of drink driving.

David Scott (40) who is a gamekeeper admitted at Elgin Sheriff Court on 9/5/06 to killing two protected buzzards on a Scottish estate near Elgin when he found them in a legal crow trap. Scott was fined £200.

Andrew Barron (17) of Fraser Avenue, Hawick, was found guilty of deliberately hunting a deer with a dog near his home. He was charged under the Protection of Wild Mammals Scotland Act, which became law in Scotland in 2002. The trial heard how the teenager had been out with a group of friends last year shooting rabbits. But when four deer broke from the woods, a lurcher which was in Barron's company was let off the lead.

A farmer from Wramplingham, Norfolk whose gamekeeper used a rat poison that killed two birds of prey was fined on 11/7/06 - securing the first-ever prosecution for "secondary poisoning". Birds had eaten dead and dying rats that had consumed the poison, making them a "secondary" recipient of it. Farmer **Rosalyn Vincent** (55) of Home Farm was fined £2,000, after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing to not providing her gamekeeper Leslie Brooks with training in the proper use of pesticides. But she had declined to enter a plea to two charges of allowing him to use rat poison in breach of regulations. Vincent was also ordered to pay £400 costs.

Hector McNeil an Aberdeenshire gamekeeper who poisoned wild birds and kept illegal pesticides has been fined £850. Hector McNeil (56) of Whitehillock, Glenbuchat and who worked on Glenbuchat estate for 30 years, had admitted killing a raven, of which there are only two breeding pairs in Grampian. Aberdeen Sheriff Court heard that McNeil had poisoned gulls eggs, a food source for ravens, to protect pheasant and red grouse numbers. McNeil was fined £350 for killing a common gull and a raven, £400 for keeping 118 common gull eggs and £100 for keeping a banned pesticide.



Equine

equine

VERMIN

On 25/5/06 at Guildford magistrates **Delia Stacey** of Strachay Close, Tidmarsh pleaded guilty to starving a pregnant horse to death. Stacey also pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary cruelty to two more horses at her Pepperbox Stud, in Surrey. She was ordered to serve 120 hours community service, pay £9,000 costs and was banned from keeping horses for three years. She now has 21 days to sell or pass on her remaining horses to someone else. It was not Stacey's first court appearance, she was fined £15,000 by Reading magistrates in April 2006 after failing to make health and safety improvements to a number of bed-sits she owns. She pleaded guilty to the charges after repeatedly ignoring notices by Reading Borough Council to make the renovations.



Michael Whittingham a Telford man caused unnecessary suffering to three pregnant donkeys and was banned from keeping any equine animals for two years on 1/6/06. Whittingham (59) of Cliffe Crescent, Ellerdine was also fined and ordered to pay £5,000 in costs when he appeared at Telford magistrates. Whittingham was fined £100 on each of three charges of causing unnecessary suffering that he had admitted part way through the trial. Whittingham had initially denied causing suffering to seven donkeys, but had pleaded guilty to three offences.

Dean Jackson was banned from keeping all animals for life at Walsall magistrates on 7/7/06, after his horse was found to be suffering from a tethering injury. Jackson pleaded guilty to two offences - cruelly tethering and failure to provide veterinary attention. As well as the lifetime ban on keeping all animals, Jackson was also given a 300 hour community punishment order, 4 month suspended prison sentence (2 months for each offence) and ordered to pay £2,500 towards costs. The horse has now been signed over to the RSPCA and has fully recovered from his tethering injury.

3,000 Swiss francs on 11/8/06 after she was seen mistreating a horse in training for the Dublin Horse Show.

A pony owner who used a controversial technique in a bid to cure inflammation in her animal's hoof was found guilty of causing it suffering. **Mary Jo Kowalski** (52) of Lower Street Baylam, Ipswich, was banned from keeping horses for a year by Ipswich Crown Court on 30/8/06. She must also complete 100 hours of unpaid work and pay £10,000 in costs. The pony was suffering from laminitis, a condition like standing on a bruised human foot, and had to be put down after the hoof was cut and mutilated.

assorted VERMIN

Bosses of a Carlisle abattoir were ordered to pay £5,000 in fines for animal cruelty offences. **West Scottish Lamb Ltd** was due to go on trial at the city's magistrates' court on 24/5/06 accused of two charges, but the trial was called off after the firm entered guilty pleas. It was accused of keeping 13 ewes inside without ensuring every animal had access to drinking water and of keeping 464 sheep outside with insufficient access to water. Charges were brought by DEFRA. Management were fined £2,500 and ordered to pay £2,500 court costs.

A bogus "dog osteopath" was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering after a puppy he treated had to be put down. **Kenneth Woodacre** (60) of Heath Lane, Leigh, clumsily manipulated the dog's spine so hard it was left virtually paralysed. The former greyhound trainer was also found guilty of unlawfully describing himself as an osteopath, when he was not registered. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge for each conviction. **Lyndsay Casteel** (35) of dog training firm Bark Busters walked free after the judge concluded she didn't know Woodacre was a fraud.

On 3/8/06 jockey **Paul O'Neill** (26) was given a one-day ban for head-butting his horse. The suspension was the minimum the Horse racing Regulatory Authority (HRA) could impose on him after he was caught on camera butting his mount, City Affair, after it unseated him on the way to the start of a race at Stratford. The incident was missed by the racecourse stewards, but caught by TV cameras. The HRA was inundated with complaints from viewers saying O'Neill should be banned for life.



A burglar who stole a parrot which bit him, leaving blood at the scene, has been given a six-month suspended prison sentence. **Tristan Maidment** (23) of Greenhills, Edington, Wiltshire was caught after police found enough blood on the floor beside the Macaw's cage to get a DNA sample. Maidment admitted burglary at Frome Pet and Aquatic Centre and two animal cruelty offences. He also pleaded guilty to theft, two deception charges, driving offences and failing to surrender to bail.

allegedly hitting live turkeys with a pole appeared in court on 24/8/06. **Daniel Palmer** (27) of Highfield Road, Dereham, and **Neil Allen** (30) of Pippin Close, Dereham, are both accused of ill-treating the birds at Beck Farm, in Felthorpe, near Norwich, while working for Bernard Matthews.

domestic VERMIN

Kevin Knapton (43) of Becher Street, Derby is already banned from keeping animals for 10 years and has now been convicted of another offence of cruelty towards a dog. The RSPCA is now seeking a life ban against Knapton after he was found guilty of denying veterinary treatment to a Jack Russell dog even though it was suffering from a skin disease. At Southern Derbyshire magistrates Knapton told how he was looking after the dog for its owner, who was serving a jail sentence in Leicester. The dog has since made a full recovery and is now in kennels. KKnapton failed to attend court. Magistrates convicted him in his absence of causing unnecessary suffering to the dog and of being in custody of an animal while he was disqualified. A warrant was issued for Knapton to be brought to court and sentencing was adjourned until then.

David Lee Jones (27) of Ebbw Vale was jailed for four months at Caerphilly magistrates on 4/5/06 after letting his pet dog starve to death. Jones had pleaded guilty at Blackwood magistrates to abandoning the dog and causing it to die of starvation before being sentenced.

Gareth Freney (23) of Llandrillo, near Corwen was accused of hitting his dog with a hammer walked free from court on 2/6/06 after the case against him collapsed. The case was dismissed by Denbigh magistrates court because of a lack of evidence. The only prosecution witness, his father Kenneth, failed to turn up at court.

A kitten killer has avoided prison as he seeks help for mental health problems. **Christopher Lavery** (27) of Ennerdale Road, Cleator Moor, Cumbria had been warned previously that he faced a prison sentence after he admitted smashing the cat's head against a wall before throwing it into bramble bushes. But he was spared jail, with magistrates instead imposing a probation order. Lavery also admitted three charges of common assault on two teenage girls. He had followed a 16-year-old girl in Cleator and had hit her on the bottom "four or five times". He told the girl that this was a bit of fun but she was scared and had run on to meet her friend. The pair had to walk back past Lavery and he grabbed hold of one of them and pushed the other away when she tried to intervene.

An unlicensed dog breeder has been ordered to pay more than £6,500 costs to Huntingdonshire District Council because she failed to co-operate with an investigation into her premises. **Sharon Sharpstone** was also fined £500 after she admitted running a dog breeding establishment without a licence. A second charge of running unlicensed premises at Anchors Lodge, Holme Road, Ramsey St Mary's, was withdrawn.

veterinary treatment for their dogs have been banned for life from keeping all animals. **David** (50) **and Patricia Morgan** (52) of Haslam Hey Close, Ainsworth were visited by an RSPCA inspector. Both pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the dogs by failing to provide veterinary care. Magistrates told the couple they would be banned from keeping animals for the rest of their lives, and they must find a new home for their tropical fish. They were each ordered to complete 280 hours of unpaid community service and pay £716 costs.



A dog breeder from Brampton has been banned from keeping animals for life and ordered to pay £48,485 costs after losing his appeal. **John Walsh** (55) of **Denton Hall Kennels**, Low Lane, Brampton who has previous convictions relating to animals, was found guilty earlier this year of animal cruelty and the transportation and abandonment of nine young puppies. Magistrates had heard how Walsh left nine puppies in a parked car on a hot summer's day for hours. Dorchester Crown Court upheld the conviction and sentence, of a 100-hour community rehabilitation order, imposed by Blandford magistrates, but extended the 10-year ban on keeping dogs to a lifetime ban.

A Carlisle couple who starved their dogs have been banned from keeping animals for life. **David Harold** (26) of Shadygrove Road, Raffles and **Kim Hall** (21) of Buchanan Road, Currock were both spared jail on 30/6/06 and given 18 month community orders for 200 and 100 hours respectively. They were ordered to pay £491.22 each to cover vets bills, housing for the dogs, photographs and legal expenses. Both dogs have since recovered from the ordeal.

Samantha Pugh (21) of Tynedale Road, Grange Park Blackpool has been banned from keeping animals for three years after she left her cat in pain from a broken leg. Pugh pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to an animal when she appeared at before Blackpool magistrates on 1/7/06.

On 14/7/06 **Christopher Lees** (18) of Wilsford Close, Druids Heath was detained for four months after a cat was hurled from the fifth floor of a tower block. Lees provided running commentary as a mobile phone was used to film the cat being repeatedly thrown 60ft from a balcony. The cat had to be put down after its ordeal. Lees who admitted animal cruelty was also banned from keeping animals for five years.



A cat owner who put one of his cats in a freezer has been called "idiotic" by the RSPCA. **Tobias Thomas** (28) of Wednesbury Road, Walsall, West Midlands, was fined £50 on 18/7/06 and ordered to pay £300 costs after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering. He was banned from keeping animals for five years after magistrates heard he put the cat in the freezer to stop it fighting with another cat. The cat was unharmed but an RSPCA Dr Christopher Woodspokesman said his actions were cruel. ▶▶

THE EAST SUSSEX 7

After five days of evidence at Hastings Magistrates Court seven hunt sabs had their aggravated trespass case thrown out of court after a CPS civilian employee gave testimony to at least three "mistakes" or "oversights" in the disclosure process that gives the defence access to information that might "undermine the prosecution or help the defence". There is no doubt in the minds of the defendants that these oversights were part of a concerted attempt by the police to coach witnesses and withhold evidence in order to gain a conviction at any cost. New statements from witnesses were taken a few days before the trial in order "clear up any inconsistencies".

The charges relates to an incident at Austens Wood Farm, north of Hastings in Sussex on 21st February 2006 when plenty of sabs attended the hunt, and an alleged assault took place on Timothy Skinner, an assistant to the terrier man, who was driving a quad with a dead or dying fox on the front of it.

Some vehicles got away but the police smashed the driver's side window and windscreen of one stationary vehicle before arresting all seven occupants on suspicion of causing ABH. Clothes were confiscated and then all seven were woken in the middle of the night to be re-arrested for causing GBH with intent. 32 hours and seven no comment interviews later they were released minus their clothes and possessions as well as their Landrover and it's contents, charged with violent disorder.

Charges were later dropped to aggravated trespass, and a ten day trial with 36 proposed prosecution witnesses started on Monday 4th September. The Crown proposed that even leaving vehicles together "in itself is an inference of common purpose", and that just by being there the seven were party to intimidation intended to disrupt the hunt.

The huntsman and terrier boy were shown to have been both hunting and digging out illegally, or at least were unable to prove otherwise. Andrew German, the Huntsman, claimed to have "set the trail the day before ....using a solution I had made" in his original statement, but the week before the trial had been asked by the Police to clear up some "confusion" and make a new statement. Sure enough in court he testified that he had "never laid a trail with a solution" and that he and Bartley had "set" the trail the day before, but that Bartley had "laid" the trail on the morning of the hunt.

There was clear evidence from witnesses of collusion; Andrew German, the Huntsman, gave evidence all day Tuesday and went home in a taxi with John Bartley, the Terrier Boy. Bartley gave evidence the next day, and kept with the story for a while, but soon it was clear that the hunt were lying about the legality of the trail hunt (no such trail was laid..) and the dig out. Bartley under oath claims to have shot two foxes with a pistol whilst in possession of a letter written the day before from the landowner giving him permission to dig out and shoot foxes. The landowner however, testified under oath that he had written it "earlier in the season". Oh, and Bartley told the Judge he had "no idea of how a court works", and that he felt like he was on trial. Then it came out he had six previous criminal convictions, one for affray that he plead not guilty to, and gave evidence in his own defence. Duh! Also such gems as "it's not about whether I laid a trail or not, it's about 32 terrorists beating a man to death" and "I'm being treated despicably"as well as "Don't talk to me like I'm stupid". Ha ha ha.

New evidence was being passed to the defence day after day as their repeated requests for vital evidence to be served was grudgingly acceded to. The defence asked for an abuse of process hearing, which took place on the Friday morning. Mr. Lucely, the Disclosure Officer, testified that when the investigation was handed back from the Major Crime Unit to the Sussex plod, mistakes were made. Evidence (a video statement and a written statement) existed but did not appear on the schedule of unused material. His job is to sign a certificate to attest to the fact that all evidence has been sent to the CPS that "might undermine the prosecution case or help the defence." He stated that he could not sign a new certificate to the same effect because he "could not be sure of how much evidence was still out there", ie, how much more the Police had with-held.

The Judge demanded that the prosecution decide their course, and the Crown chose to offer no more evidence on the basis that it was impossible to be sure that the defendants would or could face a fair trial after the frank admissions of "errors" throughout the disclosure process in Mr. Lucely's testimony. The Judge dismissed the case and told the defendants they were free to go.

Still waiting for all the possessions and clothing back, and looking into civil proceedings against the police. DC Ridgeway took most of the dodgy evidence. The Police threw everything at this, and were so desperate for a result they thought it would be ok to bend the rules. The investigation and trial must have cost loads of money, and now they look like the idiots they are.

Had the trial continued it is possible the Judge would have ruled that no lawful activity was taking place but with the piles of phone, photo and video evidence still to go through, the defendants are just happy to be back out in the field without having to think about this attempted stitch up any more.

Fuck 'em all!

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

▶▶ **Christopher Jackson** (23) of Cartmel Crescent, Tonge Moor pleaded guilty to animal cruelty when he appeared at Bolton magistrates on 2/8/06. He was sentenced to four months in prison. Magistrates' Court heard that Jackson attacked the lurcher in front of a crowd of witnesses leaving the animal unconscious in a pool of blood with a shattered jaw. He struck after the lurcher barked at his own dog, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier. J



A doctor who repeatedly shot a dog after attacking his chickens was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. At King's Lynn magistrates on 14/8/06 **Dr Christopher Wood** (57) of Harwood Farm, Waterloo Road, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £5,232 in vets' fees and legal costs.



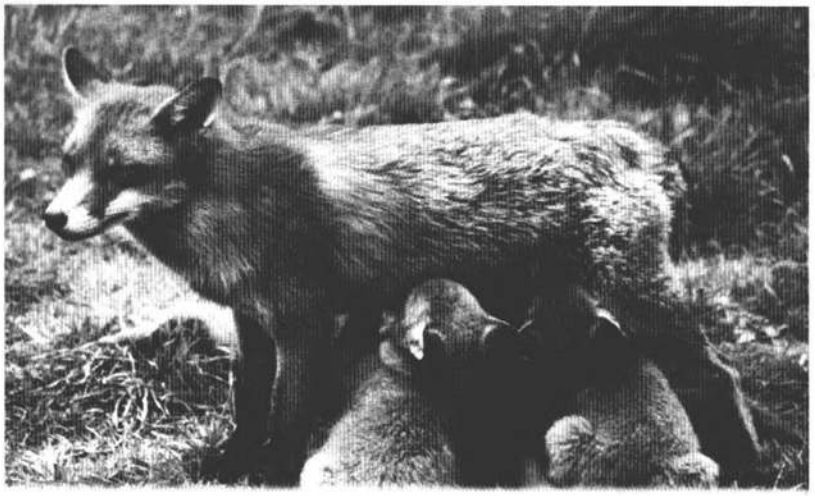
Jacqueline Gillard (47) from Exmouth, Devon was banned from keeping pets for three years after admitting causing cruelty to a cat by neglect. Gillard had previously been cautioned for a similar offence to another cat. Her six-year-old long-haired cat was emaciated, diseased, flea-infested, and had been suffering for up to a month. Gillard was sentenced to 100 hours unpaid community work.

Three members of the same family appeared before Swansea magistrates on 24/8/06 to deny charges of animal cruelty. The husband, wife and son are accused of causing unnecessary suffering to a total of 36 animals -14 dogs and 22 cats. **Glyndwr Jones** (55), **Margaret Jones** (49) and **Philip Jones** (19) all of Llanerch Crescent, Gorseinon, is each facing four summonses for causing unnecessary suffering. They all denied the allegations. In addition, Glyndwr and Margaret Jones denied keeping animals while debarred from doing so.



Claire Smith (22) from Carlisle allowed her dog to starve to death in a shed at the bottom of her garden was jailed for nearly four months on 1/9/06. The dog was left emaciated, filthy and with no fat at all on its muscles and bones after being abandoned to waste away in awful suffering during the depths of last winter. . Smith was sentenced to 120 days in prison for allowing the dog to die and to an identical jail term, to be served concurrently, after failing to comply with a community order. She was also banned for having custody of any animal for life.

A man who battered his grandmother's Jack Russell terrier to death before throwing the animal's body at her was jailed for four months. **Christopher Munns** (18) of Hills Road, Saham Hills, near Watton, Norfolk, claimed he lost his temper after the terrier bit him. On 4/9/06 magistrates in Mildenhall, heard Munns hit the dog at least five times with a screw-studded piece of wood. Munns, who admitted causing unnecessary suffering, was also banned from owning animals for 10 years.



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

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A.L.F. Press Office
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Email: alfpressoffice@yahoo.co.uk

A.L.F. Supporters Group
publishes ALFSG Newsletter
BM 116O, London, WC1N 3XX www.alfsg.org.uk

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

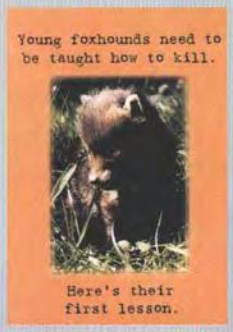




NEW!

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.

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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.

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Prepared to Monitor, Ready to Sab

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION