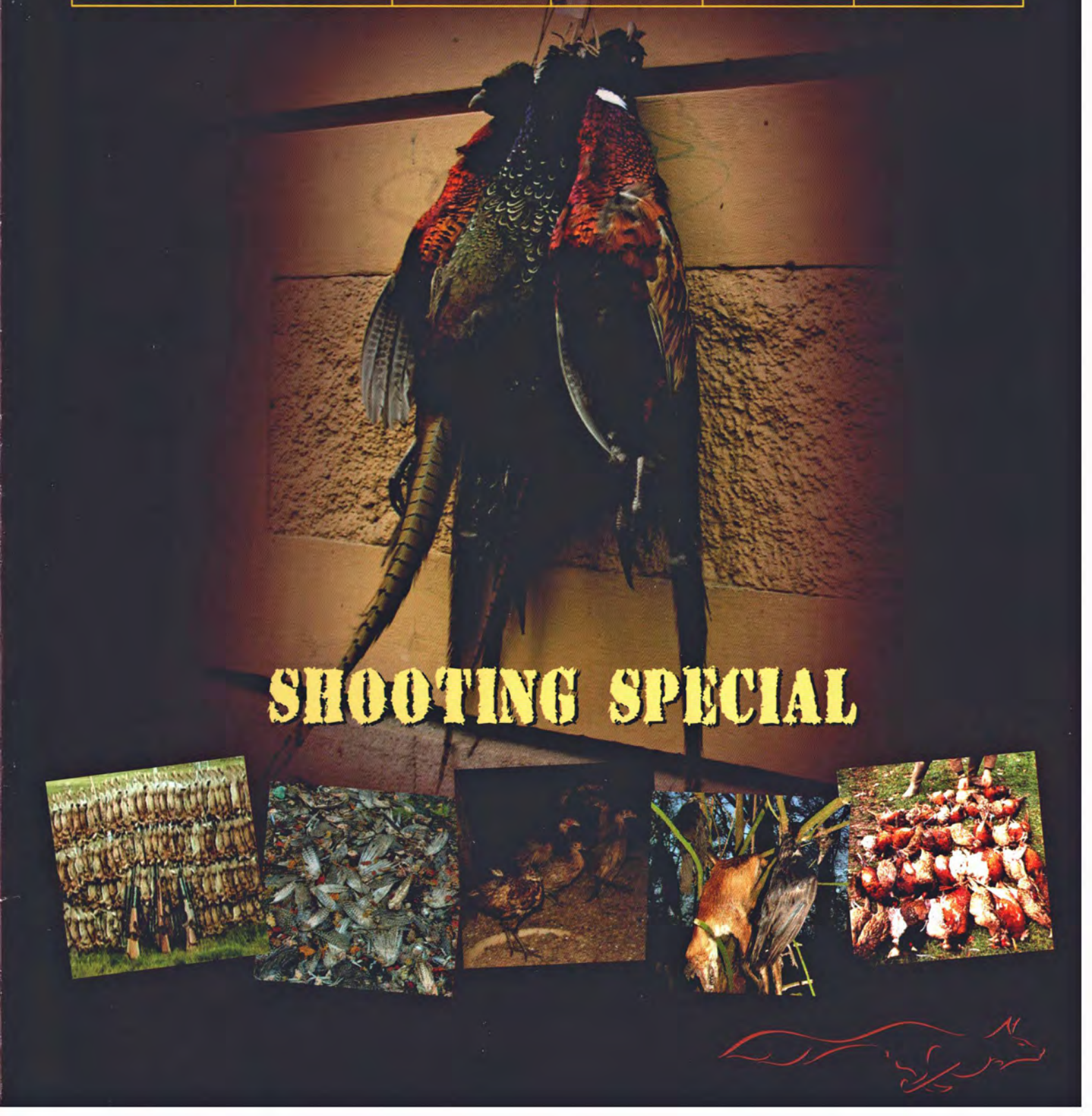
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Autumn
2008

HOWL 90

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

NATIONAL & LEGAL NEWS | SHOOT TO KILL | SABBING IN CYBERSPACE | GROUSE SABBING | ILKLEY MOOR PROTESTS | LOCAL GROUP NEWS



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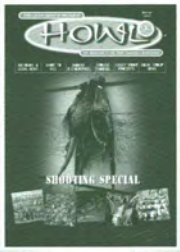
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Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. All posts are voluntary and unpaid – **no-one on the HSA committee is paid** – as we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation, and to directly help saboteurs in the field. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

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Vermin Patrol: Paul T
Distribution: HSA
Big taverymuch: All HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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The views express in Howl do not necessarily reflect those of the editor(s) 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. Printed on recycled material, using vegetable inks.

EDITORIAL

Well, the cubbing season has started pretty much as we were all expecting. Hunts are still showing total disregard for the law and getting away with it. Traditional 'cubbing' is hard to disguise as anything else and it would be easy for police to turn up and see it if they wanted to but there we go. As well as hunting offences we've seen threats and abuse from the hunt and discrimination and criminal damage from the police. Despite all that it looks set to be a great season, networking between groups is getting stronger than ever and sabs and monitors all over the country are geared up for getting out there and protecting our wildlife. Even a few weeks have shown us how wound up the hunts are at the prospect of getting caught. Despite their arrogance and bravado they are terrified.

For any non-active members reading this, maybe think whether you would be able to come out and join us, even if it's only once or twice this season. Check out the group news for details on what groups in your area have been up to and how you can contact them. If your area isn't covered, then contact the HSA for details of your nearest group. With enough people getting out in the field, attending anti-hunt demos or fundraising we can put an end to all bloodsports including fox and hare hunting, shooting, angling and anything else that involves abusing wildlife.

One last thing. For the first time in 12 years, the cost of membership for the HSA is going up. Whilst we try to keep the cost to a minimum so that it is affordable to all of our supporters, the rising costs of printing and distribution for the magazine and other mail-outs mean we have had to put the cost up to £15 for a year's membership. Still a bargain we think...

Mel

PS: if you move please don't forget to tell us, we can keep sending you your magazine and save postage on returned envelopes too. Thanks

NEWS ROUND UP

BENN RULES OUT BADGER CULLING



Sense at last from Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment. On the 7th July, he told the House of Commons that large scale culling of badgers only produced "marginal benefits" and that whilst a prolonged cull over even larger areas "might work, it might also not work", so that he did "not think that it would be right to take this risk." He also intends to establish a "Bovine TB Partnership Group", which will decide on possible further cattle controls and other measures to limit the disease, including vaccination. Trevor Lawson, for the Badger Trust, responded favourably: "We are delighted that Hilary Benn has based his decision on sound science. .... Eradication is a long way off, but the science clearly shows that control is rapidly within our grasp, provided that the farming unions are prepared to work towards it."

WELSH ASSEMBLY STILL NOT RULING OUT A BADGER CULL

A decision on a controversial cull of badgers will not be made until the New Year.
The Welsh Assembly Government caused outrage among conservation groups in April when Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones announced the plans in a bid to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle. The administration is sinking £27 million into a programme to eradicate the disease, which officials say is out of control, from the countryside. The decision on whether a badger cull will go ahead and, if so, where, will not be formulated until information is collated and reviewed on its feasibility and effectiveness. The Welsh Assembly Government will also want to scrutinise the legality of such action as they have been threatened with a judicial review if they decide to go ahead with the plans.
Groups such as the Badger Trust have highlighted the findings of the UK Government's Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB which reported in June last year that killing wildlife was not an effective way to control the disease in cattle.
Culling caused badgers to move more freely and more widely, increasing the spread of the disease, it found.
Badger Trust Cymru have also demanded that the Welsh Assembly Government suspend its secret meetings with farmers following the admission that farmers are breaking the law by illegally shooting badgers which are protected by law. Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs, has set up two secret groups which are planning the slaughter of badgers in a region of Wales yet to be disclosed. But she has refused to say who sits on the groups or to publish details of their discussions. The information has been withheld on the spurious grounds that to disclose it could trigger public demonstrations against culling, leading to criminal damage to property. Steve Clark, for Badger Trust Cymru, commented: "It shows just how shabby Elin Jones' department has become. She refuses to be accountable to law-abiding nature conservation groups but holds secret wildlife extermination meetings with an industry that cannot be trusted to uphold the law.
Ms Jones is expected to make a decision on the merits of a badger cull in the New Year. In the meantime, an exhaustive one-off test of the estimated 13,800 herds across Wales will begin in a bid to build a clear picture of the extent of the disease.

BULL FIGHTING PROTEST



Earlier this year in a bullring in Madrid, Spanish animal rights activists jumped into the ring with banners calling for the abolition of bullfighting. Their campaign is supported by a petition and the activists are calling to everyone in their country to join in the campaign to end bullfighting and to show solidarity for those protesting to end this institutionalized torture.

MAJORITY OF RURAL AND TORY VOTERS WANT HUNT BAN TO REMAIN



Recent results of a MORI poll have shown that 59% of Tory voters want to see the ban on hunting kept, but only 30% of them want to see it repealed. 75% of voters of all parties want to see the ban upheld, while those who want to see it repealed have dropped from 22% to just 16%. 71% of rural voters want the ban to remain.

JAPAN SEEKS TO ARREST SEA SHEPHERD ANTI-WHALING ACTIVISTS



At the start of September, Interpol put three members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society — two Americans and one Briton — on an international wanted list on suspicion of interfering with Japan's whaling activities in the Southern Ocean in February last year. Japanese authorities say that Interpol issued a "blue notice" designed to collect additional information about the suspects, rather than a "red notice" to seek the arrest with a view to extradition.

The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling in 1986 but allows Japan to conduct "lethal research" into the cetaceans' migratory and breeding habits. The moratorium requires that meat from the hunts be sold on the open market, although domestic consumption is at an all-time low.

Also in September of this year, police charged two Greenpeace activists with stealing a consignment of whale meat. The protesters intercepted the meat to support allegations that Japanese whalers were selling it on the black market.

Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki, both members of the group's Japan branch, are accused of stealing a box containing 23kg of whale meat from a postal company warehouse in April.

Japan's recent hunt in the waters around Antarctica was frustrated by protests from Sea Shepherd and Greenpeace - the country had planned to catch 850 Minke whales but returned with just 551. Sea Shepherd has vowed to disrupt the next whaling expedition, due to start at the end of the year.

READING GREYHOUND STADIUM TO CLOSE



Smallmead Stadium, in Reading, Berkshire, is on the verge of closing its doors for the last time. Dog racing was not considered likely to continue much beyond October 5th when the stadium staged the Reading Masters, apparently one of the most prestigious races in the greyhound calendar (ooh). Greyhound trainers started to take their dogs away from Smallmead in advance of the 5th, forcing a reduction in the number of races held each week. Greyhound racing at the track is now down to two evenings a week and will be closing for good any time now.

The 'push' to demolish Smallmead Stadium – an eyesore on the outskirts of Green Park – is coming from Prudential. They want to take over the site and expand Green Park which is one of the prime business sites in the country, if not Europe. The Pru are said to be "wanting to move in sooner rather than later."

Unfortunately, Reading Borough Council is keen to keep the two sports operating in the town, and earlier this year approved plans for a new stadium nearby. The initial cost was said to be £8million, but that figure must now be rising....

The greyhound track is shared with a speedway track. Reading Racers, who were taken over by Swindon businessman Mark Legg last year when Benfield Sports International pulled the plug mid-season, are reported to be losing around £4,000 a week. Regular demonstrations at the stadium over recent months have seen an unimpressive attendance, making the building of a new stadium seem unlikely. Gaming International has been granted planning permission to build a "Racino" which is due for completion in 2010 and will include a new greyhound track, speedway and casino.

Councillor Graeme Hoskin, from Reading Borough Council, said he was confident the developers will press ahead with the plan. However the economic downturn could threaten these plans.

Greyhound action estimates that 10,000 greyhound pups and young dogs are put to death annually in the British Isles because they fail to reach racing standards. As many as 6000 'retired' greyhounds are put to death by the British greyhound racing industry each year.

However closures like the Reading stadium are not unique; greyhound racing has lost 500,000 race-goers in the last 5 years and last year greyhound breeding fell by 13% resulting in 5000 fewer dogs being killed.

ANTI HUNT DEMO IN BIRMINGHAM

On 1st October over 30 anti-hunt campaigners protested outside Tory party conference in Birmingham against foxhunter David Cameron and his plans to repeal the Hunting Act. There was lots of chanting from anti-hunt protestors and at one point an adjacent protest from the UNITE trade union protesting about the hedge fund billionaires started up a chorus of "same old Tories, always hunting". Protestors got a lot of flack from the Tory delegates and even a visit from Tim Bonner from the Countryside Alliance who started ranting about how his hero Cameron was going to repeal the Hunting Act.

The prominent banners worked a treat and certainly got the attention of the passing public and the not-pleased Tory officials. In the weeks and months ahead we will take the battle to the Tories as we show the British public the truth about Cameron and his hunting allies.

RSPCA WITHDRAWS FROM CRUFTS SHOW

The RSPCA has at long last made a stand against Crufts dog show regarding concerns about the health of pedigree animals. It will not be holding its usual welfare stand at the show next March and is also pulling out of the Discover dogs show in November.

RSPCA chief veterinary adviser Mark Evans said that judging criteria used by shows such as Crufts encouraged inbreeding and the rearing of deformed dogs, as demonstrated by BBC documentary Pedigree Dogs Exposed. "There is compelling scientific evidence that the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of pedigree dogs is seriously compromised as a result. Intentionally breeding deformed and disabled animals is morally unjustifiable and has to stop. Among the cases highlighted in last month's documentary was a prize-winning Cavalier King Charles spaniel with syringomyelia, which occurs when a dog's skull is too small for its brain".
The programme also featured boxers suffering from epilepsy, pugs with breathing problems and bulldogs which were unable to mate or give birth unassisted.

SABS BREACH SECURITY AT BRADFORD COUNCIL OFFICES



Hunt Sabs breached the 'security' at Bradford Council's main office and made an impromptu visit to the Countryside and Rights of Way office who are in charge of dealing with the Ilkley Moor shoot.

Unchallenged, they walked into the council building and were let into the CROW office by a member of staff. Leaflets were given out to all the workers and a banner was held, along with people shouting about the cruelty supported by the council in letting grouse shooting return to the public moor. Danny Jackson, who is the office manager and was recently exposed because of his 'backhand approach' in dealing with the issue, didn't look too pleased and somewhat embarrassed. Security arrived and escorted campaigners out of the building, where a loud demonstration was held outside.

At leaving time, members of staff were given leaflets and many showed disgust and opposition to the animal abuse. Chants of "Animals suffering and dying in pain - Bradford Council are to blame!" certainly made everybody aware of our determination to stop this cruel sport once and for all.

ILKLEY MOOR GROUSE SHOOTING LEASE TO BE REVIEWED

The decision to resume grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor will be subject to a review after a Labour Party motion was voted through at City Hall. Protests have followed the decision to grant a ten-year lease to the Bingley Moor Partnership to organise shoots on the publicly owned land.

Actions taken by campaigners have included a demonstration outside Ilkley town hall where councillor Anne Hawkesworth was conducting her surgery inside. Hawkesworth has been outspoken in her defence of blasting the Ilkley moor grouse to death for fun and profit. Despite Hawkesworth's claims that the lease was a legally binding agreement made with the Bingely Moor Partnership who won the tender, Bradford council have agreed to an immediate review of the resumption of grouse shooting on Ilkley moor.





VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

To keep up to date on all Vermin Patrol cases visit www.nwhsa.org.uk

badger
VERMIN

A man is accused of snaring six badgers and beating them to death with a blunt instrument. Anthony Rogers (58) of Breconside Farm, Moffat, faced nine charges at Dumfries Sheriff Court on 29/9/08 in connection with the deaths of the animals. It is alleged in six of the charges that he snared and killed the badgers at Crockett Wood on the farm. The case was continued without plea for three weeks.

bloodsports
VERMIN

Two hunters from South Tyneside appeared in a Scottish court on 8/7/08 after they used dogs to chase and kill a deer. Paul Reed (26) of Halstead Place, and a 16-year-old, also from South Shields, were spared jail when they appeared at Jedburgh Sheriff Court. A third accused - Dane Ord (19) of Widdrington Avenue, Horsley Hill - failed to turn up, and a warrant was granted for his arrest. All three admitted, while acting with a juvenile, willfully killing a roe deer using dogs and deliberately hunting a roe deer with three dogs. Ord and the youth were discovered a short time later with blood on their clothes, and three lurcher-type dogs were also found covered with blood and deer hairs. Reed, who described hunting as his hobby since the age of 14, was sentenced to 120 hours' community service and fined £435. The 16-year-old was placed on probation for 12 months and ordered to perform 100 hours' community service. Both were banned from keeping dogs, within the jurisdiction, for four years.

A case against three men accused of killing 29 swans has been dropped after evidence was lost at a police station. The swans, all shot, were found buried in a pit near water at Radwell Lake, Bedfordshire. Stephen Barrett (38), Marcus Walker (51) of Wykeridge Close, Chesham and Darren Walker (47) of Rose Drive, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, pleaded not guilty and a trial was set for 4/8/08. The CPS dropped the case as ammunition allegedly used to kill the swans was lost, Bedfordshire Police said. The lake, owned by the Walker brothers was purpose-built for legal shoots. There was also a heron and a Marsh Harrier found with the swans.

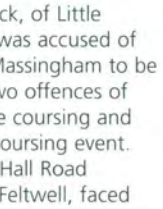
The first huntsman to be prosecuted by police for hunting a fox has denied all charges against him. Julian Barnfield (44) of the Heythrop Hunt, which covers Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, faces three counts of hunting a wild mammal with dogs. Barnfield, who lives in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, was charged under the Hunting Act 2004. He did not appear before Cheltenham magistrates on 4/8/08 but his counsel entered not guilty pleas on all counts. The case was adjourned.



On 8/8/08 Mary Birkbeck, of Little Massingham House, was accused of permitting land at Little Massingham to be used for hare coursing, two offences of knowingly facilitating hare coursing and two of attending a hare coursing event. Les Anderson, of 14 East Hall Road Bungalows, Lodge Road, Feltwell, faced two charges of attending a hare coursing event and three of knowingly facilitating such an event. Robert Fryer, of Tring, Hertfordshire, was accused of two offences of participating in and two of attending a hare coursing event.

Two men caught hare coursing have been spared a prison sentence. Robert Clements (44) and David Scott (40) used three lurchers to hunt a hare on farmland. The pair had claimed that they had been hunting rabbits. On 14/8/08 Clements, of Blantyre, Lanarkshire, and Scott, of Carluke, also Lanarkshire, were found guilty of hunting the hare contrary to the Scottish Parliament's recent ban on hunting with dogs. Both were sentenced to 80 hours of community service.

A teenage gamekeeper who clubbed to death badgers and shot buzzards then recorded the illegal killings in a coded diary has been spared jail. Kyle Burden (19) of Kempton, Aston on Clun, near Craven Arms, Lydbury North claimed he killed the animals ahead of the shooting season to protect pheasants and partridges, game for wealthy visitors to a Shropshire estate. He put all the details in a diary, alongside the deaths of 300 rabbits and 40 ravens. Burden was given a six-month suspended jail sentence and ordered to complete 150 hours of community service, after pleading guilty to killing two buzzards, attempting to kill two other birds, and killing two badgers. He also admitted setting illegal traps, possessing a shotgun while committing two of the offences, and asked for five other offences of killing badgers to be taken into consideration. The notes he kept, complete with symbols for the deaths of different animals, suggested he may have killed many more birds of prey, Telford magistrates heard on 19/9/08. The court heard how Burden worked on the 6,000-acre Kempton estate near Bishop's Castle, south Shropshire.



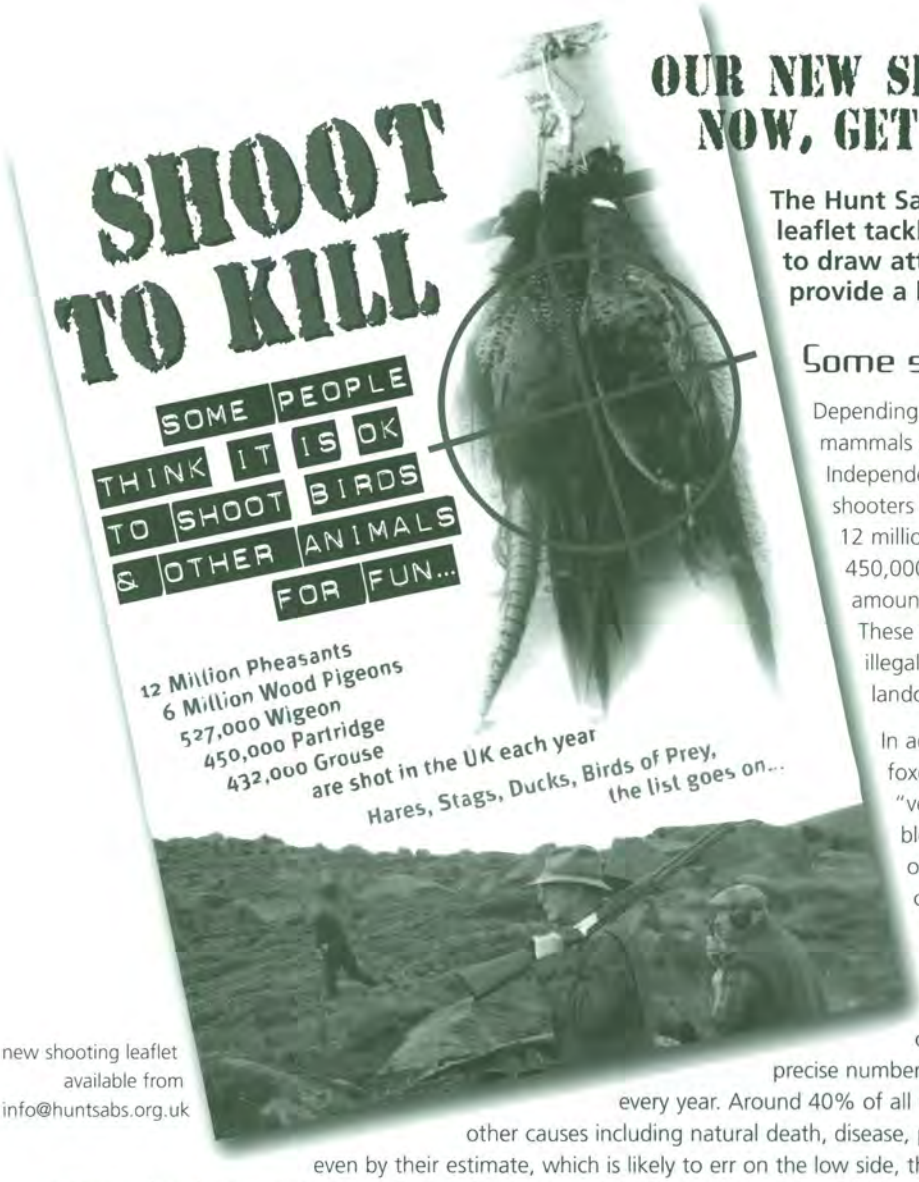




On 9/9/08 North Avon magistrates were shown footage of three men attending a cock-fighting event. The video, caught on security cameras, shows a group watching two birds fighting at a travellers' site in Bristol. George Loveridge (38) and Benjamin Jones (27) admitted their roles in the event, a third man, Michael Purcell (26) denied taking part in any cruelty. Loveridge, Jones, and Purcell of Beaufort Crescent, Mannswood, Usk, are said to have organised the contest, near the Highwood Lane site. Loveridge, of Mancroft Avenue in Lawrence Weston, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a cockerel and causing an animal fight to take place. Jones, who lives at the Highwood Lane site, admitted taking part in an animal fight at an earlier hearing. Both will be sentenced at a later date. Purcell of Park Lane, Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol, pleaded not guilty to two charges - one of being present at the fight and another of taking part in it. He was convicted on 9/9/08 of both offences. On 2/10/08 Loveridge was jailed for 18 weeks and banned from keeping animals for two years. Purcell was handed a 12-week suspended sentence and Jones was given an eight-week suspended sentence. Loveridge was also ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Purcell was ordered to pay £4,000 costs and do 250 hours of community service. Jones was also banned from keeping animals for two years and was given a 7pm to 7am curfew for 20 weeks.

OUR NEW SHOOTING LEAFLET IS OUT NOW, GET THEM IN YOUR SIGHTS

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has produced a new leaflet tackling the issue of shooting. This article aims to draw attention to this new campaign and to provide a little more depth on the issue.



new shooting leaflet available from info@huntsabs.org.uk

Some sobering facts

Depending on which sources you use, the number of birds and mammals shot each year varies. According to an article in The Independent published on Aug 15, 2006 there are about 650,000 shooters in Britain. They are responsible for an annual death toll of 12 million pheasants, 6 million wood pigeons, 527,000 wigeon, 450,000 partridge and 432,000 grouse. The list goes on but amount to approximately 22 million birds shot LEGALLY each year. These figures do not take into account birds of prey and other illegal shooting, such as that carried out without the landowner's permission.

In addition to birds; thousands of mammals, including: deer; foxes; hares; squirrels; rabbits and rats, are exterminated as "vermin" by gamekeepers or as "quarry" by other bloodthirsty shotgun owners. There have even been reports of domestic animals such as cats, dogs, and even horses, cattle and sheep being victim to the gun-toting murderers.

The British Association of Shooting and Conservation is the apologist body that seeks to sanitise shooting and represent it as a form of conservation. It has said on its own website that "Although it is difficult to arrive at precise numbers, BASC estimates some 25 million pheasants are reared every year. Around 40% of all released pheasants will be shot. About 40% will die of other causes including natural death, disease, predation and road accidents. Some 20% survive." So, even by their estimate, which is likely to err on the low side, the number of pheasants shot is 10 million. Animal Aid estimates that the true number being reared is closer to 40 million. Applying the BASC "40% are shot" rule to that figure gives us a death toll of 16 million. And this is just pheasants we are talking about. BASC don't hide the fact that they rear the birds in order to shoot them. They dress it up as conservation. Why would anyone maintain woodland if it doesn't provide them with a thrill from killing animals, they whine. Aside from being an insult to the 100,000 plus people who regularly volunteer for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and the 765,000 members of UK Wildlife Trusts, it really brings into question whether or not these people are fit and proper guardians of land – once you get past the issue of whether or not land ownership provides a carte blanche to do what you like.

What is clear is that even if you take the shooting lobby's attempt to downplay the figures, we are talking about millions of lives.

What's wrong with shooting?

Principled opposition

The Hunt Saboteurs Association is opposed to shooting on an animal rights rather than animal welfare basis. If the welfare of the animals affected were improved, we would still be opposed to the needless taking of life on principle.

Animal Welfare

If you prefer to take the welfarist view, shooting is abhorrent due to the cramped conditions and disease endured by chicks in breeding pens. Until exposed by animal rights activists, mutilation of beaks to prevent chicks pecking each other was routine. There is no reason to believe that it is not still widespread, despite assurances to the contrary from shooting spokespersons.

Thousands of birds are injured each year by inexperienced shots. Company executives and managers may be treated to a day's shooting as a perk or a "team building" exercise with a morning's tuition in how to fire a gun before being let loose on wildlife.

Biodiversity/Wildlife persecution

Shooting estates maintain artificially high populations of one species to be shot at the expense of genuine biodiversity. Grouse moors are an unnatural habitat that can have an adverse effect on other species. In the past there have even been problems with contamination of water supplies caused by run-off from moors into reservoirs.

Gamekeepers are frequently convicted of wildlife crimes – killing protected birds of prey or smashing their eggs, destroying badger habitats and poisoning (including domestic pets that stray into shooting estates). Regular readers of Vermin Patrol in HOWL will note the depressing regularity. Given the difficulty in proving culpability or even gaining access to the areas where many of these activities take place, such prosecutions must be the tip of the iceberg and an indicator of standard practice.

How does shooting take place

The majority of shooting generally falls into one of 2 categories: "driven" shooting and "rough" shooting (including "walk-up" shooting).

Driven shooting is more typical for grouse, pheasant and partridge. Gangs of people

known as "beaters" walk in a line and beat the birds or other animals in the direction of the waiting "guns", ensuring they get some "sport". As the birds fly over the heads of the shooters, more of their body is exposed making them a larger target and easier to shoot. Some beaters will have dogs with them and some will carry sticks with white flags on them - the birds spot the movement of the flags and thinking it may be a predator, fly away. It is not unusual for a driven shoot to involve an entourage of 40 people.

Rough shooting tends to be a less organised affair than driven shooting. For example pigeons are shot with or without the landowner's permission as they feed or roost – often from a "hide" constructed of hay bales. Walk up shooting, as the name implies, consists of a couple of people going for a walk in the countryside with loaded firearms to blast anything they fancy shooting.

In addition to driven and rough shooting there is **stalking**, usually confined to the moors in the Highlands of Scotland and parts of the West Country, where a stag will be tracked and then shot with a high velocity rifle. Some stalking is carried out by professionals involved in culling whilst some is sold as a leisure activity. Akin to "big game" hunting in Africa, it can command high prices. There have been instances in the Highlands reported where helicopters were being used to track and corral deer towards shooting parties. In other parts of the country, deer shooting may take place from specially constructed chairs. If you ever wondered why there was a ladder up a tree with a seat at the top, now you know. Alternatives to culling include the use of oral contraception in feed which has been successful in some parts of Europe!

Some shooters – particularly poachers after deer or gamekeepers shooting foxes will partake in **lamping**. Also used by "lurcher boys", the premise is that a strong beam light – often attached to the rear of a landrover or pickup truck – will catch the reflection in the eyes of the animal being hunted. This provides them with a momentary target. Of course, this does not allow them the time to check if they are shooting at a fox, a small dog or a cat.

How to stop them

Hunt saboteurs have been saving animals from being shot for decades and the HSA first pro-actively targeted the Glorious Twelfth (12th August when the grouse shooting season begins) back in 1977. There are 2 ways to stop shooting – good old fashioned non-violent direct action (sabotage) and using the existing law.

Most shoots are stopped simply by swamping the shoot with enough sabs. If you have one shooter in a hay bale hide you obviously won't need as many as if you come across a



driven shoot with 30 beaters and 8 guns! However, there are times when mere presence isn't enough.

In the case of a driven shoot, a counter beat line can be formed. In the same way as the beaters aim to drive the birds towards the guns, sabs can drive the birds away! If there is sufficient knowledge about the shoot and area can be "swept" before the shoot arrives. However, in the case of pheasant shooting, after a couple of hours the birds may have returned to the original wood.

Occupying shooting butts and standing in front of where people will shoot may seem risky but most shooters will stop immediately. They know that should there be an accident they could lose their beloved shotgun licence. Additionally, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation advises that "All firearms must be immediately unloaded, placed in slips and kept secure on the person".

Standing next to or behind the shooting butts with white flags – as used by beaters – can cause the birds to veer away from the guns. Similarly other reflective items such as mirrors can be used – or even rolls of sturdy foil such as that used for insulation.

Animal rights activists in Germany and other parts of Europe have targeted shooting seats, removing them or damaging them.

Of course, like all forms of hunt sabotage, ingenuity can provide some innovative approaches to stopping shoots killing:

- Lampers have been foiled by people putting reflective "eyes" in areas they frequent. They shoot at what they think is an animal, only to discover it is a decoy - making their presence known to wildlife in that field.
- 2 tall sabs in the North East once thwarted a shooter by walking in front of the shooter with a sheet so he couldn't see anything to shoot it!
- Back in the old days sabs used to use smoke bombs but perhaps given the current climate of "terror" alerts it might not be advisable!!

Use your imagination!

In addition to these tactics, the legal pointers below can also be used on the day.

Using the law

If a person or group of people are shooting in breach of the law, a well-placed phone call to the police can sometimes result in swift action and the shoot packing up. In other cases the response is lacklustre (sometimes to the point of ignoring the activity) or non-existent. However, if evidence is gathered and passed to the police the perpetrator's firearms licence may be revoked. Shooting without one can result in prison sentences.

Health and safety

As reported in HOWL, a recent aggravated trespass case against hunt saboteurs in the North West was dismissed because the shoot had more than 5 employees (which includes casual employees e.g. beaters) but didn't have a written Health and Safety risk assessment.

Shooting near a road

It is an offence under Section 161 of the Highways Act 1980 (England & Wales) makes to discharge a firearm within 50 ft of the centre of a highway having vehicular rights without lawful authority or excuse, if as a result a user of the highway is injured, interrupted or endangered. This does not apply to footpaths and bridleways. Even those apologists for shooting BASC highlight this offence on their website adding that "to shoot across a footpath or bridleway may constitute a public nuisance or wilful obstruction. There may also be a liability in negligence if it is known that people are on, or likely to be on, the path."

Shooting after dark

Despite the obvious dangers there is not much prohibition of shooting at night. However, the Deer Act 1991 makes it illegal to shoot deer earlier than an hour before sunrise or later than an hour after sunset. In Northern Ireland shooting of any wild bird including "pest" species is prohibited at night.

Shooting without the landowners permission

Armed trespass is a serious offence. If people know they are not supposed to be on the land they may well scarper if they think they have been spotted.

Shooting "game" species out of season

This table provides the seasons during which game may be shot legally. Shooting these species in the closed season is illegal.

Species	England, Scotland & Wales	Northern Ireland
Pheasant	Oct 1 - Feb 1	Oct 1 - Jan 31
Partridge	Sept 1 - Feb 1	Sept 1- Jan 31
Grouse	Aug 12 - Dec 10	Aug 12 - Nov 30
Ptarmigan (only found in Scotland)	Aug 12 - Dec 10	--
Blackgame (not currently found in NI)	Aug 20 - Dec 10	--
Common Snipe	Aug 12 - Jan 31	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Jack Snipe	Protected at all times	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Woodcock	Oct 1- Jan 31	Oct 1 - Jan 31
Woodcock - Scotland	Sept 1 - Jan 31	--
Duck & Goose - inland	Sept 1 - Jan 31	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Duck & Goose - below HWM of ordinary spring tides	Sept 1 - Feb 20	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Coot/Moorhen	Sept 1 - Jan 31	Protected at all times
Golden Plover	Sept 1 - Jan 31	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Curlew	Protected at all times	Sept 1 - Jan 31
Hare	Jan 1 - Dec 31	Aug 12 - Jan 31

Shooting towards people

Shooting towards people could be used to challenge someone's fitness to hold a shotgun licence or even constitute an offence.

Arguments used to justify shooting and the truth behind them

"Shooting is conservation"

The conservation claim made by the shooting fraternity does not stand up to much scrutiny and is selective conservation. The only animals that benefit are "game species" – those that are bred in order that they can then be shot.

Gamekeepers are routinely convicted of wildlife crimes – killing protected birds of prey or smashing their eggs, destroying badger habitats and poisoning (including domestic pets that stray into shooting estates). In the case of grouse moors, the unnatural habitat has an adverse effect on other species.

"We shoot to eat it"

The Countryside Alliance has, in recent years, started campaigning for shoots to provide the animals they shoot as a food to local butchers etc through their "Game To Eat" initiative. This is an attempt to cover up the existing practice of dumping hundreds of carcasses – seen as an embarrassing display of affluence by shooters. However, with a brace of pheasants (two) fetching around a fiver and a day's shooting typically costing around £200 it is clear that we are not dealing with poverty stricken folk reduced to "hunting for the pot".

"Vital to the rural ecomony"

Generation of wealth doesn't justify cruelty and murdering wildlife. And the wealth generated by shooting is generally held by very few people – it is not distributed among the rural population!

"It's our way of life"

To most people in the countryside, other issues such as access to public transport, post offices and retail outlets are far more important.



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.

JULY	
1ST	**j.mann**
2nd	**r.wilson**
3rd	**d.westwood**
AUG	
1st	**colbourne**
2nd	**p.fenn**
3rd	**d.dunbar**
SEPT	
1st	**f.ford**
2nd	**m.forsyth**
3rd	**m.britton**
OCT	
1st	**s.bramley**
2nd	**m.jones**
3rd	**r.smith**

fab new cotton baseball hats

running fox in red on the front, with the HSA web address on the back in white

order now, see page 2





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.....



Legal News



COPS REMOVE HUNTING ACT FROM POLICE MANUAL

Hunting Act removed from police manual

The Hunting Act has been removed from the 2008 edition of Blackstone's Police Manual, the required reading for officers taking exams for promotion to sergeant and inspector. A spokesman for publisher Oxford University Press said: "We have completely reviewed the manual this year to make it as focused as possible on the promotion exams.

"The National Policing Improvement Agency asked those within the force to identify areas they thought could be cut from the book. The Hunting Act was one. Officers will have learnt about the Act at an earlier point in their careers and do not come across it as often as other parts of the law."

The Hunting Act is still included in other police law manuals published in the Blackstone series, she added.

Rise in crimes against birds of prey



The number of crimes reported against birds of prey rose by 40% last year to a record level, the RSPB has said.

Some 17 cases of poisoning of the rare red kite were recorded. The bird welfare charity recorded 262 attacks in 2007, up from 185, including 34 shootings and 49 poisonings. Crimes against all wild birds also hit a record high with 1,208 incidents reported to the RSPB, up from 1,109. It said the rise may be down to better sharing of information with other agencies but believes many crimes go undetected in remote areas. The birds of prey poisoned included 17 red kites and the female of the only breeding pair of golden eagles in the Scottish Borders.

The RSPB's annual Birdcrime report also revealed:

619 reports of birds other than birds of prey being shot or the victims of destruction, 39 egg-collecting incidents, including two confirmed and four probable from protected birds, 165 reports of poisoning

The report said protected birds were also illegally disturbed and photographed, while other crimes included the theft, possession and sale of wild birds. It urged the Home Office to make it clear to police forces that wildlife crime should be given a higher priority and called for measures to tackle it to be written into forces' policing plans.

Data from the report identifies four counties that were the worst in England for reported persecution of birds of prey. They were North Yorkshire, with 78 reports, Northumberland with 22 and Shropshire and Cumbria with 16 reports each. RSPB head of investigations Ian West said: "The number of reports coming in to us is the highest we have ever had, but we are still only seeing the tip of the iceberg.

"It's hard to say whether the problem is increasing or whether we are just getting to hear about more of the offences that are taking place. "What is clear is that very large numbers of birds are being illegally killed every year and that is totally unacceptable in a civilised society. There has to be a greater effort to enforce the law."

Elin Jones misses TB information deadline

Elin Jones, Rural Affairs Minister in Wales, has missed a legal deadline for providing information about the secretive bodies she has established to plan the extermination of Welsh badgers.

Badger Trust Cymru requested the information on 18 August on behalf of the eight badger conservation groups covering Wales. It should have received a reply by 12 September at the latest, according to rules set out in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. But the Trust has revealed that the deadline has been missed, contrary to claims by the Welsh Assembly Government that "a response can be expected within 20 working days of the request". Steve Clark from Badger Trust Cymru commented: "If our Government cannot even respect its own information legislation, what chance is there of it showing any respect for our badgers? Elin Jones' failure to expose her secretive slaughter groups to scrutiny re-enforces our fear that the Minister is determined to kill badgers, regardless of the scientific evidence against such a policy."

Record penalty for grouse moor estate

John Dodd, the multimillionaire owner of the Glenogil shooting estate, in Angus, Tayside, has had his farming subsidy cut by £107,000 by the Scottish executive because of suspicions that pesticides were used against birds of prey on his land.

Dodd is the co-founder of the Edinburgh-based Artemis investment bank and hedge fund, which this summer sponsored the Scottish Game Fair, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's prestigious annual country sports show.

There has been a series of suspected cases of illegal persecution of rare birds of prey on the Glenogil estate but none has led to a successful prosecution. An investigation by the Guardian found that lethal pesticides were discovered on poisoned baits, game bags and soil and plant samples in 2006.

Investigators from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds found an illegal compound - a combination of carbofuran and isofenphos pesticides that has never been licensed for use in the UK - on a dead rabbit staked out on a hillside close to Glenogil in April 2006. That led to a raid organised by Tayside police involving 80 officers from several forces, alongside investigators from the RSPB and officials from the rural payments division of the Scottish executive. The police raid uncovered the same combination of pesticides on a dead pigeon laid out as bait on the estate, on game bags used by estate staff, and in soil and plant samples. A member of the Glenogil staff was sued after an illegal trap was discovered, but the case was later dropped by the prosecutors.

As a direct result of these investigations, officials in the rural payments division of the Scottish executive in Edinburgh last month docked Dodd's large farming subsidies for 2006 by £107,650. It is the largest ever civil penalty imposed under strict EU "cross-compliance" legislation, which makes protection of wildlife a condition of the subsidy.

These regulations make it an offence to have illegal pesticides such as carbofuran on the land, or commit offences against birds of prey including the use of illegal traps or poisons.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act makes it a criminal offence - punishable by a six-month jail term and/or a £5,000 fine - to kill or attempt to kill a bird of prey. Pesticide control regulations carry the same penalties for storing or using banned or unlicensed pesticides, such as carborfuran and isofenphos.

Glenogil was last year also implicated in the disappearance of a rare sea eagle, one of 15 birds that had just been released into the wild in eastern Scotland under a government-sponsored reintroduction programme. Witnesses suggest the bird may have been killed on the estate but the allegation remains unproven: neither the bird's body nor its satellite tag has been found. Dodd threatened Tayside police with legal action after the force issued an appeal for information that implicated the estate.

Over the past three years Dodd had received £829,664 in single farm payment subsidies for his farm at Glenogil. It is understood that Dodd, who is the third landowner in Scotland to have subsidies cut under the regulations, is contesting the Scottish executive's decision. He denies that there has been persecution of birds of prey on his estate but would not comment on the Scottish executive's penalties against his estate.

The same illegal poisonous compound - which was withdrawn from sale as an insecticide in Ireland five years ago because of its toxicity, was also found on another grouse moor, the Leadhills estate, in southwest Scotland in the autumn of 2005. The estate, near Abingdon,was run at the time by Mark Osborne, one of the UK's most successful managers of moor shoots. Osborne runs estates and advises shooting moor owners across Scotland and northern England, including Glenogil. Four of those estates - Leadhills, Glenogil, plus Glenlochy on Speyside and Snilesworth, north Yorkshire - have been raided in the past two years by police investigating claims of birds of prey persecution.

At the Snilesworth estate, near Northallerton, a head-keeper and two game keepers admitted illegally using traps baited with pigeons to catch protected birds of prey. The head-keeper was fined £1,250. A keeper at Leadhills was convicted of shooting a short-eared owl in 2004 and fined £500; Osborne refused to comment yesterday.

Dodd, the co-founder of the Artemis investment bank, which markets itself as "the profit hunter" and uses cartoons of hunters with shotguns and gundogs in its advertising, has become an influential figure in the Scottish shooting world and the local community since 2003 when he bought his 3,913-hectare (9,670-acre) estate for £4.5m. Last month, Artemis was the chief sponsor for the annual Scottish game fair held at Scone palace, near Perth, 45 miles away from Glenogil. The fair was run by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, (formerly the Game Conservancy Trust) which backs "good shooting practice" and sponsors research into game management.

Otis Ferry the outspoken animal abuser remanded in prison

Otis Ferry, the son of the rock star Bryan Ferry, has been remanded in custody, accused of perverting the course of justice by trying to discredit a witness in a robbery and assault trial.

Mr Ferry, 25, a prominent campaigner against the hunting ban, is accused of having telephoned his groomsman David Hodgkiss, a potential witness, on 8 September and "instructed him not to provide the police with certain evidence in relation to an allegation of robbery". A second charge says that between 7 and 17 September, Mr Ferry contacted Mr Hodgkiss and threatened to "discredit him as a disgruntled employee".

Mr Ferry, of Eaton Mascot, Shropshire, was due to go on trial at Gloucester Crown Court on charges of robbing a hunt monitor of a video camera and assaulting another hunt monitor, during a meeting of the Heythrop Hunt at Lower Swell, near Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire.

The trial got no further than a jury being sworn in before it was sent home and told to return the following day. Shortly afterwards Ferry was arrested and held in custody. During his next court appearance anti-hunt protesters filled the public gallery, while members of the League Against Cruel Sports and of Protect Our Wild Animals handed out leaflets outside.



Otis' mum was concerned how he would cope with the confinement of prison and how he would manage "without any clean socks and shirts"!

Charles Frederick Otis Ferry was born in November 1982, a decade after his father became famous as the singer with the band, Roxy Music. He grew up in Kensington and went to Marlborough College, one of Britain's most expensive public schools, and spent his holidays in Ireland, where he picked up his obsession with bloodsports. He joined the Middleton Hunt in North Yorkshire at the age of 17, and is currently joint master of the south Shropshire hunt.

His grandfather, Fred Ferry, was a farmer who looked after pit ponies. His mother is the heiress, Lucy Helmore, who had four children with Bryan Ferry – Otis, Isaac, Tara and Merlin. After the relationship broke up, she married the businessman, Robin Birley, the former boss of Annabel's night club who has financed various right-wing causes.

At a later court hearing Ferry was again refused bail and will remain in Gloucester prison until his next hearing in December. If he pleads not guilty at this hearing he could remain in prison until his trial in March. There are claims by his family and girlfriend Francesca Nimmo that while Ferry has been in prison, his house in Shropshire has been burgled and his hand-tailored suits, hunting breeches, shirts, shoes, socks and boxer shorts stolen!

Hunt supporter admits common assault

Hunt supporter Christopher Marles (46) of Farringdon, near Exeter has admitted common assault after he repeatedly rode his horse into a hunt monitor who was trying to monitor the East Devon foxhounds.

Marles is a former whipper-in and committee member of the East Devon Hunt, who were out with their foxhounds at Whimple, near Exeter, when the attack happened.

Marles, of Farringdon, near Exeter, admitted common assault but magistrates adjourned the case for a special hearing to establish exactly what happened after the prosecution did not accept Marles' basis of plea.

The prosecution stated that Marles approached the monitor on his horse then turned his horse into her, causing her to fall backwards into a drainage ditch at the side of the road.

She climbed out of the ditch and was in fear of being trampled by the horse. He rode backwards and forwards again and she was again forced into the ditch.

She told him to stop but he again rode towards her and said: 'He's a lovely horse, he loves you'.

The horse made contact for a third time and she again fell into the ditch. A second monitor shouted at Marles and he rode the horse at him and he lost his balance and fell in the ditch.

The case was adjourned for a special hearing, when the Bench will see a video of the incident shot by the second monitor.

Another hunt supporter guilty of violence

On October 2nd at Banbury magistrates' court, Heythrop hunt supporter Dennis Lough Scott was found guilty of battery and given a 2 year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £200 costs. The incident happened on February 25th when a hunt monitor was trying to film Heythrop foxhounds crossing a road in front of her. Lough Scott struck the monitor's hand sending her video camera flying to the ground; he was then verbally abusive and threatening. Luckily the camera had continued to record from the ground and helped to convict him in court.

Save our Stags

In well over four hundred pages Mr Pedler takes us on a tour de force of the long campaigns to end what many claim to be the most barbaric of all blood sports: stag and deer hunting.



Starting with the humanist Henry Salt's 1891 campaign against the Royal Buckhounds, through to the debacle of the Hunting Act 2004 four years after its passing, this book is a fascinating insight into not only the mind-set of hunt devotees, but also the motives of the animal welfare activists who remained constant in their efforts to ban the 'sport'.

West Country stag hunting has always been the most reviled blood sport on the anti "hit list", sustaining constant attack for over one hundred years. Singled out for special attention far more than any form of hunting, it has spawned a whole collection of organisations specifically dedicated to its abolition. National committees have been formed to pressure Parliament, hundreds of thousands of pounds spent in purchasing land to frustrate its activities, hunt saboteur groups have attempted to destroy it through direct action tactics, while its interests have been ruthlessly attacked via such bodies as the RSPCA and National Trust.

In consequence stag hunters have developed an entrenched attitude of mind that has enabled them to now command an importance far beyond their size. When threatened by Parliament in 1930 it was the Devon and Somerset Staghounds who created the British Field Sports Society, the organisation we know today as the

Countryside Alliance. Even earlier, in 1926, they had formed the Badgworthy Land Company to purchase land and sporting rights to protect their 'sport' in perpetuity. Then, if all else fails, there is always the trump card; they will threaten that if stag hunting is abolished then the red deer will be exterminated from Exmoor and the Quantock Hills.

This is the first book to cover in depth the full story from the earliest attempts at parliamentary legislation in 1883, the formation of the League Against Cruel Sports, through the years of the League's Edward Hemingway, Raymond Rowley, Richard Course, James Barrington and Douglas Batchelor, culminating in a detailed account of the final 1997-2004 push to abolition. For the first time serious coverage is given to the role of direct action from the attempt at hunt sabotage by the LACS in the late 1950s, through the birth and early years of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, to the Save Our Stags Campaign of the 1970s and '80s.

The role of deer sanctuaries, undercover operatives, hunt monitors, along with every splinter group that has opposed stag hunting, as well as individuals such as Cicely Norman, Gwen Barter, Richard Hall, John Hicks, Doreen Cronin and Kevin Hill, are all given due prominence.

The book also contains a comprehensive explanation of the history and practice of deer hunting, much of it 'culled' from the annals of the hunters themselves, which offers a fascinating insight into what they consider acceptable in the name of 'sport'. It also gives the HSA its rightful place in the long story of attempts to abolish blood sports, explaining much of the tactics, philosophy, and motivations of the animal rights movement

With a comprehensive appendix, bibliography, index, and thirty photographs, many published for the first time, Mr Pedler's book is not only a damming indictment of the cruelties inherent in British blood sports today, but also a savage critique of the failure of government legislation that has singularly failed to address them. In consequence this book should prove as controversial as the subject it covers.

The author has witnessed most forms of animal abuse since first joining the League Against Cruel Sports as a ten-year-old in 1957, but the one constant has been his life-long hatred of West Country stag hunting. He was active with the Hunt Saboteurs Association from its inception in 1963, then the founder of the Save Our Stags Campaign, while also serving as an Executive Committee member of the LACS until resigning as an active campaigner in the late 1980s.

His professional life has been spent in the field of mental health social work, at which he is still employed part-time. When not harassing animal killers he pursues his other interests of world travel and early American history. He lives in the West Country with his wife Josie.



Web site: www.saveourstags.co.uk

The book is £12 post free (cheaper than the net) from:

Black Daps Press

PO Box 1447

Paulton

Bristol

BS39 7WT

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



SENTENCED PRISONERS

Σ SEAN KIRTLEY (WC6977)
Birthday: 11 December
HM Prison Stafford, 54 Gaol Road, ST16 3AW.
Serving four and a half years for organising demonstrations against animal testing company Sequani.

Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor' (write prisoner/sender details on back) and self-addressed envelopes (SAEs)..

JONNY ABLEWHITE (TB4885)
Birthday: 27 January
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham. NG14 7DA.
Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who run Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.
Stamps, Postal orders/cheques payable to 'HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE' with inmate's name/number, name & address of the sender on the back. No paper or envelopes

SARAH WHITEHEAD (VM7684)
Birthday: 12 February
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ

Sentenced to two years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was kept muzzled in a wooden cage and regularly beaten.

DONALD CURRIE (A3660AA)
Birthday: 13 April
HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX
Serving 12 years in relation to arson attacks.
Cheques or postal orders made out to "HM PRISON SERVICE", with prisoner's name and number on the back. No stamps, envelopes or writing paper are accepted.

Σ JOHN SMITH (TB4887)
Birthday: 6 March
HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE.
Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who run Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.
Postal orders or cheques made out to 'The Governor', with inmate's name/number and details of sender on reverse.

KERRY WHITBURN (TB4886)
Birthday: 18 April
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham. NG14 7DA.
Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who ran Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.
Stamps; p/os/cheques payable to HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE inmate's name & no on back & name/address of sender. No paper or envelopes.

REMAND PRISONERS

Σ DAN AMOS (VN7818)
Birthday: 19 November
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DF.
Remanded in connection with charges relating to SHAC.
writing pad (non ring binder type); envelopes; £5 of stamps; 20 (5x7 or 6x4) photos (check with inmate). Cheques and postal orders must be made out to 'HM Prison Service' and the inmate's name/number written on back, together with a return address.

VICTORIA WATERHOUSE-TAYLOR
HMP Peterborough, Saville Road, Westwood, Peterborough, PE3 7PD
You can send postal orders made out to the Director with her name and prison number on the reverse. Also stamps, envelopes and self-addressed envelopes (SAEs) are permitted.

DEAN CAIN (WJ4309)
HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Road, LN2 4BD.

THOMAS CLARKE (RG7319)
HMP Wetherby YOI, York Road, LS22 5ED.

LUKE STEELE (WJ4308)
HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Road, LN2 4BD.

MEL BROUGHTON (TN9138)
Birthday: 5 July
HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK4 4DA.
Remanded on 14 Dec 2007 in connection with alleged offences relating to the SPEAK campaign.
SAEs; a small, non ring-binded calendar; Postal Orders made out on front to "HMPS", with the inmate's name and number on back, and also the sender's name and address if there is room.

GREGG AVERY (TA7450)
Birthday: 5 December
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO22 5DF.
Remanded 4 May 2007 on charges in connection with HLS.
writing pad (non ring binder type); envelopes; £5 of stamps; 20 (5x7 or 6x4) photos (check with inmate). Cheques and postal orders must be made out to 'HM Prison Service' and the inmate's name/number written on back, together with a return address.

NATASHA AVERY (NR8987)
Birthday: 28 December
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ.

Remanded 4 May 2007 on charges in connection with HLS.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name and number on the back.

HEATHER NICHOLSON (VM4859)
Birthday: 30 January
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ.
Remanded 7 May 2007in connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name and number on the back.



HUNT HAVOC

Boys pet cat killed by hunting dog

Seven year-old Jack Burnett was left devastated when a dog from a pack out hunting in the fields around Newton Garth Farm in Boldon, Tyne and Wear, ran across his family's land and chased his cat, Penny, and savaged it.

Just before, two foxes were seen running across the land behind the farm, pursued by a dog. The foxes managed to flee but the sound of a cat screaming was then heard from an empty building next door. By the time Jack's aunt, Patricia, got there, Penny, who the family got from the Willows Cat Shelter in Boldon, was dead.

The family chased the dog away, and pursued the dog's owner across surrounding fields. When they confronted the owner, they were told by him: "It's just nature, isn't it. I'll buy you a new cat." Jack's grandmother, Sarah Burnett, said: "This was absolutely horrific, I was shaking with anger. Penny was such a friendly cat who was comfortable around people and animals, which is why she probably made no attempt to get away. The pack of dogs was with a man in our back garden. Not only was he trespassing, he was clearly hunting foxes with these dogs."

Maria Harrison, who runs the Willows Cat Shelter, was in tears when she was told about Penny. She said: "This was despicable, absolutely appalling. The dogs shouldn't have been on the farm in the first place, never mind hunting."

Women left terrified after hounds attack

70-year-old Margaret Mussgin and her sister were walking in Gatcombe, home to the Isle of Wight Hunt kennels, when their whippet dog was chased and pursued by a group of hounds.

Speaking to the local radio station, she said: "The dog was exhausted. She was being pursued and I just screamed help and quick because I thought the hounds would attack even more." Their dog's injuries included missing claws, a missing pad, and a ligament in the back of her leg was exposed which required stitches. She continued: "I haven't slept for two days and we're terrified about going back there".

Although members of the hunt refused to comment, a Countryside Alliance spokesperson said "despite this unfortunate incident the dogs would never hurt a person or child"! They also said that the hunt has offered to pay the whippet's vets bills. So that's okay then...

KARMA POLICE



Python tries to eat woman's head

A zoo owner in Germany was rescued by colleagues after a 12 foot long python began eating her head. Renate Klosse became the prey for the 24-year-old python called Antonia while inspecting the reptile zoo that she runs at Uhldingen near Stuttgart. The nine-stone snake with 70 sharp teeth attacked her as she cleaned out her cage at the weekend. "The jaws of the snake opened so wide that, with one lunge, she was able to completely cover the woman's face," said a police spokesman. "She feared that with a few more gulps her head would be inside". Miss Klosse was taken to hospital where she received treatment for bites and shock.

cyber sabbing

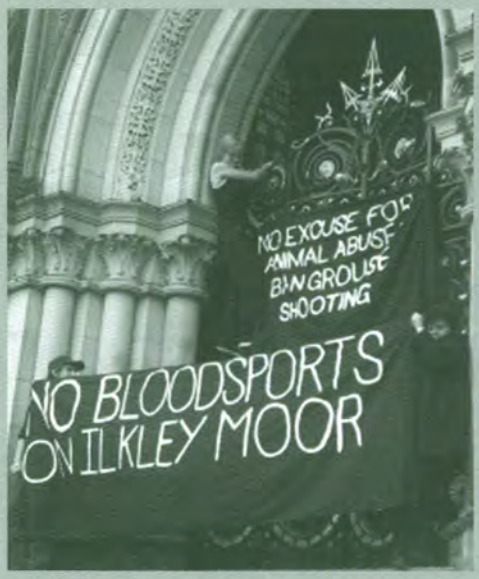
Many thanks and a pat on the back to all those groups who set up a MYSPACE page after my article back along... groups now featured are EAST KENT, SOUTHAMPTON, NORTH AND EAST LONDON, NORTHERN IRELAND, SUFFOLK AND ESSEX, LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE, READING and the AMERICAN H.S.A. Come on guys, where's all the others?! Some pages now include video footage, links to websites, merchandise and hit reports; to someone new looking for sabbing info, there's a huge amount of stuff building up there!

As a way of swapping info (whether about sabbing/AR or other issues), MYSPACE really is of use, and as I've said before, it only takes a half hour to set up a page! With face book being the cyber stalking ground of the Oxford graduate saddoes, let's take back the initiative and be a bit creative. The hunters have already formed their own "HUNTING MYSPACE" (www.myhuntingspace.co.uk) -and yes, it's pathetic, peopled by illiterate hoorahs, and full of glorious photographs of inbreds posing with their dead animals (d'ya recognise any of them?!). It contains loads of info on the more keen hunters, and a great forum, which makes often hilarious reading. An interesting post from the forum this week was -

"I know for a fact that the police are monitoring social networking sites like this and would like to remind members, who I'm sure are working to the letter of the law, to be careful not to say anything that will draw unnecessary attention to themselves or those with whom they hunt".

Oooooooh-good to see some healthy paranoia setting in!

ILKLEY MOOR CAMPAIGN TO STOP GROUSE SHOOTING



Early in 2008, Bradford Metropolitan Council (BMC) unveiled its plans to allow grouse shooting on the publicly owned Ilkley Moor which would be managed by the winner of the contract. This scheme was headed by Danny Jackson from the Countryside and Rights of Way dept. and was pushed heavily by the local Conservative councillors who claimed that shooting on the moor would bring money in for its management and the local community.

At the end of June the ten year contract was awarded to Edward Bromet, a solicitor and bloodsports enthusiast, who also owns the neighbouring Burley and Bingley moors - in other words Ilkley completed the collection for his Bingley Moor Partnership (BMP) business which runs grouse shooting parties in the area. Despite the plans only recently being unveiled, West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs obtained documents which showed that discussions to allow shooting back on Ilkley Moor have been going on since 2004/5.

At the start of July Edward Bromet claimed there would be no grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor for two years and when there will be it will only be for a few days a year. Bromet also stated that "There's certainly not going to be profits, if anything we will be losing money." He also stresses that control of species such as foxes and crows will be done by legal means, and by highly skilled and specially trained gamekeepers. Yeh right!!!

On 9th July a petition was presented before the Full Council Meeting at Bradford Town Hall calling for the removal of authorisation and withdrawal of shooting rights on Ilkley Moor. Due to the time limit of 5 minutes per presentation, not all the issues were covered; however it received enough support to be passed for review by the Executive Committee.

In August West Yorkshire sabs accused BMC of corruption and favouritism following the release of documents and internal communications regarding their controversial move to allow grouse shooting to return to Ilkley Moor. E-mails and letters between Danny Jackson, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager at BMC and Edward Bromet, head of BMP, showed an "extremely close working relationship" going back to before adverts were placed for tenders for shooting rights in April 2008.

Further evidence reveals the BMP repairing the then council-owned grouse shooting butts free of charge in 2006, adding to the favouritism shown by BMC when choosing the successful company to host shoots on Ilkley Moor. The other organisation which applied was West Morton-based Upwood Hall, run by retired farmer Lewis Robertshaw, who has had a history of disagreements with the Countryside and Rights of Way office because of disputed access rights regarding public footpaths crossing their land.

The end of August saw 15 activists hold a visual and noisy demo outside Bradford Council's Head Office. Banners were tied up and held and information given to all the members of staff and visitors. Members of public were very supportive and many made comments about the council not caring about the people of their town, never mind the animals to be killed if bloodsports return to the moor.

The demo then moved onto the town's City Hall where campaigners went inside the office and put the West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs website on every computer screen. Outside the main entrance, activists climbed up the gates and tied a banner across, much to the annoyance of the security guards who begun shaking the gate whilst someone was still up it!

Other campaigners dropped banners from a nearby flyover to inform everybody coming into Bradford about the council's involvement in animal cruelty and bloodsports.

At the end of September hunt sabs breached the 'security' at Bradford Council's main office and made an impromptu visit to the Countryside and Rights of Way office (CROW). (See News Pages for more details.)

At the beginning of October sabs held a demo outside the council surgery of Anne Hawksworth who has been backing the return of grouse shooting to Ilkley Moor and is Head of the Environmental Portfolio, who deal with the decision whether or not the shoots go ahead.

On the 8th October in a surprise development Bradford Council agreed to an immediate review of the resumption of grouse shooting.

For more information and to keep updated with the campaign see the West Yorkshire Hunt Sabs web site
http://westyorkshirehuntsabs.wordpress.com

THE GORY TWELFTH

Grouse Shoot Sab - August 30th 2008



Various hunt sab groups joined forces to stop grouse shoots in the Peak District.

At just after 10am the first shoot was located on Meltham Moor just west of Holmfirth, the shoot was on land owned by Meltham Shooting Club. Sabs then raced onto the moor to get between the beaters and the guns and then blocked the shooting butts resulting in most of the bloodsports enthusiasts cracking their guns and abandoning the drive. Despite advice from the BASC some shooters did not 'break' their guns and one even carried on shooting over sabs' heads.

Obviously angry at their 'sport' being stopped, members of the shoot assaulted one sab to try and get their video camera, rammed the sab van and the owner of the shoot decided it would be a good idea to put one of the front windows through on the vehicle. As per usual, the police couldn't care less and were more interested in getting rid of the sabs with laws they didn't even know themselves.



Do you know this man?

This man is wanted for threatening behaviour and smashing a sab van widow.



Following dinner the next shoot was found a bit further down the road on Saddleworth Moor, they packed up straight away when they saw the sabs coming over the moor towards the butts. However, poor communication meant that the head keeper couldn't tell the beaters that the shoot had been stopped. For over 30 minutes they carried on driving the grouse towards guns that weren't there. Oh how we chuckled. Realising they had been made fools of, one of the head beaters began shouting at the police to enforce laws that didn't exist, to which they just told him the truth.

The day's sabbing was a great success, with countless lives being saved and two shoots stopped from killing.



Written by North West HSA

To get in contact with sabs in that area contact 07960038230

Photos courtesy of Southampton sabs

GROUP NEWS

South

Reading sabs got off to a late start as the ground around here was too waterlogged for them to go out for a while. We've been out with the Vale of Aylesbury, Garth and South Berks and have kennel watched for the Vine and Craven a couple of times but they didn't go out. We have also been to the Heythrop who were without a doubt hunting despite a large 'A' board in the road saying "hound racing"! They also had an owl so not sure what his/her role was in the race! They have at least three vehicles fitted with yellow flashing lights whose job is to obviously show the huntsman where we are and to block us in as much as possible. It is encouraging to see how annoyed they are by our presence there. On our latest visit there they were even more charming than the week before and spent lots of time blocking us in, admiring our hair styles etc. Shortly before they packed up, sabs managed to save an exhausted fox that could barely walk he/she was so tired. We'll be out every Saturday and hopefully some weekdays for the rest of the season.

New people are always welcome; if you want to join us call 07984977603

South Devon Animal Rights. We have been having a very good sabbing season so far this year. We started off with the South Devon Hunt for their first meet of this season but then it went a bit quiet as they changed their hunting days and times to avoid us.

Next we started on the Dart Vale and South Pool Harriers who never even unboxed on our first hit on them. Having driven to the meet, they called the police (don't know what they thought that would achieve) who arrived over an hour later to warn us that if any offences were committed people would be arrested! After this, without unboxing, the hound truck returned to the kennels, closely followed by us. By this time, the horses and hounds had been in the truck for approximately three hours. About one hour later they came up with the idea of blocking us in with tractors, enabling the hunt to escape at 10.40 am - 4 hours 15 minutes after they first left the kennels! They were hit again the following week, 27 September and again on 4 October.
Having in the meantime kept observation on the South Devon kennels, we changed our sabbing day (to match them) and on Monday, 6 October, sabbed the socks off them, saving at least two foxes we knew of, and giving them an extremely bad day.

As the saying goes, "start as you mean to go on" – so we should be giving them hell this season, going by the last two months ....

This is not the time to be enjoying ourselves but we are having so much success at the moment we are coming home with smiles on our faces. Hope all you other wonderful sabs out there have as good a season as we are having.

To get involved in hunt sabbing in South Devon call 07760284599

Southampton. Early August saw a few trips to Dorset, after which the Cattistock and South Dorset abandoned Saturday early morning cubbing meets to avoid us. This provided an opportunity to take a trip up to the grouse moors near Holmfirth for a day of action. The New Forest have been paid a few visits with the intention of remaining out of sight and obtaining film footage of any transgressions of the Hunting Act or their Forestry Commission licence. When our presence was detected the hunt immediately gathered hounds and spent a while considering their next move. Subsequent visits have seen us evade being spotted right until the end of the morning - or completely. The appearance of a few of the Forest's uglier residents seems to be an indication that they are not at all happy about us being there. After all, their Master resigned last season quoting our appearance as one of her reasons. For us to be successful we may have to deploy more bodies....



we know who you are!

South East

East Kent sabs have had a shaky start to the season, with the usual vehicle problems-another van finally meets its maker, but thanks to internal fundraising, and a much needed grant from the HSA, we are back on track to start checking out the local cubbing meets...the EAST KENT have already been visited, and are still making a big show of "trail hunting"-this hunt's particular paranoia has reached boiling point after much attention from monitors last year-they have even produced their own sheet of vehicle photographs from last season, which has been sent out to all supporters, as any unknown vehicle they now suspect as being full of antis-well sorry, you still missed a couple!!!

With the ASHFORD VALLEY still doing everything in their power to stop monitors getting near them, and the WEST ST AND TICKHAM almost dwindling away to nothing, and stupidly camera shy WYE BEAGLES, it looks as though another season of more covert undercover monitoring, or full on in your face sabbing to fall back on if all else fails, and with a batch of fresh faced new sabs itching to get into the field, it should be another interesting season...!



Wales

South Wales sabs have gone up market for cubbing, visiting the Ledbury and the Berkeley. An early season visit to the Ledbury (at a frankly uncivilised time of day) saw the huntsman hightail it into the middle of a large wood leaving his field cold and bored to hang around for about an hour waiting for sight or sound of him. No credit crunch for these folk if they've got money to waste on such a pointless activity! They claimed to be hunting within the law but their bird of prey was about the size of a pigeon and could never have taken even a young fox.

A visit to the Berkeley confirmed all the stereotypes, posh, inbred and drunk as a fart by 7 in the morning. Funny how the Countryside alliance never use this lot for their publicity posters! Fortunately their terrier boys were there to add a bit of working class brutality, threatening sabs, blocking our vehicle and trying to ram us off the road. The huntsman had a difficult morning, having to keep his hounds close due to the presence of sabs.

A return visit the following week again saw them drunk and aggressive with a large group of boys monitoring us at all times. Despite this the huntsman seemed reluctant to hunt properly, perhaps aware that the buck stops with him come prosecution time!

The following week we joined up with friends to look at the Heythrop. No doubt more of that from other groups, suffice to say that if these are David Cameron's mates he makes Thatcher look like a big cuddly teddy.



Role on the main season and starting at a civilised time. If they're following a trail you wonder why they go out at day break when the scent's strongest. What would we know we're just ignorant townies!



North

Cumbria sabs. It's still early days with the season not yet officially opened but Cumbria hunt sabs have got off to a good start and plan on a busy season, keeping an eye on the local hunts. To get involved with Cumbria sabs check out myspace/phcumbria.

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. Contact us if you don't already have a salesgoods order form, page 2.
- 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*)

❒ £15 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.....

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

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

For a standing order form, to pay via Paypal or for more information phone 0845 450 0727 or email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk

Useful Addresses

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

ALF Supporters Group
BM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX
www.alfsg.org.uk

Animal Rights Coalition
PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV10 7BZ
0845 458 0146 www.arcnews.redblackandgreen.net

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX
arkangel@arkangelweb.org www.arkangelweb.org

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)
PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX
0845 330 7955 caft@caft.org.uk www.caft.org.uk

Digging Out (Campaign for the Abolition of Terrier Work)
BCM Digging Out
London WC1N 3XX info@diggingout.org www.diggingout.org

Earth First!
www.earthfirst.org.uk www.eco-action.org

The Fox Project
The Southborough Centre, Draper Street, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0PG 01892 545468 (Head Office)
01892 514863 (Pre-recorded advice line)
fox@foxproject.org.uk www.foxproject.org.uk

Hunt Watch
PO Box 487, Norwich, NR5 8WE
07952 550054 contact@huntwatch.info www.huntwatch.info

League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)
New Sparling House , Holloway Hill
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QZ
0845 330 8486 info@league.org.uk www.league.org.uk

The National Anti Snaring Campaign (NASC)
PO Box 3058
Littlehampton West Sussex BN16 3LG
info@antisnaring.org.uk www.antisnaring.org.uk

National Fox Welfare Society
135 Higham Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS
01933 411996 natfox@ntlworld.com www.nfws.org.uk

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 0EF
01273 685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk www.schnews.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
BCM Bass, London, WC1N 3XX
uk@seashepherd.org www.seashepherd.org

SPEAK Campaigns
PO Box 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR
0845 330 7985 07906 497317 info@speakcampaigns.org
www.speakcampaigns.org

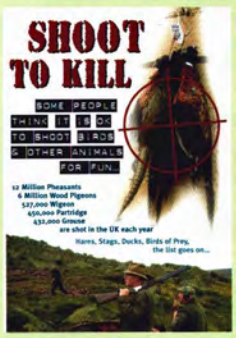
Stop DEathFra Badger Killers
www.badger-killers.co.uk

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
C/o FRIEND, 89 Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, TN12 5LJ
info@shac.net www.shac.net

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
BM 2107, London, WC1N 3XX
020 8292 8325 info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org

The Vegan Society
Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham,
B18 6HJ 0121 523 1730 0845 458 8244
info@vegansociety.com www.vegansociety.com

HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour A5 'Shoot to Kill' leaflet. Explains what you can do to stop our wildlife being killed and persecuted by shooters.

'Shoot to Kill'
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)



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)



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

Per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)

Striking 'Anti' stickers - Stick these on your own property and nowhere else. (clearly unsuitable for 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)



BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

FREE (+p&p +DONATION)

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

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



POSTAGE AND PACKING

To keep promotional material free we would ask you to make a donation to cover postage.1 Howl costs 55p to send as do 5 posters. 250 leaflets cost approx. £3.75, 500 leaflets £4.25 and 1000 leaflets £6.25.



hunt saboteurs & monitors save lives...

...we're the dogs xxxxxs!

join us & help stop the killing
www.huntsabs.org.uk

