Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Spring 2011

HOWL 97

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

snow'here to hide!





bad weather sabbing!

learn to navigate hunt sabs & the law, part 3

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IT WASN'T ME
YOUR HONOUR!



DO YOU HAVE TALES TO TELL?

WE WANT TO PUBLISH THEM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY, 'HISTORY OF THE HSA' BOOK

**In two years time the Hunt Saboteurs Association is an amazing FIFTY years old!
It is a great achievement that sabs have been out in the field saving lives for nearly fifty years.
To mark this momentous occasion we are hoping to produce a book on the history of the HSA. We want the book to show how sabbing has changed over the years from the very beginning to the present day. From the vehicles we've endured to the modern comms' we now use that were unimaginable all those years ago.
Of course hunt violence has changed little in that time and sadly lives have been lost over the years.
The HSA has gone from strength to strength, beginning with just a handful of people getting together and sabotaging a hunt in 1963 with all the wonderful press they enjoyed, to groups all over the country, enjoying the patronage of Lush, saving lives and continually keeping the hunts on their toes.**

The book will be a mix of stories, anecdotes and history from the first years of sabbing through to the present day. So we want your stories of the last fifty years. Everyone has a story to tell in the sab van or down the pub about when that happened, or so and so did this, that and the other etc. We want accounts of your first days out, was it as you expected or worse? Any funny moments? 'huntsmen shouting at you and their false teeth falling out' which happened on the Portman to 'a copper running across a field in Romney, Kent holding a piece of paper saying we were not allowed onto the land then falling into a irrigation channel leaving just his arm sticking above the water waving the piece of paper'. Any funny arrest or court stories? Any days that stick in your mind 'hundreds of sabs coming over the hill on the Chiddingfold' for example, to other great sabbing hits. Any days when you saved loads of lives from the Hunt or shoot?

**We want to hear them all.
We need the stories emailed into - merchandise@huntsabs.org.uk
Please put the date the story happened, the Hunt you were on and the group you were out with.**

**This is your chance to get your story in a book about the history of the HSA.
We would like stories in over the next six months please.**



HOWL 97

Cover image - snow sabbing courtesy of West Yorks sabs

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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EDITORIAL

Things are really not looking good for the hunters. The icy weather has got their season off to a terrible start. Boxing Day meets which are usually a great publicity and fundraising event for hunts were a disaster this year. Ice and snow on the ground meant very few riders attended and many fox hunts attended meets for a photo shoot then packed their horses away. Overall 300 Boxing Day meets were affected by snow and ice.

Despite the hunts missing many days due to the weather (see article inside) sabs have still been busy, monitoring meets to see if hunts go out on foot and of course some beagle packs have still been out.

There is also virtually no hope of the ban being repealed this year and public support for the hunting ban remains high. Overall, a good year for us. However, we still need your help. Despite the ban, as we all know, hunts are still out 3 or 4 days a week (some more) and unless sabs or monitors are there, wildlife will be killed. Its simple really, the more sabs that are out, the less foxes and hares will die.
Please join us if you can to finish off this disgusting sport.

Mel

Ps There is going to be a book produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the HSA. It would be great if people could send in any sabbing stories, memories, photos etc. to be included.

Check out our new improved website, it looks great and you can now buy merchandise online.

www.huntsabs.org.uk

Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=32757379750

NEWS ROUND UP

FOX KILLED BY CRAWLEY AND HORSHAM HUNT



At a meet nr Arundel, West Sussex Hunt Monitors witnessed the Crawley & Horsham Hunt chase and kill a fox. The Hunt was heard encouraging the hounds and blowing for the kill yet still had the cheek to tell Hunt Monitors it was only an accident.
The Hunt threw the fox to the Hounds. Hunt Monitors made their presence known and the fox was given to a quadbike rider. He panicked and drove off leaving a monitor to grab the fox. Seconds later the Hunt returned with supporters to obtain possession of the fox. They placed it into a bag and dumped it somewhere.
Sussex Police were called through 999 however they seem reluctant to enforce the Hunting Act. A spokesman for the West Sussex Animal Cruelty Investigations Team said:
"The law is simply a joke. Sussex Police have failed in their duty yet again. I cannot comment further on the police enquiry."

MENDIP FARMERS HOUNDED OUT OF CHEWTON MENDIP

The Mendip Farmers Hunt, notorious for their violence towards sabs and monitors have had to give up their plans for new hunt kennels, stables and a home for kennel staff at Splot near Chewton Mendip in Somerset.
Their application to Mendip District council met with fierce opposition from Chewton residents campaigning against the building plans. More than 150 angry people are said to have turned up to voice their opposition at meetings at the village hall.
However, despite obvious and vocal opposition from local residents, the hunt only abandoned their plans when their relationship with the pro hunt Waldegrave Estate became threatened. Lord Waldegrave allows the hunt to use part of his land but was unhappy with the planning application for land bordering the estate and said "It is pretty poor that the hunt has not been courteous enough to tell me."
Alastair Martin, chairman of the farmers hunt, said that it had been discussions with the Waldegrave Estates that had caused them to withdraw their proposals. "The main reason was the discussions we have had with the Waldegrave Estates. They have always been friends of the hunt, and we did not wish to risk damaging that relationship."
For the time being the Mendip Farmers Hunt will remain at a temporary site at Mountain Ash, near Green Ore. They have been at this site since August and hope to obtain short term planning permission.



HEAD INJURY KILLS HATLESS RIDER

61 year old rider Paul Watson turned up at the New Years Day meet of the Lauderdale hunt wearing a Stetson rather than a protective riding hat. As the hounds and hunt riders headed off from the meet, Watson, who was there as a spectator, attempted to take his horse back to his trailor. However, the horse had other ideas and threw Watson. He hit his head and died later in hospital from the head injury.
A spokesperson for the Lauderdale Hunt said: "Unfortunately, it appears that as the hunt moved off his horse became agitated, got out of his control and galloped after the main body of riders along the A68, resulting in his becoming unseated, being thrown from the saddle and striking his head on the roadway.
Watson was described as a well known member of the farming community and lived with his wife Elspeth on a farm near Earlston, Berwickshire.

WELSH HUNT MASTER DIES IN RIDING ACCIDENT

Joint master of the Brecon and Talybont hunt, Sandra Harvey, has died in a riding accident. Harvey's horse was spooked by a quad bike; she fell off and died from head injuries later at Cardiff hospital. The 68 year old had hunted with the South Wales pack for 18 years.

THREE INJURED HUNTSMEN

Within the first few weeks of hunting, three huntsmen had to take time off due to injuries. Oakley huntsman, Duncan Cinnamond, broke his hand at the opening meet. Bruce Langley McKim, the new huntsman for the Readyfield Bloodhounds broke his collarbone during hound exercise and had to take two weeks off. Joint master for the Duke of Beaufort, Ian Farquhar, had to hand over hunting to kennel huntsman Tony Holdsworth after pulling a muscle. Farquhar is due to retire at the end of the season but will continue as joint master.

GOOD NEWS FOR GREYHOUNDS



The Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB), which administers, funds and promotes British greyhound racing, has been forced to slash its budget by a further 23% This is a result of even fewer people betting on dog racing, which has led to yet another reduction in the British Greyhound Racing Fund, which is made up of a percentage of the money wagered on greyhound races.

Although the GBGB budget cut means there will be less money going into welfare, the overall news for greyhounds is excellent, because it includes a 9% cut in prize-money support, a huge reduction in the capital spending budget for tracks, from £430,000 to zero, and a £400,000 cut in national marketing.

These reductions will no doubt push even more tracks toward closure and hasten the ultimate demise of the dog racing industry, which is, of course, the best welfare present the greyhounds could ever be given. For more info on the campaign against greyhound racing visit www.greyhoundaction.org.uk



ERROR ON WAG OFFICIAL LEAFLET

The Welsh Assembly Government has claimed that an inaccurate and misleading claim on an official leaflet was an "editing" error. The leaflet which was given out to 26,000 homes in the intended cull area claimed that previous trials had shown such culls could reduce TB in cattle by as much as 50% in six months. It should have said culls could start to show a benefit after six months.

Campaigners against the proposed cull claim that as the leaflets were distributed throughout the cull area, this could have influenced the results of a public consultation taking place. Celia Thomas, of Pembrokeshire Against The Cull, said: "It was our suggestion as a campaign group that they contact all the households in the pilot area to make sure they knew the consultation was taking place, and then they produce something with a completely misleading statement in it about the effectiveness of a cull. It could lead people to think that a cull could be much more effective than it actually would be, and calls into question the validity of the whole consultation process."

The badger cull which is planned annually for five years in parts of North Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion was halted last year following a legal challenge.

Fox TRAPPING VET



Scottish vet Keith Talbot boasted how he trapped and killed the biggest fox ever found in Britain while visiting his parent's home in Maidstone, Kent over Christmas. The vet claims that the fox was twice the size of an average fox and weighed 26.5lb.

Pictures of the dead fox were put up on the internet based Field Sports channel. Despite Talbots conclusion from his catch that foxes are becoming bigger and more dangerous, Derek Yalden, president of the Mammal Society, said: "I would say it's an exception rather than an indication that foxes are getting bigger, although in towns they are bolder because they're more used to seeing humans."

Talbot claims he trapped and killed the fox after it was thought it could be responsible for the death of their pet cat. However, no one witnessed the death of their cat and Talbot had actually trapped and killed two foxes, presumably they weren't both responsible for the death of Amber the 19 year old cat who was sleeping outside on the front doorstep the night she died.

Mr Bryant, who is a trustee of the RSPCA, said foxes were getting a bad name due to hopes by David Cameron and the hunting community to get a repeal on the hunting with dogs ban. "Stories are being hyped up saying foxes are on the increase and becoming dangerous – degradation of a species makes it easier for people to get rid of it," he said.

ToRY MPs BETRAY THEIR HUNT SCUM BUDDIES

Hunt supporters who helped Tory MPs win their seats are furious that some of them have now declared they will vote against repeal. The pro-hunting campaign group Vote-OK, which poured supporters into a hundred marginal seats, say they made the difference in more than 20 constituencies. Hundreds of thousands of leaflets were put through letterboxes by hunt supporters, helping many MPs including Laura Sandys from South Thanet who has since announced she would not vote for repeal.

It is estimated that 22 Tory MPs are now in favour of keeping the ban and 42 of the 57 Lib Dem MPS including Nick Clegg will vote against repeal. Clegg also caused some upset when his review of "bad Labour law" failed to mention the Hunting Act as an example of legislation which wrongly criminalises ordinary citizens.

The League Against Cruel Sports claims repeal would be defeated by 310 votes to 253, with 23 MPs undecided. The British public remains opposed to fox hunting despite attempts to demonise foxes. The recent Ipsos Mori survey of almost 2,000 (1,988) people, shows that more than three-quarters (76 per cent) of those surveyed think fox hunting should remain illegal. The poll, commissioned by Lacs, found that only one in six (18 per cent) think it should be legalised.

FOX SHOOTS HUNT SCUM

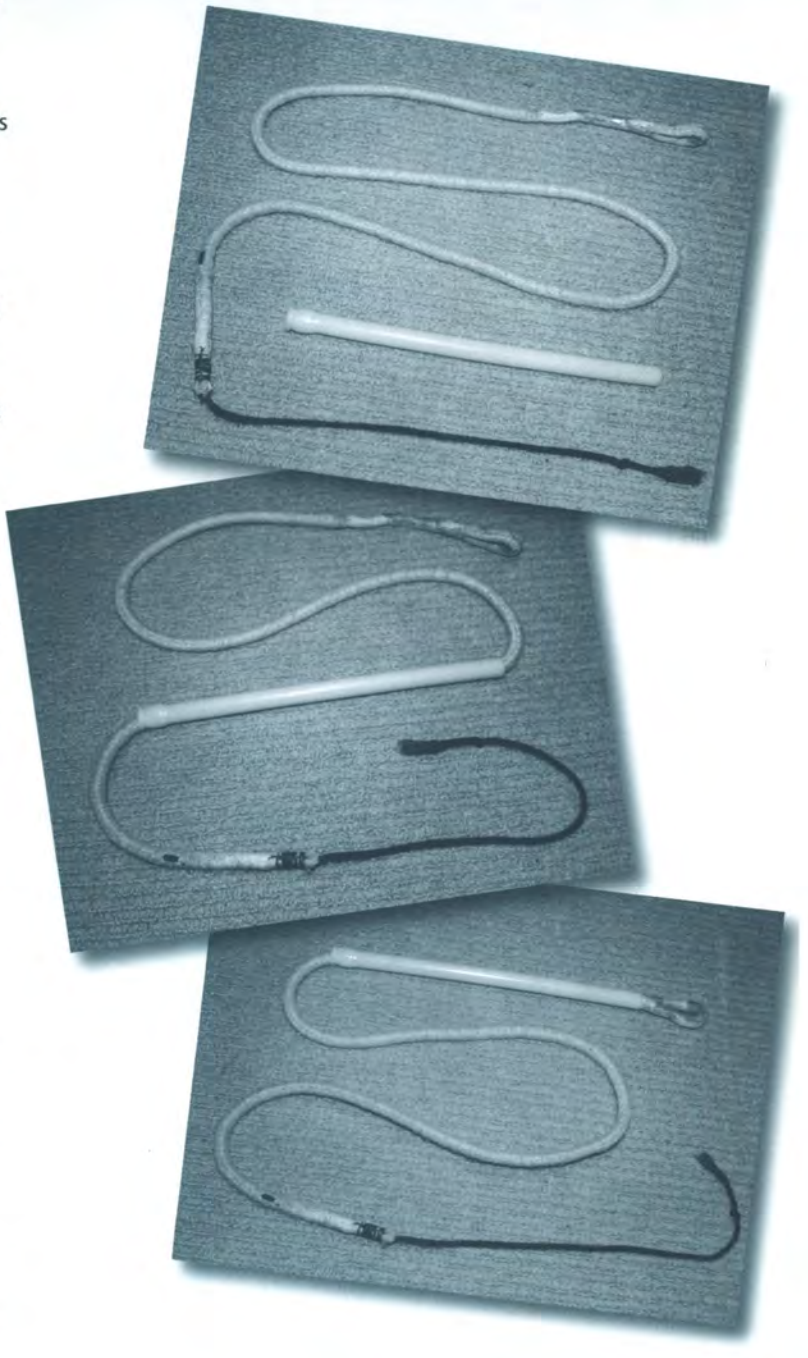
A fox shot by a hunter in the Grodno region of north western Belarus got his/her revenge by shooting the hunter in the leg. After shooting the fox from a distance, the hunter approached the wounded animal to finish him/her off with the butt of his rifle. The fox resisted and during the struggle managed to set off the trigger on the hunter's gun with his/her paw. Although not good news for the fox who was left injured, the hunter was injured badly enough to be taken to hospital.

The farming area close to the Polish border is popular with hunters, especially because of its large populations of elk, wild boar and wolves.



TAKE CONTROL

MAKING A SOFT HANDLED WHIP



Anyone who has been out sabbing will know that generally speaking the police are itching for an excuse to stop and harass you. One of their old favourites is that our whips, which have wooden handles and which we use as hounds are trained to stop chasing at the sound of a cracking whip, could be an offensive weapon. This is quite clearly ridiculous and as far as the HSA is aware no sab has ever been prosecuted for carrying an offensive weapon on the basis of carrying a whip. Hunt supporters regularly hit sabs with their whips from the safety of their horses but of course there is never any suggestion that they are carrying offensive weapons. Although as sabs we are confident that we could never be successfully prosecuted in a court for carrying a whip, it can be an opportunity for police to stop you, generally be irritating and take up valuable time. An enterprising supporter has come up with the idea of a soft handled whip to make it even harder for the police to suggest that it's an offensive weapon, here's how...

- Take a length of rope appropriate for the height of the user (with your arm outstretched it should not quite reach the floor).
- Tie a knot or loop in one end of the rope.
- At the other end of the rope attach a piece of shoe lace with a knot about 10cm from the end.
- Find a piece of plastic or rubber tubing (eg. from play tent or any 10mm diameter pipe).
- Fit rope through pipe with the knot or loop in the end of the rope keeping it secure.
- If you prefer you can even quickly remove the rope from the handle when approached by the police.

It should be emphasised that carrying a standard homemade wooden handled whip is NOT illegal. The legal definition of an offensive weapon is an article made or adapted for use in causing injury, or carried with the intention of causing injury

I wonder Weather they'll be out?

Hunts hate the wintry weather. Snow leads to difficulty in getting to meets, it's unsafe under foot for horses and riders and most foxes are safely hidden away underground where they are relatively safe. Ice causes all the above problems and also can cause damage to hounds pads, which being animal lovers, the hunts are keen to avoid. The traditional January and February bad weather is therefore a boon for hunt saboteurs (as well obviously as for hunted animals) for whom it is a welcome break from the violence, cruelty and intimidation that they see and experience during the hunting season. But to have such weather in November and December, what a pleasant surprise. It was like Christmas came early.



The early winter has had a massive impact on most hunts, with many of them not managing to go out on horses from November until the first week in January. For us this is just a welcome break, a chance to recharge our batteries whilst hunting is on hold, but for the hunts themselves the ramifications are huge. Most hunts are businesses, they have expenditure, such as wages for hunt staff, bills, maintenance of buildings, animal feed costs etc. Their income is largely made up of subscriptions from mounted followers who pay an annual fee to ride out with the hunt. Subscriptions vary hugely but can be over two thousand pounds for a season's hunting. If riders are not getting what they paid for, they may decide not to bother next season. Most of the field follow the hunt in order to ride and are simply not interested in following any other way, so if the hunt goes out on foot, most of the riders just don't go. Hunts also charge a visitors fee (often substantial) for riding with the hunt on an occasional basis, this income will be greatly reduced if there are fewer hunting days.

Last year the Cottesmore Hunt in Leicestershire, lost sixteen of a possible sixty hunting days due to 'unsuitable weather' (this season could be much worse). A full subscription to the hunt costs £2400. If they are losing a quarter of their hunting, subscribers may argue they are entitled to a refund of a quarter of their subscription. Visitors pay up to £150 for a day with the hunt so losing revenue from sixteen days will be a substantial loss for the hunt, whilst their



expenditure remains the same. The Cottesmore is a relatively wealthy hunt and can probably absorb this loss of income in the short term but for smaller, less wealthy packs such a loss can be fatal and there will be many anxious Masters and Committees throughout the country praying for a better second half of the season.

The impact of the bad weather extends beyond the hunts to the industries that exist because of hunting. Hunter hireling businesses rent horses to those wishing to hunt but either haven't got their own horse or are visiting a hunt from another part of the country. These businesses can have many horses and hire them out for several hundred pounds for half a day's use. The recent cold snap has cost these businesses tens of thousands of pounds and even though some will have insurance against such events, their premiums will be seriously affected.



So next time you find yourself complaining about the harsh winter weather just consider that every cloud has a silver lining and that for hunted animals and hunt saboteurs such weather means we can hide away in our burrows, safe from the weather and the unwelcome attentions of the hunt



Even when the weather finally improves (and lets hope it's only temporary) life is still a struggle. Hounds and particularly horses can take time to return to hunting fitness and we've noticed that fields have been small and hunts are packing up much earlier in the day than we'd normally expect them too. Most hunts have to finish their season by mid March due to farming pressures so there is little opportunity for them to re-arrange their lost meets, keep their subscribers happy and claw back some lost income.





Although wild animals and birds are less likely to be pursued by human predators when the weather is bad, life can be hard for them in other ways. Food can be scarce and hard to find when there is snow and ice on the ground. Please put out extra food and water for the wildlife at this time of year to see them through to the spring.

Valentino2/Dreamstime.com

PROSECUTION ROUND UP

Richard Down, huntsman of the Quantock Staghounds, was found guilty of illegal hunting in November; this is his second conviction under the Hunting Act. In September 2009 League monitors filmed a stag running into a small combe on the Quantock Hills. The combe was quickly surrounded by hunt supporters. Down then gathered five hounds and took them into the combe after the stag. At least three hounds then chased the stag out of the combe and across National Trust land – from which the hunt has been banned since 1997.

Down attempted to use an exemption to the act, "rescue of a wild mammal", by claiming that the stag was injured and that the hunt was out to relieve its suffering! The allegedly injured stag had been seen the previous day by the hunt chairman on his own land – though he decided to do nothing about it at the time. No evidence was produced in court to back up the claim that the stag was injured.

Laughably Down claimed that his horse had lost a shoe in the bottom of the combe and that he played no active part in the hunt after that. However he failed to mention this in police interview and the District Judge rejected the claim. Down also tried to use the s4 defence in the Hunting Act: that he reasonably believed that the hunting was exempt. The judge rejected this claim, taking the view that it was hard to imagine that Down held any belief that what he was doing was legal, let alone a reasonable one. The judge ruled that hunting had started when the stag was identified approximately 1km away from where it was filmed and that the stag was hunted into the combe.

In total Richard Down was ordered to pay £2920 in fines and costs.



Three members of the Sinnington hunt were acquitted of illegal hunting after a trial in December. The hunt had been filmed crossing a private airfield, from which they are banned, minutes after a fox had run across it. Later blood and fox fur was found beside freshly dug holes in a covert on the edge of the airfield. Sadly the judge couldn't say beyond reasonable doubt that the fox was being intentionally hunted. The upside to the case was that the police and CPS prosecuted a normal hunt rider who had taken an active part in the day's events, alongside the huntsman and whip.

Fernie huntsman Derek Hopkins and terrierman Kevin Allen have both been convicted of offences under the Hunting Act (HA) and the Protection of Badgers Act (PoBA).

On January 27th 2010 the Fernie hunt were monitored by LACS investigators from their meet at Thorpe Langton. At around 1pm the hounds were filmed as they chased a fox to ground in what was later found to be an active badger sett. Hopkins summoned the terriermen over to the sett. Allen, and another unidentified terrierman, put a terrier into the sett whilst Hopkins took the hounds and held them at the other end of the field. The terriermen then dug into the sett and bolted the fox out, whereupon Hopkins laid the hounds on after the fox. All of this was done directly in front of the entire hunting field.

The hunt claimed that they were trail hunting and that the hounds had marked to ground without any preceding chase. They claimed that it was not an active badger sett and found an "expert" to back up their claims. They claimed that Allen was using the "gamekeepers' exemption" to use a terrier below ground to bolt the fox into nets and then shoot it, whilst the huntsman waited for new "trails" to be laid. Allen then claimed that his terrier had become trapped underground and that he had to dig down to rescue it, even though he started digging just seven minutes after arriving at the sett.

However the court found that Hopkins had allowed the hounds to mark the fox to ground for around 5 minutes to prevent it from escaping until Allen arrived, and that he kept the hounds nearby so that they could continue to chase the fox once it was bolted out. The court did not believe that Allen had netted the holes; nor that he was digging to rescue his terrier nor that he had any intention to shoot the fox. The court also believed the evidence of the prosecution's experts that the sett was active at the time of the incident, and found that the defendants were capable of assessing that it was an active sett. The court found that the two men acted in a joint enterprise, through their shared and individual efforts, to flush the fox out so that it could be hunted and that both men had damaged the badger sett.

The court found the two men guilty of illegally hunting a fox and of damaging a badger sett. Hopkins was fined £600 under the PoBA and £250 under the HA, and ordered to pay costs of £1265. Allen was fined £400 under the PoBA and £250 under the HA, and ordered to pay £915 costs.

The unhappy pair and their supporters mumbled something about a possible appeal. They risk creating case law on hunting and increased fines if they lose.

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

bloodsports
VERMIN

Two rabbit poachers caught with dogs, knives and spades on a farm were fined on 12/10/10. Tommy Cannon, 24, and James Lawrence, 26, were caught by police near Chessington World of Adventures. At Kingston magistrates Cannon, of Byland Close, Morden, and Lawrence, of Scawen Close, Carshalton, admitted the offence of poaching for rabbits. A more serious charge of interfering with badger setts and using dogs to hunt a wild animal was dropped by prosecutors. Officers arrested the pair after seeing them with three terriers, hunting knives, collars and spades and seized their dogs and equipment. Magistrates fined each man £180, plus costs of £85 and a £15 victims' surcharge, and issued an order to forfeit their equipment. However, the three dogs, would be returned after being held by police for seven months

Paul Hill, 42, of Dairy Lane in Ivybridge, near Plymouth who is a falconer was banned from keeping birds of prey for five years after being convicted of failing to register a goshawk, offering it for sale and selling it. Hill was found guilty of five of the six charges he faced when he appeared at Torbay magistrates on 8/11/10. He was found not guilty of failing to register one goshawk held at his previous home, but guilty of similar charges regarding other birds. He was also found guilty of offering a goshawk up for sale and selling a juvenile female goshawk to Charles Butters, from Cornwall, for £1,200. Hill, who founded and runs the International Falconry Forum and is known as HawkMaster. On 10/12/10 Hill was given 60 days to pay court costs of £5,580 and given with a 12-month community order consisting of 300 hours of unpaid work.



Jay Willoughby, 31, of Bulkington Road, Bedworth tried to snare wild birds in his back garden escaped being put behind bars himself. Willoughby was sentenced at Nuneaton magistrates on 30/11/10 after admitting being in possession of three wild goldfinches, not keeping them in a suitable environment and having three traps. Magistrates gave Willoughby a 12-month community order, to be under the supervision of a probation officer and to fulfil 200 hours of unpaid work. He was also disqualified from keeping birds for 12 months and ordered to pay £450 towards the RSPCA costs.

equine
VERMIN

A horse owner was banned from keeping horses and has to pay more than £9,000 after he was convicted of animal cruelty offences. Alby Smith, 50, of Washington Road, Emsworth, appeared at Worthing magistrates on 21/10/10 to be sentenced for one count of causing unnecessary suffering to horses and one of confining four horses in a dirty stable environment. He was given a three-month curfew order from 7pm to 7am and a deprivation order was placed over the remaining three horses, which the RSPCA, is currently responsible for. He has also been disqualified from owning, keeping, or participating in the keeping of horses, ponies and donkeys for three years and needs to pay a combined cost of £9,212 to cover fines and court fees.

Vennessa Malone, 45, and Charlotte Malone, 22, of the Silver Florin Equine Welfare charity, in Washingborough Road, Lincoln, each face four counts of failing to look after horses properly. They deny all the allegations that relate to a bay gelding, a chestnut mare, a piebald mare and a light bay gelding.

Two people have been banned from looking after horses after RSPCA officers discovered malnourished animals in a mud and manure-filled field. Seven horses were found in varying states of health on a field the RSPCA told Peterborough magistrates on 23/11/10. Fred Smith (77), of the Paston Caravan Park in Norwood Lane, Paston, was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, was banned from owning or caring for horses for 10 years and ordered to pay £500 costs. He had pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal, one count of failing to meet the needs of seven horses and breaching a disqualification order. Smith had received a five-year order in October 2009 banning him from looking after horses for a similar offence. Nicola King (31), of Durham Road, Peterborough, had taken on the responsibility of caring for one horse, and she also pleaded guilty to one count of failing to meet the welfare needs of the animal. She was given a two-year conditional discharge, banned from caring for horses for two years and ordered to pay £500 costs. The RSPCA was also given permission to seize the animals.



Navigation

(or we're the Alaawee!)

We've all done it. Wandered up and down the side of the wood not quite sure where we are, or even where we've been. Well, it doesn't take much to turn each of us into a navigator extraordinaire, and here's how...

Maps

In the U.K., it's likely that you'll be using an Ordnance Survey (OS) map of some sort, most likely either one of their Landranger (scale 1:50000, pink) or Explorer (scale 1:25000, orange) series. (Harveys also do some excellent maps of areas commonly used for less cruelty-based outdoor pastimes, such as Snowdonia and the Lakes, but I guess not many of you will be using these.) On the Landrangers, one kilometre in the real world is represented by 2 centimetres on the map; on the Explorers a km is represented by 4cm. Make sure you know the scale of your map!

Practice looking at the map and then visualising the terrain in your mind. Contours – brown lines on the map joining points of equal height – are a useful aid for this. On the Landrangers the vertical interval between contours is 5m; on the Explorers it's 5m in lowland areas and 10m elsewhere. Every few contours are labelled with their height value in metres, and every fifth one is shaded a bit more heavily.

Contours which are bunched together indicate a steep slope, but if they're more spaced out then the slope is gentler. Valleys and ridges are easily confused but handily the height values written on the map are oriented so that the top of the numbers point uphill. And remember streams are typically found in valleys, not on ridges...

Map symbols

Although each map has a legend, it's useful to familiarise yourself with some of the common symbols, particularly those for different types of rights of way, different forestry, streams etc. Knowing the difference between, say, symbols for a byway (green crosses on the Explorer, red crosses on the Landranger) and a bridleway (long green dashes on the Explorer, long red dashes on the Landranger), or coniferous and non-coniferous trees, could make the difference between being lost or not. But I'm still waiting for an opportunity to need to distinguish between the symbol for a church with a spire and one with a steeple...

Folding, setting and thumbing the map

It may sound obvious, but if you have a map with you – and I think everyone should have – then get it out and keep it out as you go. Also fold it so that the bit you want is easily accessible – don't faff about opening it out each time you want to have a look, and then close it down again afterwards. Given our lovely British weather, it's often a good idea to use a map case or laminate the thing to avoid it turning to mush in your hands. I prefer the map case option, since you can also stick any neighbouring maps in it if the meet is close to an edge of a map.

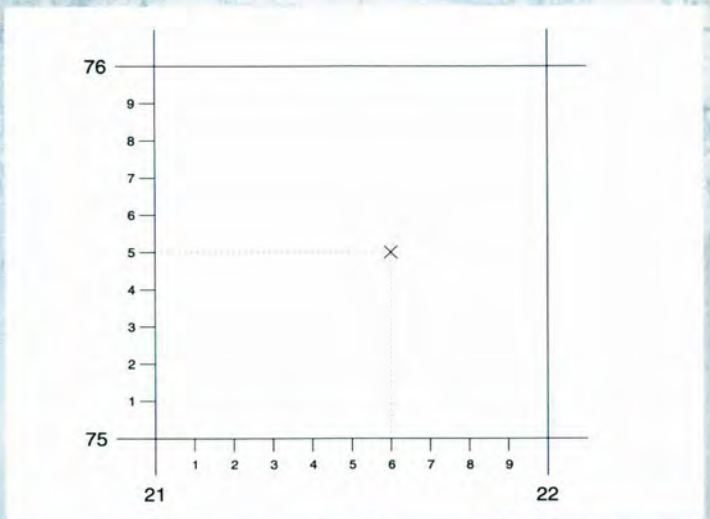
In addition to having the map out as you go, try to keep track of where you are as you go. To help with this orienteers usually 'set' the map by ensuring that the map is "round the right way", so that a feature on the map is aligned with the same feature on the ground. For example, if you are travelling west then the western side of the map should be furthest away from you. An alternative is to set the map so that the top of it is always pointing towards true north (the one in the real world), but that can get confusing if you're not careful.

In any case, once it's set, and you know where you are on it, it's good practice to 'thumb' the map by putting your thumb (duh) on it where you are, and then keeping track of your progress by moving it on the map as you move in the real world. This takes a bit of practice (apart from anything else to avoid walking or running into things when your eyes are on the map), but should allow you to know exactly where you are at any time. In theory. That's the orienteer's approach, but obviously we often have rather more to think about when out than they do (oooh look, red and white triangles), so is easier said than done.

Grid references

OS maps are covered with grid lines at one kilometre intervals, running north-south and east-west. Each line is numbered at the edges of the map and here and there on the map grid lines themselves, and together these lines divide the map up into one-kilometre squares. You can use grid references to specify precisely a point on the map, and their use is preferable to the commonly heard and less-than-helpful variations on "in the field, you know, the one by the tree". For our purposes, six-figure grid references are probably sufficient.

To get a rough six-figure grid reference, first look at the bottom left corner of the one-kilometre square you're interested in, and note the two-digit numbers on that vertical line, and that horizontal line in that order (remember: "along the hall and then up the stairs"). This gives you the first and second, and fourth and fifth figures of the six-figure grid reference (in the figure below, these are 21 and 75 respectively). Now divide up the sides of the square into tenths by eye, and see where you



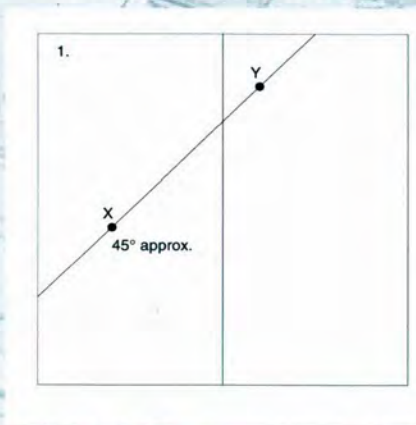
are – this gives you the third and sixth figures. In the figure, these are 6 in the horizontal direction and 5 in the vertical direction, giving the full six-figure grid reference as 216755.

To avoid having to check the map edge when working out a grid reference, and maybe having to unfold and then refold the map to do so, a handy tip is to beforehand add more numbers across the map with a felt-tip.

Using a compass

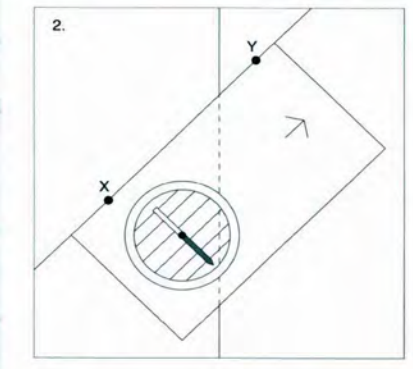
Compasses vary a bit, but the common Silva-style ones (which I recommend) you can pick up from most hiking shops consist of a clear base with a big direction-of-travel arrow one end, and then the compass itself set into it in a housing crossed by orienting lines, and with a degrees dial round the outside, typically in increments of 2°.

In addition to telling us where north is (it's the direction pointed by the red end of the compass needle), a compass can be used for a host of other useful things. The one I'd like to sketch here is taking a bearing from a map, putting it into a compass, and following it. This is very handy if you're trying to cross featureless terrain, maybe moor or thick forest or anything snow-covered, or if the clag is down. Lots of footpaths also head off rather speculatively across large fields and following a good bearing can make the difference between popping out the other side right by a stile, or an age of wandering up and down trying to find it.

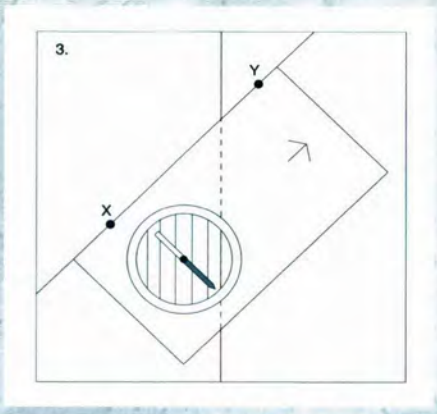


So, what do you do? Well, suppose you're at the point X on your map and you want to get to point Y (see fig. 1).

First of all, holding the map flat, make a rough estimate of the bearing. This avoids getting it wrong by 180° (which is very easily done!). Here the bearing is roughly 45°.

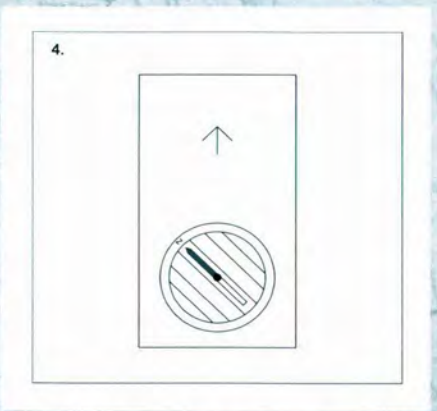


Now place the compass on the map so that one of its long edges touches both X and Y, and with the big direction-of-travel arrow pointing in the direction you want to go (see fig. 2).



Turn the housing of the compass so that the orienting lines in the housing are parallel to the north-south grid lines of the map (see fig. 3), with north on the dial (usually marked with an N) pointing towards north on the map. The grid bearing is then the number on the dial by the marker on the housing (or if your housing doesn't have a marker, the number on the dial closest to the direction-of-travel arrow). If it's miles from your initial guess then you've done something wrong!

Now, because the compass points to magnetic north, but you want grid north, you now have to add something called the magnetic variation, the exact value of which will be given on your map in the legend, but which is likely about 3° or 4°. This you add to your grid bearing by rotating the compass housing anticlockwise 3° or 4° (say).



Finally, to follow the compass, hold it flat and turn yourself round until the red end of the compass needle points to North (N) on the dial. The direction in which to go is then shown by the direction-of-travel arrow (see fig. 4).

That may all sound rather complicated, but with a bit of practice it does get easier, I promise. I once crossed Kinder Scout in the Peak District (a featureless place at the best of times) in the snow on a bearing, and emerged just where I wanted. And I'm a right numpty with a compass...

Relocation

Despite our best efforts we all get totally lost at some point. If you really don't know where you are, try to think back to when you last knew where you were, and then visualise where you went between then and now. Failing that, can you see any obvious topographic features around you? Any hills or valleys visible, streams, or roads even? If you're in a forest, what type of trees are they? Usually there's something obvious around you which you can use to find your location on the map.



So there you go. With a bit of practice, all these techniques will start to come naturally, and then we'll never get lost again. Or at least not so often...



The last couple of months have been really good for **Cumbria** sabs. We have managed, with a small number of people, to make life really hard for the hunts in the area, in particular the Blencathra foxhounds. We have kept up pressure on this hunt week in week out and with the help of Gaia their season has been a bit of a disaster.

Every single time we have turned up at their meets we have had to call the hounds off of a fox. Without us there, they would be killing foxes every meet. We can tell we are really getting to them by their increased aggression and their new tactic of making silly accusations to the police in order to try and keep us away. One thing that has been made clear this season, is Barry can't control his pack! Almost every meet he manages to lose control, with hounds ending up all over the place.

This hunt has a huge support, which are hungry for kills. Our presence has meant that they aren't getting their fix, so they have increased their attempts to intimidate us. On one meet a fully grown man body checked a petite female sab. Fortunately we are a determined group and this thuggish behaviour won't deter us. We will be keeping up the pressure on this hunt for the rest of the season. We also managed to introduce ourselves to the new huntsman of the Melbreak, by popping up just as they got onto the line of a fox that had just passed. We managed to take control of the whole pack, thus saving the fox. When he finally got them back he tried to make a run for it but we managed to keep up with him and really spoil his day. At one point we came across a dead fox hanging over a fence, it had been shot through the face. We think this may have been a little gift from the hunt but we can't be certain. We then took great delight in watching the new huntsman try desperately to call the hounds in, so he could pack up. He struggled for ages with his voice calls having next to no effect. The hounds he had in the van already were ones we had called! Like most hunts in Cumbria, the Melbreak can't control their pack. We also had a great day against the Cumberland foxhounds; we chased them round the countryside all day until they packed up with no kills. On the way home from this meet we drove straight into the Cumberland farmers. Hounds were all over the place running out in front of the car. We also got footage of the huntsmen encouraging the hounds onto a fox. We made a nuisance of ourselves, much to the annoyance of the massive support. They drove like idiots, blocking us in so that they could get pictures of us. Luckily it was starting to get dark so that put an end to their day.



All in all we have had a very successful season so far and have yet to see a kill. We have managed this with very low numbers. There are often just two of us out, three if we are lucky. If we can do this with two, just think what we could achieve with a few more! If anyone would like to come up to the Lake District and give us a hand, we would be really appreciative. We can help with any travel expenses and can provide accommodation. We have big plans for the rest of the season and a few more bodies out in the field will make sure we can pull these off. The hunts in Cumbria are in for a very hard finish to the season! We are also willing to travel to help out other groups in need of numbers.

Please contact us via our facebook page.

The **Derby** group has focused on the Meynell & South Staffordshire FH and the High Peak Hare Hunt this season with mixed results. The Meynell has used hunt staff in 4WDs to tail the sab van so the hunt can keep away. They've given up on this tactic now as our 4WD van leaves them standing! The hunt has worked hard to lose the group on a number of occasions sometimes losing all the hunt support which can't help their cap fees the next time they go out. One notable time was when they'd deliberately headed into some of the most hilly country just south of Ashbourne. All the vehicle support were on the main A515 but all the nearby livestock was undisturbed. The decision was made to go across one valley and down a long dead end track. The sabs got out of the vehicle headed up the hill and we literally caught them in full-cry. The pack was immediately rated, they lost the scent and the hunt were not happy that the only 'car support' who had managed to keep up with them were sabs! Two weeks later at the High Peak was a less successful day as sabs caught the hunt killing a hare on camera. All the hunters phoned their lawyers but then after nearly an hour they carried on with smug looks on their faces. The hunt claimed it was an accident as the hare was chopped almost straight away but the huntsman barely tried to rate the hounds and pull them off the hare. A sheep was rescued later in the day from a fence when the hounds had rioted yet again in an area they shouldn't have been in. Just as a warning to other Midlands/Northern sab groups: Following the Fernie conviction, the Meynell have been very 'frosty', worse than has been seen at any time after the hunt ban. It may have been partially due to sabs sticking to them like glue all day which guaranteed nothing was harmed but may also have been due to the successful conviction as well. Keep it safe people!

Anyone who wants to go sabbing in the Derbyshire region please contact 07754 524661.

The **Manchester** Division of the NWHSA has had a largely enjoyable season. Often teaming up with colleagues on t'other side of the Penines we have been out every weekend (excepting weather cancellations) and even had a bit of mid week action.

We were there at the Grove and Rufford with a full van when over policing was taken to a new level – even to those sabs who had previous experiences of the Surrey Union back in the day, the numbers of cops that



day was shocking. We were there at the Badsworth and Bramham Moor, hiking through the snow surprising a hunt who must have thought they'd have had a clear day with a foot of the white stuff on the ground. And we were out on the South Notts over xmas when unattractive meathead support looked like they might really try and ruin our day until the hunt ruined theirs and packed up after 2 hours.

On New Years day we went looking for the elusive Forest and District Beagles –previously thought possibly to be extinct until they appeared listed in this year's dog and donkey hunting directory. Despite a good couple of hours trekking round some of their old meets we couldn't find them but suffice to say we have our eyes on them for the future.

Our most recent visit to the Quorn was a near disaster when the back window of our new van shattered on the motorway - worsened when we found out another group en route had also broken down. But we got in the area, dropped sabs, got the van repaired and got back in to the fray to find an unhappy hunt which had barely been out of view of the sabs all day.

We have old sabs. We have new sabs. We have a van. If you live in or near Manc join us.

West Yorkshire Sabs have had a good season so far with no kills. Our closest call was when the hounds saw a hare and were just inches away from her when we managed to call them off with no help from the huntsman. We have had some challenging dealings with the police but managed to keep sabbing.

The poor weather has seen us go out on foot a few times. One week we were knee deep in snow, with the hunt showing total disregard for hound welfare, dragging them along in unsafe conditions and exposing their lies about 'legal hunting' as they went out to feed their blood lust. Good job we turned up to spoil the fun.

We had a great 'Hunt Sabs Ball' fundraiser in Bradford thanks to all the bands and the organisers. We have started doing a few midweeks and would like to do more but drivers and cash are in short supply. If you can help with either please get in touch!

Thanks to our supporters who have kept us going, and thanks to our sister groups and the HSA who've been helping us do the business!

With early mornings behind us, **Nottingham** and **Sheffield** sabs set off to the Grove and Rufford at the start of November with lots of new sabs and full of enthusiasm for the season ahead. This enthusiasm lasted about 2 hours, when, after a fairly un-eventful day, we were kettled in by a large number of cops and held for an hour and a half. The situation ended with 3 sabs being arrested for aggravated trespass (one of whom was also arrested for assault on a copper) when they refused to give their details. They were then held for 12 hours and released in the middle of Bumpkinsville at 2 am. Nice! Sadly we can't go into details at the moment about what lying, two faced bastards Nottinghamshire police are as the sabs involved are in court soon but they were obviously trying to justify the presence of 10 riot vans, a helicopter, a large cell van, dirt bikes and about 50 cops. We're thinking funny handshakes but what would we know.

The following week saw us head North to support our comrades at the Badsworth and Bramham moor before heading to the Quorn where three vehicles had an amazing day's sabbing, keeping the hunt on the move and saving foxes that were thick on the ground throughout the day. Sabs particularly enjoyed watching the whipper in come off his horse and end up with blood pouring down his face. Supporters were encouraging him to blame sabs but he was busy screaming abuse at the grooms for not doing their jobs properly.

At the start of December we returned to the B&B who were hunting on foot from their kennels in 18 inches of snow! Sabs were genuinely amazed to see the hunt out in such conditions, although not for long as they took one look at 25 of us descending on them and packed up.

A rare trip to the Barlow (who don't normally hunt Saturdays) followed. Conditions were extremely poor and we couldn't find them at their meet but they were eventually discovered lurking at their kennels getting ready to hunt on foot. They hadn't been visited for a few years and were extremely unhappy to see sabs, getting very aggressive when we followed them despite claiming they were only out exercising. Police, including a helicopter, turned up in force but despite this we were able to take the pack from right under the huntsman's feet. He was not happy!

That Wednesday saw us pay a trip to the Blankney in Lincolnshire. The only time they made it out in six weeks and sabs were there. Happy days! We stopped their sneaky terrier men trying to dig out in a wood. They tried to sneak back twice but we caught them both times and eventually they gave up. We had a couple of well earned weeks off in mid December due to the snow and ice before popping up at the South Notts between Christmas and New Year. Another hunt that rarely hunt Saturdays, they're a violent bunch and it's hard to get enough sabs together mid-week to put on a good show (proof that we do have jobs, despite what the CA say!). Due to the hols though we managed to get two full vans out and despite the amazingly heavy fog and pick-up trucks full of hunt heavies we had a good day and the hunt were out for less than two hours.

Cheers to all our supporters and let's hope for more bad weather in the New Year.

Notts sabs: huntsabs@hotmail.com
http://nottinghamhuntsabs.weebly.com/

Sheffield sabs:
sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk



Due to the intervention of winter weather, **North East London** sabs campaign against the hunts has been successful since the last howl. On the Saturday before Christmas only five nels sabs were out and teamed up tightly with ses who were giving us the benefit of their experience. Together we did a very proficient job of keeping track of the Suffolk hunt who we haven't visited for a while. They were hunting illegally at Boxted, North West of Long Melford and they knew that we knew..... They had the ridiculous charade of an eagle under the noses of a ridiculous amount of police. Is that news? We saw lots of foxes - some they never saw or scented and only one or two we had to get them off. Anyway they weren't happy and packed up before two thirty.

On Boxing Day Essex hunts were not out due to the weather and it was a reduced number of support - a hardcore of posh 4x4's barbours', and fur coats always want to carry their babies to another celebration of ignorance and cruelty. Like other hunts - the hunt just paraded the hounds - they ran around a crowd cradling paper cups of mulled wine and then they had a raffle. Sabs brushed up on snowballing skills before going home and before the melt.

On New Year's day some disciplined and alert sabs, a new sab and some tired old sabs made it out to keep track of the Suffolk Hunt North West of Long Melford. The hunt claimed they had an owl out but no-one saw it and with the terrier men out as well their support tried to bluff it that they weren't hunting. So why were their support and terrier men bristling? Because they knew we could prevent them killing. So foxes were seen running free.

East Kent sabs had an interesting day with the East Kent foxhounds, which resulted in a redneck turning up, threatening to kill us, trying to get into the landy, then coming back with a scaffolding pole and trying to ram the back of the landy. All this with his tiny daughter watching from his van. We caught it on video, called police who turned up in huge numbers.. then detained us, went off to cosy up with the hunt, came back and repeated some bizarre allegations made by the hunt (whipping the ground with chains?!) We were then threatened with arrest. The police were at the guy's house later, having a nice cup of tea, and explaining how they had got him off charges of at least possession of an offensive weapon and threatening behaviour, by colluding with the hunt. Under more horrendous snow, the next week saw a kennel watch at the beagle pack-but again, they had a little walk up the road, turned around, packed up and fucked off. Splendid! And a following Saturday?-lost the hunt for a while, but found them in the end...hounds in cry a couple of times, but watched the huntsman pulling them off at least one fox. An excitable landowner blocked sabs in at one point, threatening them that "there's some people coming that want to talk to you...". Four quads turned up against 5 sabs..and did nothing. Still being told to behave are we boys?

So, good middle to season-no kills seen, and still more new people hooking up-thank god for Facebook-if any groups aren't on it, do it now! But watch out for the rednecks who "ask to be your friend"-bless! BUT please other groups, **STOP PUTTING PHOTOS OF SABS FACES ONTO YOUR PAGES!!!!** What's the point??!

Bristol sabs write this as a continuation from the last group news. Nothing has changed! Apart from the "welcome" return to good old English winters, sabs were pleased to have some "normal" weekends with the cancellation of a mutant pastime. Sadly this didn't last, and, (at the time of writing), we are still out and about chasing boggle eyed, red faced, two for the price of one, (sister/mother day cards), odd looking "people" around our green and pleasant land.

Pewsey Vale sabs had an away day in mid November, joining up with Bristol and South Wales for a visit to the Ledbury Foxhounds who tried their utmost to put foxes up and hunt but sabs were up with them for most of the day. Hounds got onto two foxes during the day and sabs intervened with horn, whips and sprays- both foxes were saved. The second was "put up" right at the end of the day, having all the hallmarks of a bagged fox. Thank goodness for the hunt ban!

A trip to the Vine & Craven Foxhounds saw the huntsman actually having a trail laid with hounds picking up the scent and following - wonders will never cease! Sabs from Pewsey Vale, Reading, Cirencester & Birmingham watched with amazement and a degree of



misbelief. The legal "hunting" was short lived and our next visit to the Vine saw them join forces with the Old Berks Foxhounds to hunt (not a trail in sight) on foot due to the exceptionally frozen conditions. Pewsey and Reading sabs had an extremely cold time out on foot all day. The hunt had at least four quad bikes out who were acting as whips to control the hounds.

We had a much appreciated 3 week break from sabbing thanks to the freezing weather, however sabs checked meets and kennels (no rest for the wicked) just in case hunts tried to venture out.

Boxing Day looked like being an absolute washout- or should that be freeze out- for many hunts. We guessed that most packs would make some sort of a show so we joined up with Reading & Cirencester for the Vine & Craven meet. There was to be no hunting and hounds were paraded around a field for the obligatory photo shoot followed by a quick tour of the village with our landrover and sabs in pursuit. A lone hunt supporter kept between us and the hounds; perhaps we would have spoiled the pictures! Some hunters had let slip the whereabouts of the Radley College Beagle meet, so we were soon on the move and arrived just as they had moved off. Sabs were quickly out on foot and up with the hunt, at least we got to walk off all that festive food. The hunt were not at all pleased to see us, with one sab being grabbed around the neck by a supporter but this could have just been an over enthusiastic Christmas cuddle. Hares were popping up regularly (at least 5 seen) but the frozen ground was doing an excellent job of masking the scent, making our job very easy. Foot sabs had the good fortune of being accompanied for the whole day by three of the most irritating college oiks. We have never heard so much crap come out of the mouths of those so young.

For our first outing of the New Year we joined up with Reading, Cirencester and Birmingham for a Tedworth meet. The hunt ran all day and we lost them on Salisbury Plain. Not the best start for 2011, but rest assured we will keep at them.

27/11/10 was a great day Sabbing for **Bath** sabs, the Berkeley Foxhounds, no real hassle, at least 1 fox saved ;-} 11/12/10 No Sabbing today ;-), the Berkeley were going out on foot because of the snow, we arrive, they decided to play skittles, result! So off to kennel watch the Wick & District Beagles, gates bolted all puppies at home, we hang around for a couple of hours, the only sign of action, a pickup parks up and watches us, watching the kennels. Beagles watching all of us!!! 18/12/10 None of our hunts out today - snow! 27/12/10 A great days sabbing, with Bristol and Southampton, arrived with the Wick & District Beagles just leaving the "meet", seeing us they turn round and go back to the "meet". After an hour of us watching them and them watching us, them taking photos of random Landies, until finally working out which one was ours! Then 4 plod cars turn up and accuse Sabs of aggravated trespass in a pub car park! In the mean time the hunt pack up the beagles into the back of a Landy and drive off in one direction with the foot support sneaking out the back of the pub. When the police let us go, we leave the area in a different direction from hound Landy and bump into (well not quite, unfortunately) foot support and follow them straight to the beagles. Yet again we watch them watching us, until about 3:30pm when they decide to return to the meet. Perfect sabbing, most of it sat in a Landie!!! 01/01/11 A weird day out with the Ledbury. Bath, Ross & South Wales Sabs kept them moving all day. They disappeared for half an hour, but we were soon back with them. Some classic sabbing, rating the hounds out of cry, causing an insane woman to ride around like a maniac, screaming and shouting, so much her horse's mouth was bleeding. They're still out and it's getting dark, in the past the Ledbury have been known to release bagged foxes if they haven't killed, it looks like they are doing it again, Sabs on the case, they back off and disappearing again, pack up and go home! 08/01/11 Out with Bristol, Ross plus 1, Southampton & South Wales, visiting the Monmouth's joint meet with the Isle of Wight, with 3 Landies out, we kept them on the run all day, getting the hounds off a fox's tail! They packed up early, and then all we had to do was wait until the Bristol Landy got pulled out of the mud, a great day's sabbing.

South Wales sabs have had a good start to the season, joining up at different times, with our old friends from Bristol, Bath, Pewsey Vale, Hereford, Southampton and Bournemouth.

The snow provided a brief respite for hunted animals in South Wales and the South West during late December, but since the New Year we've been back out in the field annoying the bumpkins with our fitness and sabbing skills to aid and abet hunted animals.

One particularly low spot was during a Ledbury meet in late November, when after a long hard day the huntsman appeared to be taking the hounds back to the meet just before dark, but suddenly one of the country lanes was blocked to sabs. We did some nifty manovoures and came into the lane at the other end, surprising two 4 x 4 s who looked shifty and then disappeared just in time to miss a fox break closely followed by terrier boys and then the hounds. Coincidence? We don't think so. We're pretty convinced it was a bagged fox. Word on the rural circuits is (in the words of Tom Jones) it's not unusual.

We intend to sab 'em hard for the rest of the season whilst hoping for more lovely snow, so we don't need to.



The first half of the main season for **Southampton** sabs got off to a pretty full on start, meeting up with our usual partners in crime Bristol and South Wales. We paid a visit to the Wick and District beagles who turned up at the meet the same time as us so they blocked us in and ran for the hills. When we found them again, the local police decided to stop our landy and detain the driver for "being a stranger who's not from round here". The following week we paid a trip to the New Forest beagles, one sab followed the trail layer all day, the rest of the group followed the pack and the police followed them. So with Hampshire constabulary's ever watchful eye watching us watching the hounds they couldn't hunt even if they wanted to. A good result all round, after they had packed up, their OAP supporters briefly tried to stop us leaving but we still made it to the New Forest fox hounds for the last thirty mins.

A week later we put in an appearance at the Old Berks fh with those friendly people from Bristol and South Wales. They tried to hunt all day long but were nervous of the camera and as they don't get that much attention they weren't sure how to deal with us. There was a very hostile vibe from the support all day long but nothing our happy mob couldn't deal with.

The following week we were back at the New Forest which is starting to get a bit silly with all their different attempts to hide from us. They have a huge network of spotters on horses, push bikes, cars and on foot and a new system of putting on a high viz vest when they find us to alert other spotters and the huntsman to our location. However, their spotters could not keep on us for that long and we were soon alone to carry on with the job we went to do. When we finally found the hounds they were in full cry, hounds were called off the scent by the huntsman who claims it was an accident and that their spotters are their for safety reasons and to alert him to any live animals that may cross their trail.

The following week we attempted to do the Forest beagles but it was a no show at the meet and the week after that we went to the meet of the New Forest fox hounds but they were not out due to the snow so off to the beagles we went but they also called off the day. As we had driven all the way there we decided to build a snowman at their meet. The day after Boxing Day we hooked up with Bath and Bristol to do the Wick and District beagles. As we arrived at the meet, they were just about to head off but upon sight of us they ran back in to the meet and waited for the police to come and hold us up. Luckily we could clearly see them doing a runner out the back of the pub car park so when they sent an empty hound wagon past us to send us on a wild goose chase we weren't fooled. Especially as we could see all the old coffin dodging support stomping up the hills behind the pub. After the police kindly departed we found the hunt and had another long boring stand off until they went home.

New Year's day we paid another visit to the New Forest beagles. This time we went under cover and for a while it worked a treat until they got on the sent of a young deer so we broke cover and stepped in. Despite having a



lifts with other groups. We are now the proud owners of a bright red twelve seater V8 Land rover defender. We are in the process of grilling up the windows and adding other 'needed' gadgets. This now means that we regularly get three different groups' Land rovers on a single hunt, a fact they have no doubt noticed.

home made whip and rating hounds they were still not sure if we were antis or not. They soon laid a couple of token trails but looked very unhappy and made no attempt to even try and follow them so they just packed up and went home, job done. The week after we hooked up with Bristol, Bath and South Wales again to go and see our old pals the Monmouth for a joint meet with the Isle of Wight who hunted blatantly all day and in front of the police. However, we kept on them all day and they didn't catch a thing.

Bournemouth sabs have had a great start to the New Year, especially after a fairly relaxing December for us (and the Wildlife) thanks to weather conditions which led to most hunts our way being cancelled. It takes more than that to put us off, so we kept busy by keeping the pressure on a few Beagle packs we know are up to no good. So far the season has seen some very successful sabs both local, and with other groups in various parts of the country which is always great for a change of scenery and a chinwag. The group is going from strength to strength and we're recruiting new members all the time which is fantastic. Highlight of the season was revisiting two hunts which rarely get sabbed, one of which we hit twice which just shows what groups can achieve when they can get decent numbers together and join up to make a black-clad sabbing force to be reckoned with. So contact your local groups and join in!

With the help of the HSA and a couple of generous supporters who wish to remain anonymous (thanks to all) **South coast** hunt sabs have purchased our first vehicle. To date we have been using personal cars and cadging

We hit the South Down and Eridge regularly as well as visiting the Old Surry and Burstow. The Burstow Huntsman, Mark Bycroft, seems to be having mental illness problems accusing all and sundry of paedophilia at every occasion with no supporting evidence. Perhaps this is the only thing he can think of which is worse then the indiscriminant endangerment of our native wildlife.

The Southdown is getting increasingly grumpy with our presence, and have more of less given up pretending to have a drag. Their support and field are dwindling in number and we suspect financial problems. In December we managed to track them all day and early on pulled the hounds off of a deer they had rioted onto. Oddly no words of thanks were offered.

The snow has hindered most hunts over the Christmas period so we had a well earned break, but since the thaw have kept up the pressure on the Southdown and Eridge. The last hit of the season so far, Brighton hunt Sabs vehicle was off the road so we offered our services, ferrying thirteen sabs into the hunting area despite being threatened by the hunt terrier men. An unusual police presence kept the lid on things and the hunt went home without having the hounds go 'into cry'. So their pretend drag must be particularly ineffective. Looking forward to keeping the pressure up on them for the rest of the season.

Recent harsh weather conditions in the **South Devon** sabs' area have dealt a hard blow to hunts, as would appear to have been the case nationally. Perusal of the South Devon Hunt website over the Christmas period revealed "... more meets have been cancelled than not since November". During the early part of the 2010 – 2011 season we have kept up the pressure on the South Devon Hunt. Our other local hunts (the Mid-Devon Hunt and the Dart Vale & South Pool Harriers) have not seen much of us, unfortunately, but we understand they have problems of their own and the Dart Vale huntsman Gilmore Lewis will retire at the end of this season. The Mid-Devon has a new whip, following a breakdown in the relationship between huntsman Guy Allman (who married approximately two years ago) and former whip David Jordan whose wife, it seems, has taken Guy's surname rather too seriously and found her husband somewhat lacking in a certain department. The mixing of Guy's personal and professional lives is the subject of much disapproval within the hunt which, we understand, now has financial problems too.

Croydon sabs have been having a good season so far, lots of new sabs and interest from new people. With new vehicles out as well, thanks to Lush, we have been successfully linking up with Brighton, Hastings and Guildford groups and have visited the Southdown and Eridge, Crawley & Horsham and the Surrey Union hunts. The hunts are having a hard time, not just due to numbers but when we turn up the 3 or 4 land rovers are in constant contact with each other and sabs in the field so the hunt is never out of our sights. The Southdown packed up at 1.45 one Saturday as they could not move for sabs. The Union has also been sabbed on a few week days which has really pissed them off.

One Saturday, due to the large number of sabs out we were able to have one group on the Surrey Union all day and also stop a rabbit shoot. The land owner was not a happy bunny (pardon the pun!!) as he had an order for 30 rabbits from the local butcher so no one made any money for killing that day.

With the South East also badly affected by the adverse weather, many of our local hunts have had a poor season all-round, even Boxing Day was limited due to the frozen ground and large amount of snow. This also meant a three week break for us and thankfully for the hunted animal too.

Contact us through our facebook page

'Croydon Huntsabs'

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



JONNY ABLEWHITE (A5750AH)
Birthday: 27th January
HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, Worcs B97 6QS
Jonny has been inside since September 2005 and is serving 12 years for conspiracy in connection with the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Campaign.
What you can send: SAEs; cheques or postal orders made out to 'HM Prisons'. Please write Jonny's name/number and sender details on reverse.

GREGG AVERY (A4874AD)
Birthday: 5h December
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX
In January 2009 Gregg was sentenced to 9 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of UK SHAC 7)
What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); Self-add envs, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gregg's name & number & sender's details on reverse.

NATASHA AVERY (A5180AD)
Birthday: 28th December
HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ.
In January 2009 Natasha was sentenced to 9 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of UK SHAC 7)
What you can send: Cheques/PO's made out to 'HM Prison Service', Write Natasha's name & number on the back. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards, but no Birthday, Anniversary cards, etc.

MEL BROUGHTON (A3892AE)
Birthday: 5th July
HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Oxford OX25 1WD.
Mel was remanded on 14 Dec 2007 and was sentenced on 13th February 2009 to 10 years.
Update - Unfortunately, Mel was found guilty again (following a successful second appeal) for animal rights related offences against Oxford University animal experiment lab. He will continue his original 10 year sentence given him in Feb 2009.

TOM HARRIS (A8086AX)
Birthday: 21st May
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DF
Sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 4 years on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS.
What you can send: Only stamps and cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Services' with Tom's name and number and the sender's details on reverse.

GAVIN MEDD-HALL (A3624AD)
Birthday: 20th March
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX
Sentenced to 8 years in Jan 2009 in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (SHAC 7)
What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); SAEs, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gregg's name and number and sender's details on reverse.

JASON MULLAN (A8076AX)
Birthday: 1st May
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DF
Sentenced on 25-10-10 at Winchester Crown Court to 3 years under a pro-vivisection law "Interfering with contractual relationships so as to harm an animal research organisation, Sec145 Socpa"
Only stamps and cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Services' with Jason's name and number and the sender's details on reverse.

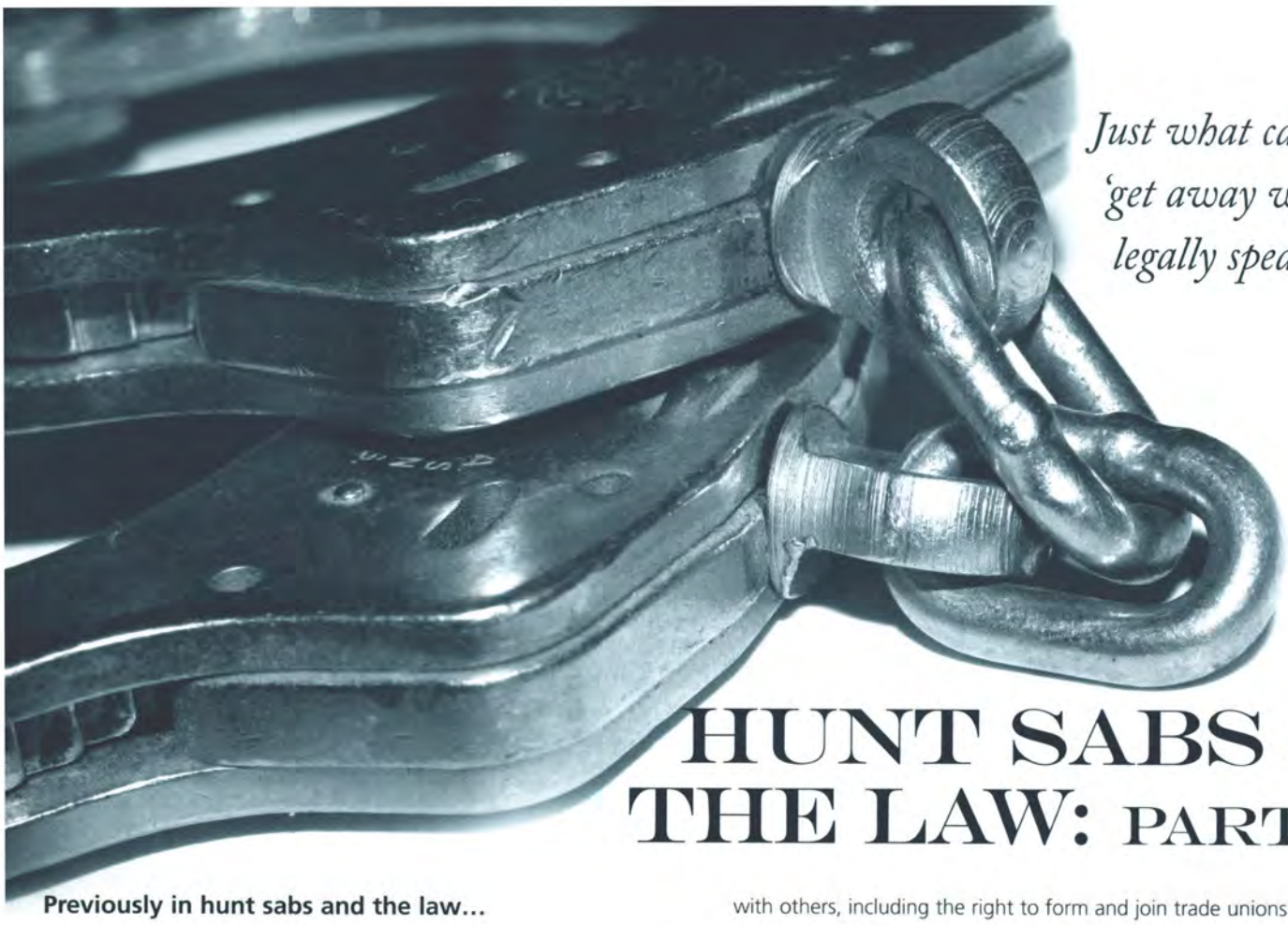
HEATHER NICHOLSON (A3158AJ)
Birthday: 30th January
HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN
Sentenced in Jan 2009 to 11 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of the UK SHAC 7)
Cheques/PO's made out to 'HMPS', Write Heather's name and number on the back. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards, no parcels.

NICOLA TAPPING (HK9804)
Birthday: 9th May
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 3JZ
Sentenced on 25-10-10 at Winchester Crown Court to 15 months under a pro-vivisection law "Interfering with contractual relationships so as to harm an animal research organisation, Sec145 Socpa".
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; an SAE. Write Nicola's name and number on the back.

DAN WADHAM (A5705AA)
Birthday: 3rd February
HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5PB
In January 2009 Dan was sentenced to 5 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of UK SHAC 7)
What you can send: Only cheques and postal orders can be sent in made out to 'HMPS' with Dan's name and number and the sender's details on reverse.

KERRY WHITBURN (TB4886)
Birthday: 18th April
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA
Kerry has been inside since September 2005, and is serving 12 years for conspiracy in connection with the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Campaign.
stamps; PO;'s/cheques payable to 'HMP Lowdham Grange' - inc Kerry's name & number on back and name/address of sender. Will not accept writing paper or packs of envelopes.

SARAH WHITEHEAD (VM7684)
Birthday: 12th February
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 3JZ
Sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 6 years on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS.
Previously entenced to 2 years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was caged, muzzled & regularly beaten. PO'ss made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; an SAE. Write Sarah's name and number on the back.



Just what can they 'get away with' legally speaking?

HUNT SABS & THE LAW: PART 3

Previously in hunt sabs and the law...

The first two articles in this series looked at legal issues relevant to the central purpose of hunt sabs, namely that of directly saving the lives of hunted animals in the field, and considered aggravated trespass and the Hunting Act. However, our activities extend beyond running across muddy fields in pursuit of the unspeakable; we also hold information stalls and street collections, and attend demonstrations. Our legal knowledge must therefore extend beyond that covered in parts 1 and 2. Furthermore, knowledge of what is legal and illegal does not really equip us for encounters with the police, whether they be in the field or the street. Therefore, the next two instalments turn to civil rights issues. This article will deal with laws that you need to know about for campaigning and fundraising, while the next article in the series will look at how to deal with the police, including an explanation of your rights and the extent of police powers.

Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Legislation

The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporated into UK domestic law the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), which consists of a series of "Articles", each defining a protected human right. Those most relevant to activists are Articles 10 and 11 which describe Freedom of Expression, and Freedom of Assembly and Association respectively. Article 10 states that, "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers." Article 11 states that, "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests." These rights are of course relevant to campaigning activities such as demonstrations, information stalls and leafleting.

All legislation has to be read in conjunction with the ECHR, if applicable, and interpreted so as to be compatible with the ECHR. This means that if a person carries out an act which on the face of it constitutes an offence, that person cannot be convicted of the offence if he or she was engaged in a legitimate exercise of a protected human right at the time. A well known example of the application of the ECHR is that of Percy vs DPP[1]. In this case, an anti-war activist was convicted of a Section 5 offence (see below for an explanation of Section 5) for insulting behaviour by defacing an American flag in front of American air force personnel. However, the conviction was overturned on appeal to the High Court because it was found that although Ms. Percy's behaviour was insulting, and was therefore on the face of it a Section 5 offence, it was nevertheless a legitimate exercise of her right to freedom of expression under Article 10.

This sounds too good to be true, and it is. Articles 10 and 11 are qualified rights, which means that they can be restricted under certain circumstances. Interference with these rights is allowed if it is both prescribed by law and pursues a legitimate aim. A restriction pursues a legitimate aim if it is necessary in a democratic society:

- in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety
- for the prevention of disorder or crime
- for the protection of health or morals
- for the protection of the rights, freedoms or reputation of others
- for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence



A further important principle is that any interference with ECHR rights must be proportionate to the desired aim; that is, any interference must be no more than is necessary to secure its legitimate aim. In practice, Articles 10 and 11 are often of little use in defending activists against criminal charges because the state merely has to convince the court that its interference with our rights pursues a legitimate aim, and is proportionate. In my experience, courts are easily convinced of these things. However, the ECHR has been useful in some cases. For certain criminal offences, it is a defence to show that your behaviour was reasonable; that your behaviour was a legitimate exercise of your Convention rights can, in these cases, be used as a factor to be taken into consideration in determining the reasonableness of your behaviour. Examples of this use of the ECHR are discussed further below.

As animal rights activists, hunt sabs generally share a belief in veganism as an ethical lifestyle, and in the right of animals not to be exploited by humans. Article 9 of the ECHR protects our right to Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion; this means that our belief in veganism and animal rights is a protected human right. According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission, we have the right not only to hold and express our beliefs, but also to "put our thoughts and beliefs into action" publicly or privately[2]. Furthermore, under the Equality Act 2010 it's unlawful for public bodies (including the criminal justice system) to discriminate against someone based on any of nine so-called "protected characteristics", including a person's religion or belief. "Belief" includes philosophical beliefs such as veganism, humanism, atheism and pacifism according to the Equality and Human Rights Commission[23]; it would almost certainly also include animal rights. This means that if we are treated differently because of our philosophical beliefs in veganism or animal rights, compared with someone who does not share those beliefs, that treatment of us is unlawful. Human rights and anti-discrimination legislation relating to our right to hold our beliefs has been little used to date by activists, but in these times of increasing attempts by the state to criminalise animal rights activists, to present them as extremists, and to oppress them generally, I believe this legislation will prove increasingly useful.

Demonstrations

The main laws used to control demonstrations are Sections 4A, 5, 12 and 14 of the Public Order Act 1986, Sections 42 and 42A of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, and Breach of the Peace. These will be dealt with in order below.

Sections 4A and 5 are probably the laws most abused by police- and that's quite a statement because the police abuse a great many laws. It goes like this. You're on a demonstration and you're showing graphic placards of cruelty to animals. The police say, "Those placards are offensive," or, "Those placards are causing distress," usually accompanied by supporting statements that children or old people are about. The police conclude that you are therefore committing a Section 4A or 5 offence. Yes, you've heard it all before. Yawn, yawn. No, Mr. or Ms. Plod, you're wrong, wrong, wrong. This is because Sections 4A and 5 prevent you from being threatening, abusive or insulting and thereby causing alarm, harassment and distress, either by your behaviour, words or any signs you are displaying. For Section 5, it is only necessary for your behaviour to be likely to alarm, harass or distress someone; Section 4A is slightly more serious, and they have to find someone who has actually been alarmed, harassed or distressed. The important point here is that these offences are committed only if you are threatening, abusive or insulting. It is not against the law for you to show pictures that are distressing or offensive unless those pictures are also threatening, abusive or insulting, and pictures of animal cruelty are unlikely to fall into this category. Regarding being "offensive", Sections 4A and 5 do not prohibit this (unless it can be argued that something that is offensive is necessarily also insulting, and definitions of these words in the Oxford English Dictionary do not support such an argument). In fact, the ECHR



is helpful here because demonstrations are an exercise of our Article 10 rights, and case law[4] has determined that our freedom of expression includes the right to "shock, offend or disturb" the state or any sector of the population. So if the police tell you that your placards are illegal because they are graphic, and therefore are offensive or distressing, they are talking nonsense; any arrests made on this basis will be unlawful.

It is a defence to a Section 4A or 5 charge to show that, even though your behaviour was threatening, abusive or insulting and caused, or was likely to cause, alarm, harassment or distress, nevertheless that behaviour was reasonable. In this respect, the ECHR is useful again because it can be argued that one's threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour was a legitimate exercise of one's Article 10 rights, and was therefore reasonable. This was the argument used successfully in Percy vs DPP.

If Sections 4A and 5 are the laws most abused by police, Sections 12 and 14 are a close second. These powers can be used where there is a threat of serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the community, or where the intention is to intimidate people. These circumstances enable the police to impose conditions on processions (Section 12) and assemblies (Section 14 – an assembly meaning a gathering of 2 or more people) that are necessary to prevent the disorder, damage, etc. The important points are that the police must believe there is a threat of serious disorder, disruption, etc., or that you intend to intimidate, and this belief must be reasonable, i.e. it must be based on objective facts. For example, a few people with placards holding a peaceful demo does not constitute reasonable grounds for a belief that there is a threat of serious public disorder, etc., or an intention to intimidate. Any conditions imposed under these sections where there are no reasonable grounds for such a belief are unlawful, and any arrests made for failure to comply with these conditions will also be unlawful. Also, under Section 14 the police can only impose conditions as to the place(s) you can stand, the duration of the assembly, and the maximum number of people that can take part; they cannot lawfully impose any other conditions. For example, the use of a megaphone, the displaying of placards and the distribution of leaflets (provided you remain within the area prescribed by the police) cannot be prohibited by a Section 14 condition. Such conditions are unlawful, and again, arrests made for failure to comply with such conditions will also be unlawful. However, for marches, Section 12 allows the police to impose any conditions that appear necessary.

Sections 42 and 42A relate to demonstrations outside or near to people's homes. Section 42 gives the police the power to direct people to leave (either immediately or after a period of time) if they are demonstrating near someone's house, and their presence is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to the resident of the house. The police may also allow people to stay near the house, subject to any conditions the police think fit, including conditions as to where people may stand and how many people may stay. It is an offence not to comply with a direction or condition given under S42. However, Section 42 was not effective enough because you only break the law if the police turn up and you don't do what they say, so Section 42A was added later. Section 42A makes it an offence to demonstrate near someone's house if you intend to cause, or you know that you are likely to cause (note the subtle difference of wording here between sections 42 and 42A relating your intention or knowledge of the likely effect of your presence), alarm, harassment or distress to someone in the house. You can therefore commit the offence without the police even turning up. It is a misconception that section 42A makes all home demos illegal; it only makes home demos illegal if the intention is to, or if you know you are likely to, cause alarm, harassment or distress to the resident of a dwelling. So in principle a very fluffy and peaceful home demo (one that is not likely to cause anyone alarm, harassment or distress) is not only still legal, but also cannot be made subject to conditions.

Breach of the Peace is also a highly abused law. You've probably experienced the following: you're using a megaphone or you're



shouting, and the police tell you to stop because it's a breach of the peace. In fact, a Breach of the Peace is violence or the threat of violence. It is not, as some police would like to think, the making of noise, such as blowing a whistle or using a drum or megaphone (depending of course on what is said). However, you do not have to be violent or threatening violence yourself to be arrested: if the natural consequence of your actions is to provoke others to violence, and the police reasonably apprehend an imminent Breach of the Peace, they can arrest you to prevent it. You should not be arrested to prevent a Breach of the Peace for merely making a noise or slightly annoying, offending or upsetting someone; your actions must be those to which a violent response is both likely and imminent. It is possible for someone lawfully arrested to prevent a breach of the peace to be taken to a magistrates' court and bound over to be of good behaviour. This involves accepting a binding order, with which any failure to comply can result in imprisonment. However, being bound over is rare. If someone is arrested to prevent a Breach of the Peace, they are usually held until the threat of a Breach of the Peace has subsided and are then released. It is possible for the police to take action to prevent a Breach of the Peace short of arresting someone, for example making directions to leave somewhere or not to go somewhere, but the circumstances under which they can make such directions are exactly the same as for arresting someone. If you fail to comply with such a direction you may be arrested for obstructing a police officer. In taking action to prevent a Breach of the Peace, the police must arrest (or give a direction to) the person or people who are provoking it, not as they sometimes like to, arrest (or give a direction to) the smallest party involved.

Information Stalls & Street Collections

There is a conspiracy by the police and local authorities in this country to make people think that it is illegal to hold an information stall without a permit because a stall constitutes an obstruction of the highway. How do I know that there is a conspiracy? By comparing the commonly held belief with the facts. Belief: you need a permit to hold a stall because it's an obstruction of the highway. Fact: you do not need a permit because it's not an obstruction of the highway. The commonly held belief is the opposite of the facts; therefore, there is a conspiracy to make people believe something that is not true. Try asking your council whether it's legal to hold an information stall without a permit (no don't really; it's a waste of time). They will obfuscate the issue and hide behind misleading statements. They will tell you that you are liable to prosecution for obstruction of the highway under Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980. They will tell you that it is the courts' prerogative to determine what constitutes obstruction of the highway. Sounds scary, doesn't it? These statements are strictly true, but they are misleading. You are liable for prosecution under Section 137 if you hold a stall, but only insofar as you are also liable for prosecution under Section 137 every time you stop on a highway for whatever reason, for instance, to have a rest, to speak to a friend, to wait for a bus or to read a map. It is also true that only the courts can decide what constitutes an obstruction of the highway, but this is misleading because the courts have decided, and case law[5] firmly and unequivocally supports the view that a stall that is reasonably sited and of a reasonable size does not constitute the offence of obstruction of the highway. The same is also true of demonstrations.



The offence of obstruction of the highway (Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980) is committed when a person wilfully obstructs the free passage along a highway without lawful authority or excuse. A stall is an obstruction and it is wilful; the question is whether we have a lawful authority or excuse for the obstruction. Lawful authority means some sort of permit from the council. We have a lawful excuse for the obstruction if we are making reasonable use of the highway. Reasonableness is determined by all the relevant factors including the size, location, duration and purpose of the obstruction, and whether the obstruction causes an actual rather than a potential inconvenience to users of the highway. Exercising one's human rights, which is what one does when holding an information stall or taking part in a demonstration, is not a trump card that can be used to circumvent legislation such as this, but it is a relevant factor in determining the reasonableness of your use of the highway. Therefore, if you are holding an information stall in a sensible place where it will not get in anyone's way in a wide street or pavement and the stall is not too big, you are making reasonable use of the highway and you have a lawful excuse for the obstruction. You therefore do not need a permit from the council, and your chances of being convicted of obstruction of the highway for such a stall are negligible. It would be best to resist any instructions from the police or council to move or pack up; any arrest for obstruction of the highway for holding such a stall would be unlawful. Again, the same principles apply to demonstrations.

Although Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 is the law most frequently used in relation to stalls, Section 148 has also been used; this makes it an offence to deposit any thing on a highway to the interruption of any user of the highway without lawful authority or excuse. There are two important points here. Firstly, whereas a section 137 offence can be committed even if no user of the highway is actually inconvenienced, to prove a section 148 offence, it must be shown that a user of the highway was "interrupted", i.e. the thing deposited on the highway must cause an actual rather than a potential inconvenience. Secondly, the same caveat "without lawful excuse" applies here as to

section 137. However, we are on even stronger ground with our lawful excuse here than in section 137. This is because not only do we have the same argument of reasonableness that we have in 137 because of the purpose, duration, extent, etc. of the thing deposited on the highway, but also because an offence is committed only if a user is actually interrupted, as long as we take reasonable steps to avoid any such interruption (by placing the stall sensibly and not making it too big) we would then honestly believe on reasonable grounds that no such interruption would take place. This reasonable belief also provides us with a lawful excuse for depositing the thing on the highway[6].

Sometimes council officials and police will ask you if you have public liability insurance for your information stall. You don't need it. All you are doing whilst holding an information stall is going about your lawful business, making reasonable use of the highway and exercising your human rights. Do you need insurance to stop and put your shopping on the ground? Do you need insurance to stop and look at a map or wait for a bus? Do you need insurance for a demonstration? No, and neither do you for an information stall.

The above relates to stalls where the purpose is purely campaigning: giving out information or ideas, collecting signatures on petitions, etc. If the purpose is to collect money, the situation is a little different. You do need a permit to hold a street collection. However, the definition of "street collection" is not very clear. It is fairly safe to assume however that a street collection involves both receiving and inviting donations; it is certainly not illegal to accept money that is spontaneously offered without being invited. Invitations to donate money would include signs asking for donations, donations columns in petitions, probably any money visible on the stall, and usually the presence of a collecting tin. I say "usually" because there was a recent case in Brighton magistrates' court in which a Palestine solidarity activist was prosecuted for collecting without a permit for having a collecting tin on the table. In this case, the activist successfully argued that he was not holding a street collection because there was no writing on the stall or tin asking for donations, and the tin itself did not constitute an invitation to donate money. Rather, the tin was there to facilitate the spontaneous giving of money should people wish to do so; it was somewhere to put donations but was not there to invite donations. As anybody who has held a stall will know, people will often ask if they can give you money even if no collecting tin is on the table, so this is a reasonable argument. However, it does not set a precedent, and personally I would not rely on a similar verdict occurring in the future.

If you do obtain a permit for holding a street collection, some councils will stipulate that you must have public liability insurance for the collection. I do not know whether they have the power to impose such conditions, but it seems reasonable that the council could require that an activity it licenses should have its own insurance so as to remove any liability from the council itself. Public liability insurance is relatively cheap and easy to obtain should you wish to do so for the purpose of holding a street collection, remembering of course that it is not required for information stalls where no collection takes place.

One final important point relating to stalls is that they normally involve displaying graphic posters, placards and leaflets, and sometimes the police will tell you that you are causing distress or offence by displaying them, and are therefore committing a Section 4A or 5 offence. You are not; the points made earlier regarding these laws apply equally to stalls as they do to demonstrations.

Leafleting

Just as there is a conspiracy to make people think it is illegal to hold stalls without a permit, there is also a conspiracy by many councils and police forces to make people think it is illegal to leaflet in the street. Many councils and police forces will flatly tell you that you are breaking the law if you stand in the street distributing campaign leaflets. You are not. Remember that imparting information and ideas is a protected human right under Article 10 of the ECHR. Most councils do have a byelaw that prohibits certain types of leafleting, usually leaflets advertising goods for sale, professional or trade services, concerts and events, etc. However, I am not aware of any council that prohibits political and campaigning leaflets; indeed any such ban would make imparting information and ideas pretty difficult, and would probably be incompatible with the ECHR. Ask your council (in writing, to the legal services department) whether any byelaws exist that restrict leafleting, and whether you can have a copy of the byelaw. Then you will know what byelaws do exist, and when the council or police tell you that you're breaking the law by distributing campaign leaflets, you can quickly whip out a copy of the byelaw. Read it and weep, Mr. or Ms. Council Official or Plod.

Well, if you've made it this far, you should now have a better understanding of your rights and of the law as it actually is, rather than as Mr and Ms Plod would like it to be. Learning all this stuff and having the confidence to use it takes time and practice, but believe me, it pays off in the end. Knowledge is power; know your rights.

Refs

1 - [2001] EWHC Admin 1125

2 - http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/the-human-rights-act/

3 - Equality and Human Rights Commission 2010, Employment Statutory Code of Practice: Draft for Consultation. Sections 2.52 - 2.53. Draft based on Equality Bill as printed on 3/12/09. Available at: www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/

4 - Handyside vs The UK (1979) 1 EHRR 737

5 - Nagy vs Weston [1965] 280 1 WLR; Hirst & Agu vs Chief Constable of West Yorkshire [1987] Crim LR 330; Kent County Council vs Curtis [1998] EWHC Admin 639; Westminster City Council vs Haw [2002] All ER (D) 59 (Oct). Details of these cases can be found at www.freebeagles.org/caselaw

6 - R vs Rawlings & James, Harrow Crown Court, CC No. A20070067, A20070068, 7th Sept 2007

Save us some dosh!

if you're moving?

If you move house, please don't forget to tell us.

The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addressees, which inevitably means wasted funds on postage.

We greatly appreciate your support and want to ensure you receive your precious copy of Howl as usual.

Make sure we know where you are!!

ta muchly

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.

Nov 10	N. BROOKES
	J. PAYNE
	M. KENNEDY
DEC 10	D. DUNBAR
	P. FENN
	F. MOORE



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.....

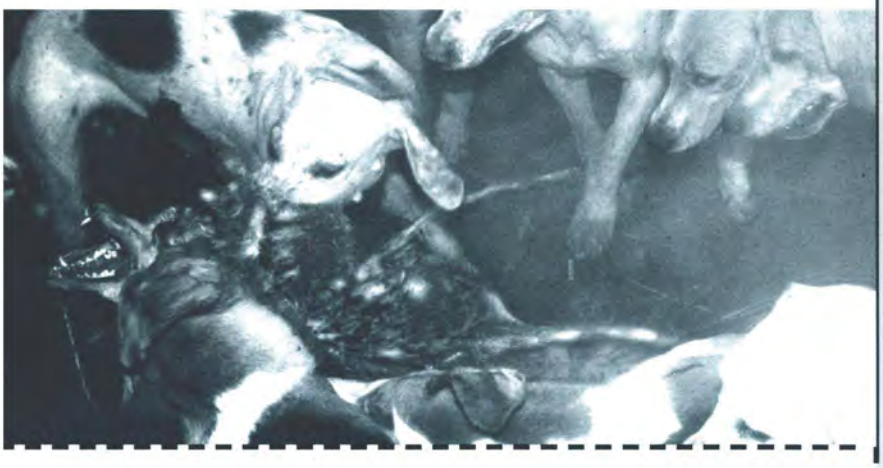
HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

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 AND 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

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support)
PO Box 2174, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 0AZ
Website: http://www.arprisoners.org
General email enquiries: info@arprisoners.org
Newsletter email enquiries: newsletter@arprisoners.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 Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-3pm
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

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
www.powa.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

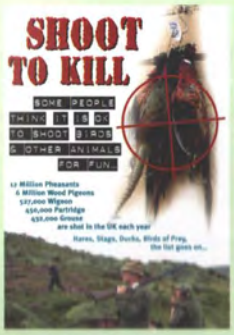
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
C/o FRIEND, 89 Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, TN12 5LJ
info@shac.net www.shac.net

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

Veggies Animal Rights Calendar
http://www.veggies.org.uk/events/arc/

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)





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.

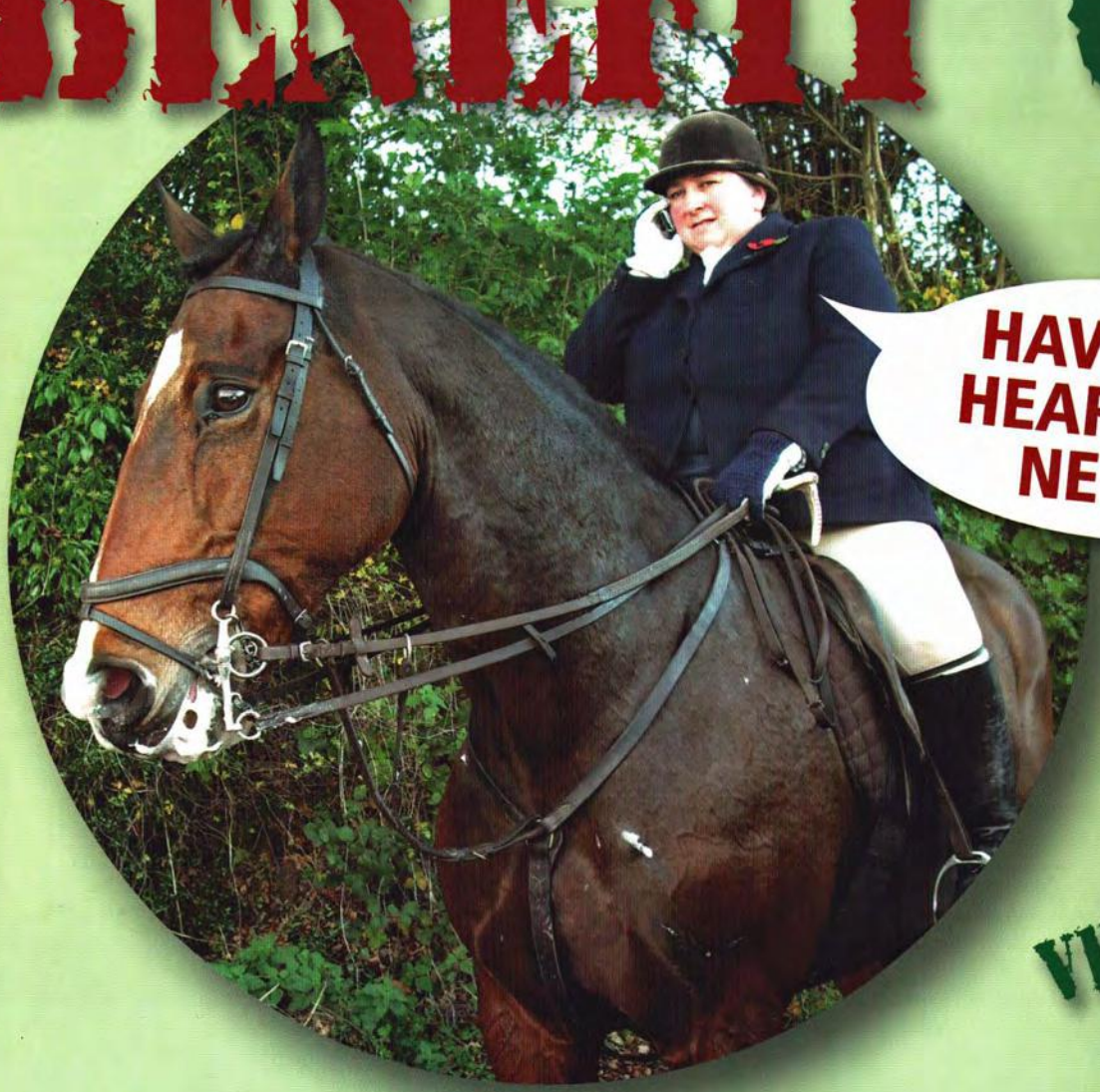
Striking 'Anti' stickers - Stick these on your own property and nowhere else. (clearly unsuitable for lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal! Also wholly unsuitable for plastering over the statistically absurd '59% say keep hunting' posters)
FREE! (+p&p+DONATION)



POSTAGE & PACKING

To keep promotional material free we would ask you to make a donation to cover postage.1 Howl costs 72p to send as do 5 posters. 250 leaflets cost approx. £3.75, 500 leaflets £4.25 and 1000 leaflets £6.25.

PARTY AGM BENEFIT GIG



VEGAN FOOD

VEGAN BAR

MERCH

20th August - Conway Hall

25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4R

Meeting & sab benefit

LIBERTY, OTHER BANDS TBA + extra special guest

CONFLICT

www.huntsabs.org.uk