Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer 2011

HOWL 98

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

artificial scent my arse!



benefit gigs

hare shooting

map reading - the easy option?

hunt sabs & the law, part 4

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Win big in our new lottery
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Win Win



We have for many years run a Club draw but decided to end this fund raising feature. Fear not, we have an alternative, the weekly Unity Lottery.

£25,000 top prize

For just £1 per week you will be allocated with a six digit Unity Lottery number which will remain yours for as long as you wish to keep playing.

You can purchase more than one number if you wish.

Every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and prize cheques are issued and posted directly to you, so there is no need for you to claim.

Winners have to match 3, 4, 5 or all 6 digits of the winning number in the correct place in the sequence. Top prize is £25,000 for 6 correct digits, £1,000 for 5, £25 for 4 and £5 for 3.

But what does the HSA get out of this?

We receive 50% of all money you enter, the rest is used for the prize and administration, enabling us to raise money and focus on the task at hand of protecting our hunted wildlife.

For more details and to join online go to:

www.unitylottery.co.uk/Hunt-Saboteurs-Association



HOWL 98

Cover image - hunt victims, courtesy of JMcArthur

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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The views express in Howl do not necessarily reflect those of the editor(s) or the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee. Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated. Nothing in Howl should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts. Printed on recycled material, using vegetable inks.

EDITORIAL

Last season was again, overall, a positive, productive one for sab groups all over the country. Hunts are clearly feeling let down by their buddy Cameron who failed to overturn the hunting ban, and not only have they been even more stroppy than usual but the police seem to have taken on the job as private security for many of the hunts, with the hope of enabling them to hunt wildlife undeterred by sabs. Policing has been disproportionate and aggressive in some areas with police arriving at the scene so hyped up it really makes you wonder what goes on at these briefings! Despite this, many sab groups have again seen an increase in numbers and even a couple of new groups have started up which is brilliant news for all our hunted wildlife.

If you are reading this magazine thinking that sabbing wouldn't be for you, think again. Sab groups are generally friendly and welcoming and new sabs are always well looked after. It doesn't matter if you aren't that fit at first; you'll quickly get fitter after a few Saturdays out. Although some hunts try to be intimidating, sab groups stick together and don't often get badly hurt. Groups are sensible and good at assessing situations so you'll be pretty safe. As for the police, well, if you are someone who still thinks the police do a 'good job', read the legal article inside then come out sabbing....

Ps In August, there will be this years UK summer animal rights gathering. Although this covers all animal rights issues there will plenty of opportunity to get together and discuss tactics and other issues that affect all AR activists. It's a lovely opportunity to relax, learn, talk and eat fabulous vegan food. Check out the advert on the inside back cover for more details.

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



We are nearly 100!

100th Howl

To celebrate the 100th issue of Howl in early 2012 there will be a **competition** to design the front cover for this very special edition of the magazine. You'll get a reminder nearer the time but just so that you can get your thinking caps on....

There will also be a competition for the best story to go in the 100th issue. It can be funny, sad, educational, it's up to you. This issue will be in full colour so send in your best photos too.

Also we would love your ideas of what you would like to see in the 100th issue. Send them in to howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk





NEWS ROUND UP



FORESTRY COMMISSION SHOOTS BABY BOARS

Wild boars are under threat from being killed in the Forest of Dean. The Forestry Commission, in a bid to lower the wild boar population, has made the controversial decision to shoot babies and their mothers, despite the success of a contraceptive vaccine.
Once a natural part of the British countryside; the boar population in the Forest of Dean is made up of escapees from farms where they are bred for meat production. In 2008, a study to limit wild boar numbers, found that giving the boar contraceptives worked, indicating that populations could be controlled without the need to cull. This study has been extended and Defra has declined to give any information about when the contraceptives may be used. A local expert has said that there is opposition to the use of contraceptives as it would mean the animals' meat could no longer be sold. Contact Defra (defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and the Forestry Commission (enquiries.dean@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) asking them to stop the cull now.

GUILTY FOX HUNTER DIES OF HEAD INJURIES

Gary Bradley, amateur whipper-in for the Minehead Harriers, died in January this year in a hunting accident. Mr Bradley, 55, died from his injuries on Wednesday 26 January at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. In 2007 Mr Bradley and former Minehead Harriers huntsman, William Goffe, were both fined after pleading guilty to breaching the Hunting Act on 7 February 2007 by allowing hounds to pursue a fox with mange.

BADGER VACCINE PILOT PLANNED BY NATIONAL TRUST



The National Trust is the first landowner to vaccinate badgers against TB this summer in a bid to curb the disease in cattle, currently costing UK taxpayers about £100m each year.
The trust hopes that its four-year project on Devon's Killerton estate will make the case for vaccination as an alternative to culling, costing just £320,000. This is great news for the badgers, just as the Welsh Assembly Government and the English Government plan yet another expensive badger cull. Research published last year showed the vaccine lowers infection in badgers by 74%. Badger culling is a controversial option and research shows it could do more harm than good - hence the vaccination scheme. David Bullock, the National Trust's head of nature conservation said "This is a pilot project - it's not research, not a trial - we know the vaccine works, and we're going for it," Eventually, the aim is to have an oral vaccine that badgers would simply eat, avoiding any need for trapping.

THE BROTHERS GRIM

Two brothers have gone on trial charged with 100 offences relating to the alleged interference with the testing of cattle for bovine tuberculosis at their farm in west Cork almost two years ago. Maurice (49) and Gerard Power (44), pleaded not guilty to 10 charges at Cork Circuit Criminal Court. Each accused is charged with 25 counts of introducing a substance into the body of an animal for the purpose of interfering with a TB test between March 31st and April 3rd, 2008.

GAMEKEEPER KILLS GIRLFRIEND

Trainee gamekeeper, Calum Murray is believed to have been cleaning his gun when he accidentally shot his girlfriend before killing himself.
It is believed that Mr Murray shot Sophie Taylor, 16, as she cooked dinner in a remote Scottish cottage. The 18-year-old then went to the front porch and turned the gun on himself. A spokesperson from the village, said Miss Taylor's father and grandfather were both gamekeepers. "Sophie was a very nice lassie, she had a nice family".

PROSECUTION ROUND UP

Huw Green, huntsman of the Tivyside hunt has been found guilty of battery on a hunt monitor. He attacked the 75 year old monitor on a public right of way during a meet of the Tivyside hunt last November. Green was originally charged with battery, theft and a public order offence. He pled guilty to battery at court and the other charges were dismissed. He was fined just £55, with costs of £115.

Derek Hopkins and Kevin Allen, huntsman and terrierman of the Fernie hunt, are appealing their conviction for interfering with a badger sett and hunting a wild mammal. The appeal will be heard at Leicester Crown Court in October. The countryside alliance is supporting the appeal and has been attacking the Badgers Act in the run up to the hearing, claiming that courts can become confused because the act is too complicated and unclear.

Andrew Bellamy, terrierman for the Spooners and West Dartmoor hunt, is also appealing his conviction for interfering with a badger sett. The incident occurred at a meet of the South Devon hunt that he attended in April 2010. No date has been set for the appeal.

Richard Down, huntsman of the Quantock Staghounds, has abandoned his appeal for illegally hunting a stag. Down claims that he wants to concentrate on "hunting within the law", rather than pursue the appeal. It is apparent that he stood no chance of winning and did not wish to create more case law on the Hunting Act. During his trial in November last year Down was in the astonishing position of having his own case law (created from his failed appeal to his first conviction) quoted back against him.





KILLING FIELDS

NORFOLK HARE SHOOT

Regular readers of HOWL may remember reading in a previous edition of HOWL details of a hare shoot that took place at the Raveningham Estate in Norfolk in February 2010. The photograph of rows and rows of dead hares is not one that is easy to forget. We got there too late on that occasion as the shoot had already taken place and the bodies had been laid out for all to see.



It appears this shoot is an annual event on the Raveningham Estate as on 5th February 2011 the shoot took place again. This time we arrived as the shooters were setting off. What took place can only be described as a bloody massacre. The hares did not stand a chance as they were totally surrounded by about 40 guns. How this can ever be described as a sport is beyond our comprehension. Some hares did manage to get away as the ones that ran past our legs could not be shot at, but for the majority death was inevitable. The evil callousness was indescribable. We saw at least five hares that were shot but not killed as well as one hare that was shot and later died on the road. One hare can be seen on film flapping around and trying to drag two shot back legs across the field. The footage does not make nice viewing. Despite our loud protestations for the hare to be put out of their misery, they were left to suffer until the shoot had finished and eventually a shooter stamped on them, picked them up and 'despatched it' (their terminology, not ours).



As if these events are not bad enough, they are made all the more despicable by the fact that they took place on the land of Sir Nicholas Bacon, President of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Since the video footage has come to light, various excuses have been made. The shoot has been described as a cull when it was clearly not. We have also been told that Sir Nicholas Bacon knew nothing of the shoot, when he must have done as two of his estate workers were seen with the shoot.

To view the video footage taken on the day, please see the LACS blog at: http://www.league.org.uk/blogs_entry.aspx?id=398. Details of action that can be taken can also be found at www.league.org.uk\bacon.



Money Money Money

(well alm ost!)

A sab guide to organising a benefit gig

An all you need to know guide to putting on a gig to raise vital funds to help keep sabs out in the field saving lives and have a cracking good night out too:

The Audience

You need to put on something that people want to see, so to get people in you need a theme or a particular type of music like punk, metal, folk, ska etc. If you have a local scene for any of these things it will help, as that means there are already some people who will be interested in what you are organising and it will give you other events to advertise your gig at. Find out what sort of music has a good amount of local interest and book something that will appeal to them.

The perrormers

Once you know what sort of music you are going to promote at your gig, find some bands that people will be interested in. Depending on how much time you have you will need anything from three to five bands. Don't book too many as it will add to your costs and make time really tight. Try to book a couple of local bands that who will have mates who will come and watch them; will probably help to spread the word, and they may also be able to help with backline etc. However, don't book all local bands as most people will not want to pay to see local acts that play all the time at every event. Try to book a couple of well established bands from out of town that will get people interested in coming to your gig, try looking on myspace / facebook for bands that may be interested in playing at your gig. Remember the further they have to travel, the higher the costs will be. Also ask local bands if they know any bands that people will want to see. The more people that are interested in a band the more people who are willing to pay to get in which means you will make more money for your benefit. Don't book bands that nobody is interested in as on the night you won't get many people paying to get in the door, you wont raise any money for your benefit, and you will end up having to put your hand into your own pocket or sending bands home unpaid which will make them reluctant to play anymore benefit gigs for you.

The Venue

Look for a venue that is convenient for punters to get to. You'll put potential gig goers off if your venue is in the middle of nowhere or a very long walk from the train station. Fewer punters mean fewer takings, after all the aim of night is make money for your sab group.

Try to use a venue that is already established as a music venue. There are many advantages to this - one being that they will more than likely have their own PA system and sound person. Another advantage is that if it's well established it will be well known and easier for punters to find.

If you haven't got a local music venue or haven't got one that is prepared to let you have a benefit gig, try to find a local pub with space to have bands play or even use a youth club or church hall or Community Centre.

Choose your venue wisely and when you book the venue make sure that the manager or landlord knows what you are organising before you confirm the booking. The last thing you want is for the night to be cancelled by angry staff or landlords unhappy with the type of music to be played or punters you are bringing in, the



landlord may be pro-hunt. However, most places are happy with whatever music is played as long as people are parting with their hard earned money at the bar.

The Date

When you pick a date make sure it doesn't clash with any other events, local or otherwise, that are similar to yours. If you book it on the same day or within a few days of another gig it may take punters away from your event and leave you out of pocket, this is often a gamble but a quick search around on the internet or local gig guide before you confirm is always recommended.

Budgeting and making a profit

When you put on a gig there will be costs to cover. You need to make sure you work out what your costs are before you put the gig on, and work out how much you need to charge to cover your costs whilst still making a profit. You need to make sure that when you set a door price it's not so expensive that it puts punters off but not so cheap that you can't make the costs back.

When booking bands you will need to know how much they cost. Some will just want petrol costs and some bands charge a standard amount to play, others may do you a deal because its a benefit gig. Don't book a band that wants £500 if you won't make the money back on the door to pay for them.

When you book a venue don't book one that's so expensive you need to put the door price up to cover it, try to keep costs as low as you can.

For example; If you think you will get a hundred punters in, and you have to pay £200 in petrol costs for bands, plus you have to pay £50 for venue hire, £80 for a PA and £20 on flyering, you need to work out a door price that is cheap enough to keep the punters interested but is enough to cover all the costs that are involved. So if you charge £5, after costs you will be left with £150 profit to go towards the benefit.

The Equipment

The two main items needed for music events are a PA system and a backline.

Some venues have their own PA system (microphones, mixer speakers etc) when you book a venue always check to see if they have an in-house PA and if it is suitable for your needs, if they don't, you will need to hire one. Some music shops will have them for hire but check online or the free ads to find the best deal or ask your bands for recommendations.

If the venue has a PA but you don't know how to work the equipment you will need to find someone who does, the venue may have somebody you can hire. If not ask around at local gigs or ask local bands to see if they can help or know anyone who can.

Backline equipment is amp heads, cabs and drums etc. This is something you can normally beg or borrow from people. You need to find out what gear you will need, for example, if a band has two guitars and a bass player, you will need two guitar amps and a bass amp. Check the requirements of each band.

You can normally borrow this sort of thing from local bands or ask each band that is playing if they can each bring one thing and share it with each other. This will often depend on the attitude / helpfulness of the bands or if you are lucky a band might be able to supply the whole backline.

Advertising

You have to advertise your event - don't rely on word of mouth, social networking websites or hope the bands will promote it, because those things on their own don't work. You have to use every possible form of advertising you can.

Networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace will get the word out about your gig and web links to the bands playing. Make use of local sab/AR email lists. Ask the bands to spread the word and to promote it via their web page or MySpace page too.







Tell everyone you know – word of mouth is a great way to tell your friends about your benefit gig, spread the word. Maybe send a text to all your local friends a couple of days before the event and ask them to forward it.

Flyering - giving out flyers at other gigs and local events and leaving them in places where people might see them. You can target your audience by flyering at clubs and pubs where the type of punters that will be interested in your gig would normally go.

Put up large flyers in local music shops, charity shops, pubs, notice boards, anywhere you think people will look to see what gigs are going on.

Advertise on the wider media - inform your local gig guide, newspaper and radio station, and put something on your local Indymedia calendar. Most local newspapers and radio stations are happy to tell people about local events and it doesn't normally cost anything.

The design of your adverts need to include the following things: the date, time, the venue and the address of the venue, who or what is performing at the event, the entry fee and any other info that is important to let potential punters know what is going on and when its going on.

Making it work on the night

On the night you need to make sure of a few things to make it run smoothly. You need to work out how long your gig will last and how long each band's set will be. If each band plays for forty five minutes you need to allow for at least ten minutes change over time in between each one.

Make sure each band starts on time and finishes on time, and that the gig ends on time so punters can get last buses / trains home etc.

Make sure you have got someone on the door at all times taking the money off punters as they are coming in, and make sure you have plenty of change.

Hopefully this will help you put on a gig that will raise a few quid for your group ..

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

bloodsports

VERMIN

Three men were caught hare coursing at Six Mile Bottom. Joseph Smith, 51, of Paddock Wood, Kent, William Smith, 42, of Willingham Avenue, Hastings, and Buddy Jarrett, 19, of Atterbury Close, Westerham, Kent, had travelled up to Cambridgeshire from East Sussex. They were convicted at Ely magistrates 6/1/11 and their car was ordered destroyed. Smith and Kent were both fined £300, ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge. Both were also given a six-month driving ban. Jarrett was fined £100, ordered to pay £100 costs and £15 victim surcharge. He was given a three-month driving ban. All had pleaded guilty to illegal hare coursing.

On 24/1/11 the head gamekeeper at the Holkham Estate, Norfolk was charged with a string of offences after an investigation by police following the death of a wild bird. Nicholas Parker, 41, of Main Road, Holkham, has been suspended from his job at the country estate since the allegations came to light in 2010. Police said he has been charged with killing a schedule one wild bird, taking game out of season, possessing ammunition for a firearm without a certificate, possessing a shotgun or rifle for committing a wildlife offence, possessing a shotgun without a certificate and of contravening the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Parker has been released on bail to appear before King's Lynn magistrates on 15/7/11.



A group of illegal hare coursers who drove 150 miles to let their dogs chase hares in north Suffolk were sentenced on 16/2/11. They were each fined £1,000 and banned from driving for 56 days after they pleaded guilty to hunting a wild mammal with a dog. Magistrates heard the five defendants had driven up from Surrey and Sussex with five dogs and allowed their dogs to chase hares in a field in Flixton, near Bungay. At least one hare was killed by the packs of dog, which included a springer spaniel, a terrier and a seven-month-old puppy. The court heard the men had come to the area after they arranged with a farmer to chase animals on his land, a practice that is legal under the Hunting Act 2004 if given permission by a land owner. However once in the area the men could not get in touch with the farmer and decided to release their pets in other fields. Eddis Cole, 28 from Rudwick, Sussex, Matthew Giles, 31 and his cousin Tony Giles, 25, both from Cranleigh, Surrey, Nelson Hedges, 23, from Normandy, Surrey and Matthew Wenman, 26, from Rudwick, Sussex, were banned from driving as a vehicle had been used in the commission of an offence. As well as the £1,000 fine each defendant must pay £100 in costs and surcharges.

George Whitehead admitted two charges relating to a section of the Wildlife and Countryside Act to control the use of snares after two badly-set devices were discovered in a local woodland. On 25/2/11, Forfar Sheriff Court heard that Whitehead was part of a syndicate that reared young pheasants in pens at Montreathmont Forest, near Brechin. Whitehead (49), of Glenisla Drive, Arbroath, admitted two charges of setting snares so as to be calculated to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal coming into contact with them. Whitehead was fined a total of £200.

Five poachers who admitted hare coursing on North Kyme farmland, as well as at other sites around the county, received fines totalling more than £1,000. The men, who travelled from their homes in the West Midlands to Lincolnshire to buy dogs for breeding, claim the animals ran away and began chasing a hare. Travelling in one Vauxhall Frontera with two lurchers, they were reported to the police after being spotted trespassing in North Kyme, Nocton, Blankney Fen and Metheringham. Nelson Smith, 47, from Evesham, Worcestershire, Frank Roberts, 42, from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, Charlie Gaskin, 24, and Leonard Gaskin, 52, both from Ryton on Dunsmore near Coventry, and Jamie Davies, 24, also from Evesham, all pleaded guilty to trespassing in pursuit of game at Lincoln Magistrates on 25/3/11. Davies and Roberts were fined £150 plus £50 costs and the £15 Government surcharge. Charlie and Leonard Gaskin were fined £300 plus £100 costs and £15 surcharge. As father and son had both previously been convicted of poaching, the judge issued them indefinite Anti-Social Behaviour Orders stating they must not trespass in Lincolnshire. Smith the driver and owner of the Vauxhall Frontera, was forced to hand over his car, as well as being fined £300 plus £150 costs and the £15 surcharge.

On 14/3/11 a former gamekeeper was jailed for 16 weeks after he admitted filming an horrific attack by two dogs on a trapped fox. The footage taken by Stephen Metcalfe on his mobile phone was so distressing that it made one of the magistrates cry when viewed in court. The 32-year-old claimed he was not directly involved in the attack - but he refused to name the two other men involved. The court heard the unidentified men had caught the fox and were keeping it in a sack with its mouth bound. The fox was then held down by its neck by one of the men, with its mouth still tied, as the dogs repeatedly tore into it at the unnamed location. It was later shot dead by one of the men, who are both known to Metcalfe. He had previously worked as a gamekeeper for four years and was trained in humane methods of killing animals. Metcalfe, of Cavey Garth, West Burton, near Leyburn, North Yorkshire, admitted causing unnecessary suffering and being present at an animal fight. He was also banned from keeping dogs for ten years.

Gamekeeper James Rolfe, 20, of The Gate Lodge, Moy, is accused of

possessing a dead red kite at the Gate Lodge, Moy, in June 2010. Gamekeeper Wayne Grant, 32, of Limetree Cottage, Moy, is charged with having 56 black-headed gull eggs in an out-building at his home on the same date. The case was called at Inverness Sheriff Court on 18/3/11 but neither were at the hearing.

The case against a gamekeeper accused of wildlife crime offences began at Inverness Sheriff Court on 18/3/11. Andrew Malcom Slaughter, 34, of Faddock, Killialan, Kyle, faces two charges in connection with setting a spring trap at Glen Elchaig on Inverinate Estate. He also faces a charge that he failed to ensure that a crow which was caught in a trap was "provided with adequate shelter and protection from adverse weather". A fourth charge states that he "set a spring trap which was capable of catching birds, pine martins, badgers and otters".

Police caught two men and a youth poaching on land and involved in illegal hare-coursing, a court heard. George Hunter, 24, of Killingholme Road, Habrough, Nathan Mawson, 18, of Greengate Lane, South Killingholme, and a 16- year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted trespassing in pursuit of hares at Hayes Farm, Redbourne, near Brigg. At North Lincolnshire magistrates on 19/3/11 Hunter and Mawson were each fined £100 and were ordered to pay £85 costs and a Government-imposed £15 victims' surcharge. The youth was given an absolute discharge, but must pay £85 costs.

A gamekeeper illegally used a cage trap baited with a live pigeon to catch birds of prey in Derbyshire, a court has heard on 11/3/11. Glenn Brown, 39, of Old Henry's School House, Derwent Valley, is alleged to have operated the trap during his employment on land owned by the National Trust in the Upper Derwent Valley. At Chesterfield magistrates the court heard that the cage trap, sometimes known as a corvid cage trap or a multi-catch ladder trap, was found in Howden Moor by John McMahon, an RSPB employee. On his first sighting of that trap, which is designed for catching members of the corvid family such as crows, rooks and jackdaws, it contained a crow and appeared to be lawful. He told the court that some people are allowed to catch and kill certain species of wild birds if they are exempted by a general licence from Natural England, and they are usually owners or occupiers of the land. "A gamekeeper is not an authorised person unless the owner or occupier of the land has given him authority to run the trap." Brown, denies seven charges. The court then heard that during another visit after Mr McMahon's first sighting of the trap he went back two more times and on the later visit it contained both the carrion crow and a pheasant, which was not one of the target species. During a later visit still, a white pigeon - a feral pigeon - was found alone in the trap which, again, was not a suitable decoy bird as far as the general licence was concerned, he said.



Michael Sutherland, 38, of The New Farmhouse, Hillhead of Foveran, Newburgh, who repeatedly fired a rifle at a terrified shooting party hunting near his farm narrowly escaped jail on 21/4/11. The court heard how he had endangered the lives of eight men by shooting at them as they hunted geese in a field near his house. The Irish shooting party watched "dangerous shots" whizz past the group as they sheltered in a hide made of shrubbery during the incident. But Sutherland claimed he did not see the men and was merely shooting vermin on his farm to use up unauthorised ammunition. Sutherland was found guilty of a charge of endangering lives by shooting at them. He admitted a further charge of possessing around 230 more rounds of ammunition than he was licensed for on the same date. Sutherland was ordered to carry out two years of probation along with 300 hours of unpaid work in the community. The Irish shooters were Owen Jackman, Liam Burke, Patrick O'Sullivan, John Condon, Peter Butler, Seamus Butler, James Lambert and Kevin Lambert.

A farmer and his son were caught on camera as they illegally tried to snare protected birds of prey, a court heard. Ivan Peter Crane (53), and Ivan Mark Crane (26), appeared at Market Harborough magistrates on 21/4/11. The court heard the men used spring-loaded rat traps to try to stop raptors feeding on young pheasants at Astley Grange Farm, in East Langton. But undercover investigators from the RSPB, who visited the farm last summer as part of a wider investigation into the killing of birds of prey in the county, had set up secret cameras. The investigators found that spring traps, normally used to snare rats, had been placed on top of poles used as perches by birds of prey. Ivan Crane senior, of Astley Grange Farm, pleaded guilty to using a spring trap to kill or take a wild bird. He also admitted possessing a spring trap capable of committing an offence, and two pesticide offences. His son, of the same address, also pleaded guilty to possessing a spring trap. Ivan Peter Crane was fined £1,000 and Ivan Mark Crane was fined £500. Both were ordered to pay £80 costs. Ivan Peter Crane was further fined £2,000 in relation to the illegal and unsafe storage of pesticides on the farm.

Badger

VERMIN

On 9/2/11 police arrested three men in Keighley in a joint operation with the RSPCA to prevent animal cruelty in the area. Officers raided five addresses following a long-running investigation. The arrests included one for suspected poaching under the Deer Act, another for alleged animal welfare offences in connection with suspected badger baiting and for an alleged violation of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, and a third under the Animal Welfare Act in connection with injuries sustained to dogs. All three men were bailed. Officers also recovered several animals including a hawk and five dogs, with bull, lurcher and terrier-type dogs taken to a local vet for treatment to facial injuries.



Two men from Northumberland have been jailed after forcing animals to fight to the death and posting footage on the internet. Wayne Lumsden of Park Road, Lynemouth and Connor Patterson, Whitfield, near Hexham both 23, were sent to prison on 18/2/11 for 26 and 20 weeks respectively by South East Northumberland magistrates at Bedlington for offences relating to badgers, foxes, dogs, cats and cocks. The pair were also banned from keeping animals for 15 and eight years respectively after boasting about their antics in text messages and keeping photos. Lumsden had earlier pleaded guilty to wilfully killing a badger and two counts of causing an animal fight to take place. Farm worker Patterson who the court heard had been an apprentice gamekeeper, had pleaded guilty to two counts of causing an animal fight to take place. Magistrates were read a series of texts exchanged by the pair in which Lumsden bragged of "killing a badger" with his and another dog – something he described as "mint". The court was then shown a video of the badger being attacked by the two dogs, then footage of cocks fighting and men's voices could be heard encouraging them. Magistrates heard clothes seen in the video were later traced to Lumsden and that a text message of his referred to spurs used in cock fighting. Further footage was shown to the court of a snared fox being attacked by a dog. A stick was thrust into the fox's mouth and a boot - which was later traced to Patterson - was shown on its neck. Again, men could be heard laughing and encouraging the dog with cries of "kill it". In the final bit of footage, a fox was shown in a cage with a dog. The animals are seen fighting with men's voices encouraging them and hands shown holding the fox's ears through the cage. In interview, Patterson admitted he had been an apprentice gamekeeper and had a national diploma in countryside and game management. While studying for this, he had learnt how to use snares and traps. On 25/3/11 Wayne Lumsden and Connor Patterson had their jail sentences cut because of a legal technicality. Judges at Newcastle Crown Court were forced to cut their prison sentences because the pair had not been given credit for pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. Patterson had his sentence reduced to 16 weeks. Lumsden's 26 weeks was cut to 21 by a judge at a separate hearing.

Is map reading the easy option?

So it's your turn to map read for the vehicle out sabbing, no running around in muddy fields with riders trying to knock you down or driving in stressful conditions with morons trying to block you in, but is it really the easy job?

There are in fact many things you need to be thinking about and a lot of responsibility that comes with the job, as anyone who has tried it will know. Here are a few things that you should probably be doing.

Reading the map!

The first thing is obvious but not always simple; you need to be able to read a map! As always out sabbing, things are likely to be hectic with lots of distractions, you should be reading the map



and be aware of exactly where you are at all times. It can get confusing if you are turning around a lot and going up and down the same roads so try to stay focused. Check you are where you think you are by making sure farm names, junctions, pubs etc. match up. You also need to be able to find and describe locations quickly so being able to use grid references is essential. Using land marks such as "just north west of such and such wood" will be useful. If you do lose where you are on the map, use landmarks to work out where you are such as farm and road names.



Remember, you can't rely on your compass if you are inside a vehicle. (See the article on navigation in the previous Howl for more in depth information.)

Communication

Listen to what is being said in the back of the vehicle!

Hopefully your sab group makes decisions based on participation from everyone in the group rather than one or two 'bosses'. The map reader needs to be aware of these discussions, be listening, be able to participate and quickly relay any decisions on where to go to the driver.

As well as keeping track of the map, the map reader also needs to take responsibility for the radio/mobile phone once sabs are out of the vehicle. The map reader needs to communicate with foot sabs and direct the driver to where they need dropping off and picking up. Also if there is more than one sab vehicle out it will be your job to communicate with the other vehicles about locations of the hunt, each other and any sabs out in the field.

Supporting the driver

Driving whilst out sabbing is very stressful; it is often difficult to keep track of decisions being made by the group and focus on driving at the same time. Manoeuvring a large heavy vehicle on small country lanes which are clogged up with hostile hunt support vehicles can be very demanding. It may seem like the driver has just been given one suggestion when suddenly everything changes and the driver is expected to do something completely different. The map reader needs to make sure the



driver is kept up to speed with what the rest of the group is thinking. Communication between the front and back of the vehicle can be difficult if it is noisy so the map reader must make sure the driver knows exactly what is being said and relay any thoughts from the driver back to the rest of the group. During the day there will usually be a point where the vehicle is parked up for a while, but if not then small things like making sure the driver can get to his/her sandwiches and water will be greatly appreciated.

Making good use of the vehicle

There isn't much point in the vehicle just sitting waiting for instruction once foot sabs are out in the field. The map reader and the driver should be able to discuss and come up with a plan for making good use of the vehicle until they need to pick sabs up again. They can keep track of the hunt as best they can from the road, and by driving around a circuit of the area that you know the hunt are in, you can make use of vantage points with a view from which you may get a sighting of the hunt. Use contours on the map to indicate where a good vantage point may be.

Sabbing from the vehicle

The map reading job is not suitable for a new sab who has no idea what they are doing! It is not uncommon to see a fox cross the road from the vehicle, and if your foot sabs are out and about then the map reader and the driver need to be able to deal with the situation either with the use of sprays, whips, voice or horn calls.

Video camera

The map reader is best positioned in the vehicle to video anything happening on the road such as a fox crossing, hounds on the road, hunt vehicles blocking you in, hunt support being aggressive or police stopping and harassing the driver. The map reader must have a video camera available and ready to use at all times. Try to get the faces of all the main players at the hunt on film at the beginning of the day; you never know what is going to happen later. Any vehicles that block the road, however half heartedly it is done, film them. Make sure the vehicle, registration plate and ideally the driver's face, if you get a chance, are on camera. Make sure you let people in the back of the vehicle know when you are recording; careless banter and swearing can ruin good footage!

And finally...

Everyone's fitness levels out sabbing vary. Some people have physical reasons why running around is not an option for them. However, in an ideal world, the fitness level of the map reader is just as important as any other sab. It's probably not a good idea to have the same person map reading every week as it's good to share skills around and it could be a problem the week the 'usual map reader' isn't around. Also, if one of the foot sabs were to injure themselves they may need to swap with the map reader who needs to be fit enough to get out.

So the job of map reading isn't quite as simple as some people may think, if it is to be done well. It's an important role out sabbing with lots of responsibility, but like all roles out sabbing it is of course interesting and rewarding, give it a go!





Since our last report, **Cumbria hunt sabs** have been very busy piling the pressure on our local hunts. We had a good day out against the Blencathra with sabs coming up from other groups to show the hunt that if they turn nasty with local sabs, they will have to deal with a much larger group next meet. With 25 sabs out we managed to ruin the hunt's day by taking the hounds off them numerous times and keeping them on the run all day, before they packed up in a foul mood. Hunt supporters were seen complaining to the police, telling them to do something about us.

We also had good days out against the Ullswater foxhounds. On one occasion we turned up with 3 sabs and were greeted by idiots on quad bikes trying to scare us off by riding past us at speed and verbally threatening us. We were also followed by 2 young supporters in face masks. We refused to let this intimidate us and kept them on the run all day before they packed up early. We returned again soon after, again with 3 sabs, and completely ruined their day. We split into two with one sab following the road support and the other 2 going onto the fells with the huntsman. The hunt supporters were getting very aggressive with the lone sab making threats of violence and also future attacks. Despite this we kept with them and the huntsman didn't know which way to turn so instead packed up.

Successful days were also had against the Melbreak foxhounds. They are such an easy hunt to sab as their hounds are so responsive to our voice calls. We take control of the pack with ease and they usually pack up early.

We also sent sabs out around the country to support other sab groups in their efforts. We think supporting other groups is vital if our movement is going to be successful.

Despite the weather, we probably sabbed 30 plus meets this season in Cumbria. Next season we intend to increase that number. We can only do this if we can get sabs out in the field. If anyone would like to come out with us next season please get in touch via our facebook or email: cumbriasabs@gmail.com

Lancaster sabs (new, small but growing group) started their sabbing activities by joining up with the more established Manchester group and visiting the South Notts fox hunt. They were unhappy to see us and got vehicles full of deliverance type boys to follow us, however the hunt didn't seem to have the heart to continue and went home early, result. A few weeks later we visited the Quorn and made up numbers with the local groups who were on the hunt almost continuously, and like the South Notts, the Quorn were not happy with our presence.

In January we joined up with Manchester and Liverpool and met up with the Bleasdale Beagles who scuttled in an undignified manner back to a farmyard they had just left and then we all stood and looked at each other for some time and they decided it wasn't worth continuing, so they were well and truly sabbed with little effort from us. We visited the Badsworth and Bramham Moor fox hunt in February again joining up with 3 groups. The sabs presence with the hunt was almost 100% and made hunting impossible. The huntsman was very cross.

Our final trip (again with the Manchester group) was to the Rockwood Harriers who ran off and hid in a cover at the sight of us and 4 or 5 other vehicles full of sabs. Take your hat off to them, the Rockwood were fantastic hiders, we just couldn't find them so 3 vans full of sabs shot off to the Badsworth and Bramham Moor FH again, and the huntsman's body language spoke volumes. We all started to sab them as they were openly hunting and within an hour or so the rest of the sabs turned up from the Rockwood Harrriers who had packed up and together we all managed to ruin the hunt's day, with post sab discussions suggesting at least 2 foxes were helped to escape the hounds.

We are a new group who are hoping to become an increasing irritant to the hunting community as our numbers grow, which they certainly look set to do.



Thanks to Manchester and other groups for giving us lifts, see you all in the coming season. LHS

The new year got off to a farcical start for **Nottingham** and **Sheffield sabs** when, due to mechanical problems, of the three vehicles that set out to do the Quorn, only one made it to the meet. Despite this, the seven sabs left in the field had an excellent day, managing to stay with the hunt and ensuring no kills. Next we went down to Essex to help out the local sabs. There were 60+ sabs out and we had a brilliant day, preventing 2 dig-outs and generally walking all over the hunt!

The following Saturday was an epic day. We started off at the Meynall and South Staffs who weren't out due to the weather. We then bumped into the High Peak harriers who again due to the weather were just out for a ride and had left hounds at home. We then found the Quorn who pretty much rode straight back to their meet when we arrived. Then we went over to the Belviour (meet kindly provided by Quorn followers) who haven't had any attention in a long time. They stayed out till after dark and made attempts at proper hunting, but luckily no foxes were spotted or hunted. We also sabbed a crow & pigeon shooter this day, who was out shooting with his imaginary friend and who agreed with our views on shooting – very strange!

At the end of Jan we sabbed a pheasant shoot in Yorkshire. The shooters initially refused to stop aiming for the skies and threatened to beat sabs with guns, but, after a little persuasion they all packed up. Not one shot was fired and any pheasants that would have been shot that day can breathe easy for a bit, because it was the last weekend of the pheasant shooting season. We then went on to successfully sab the Badsworth & Bramham Moor who were hunting down the road.

At the start of Feb we paid a rare visit to the South Wold hunt in deepest Lincolnshire who did their best to hunt and hide in woodland all day. We stuck with them though and had an excellent horn blowing dual which lasted about half an hour and completely split his pack. We were also in exactly the right place in the middle of a wood to allow a fox to slip past before forming a whip line to stop the hounds. All this while the whipper-in sat and watched, pretending no fox had just crossed straight in front of him!

On Feb 12th some of our number stayed local to sab the High Peak Harriers and some travelled to Cumbria to support the local sabs in that inhospitable part of the world. It was the first time we had seen the High Peak properly hunting. Although trail layers were present, they

weren't seen much, and the huntsman left his hounds to riot in a large semi-wooded valley for a good chunk of the day. Then later on he hunted fields near the meet. Hares were hunted throughout the day but luckily none were killed.

Mid Feb we sabbed the Blankney hunt. We split into several groups to tackle this fast hunt which meant they literally couldn't move without bumping into a group of sabs! We then returned to the Badsworth & Bramham Moor hunt. There were 30 of us out and we worked in several separate groups, tag-teaming the hunt and keeping them moving & sabbed all day! When sabs took the whole pack from right under the huntsman's nose mid-afternoon, they wisely decided to call it a day.

As the season drew to a close we headed South on a couple of occasions to support our comrades on the ever foul Cotswold Vale Hunt and still managed to find time to hit the Rockwood harriers with a group of sixty sabs. Unsurprisingly they packed up as soon as we caught up with them. The huntsman also told us that the 2 terrier men who had smashed up one of our vans last season had been fired from the hunt. Sabs then went on to the Badsworth & Bramham Moor, joining one group that was already there for this hunt's last Saturday meet of the season. They were heard saying they were scared stiff as the masses approached, but they stayed out so as not to look it! They couldn't hunt with so many sabs around them though, and all in all it was a successful day.

Despite some spectacularly biased police we've had an excellent season. Numbers are up, we're covering more hunts in our region than over the past few years and we're ready for a busy summer of fundraising and recruitment.

http://nottinghamhuntsabs.weebly.com

http://sheffieldsabs.weebly.com/

Our first year has had some very successful sabbing for **West Yorkshire sabs** - we were out and about every week of the season bar one with no kills. Big respect to Nottingham and Sheffield who've shared their experience, lent us cash and maps and demanded only cake in return. (If anyone out there is thinking of starting a new group we can highly recommend making friends with one of the more established crews to help you along. We couldn't have done it without them.)

Our next season is already throwing out some challenges as five of our regular sabs are moving away from the area. Our loss will be another group's gain as they will still be causing trouble countryside-stylee but it does leave some spaces in West Yorkshire. If you have ever wanted to give sabbing a try, or have sabbed before and want to come back out, please get in touch at westyork-shuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk

Finally, if anyone would like to keep up that old tradition of a tenner (or more!) in the birthday card, the details are on our website at: http://westyorkshirehuntsabs.weebly.com/



Manchester Hunt Sabs concluded the season on good form. During January, February and March we continued our ongoing relationship with the Badsworth and Bramham Moor Fox hunt more than once. A fantastic day in February saw 3 vans of sabs make a days hunting virtually impossible. The end of the day saw the huntsman, not a happy bunny, laying in to his own support in front of us after they blocked in our vans preventing us from leaving and him from packing up. Our final trip of the season followed on from a visit to the Rockwood Harriers (who disappeared at the sight of us and several other groups). The huntsman could be seen to physically slump as we arrived – when we were reinforced a couple of hours later by 3 more vans who had stuck around at the Rockwood, he nearly fell off his horse. Oh well.

The week before we had joined with other groups on a visit to the Cotswold Vale Farmers who had given the local group a hard time recently. Showing how far we had come this season, despite a long drive, Manchester Sabs were first to arrive in the area! A largely frustrating day followed, spiced up only by our driver getting threatened with arrest for refusing to leave his vehicle unattended on a country lane. Information received later suggested that our presence had been enough to make the hunt disappear and spend the day hiding in a local wood.

In January, the van had headed up and joined some friends from Liverpool on a rare visit to the Bleasdale beagles. An elementary error led to our back tyres getting slashed – an annoyance that was in some way relieved by the huntsman coming over and offering an unreserved apology, having already had a go at his support, and then packing up. This very low key hunt clearly didn't want us to be paying too much attention to them in the future. A couple of weeks later we also helped make up numbers in Cumbria at the Blencathra – a day of physical exertion that nearly killed some of us (apart from our driver and navigator who spent the day parked up sleeping away from it all!) Nuff respect to Cumbria Sabs who do it week in week out.

In February a small group of us re-acquainted ourselves with what had for a long time been a mainstay of sabs in the Northwest – come on down to? the Holcombe Harriers! We don't know if a day following a hunt that is clearly trail hunting is a good or bad use of our time but nonetheless our attention to hunts who say they're not hunting is something we will continue with....not always so they see us either.

We are proud to say that a **Coventry hunt sab** group is now official. We visit hunts on average 2-3 times a week. We will be holding information stalls in Coventry, Nuneaton and the surrounding areas over the summer. If anyone would like to join the group, help with fundraising or would like more information then please call 07975970061, email coventryhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk or visit our facebook page. We would like to say thanks to the HSA for helping us with equipment for next season.

Well, **South Wales** new recruits stayed with us to the bitter end, they've learnt new skills becoming essential members of the team.

We were out every week, except when hunting was off due to snow or ice. We worked mostly with our usual friends to sab both sides of the bridge, but took a trip west during March to visit the Carmarthenshire on their final meet. The locals were apparently not at all pleased to see them, with many landowners refusing them access to their land. One farmer who was patrolling his land on a quad bike told us 'they're not coming on my land - I've told em!' So with reduced access, the dejected hunt, tried hard to look like they meant it. We kept them on the move until one rider was heard saying 'they're everywhere. They're behind us, they're in front of us and some of them just came out of that track - we can't do anything!' With that, they rode sadly back to the meet - packing up at 2 o'clock. We were in the pub by half past - result. Reckon we'll be back to keep an eye on them next season.

We've experienced violence and intimidation from the mindless individuals who think hunting animals is fun. We've seen some of the most bizarre policing - drivers and navigators arrested for aggravated trespass, drivers arrested for having whips (just like the hunt) only to have all the charges dropped months later. Oh well, the compensation will help with the fundraising! Despite the hunt thugs, and

police acting as hunt security, we've had the thrill of seeing many foxes running to safety, with a little help from us. We're now set to spend the summer recruiting and fundraising. **Anyone wanting to get involved can reach us at southwaleshuntsabs@gmail.com. See you in August!**

Bristol sabs have had a "funny season" and are mighty glad its over, linking up with the usual groups Bristol had good days with the same old mutes who just don't seem to change from year to year - still spiting out the same rubbish "don't do this, do that , we know where you live etc etc!", but in hindsight we guess they do look slightly more inbred and redder in the faces - "oh such darlings". Not only with the mutes to contend with, Bristol sabs have seen some outrageous policing with their glorious 1st line of defence arresting people for aggravated trespass while sitting in land rovers (two drivers and two navigators - charges dropped) and offensive weapons - whips, but to no surprise to us, all refusing to take any complaint of illegal hunting or getting the "...." kicked out of you seriously!!

Bristol sabs were delighted to hear the news that their chum Alan Morgan - Cotswold Vale Farmers huntsman was on his last season, a main instigator of so many sab kicking' and puppeteer of the local plod, Bristol sabs thank everyone who came to give him a farewell seeing off including the Dutch film crew who captured him in his full glory, keep your eyes peeled folks, this scumbag is sure to raise his "ugly, useless contorted red faced, inbred head" somewhere soon.

15/01/11- **Bath sabs** along with others visit the South Hereford foxhounds. The hunt ride around attempting 'citizen' arrests on horseback, riding at sabs, whipping etc, they call in the law. A cop car drives up behind the Bath Landie, we pull over to let it pass, it drives up towards the hunt, it turns round back towards the Bath Landie and blocks it in, the cop driver jumps out and forces the Landie driver out and arrests him for 'conspiracy to aid & abet people unknown to aggravated trespass', next the navigator gets the same. The Bristol Landie turns up, the arrested Bath sabs watch, unable to warn them, the Bristol crew get the same treatment. Off to the Hereford nick they go. With the drivers & navigators gone, Landies impounded, sabs continue on foot, keeping the hunt moving and avoiding the police until the hunt packs up. Down the cop shop the arrested sabs are informed they've been arrested for 'aggravated trespass', after a couple of hours and a 'lovely' vegan chill, they're 'no comment' interviewed, they're released on condition free bail, with a trolley load of evidence bags, taxied, by very 'sheepish' plod 20 miles to pick up the landrovers.

21/01/11- With Ross and South Wales sabs,



we visit the Ledbury foxhounds. We check out a badger sett which the terrier men regularly block and true to form the entrances are blocked, a call to inform the police, will they do anything? Off to find the hunt, we keep them on the move all day, the hounds get into 'cry' a couple of times and sabs step in 'rating' and calling them off, causing the huntsman to spend ages gathering them again and again. The police turn up and pull over the Landie; they're not going to nick drivers and navigators again! Its ok they just want details, yer right. The navigator refuses to give details; the cop threatens her with arrest!! The cop radios her control to see if she can make an arrest, as she's doing this a fox runs across the field in front of her, sabs point it out to both officers, they watch as seconds later hounds follow, sabs attempt to 'rate' the hounds, but only slow them for a few seconds, the cops look on. The hounds seem to lose the scent. Where's the huntsman, nowhere to be seen! The cops are questioned on what they would do about the hunt obviously hunting illegally; the female said she hadn't seen a kill so the law hadn't been broken! The male cop radios it in, a rider turns up and is confronted by the sabs, when questioned about illegal hunting he informs us that it's nothing to do with the police, as the hunt can do anything they want as it was private land! This goes down really well with the cops, who then write it up to pass the details on to their 'Wildlife liaison' officer (and they'd even photo'd the blocked badger sett!) The 'foot' sabs are picked up, off we go again! Catch up with the hunt again, hounds in and out of 'cry'.

A Redcoat and horse have a bad fall, the horse is in a bad way, a vet's called, the Redcoat is driven away, sabs fear the worst for the horse, but continue Sabbing. We drive off in search of the hounds, a fox crosses in front of our Landie, the scent is soon masked and it's well away. It's dark now, the hunt packs up, sabs are picked up, time to go home.

29/01/11- The 'Whip' attempts, to steal camcorder from Sab! Terrier man intervenes and pulls Redcoat off the Sab!! What's the world coming to? A Terrier man with a conscience! No, the hunt have found out we've got a Dutch film crew out with us... its ok we're back to normality.

We catch them hunting through thick undergrowth, no way had they laid a trail. The Cops interviewed about illegal hunting, laughable response! Back with the hunt again in a well known 'Meet', hoping their 'Packing Up', but no off again, straight into a field full of sheep, the landowner is incensed and ordered the hunt off the land, this is when the 'Whip' attempts to steal the camcorder. The hunts closed down, cops don't know what to do, Film crew happy, no deaths...

Good day out!

26/02/11- Cotswold Vale show their true nature, starting by blocking in the Landie, with 2 cars and a Quad, then bring in horses, backing them in to the Landie in an attempt to intimidate the driver and navigator, NO chance. Later they're spotted hunting though a nature reserve, seeing us they move off quickly. We're up with them again, the Terrier boys splitting the sabs, one group stopping sabs getting though a gate while another proceed in giving a couple of sabs a kicking, only stopping after stealing a camcorder and a female hunt support intervenes! Bashed and bruised the foot sabs return to the Landie.

19/03/11- Back at the Cotswold Vale, who keeps choosing these meets! There's a good group of us again, Bristol, Bath, Pewsey, South Wales, Dorset and more, but 'Babylon' are out in force, we thinks the Vale are PISSED with us. cops doing their best to slow us down, placing a 'Section 60' over the whole area, ordering people to remove face coverings, searching sabs and vehicles all over the place, one group of cops making arrests for having whips and sprays, even seizing the Pewsey Landie! Then another set of cops finding whips and sprays, having their uses explained to them, let them go. The hounds go into 'Cry', a group of sabs are being searched nearby, the sabs not being searched start 'Horn' calls and 'Hollering', even using 'Gizmos', the cops do nothing, just continue searching, when they finish searching one sab, they take over 'Sabbing' while another's being searched. The sabs get the hounds and the cops still do nothing, the Huntsman arrives shouting and screaming at the cops to stop the sabs, cops threaten him with arrest unless he stops swearing! Despite the cops holding the sabs up, the hunt's kept on the run all day unable to make a kill and pack up in disgust!

Now the summer's here it's sorting the Landie and fund raising, if anyone in the South West needs work or help on their Landie give us a shout!

The second half of the season for **Bournemouth sabs** proved as eventful as the first with lots of opportunities for us to join up with other groups. At a time of cuts to public services, it's incredible to see such a huge amount of money being spent on police to protect illegal hunting. Even some of the coppers out those days were annoyed at the total waste of police time and money.

Fortunately the skills of everyone in the field meant that all the stuffed envelopes counted for nothing, as these hunts were successfully sabbed anyway!

The end of the season brings some welcome R&R and time to patch up the landy ready for the next one!

By mid January, with frozen weather conditions all but gone, hunts and **Pewsey Vale sabs** are back into their regular Saturdays out. Our local pack, the Tedworth, have frequent meets on Salisbury Plain after Christmas which is always hard work for sabs due to the sheer expanse of the area combined with very limited good road access. Mid January was one such meet and sabs from Bristol and Birmingham joined us. The day, as expected, was frustrating, however sabs did not let up all day and the huntsman was never quite sure just where we were (often we felt the same).

At the end of January we joined forces with Bristol, South Wales and Southampton for a visit to the Wilton foxhounds .The hunt ran for the whole day which made it difficult for sabs and the day was fairly uneventful apart from the sudden appearance of unmarked police cars stopping sab vehicles and making allegations of violence and vehicle damage towards the hunt. After the usual long winded checks and claims that our driver was not insured for the vehicle (rubbish) we were allowed to go, with the obligatory producer.

The last Saturday in January was fame at last. Sabs from Bristol, Bath, South Wales, Northampton and Pewsey Vale were joined by a Dutch film crew, lots of them with their own posh mini bus for a Cotswold Vale Farmers meet. No sooner had the hunt moved off than there was a stand off. The police were quickly called by the hunt and equally quickly arrived in force. Sabs dispersed with film crew sort of following. The police spent a good deal of time scouring country lanes with blue lights flashing looking for the violent criminals AKA sabs. At one point the film crew's vehicle was even stopped (well they did look dodgy). Our landrover decided to lose all its clutch fluid right in front of the police who then ordered our driver not to move the vehicle, which was quite handy as they couldn't anyway. The police calmed down after their initial over reaction (as usual) and we could get on with the day, sticking with the hunt and sabbing. This hunt are not welcome over a lot of land in their own 'hunt country', this was very apparent on this occasion. Sabs were pushing the hunt on all day and they had nowhere to go. At one point the whole pack were put in with a field of sheep and a very irate farmer told the huntsman just where to go in no uncertain terms, this was all filmed. Foot sabs were also approached by an angry landowner with a gun! We thought our new found film careers were to be short lived literally but he welcomed us across his land, it was the hunt he was none too pleased with. A sab's camera was broken by a rider and one sab was attacked and hit which unfortunately was not caught on film but the Cotswold Vale had a terrible day.

We had a couple of good days joined by Reading and Birmingham at the Garth and the Tedworth. Sabs had to do the Garth huntsman's job for him and call hounds off a fox which apparently was a trail and just happened to pop out in front of sabs, very realistic!

Mid February we were back at the Cotswold Vale Farmers, this time joining up with groups from Bristol, South Wales, Coventry, and the Forest of Dean. The hunt were blatantly encouraging hounds to draw through covers but sabs were up with them all day keeping them moving.

One sab had direct racial abuse directed at them by the huntsman who also (just to keep it nice and friendly) rode straight at the sab after threatening to ride over their vehicle. This incident is currently being investigated, albeit painfully slowly, by Gloucestershire police.

At the end of February we were back at the Garth and the Tedworth, joined by some of Bristol, Reading and Birmingham sabs. Quiet days but keeping the hunts on their toes.

Early march we joined with Bristol, South Wales, Southampton, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield and more for another Cotswold Vale Farmers meet who had recently attacked and injured sabs. Before the hunt had even left the meet a large police presence was in force, responding to the usual allegations from the hunt - ie sabs had eaten babies! All sabs' vehicles were initially held up by the police, meaning sabs were out on foot to keep up with the hunt who did a runner. The tone of the day was set and despite every effort by a large amount of sabs and vehicles the hunt were hardly seen all day. One of our drivers was given a fixed penalty notice for just starting to move a vehicle without a seat belt on (good job the police are addressing serious crime). On a positive note the Cotswolds local sabs are fairly sure that the huntsman and his hounds were hiding up for most of the day, so hopefully no hunting.

Reading and some Bristol sabs joined up with us for an Old Berks foxhounds meet. This lot are not deterred in the slightest from hunting by the presence of our video cameras so it's direct sabbing tactics for them. Horn and voice calls from sabs did an excellent job of getting the whole pack off a fox and to our feet. Our actions attracted an ever growing number of 'hunt heavies' and the police. The police had no interest whatsoever in illegal hunting but put plenty of effort into getting as much film footage of us as they could. A female sab was pushed to the ground and an attempt was made to smash her camera by a hunt supporter, this was witnessed by the police who did actually arrest the person, later letting them go with a caution. This outcome may have been very different if it was a sab arrested! Direct intervention by sabs was difficult for the rest of the day as by now there were at least five landrovers full of very big lads, however, we were able to sab when hounds put a fox up less than 50 yards from us. We think our delaying tactics saved that fox.

Our penultimate meet of the season was again with the Cotswold vale. Sab vehicles were waiting either side of the meet when police sirens could be heard - obviously not for us - but how wrong could we be. The wrath of Gloucestershire constabulary was about to literally descend on us. Two helicopters, riot vans, at least eight police cars, an armed response unit team and numerous unmarked police vehicles all converged in and around the meet (there seems to be a pattern forming with the hunt and the police). This response would suggest weapons of mass destruction, but not quite- it was for anti social behaviour! This then changed to looking for weapons (getting better). The weapon in question being little bits of wood with rope and boot laces on the end – i.e sabs whips. Very dangerous and not to be confused with the long bone handled whips that hunters frequently use to smash across sabs' heads from horseback which are not weapons! Sab vehicles and sabs were now being stopped, questioned and searched by the police. Some sabs' whips seemed to be ok (ie not weapons) yet others were weapons, these sabs were arrested and carted away. There were 6 arrests, 5 for offensive weapons and one for failure to remove a face cover (also very dangerous). As an added precaution just to make sure the entire area was safe, the police seized and impounded our landrover because they suspected it was being "commissioned for use of weapons". Despite the horrendous policing some groups did manage to sab right under the hunt's and police's noses. Some sabs were missing personal belongings as well as car and house keys which had been locked away with our vehicle. After much reorganisation people finally got to their beds at 4.30 am the next day.

Our final meet for the season was back with the Tedworth. We were joined by Southampton and Birmingham. This day was a picnic after the previous week. The only mishap all day was our landrover (which we collected from the police after 3 days- no weapons - strange!) which temporarily broke down right outside the kennels which was slightly embarrassing but short lived. It was a good day with the pack being split and the hunt as usual running all day. Thank goodness for the end of another season. Thanks to all the

sabs who came our way. August and 3.30am starts seem along way off right now!

Following the welcome break due to the snow, **South Coast sabs** travelled up to Suffolk for the joint hit on the Essex and Suffolk. It all meant an early start and a three hour journey just to get there but was worthwhile to see the hunt unable to move for 60 sabs, and to see a few faces only known from AGMs. A good day all round and we should organize at least one a season. None of our local hunts had been out that Saturday so it was good timing.

Back to our usual hunts who were less then happy to have us back. The Crawley and Horsham had killed mid-week and had the aftermath filmed, so in the company of Brighton we hit them on a Friday. Although there were only five sabs the hunt was taken by surprise, but during the day more and more boys started appearing, ending in a number of incidents of driving very close to our Land rover and finally a car trying to run down sabs on a footpath. No injuries occurred but this was more due to the quick moves of sabs than to bumpkin driving skills. All incidents were reported to the cops but no action taken.

Our old chums the South Down & Eridge have been moving their mid-week dates to avoid us, but are unwilling to give up Saturdays. They also have decided to follow the approach of Crawley & Horsham and have self-appointed pro-hunt monitors. This sorry bunch started in the last week in January, and consists of the usual supporters in a florescent arm band baring the proud title 'Steward'. We were up on the South Downs when they first approached with the usual cries of trespassing we hear so often. There were a number of small incidents of pushing and shoving until things finally came to a head. Oddly enough we were on a clearly marked bridle way when they decided to impede our progress. They must have mistaken us for LACS monitors, because very quickly half their number, who tried to lay hands on us, found themselves on the ground and we carried on as before. This seemed to take the heart out of them as from then on they kept quiet; we went where we wanted and by the end of the day they had all disappeared as they were unable to keep up with the fitter, meaner hunt sabs. Right at the end of the day we came across a gate and got there before the huntsman, hounds and whipper-in. Deciding to appoint ourselves 'agents of the land' (well if they can do it why can't we, the South Downs is a National Park after all). The hunt was informed that they were trespassing and could not proceed. After some arguing and swearing they went back the way they came to pack up and go home, dispirited that their plans to kill foxes and tame sabs with 'stewards' had failed.

We revisited the Crawley and Horsham after they were caught on film following another kill, which as usual was claimed as an 'accident'. This caused much publicity in the press and we thought we would add to the pressure by a well numbered sab. The hunt was aggressive all day, riding at people on horses and quad bikes. At one point a sab Land rover was boxed in and a foot follower tried to punch in a side window, all captured on film and reported to police. Around 2pm, the hunt was caught with their staff on foot drawing a covert by the side of a road. Sabs entered the field and supporters and 'stewards' started pushing and shoving people trying to prevent the evidence being caught on film. This was bad enough but sabs left on the road were ridden at by riders and it all culminated with a concentrated attack by supporters on sabs. Punches were thrown and one rider on foot, repeatedly hit a sab around the head with his riding crop. The police were in attendance and rather then arresting those who had started the violence, promptly pepper sprayed all involved. Medical assistance was called by the police but on its arrival was directed towards the hunt supporters not the sabs, the sab who had been hit around the head and pepper sprayed into the bargain was never seen by the paramedics. A police investigation is ongoing after video footage was seized but to date no sabs have even been interviewed.

The rest of the Season we went back to our old chums the South Down and Eridge, who were getting increasingly excited by the idea of Hunt Stewards. As the weeks passed the numbers swelled from 10 to 17 and peaked at 20. Resplendent in florescent armbands, ear pieces and brandishing GPS (which they seem unable to work), they proceed to follow us around the countryside but seem unsure what their real purpose is. However, among their numbers are some of the old school 'boys', who at one point dropped all pretence and followed our Land rover in three vehicles screaming abuse out of the window. When this failed to deter us they tried to block us in while the ballied up passengers tried to break the windows which we had thoughtfully grilled. As usual many of their quad bikes are not road legal a fact the police fail to act on. The Hunt's whipper-in is Colin Fuller, also the son of the Master, David Fuller. Colin is always desperately trying to make up in attitude what he lacks in height. Riding at people, swearing and generally acting the arse which seems to annoy the riders as much as it does sabs. To calm him down we posted footage of him on YouTube failing to work out how to open a gate. At the end of the season his hunting was cut short by an accident causing a broken leg. He was still out riding on the back of a quad bike and waving his crutches. And so the season ends with a few bruises but fewer kills.

The end of the 2010/2011 hunting season could not have come quick enough for the **Norfolk/Suffolk sabs**, as well as for all the animals that are pursued each week by the Waveney Harriers Hunt. Despite our best efforts on one particularly nasty mid-week meet the dogs fatally injured a muntjac deer as well as killing an orphaned leveret that an elderly couple were caring for. The Joint Master made a half-hearted apology then went off whistling, leaving the elderly couple in tears.

This season we have had many successes though, which has not made us popular with the hunt (ah well we can't all be popular can we). One weekend we succeeded in saving half a dozen deer including a rare white deer. On another Saturday three of us managed to save three hares that were being pursued at the same time by a split pack.

The Waveney Harriers are desperate for us not to turn up. We seem to have an effect on them whenever we are there. Even when we found them mid afternoon one week we had a result. The hunt called the Police as soon as we turned up and a few minutes later, blue lights flashing, and an officer attended. The trouble was that just at this point, the hunt was chasing two hares. Opps! The Joint Master went a very nasty shade of pale when the Police Officer asked him for his details.

For some reason this season we have received a lot of attention from the hunt with their cameras. We did wonder if they wanted to feature us in their calendar! The Joint Master (pictured) seems particularly keen on taking pictures and is bordering on the obsessive!

This season we have also even managed to fit in a visit to the Easton Harriers (well we did worry they might be missing us). We had a difficult day as the Police Officer present seemed to be under the illusion that the Easton Harriers were a legal drag hunt and that they could chase hares as long as they called the dogs off!!! (Just when you thought you had heard it all.) Despite the assistance the hunt received from the Police, the five hares that were chased all got away, thanks to us, so job done. Enjoy the Summer everyone.

The season finished on a real high for **East Kent sabs**, with 2-3 vehicles out some weeks, undercover and otherwise, we kept an eye on several hunts, and travelled some miles! Two memorable days were had with the Wye beagles and the East Kent foxhounds.

After many kennel watches on Beagle packs around the area, an undercover spotter found the Wye pack chasing a hare, and the staff slowly striding about a couple of fields away. There followed a break neck chase down roads trying to catch up, only to see the whole pack stream across the road, into a nature

reserve. Sabs got into the wood just as the hare fled back across the road, almost running over our feet. Hounds were rated, and sent packing back the way they came, and the hare was saved with literally seconds to spare. Eventually, the hunt staff turned up, looking rather pale, with only "no comment" as response to our questions...if this is the sort of chaos that is their legal hunting, then it's no wonder they do so much to give us the slip!! All the footage was edited into a short film, and a press release was sent out. With not a flicker of interest.

A couple of weeks later, we braved the notoriously violent Crundale Estate, to find the East Kent chasing a Deer! About ten hounds were right behind it, chasing it down a field towards a small wood, the Deer just managed to jump over a barbed wire fence, and into the wood, with the hounds seconds behind.....sabs saw it cross the road, and again managed to rate the hounds, and saved another animal. The hunt, when realising we had seen (and filmed) the event, packed up in almost record time, by the time we got back to the meet, even the terriermen had packed up their quads and were zooming away!

This time, we put a link to the footage into the press release (you have to do the journos' jobs for them it seems!), and suddenly, the press woke up. An excellent feature on the local news followed on the Tuesday, but the local papers wouldn't touch it, maybe something to do with the KM Group owner listing "riding with the EAST KENT hunt" as one of her hobbies!

The next week was the EKs final meet,-as soon as we turned up the masters rode over to congratulate us, apparently, the



footage shown (of a terrified deer having to run for its life, as a pack of hounds chase it across fields, over barbed wire, and towards a busy road) had won them "so much support from the public" that their numbers had swelled, and they had even been offered new land to hunt on. You gotta admire that kinda bullshit really....but by the end of the day, the smiles had cracked, and they finished the day in a rather undignified manner, subjecting us to a volly of abuse.

So, we showed the public what the hunt ban really means, and how wildlife abuse is still a normality for these people. Until next time then...

While many have lost faith in the video camera as the best means of sabotaging hunts, **Worthing and West Sussex Hunt Monitors** have persevered and it is paying off. Protests held in recent years at Sussex police stations demanding the Hunting Act be taken seriously brought about a more serious approach and a senior officer who does not like the wool being pulled over his eyes.

Combine this with the hunt dropping its guard after 5 years and at least four cases of potential illegal hunting have ensured the CPS demand the police carry out further investigations, and an impressive police response has taken place. Among the evidence presented are two filmed kills above ground at the Crawley and Horsham hunt.

(see photos of hunt kills in Jan and Feb)



By comparison monitors attending the Isle of Wight hunt have a completely different reception with police appearing hostile to evidence gathering and issuing Section 69 (Aggravated Trespass warnings) of the Public Order Act simply for videoing on private land. Nevertheless, evidence of the IOW Hunt involved in digging at a badger sett in February 2011 has resulted in a joint police and RSPCA investigation. However, it also resulted in great hostility from the hunt in the succeeding weeks, as they became very keen to stop all videoing on private land!

Monitors from Sussex have joined with those from the IOW and elsewhere to





protest at Newport police station on the IOW about the police attitude, which places every obstacle in the way of evidence gathering while seeing nothing illegal, when fox hunting is taking place, with hounds hunting foxes to ground, and digging and nets being used on badger setts.

In March 2011, hunt monitor Simon Wild took hunt master, Neill Millard to the small claims section of Horsham County Court, West Sussex on Wed.2nd March 2011 claiming £300 damages for an assault and asking for an injunction to prevent repetition. The case arose from an incident at Coolham in Dec. 2009 when Millard claimed his daughter had been made to cry as a result of videoing at the hunt from a public bridleway. He then rounded on Simon calling him a "pervert and paedophile", and similar extreme abuse. He then used his horse aggressively to force Simon to "go away" just as the huntsman was about to draw his hounds through a nearby stretch of wood. The civil tort of assault does not require contact but the immanent apprehension of violence and a belief that the person has it within their powers to carry the assault through to a "battery" (physical contact of a violent nature).

Ultimately the judge found there had not been an assault but was critical of Neill Millard, stating his actions did him no credit and making it clear there was no improper motive behind the videoing. There is in an injunction claim in the small claims court, an opportunity for the winning party to claim up to £260 for legal costs. However, the judge ruled Millard was not beyond reproach and awarded him no costs. Simon Wild stated after the case: "This is certainly a route others should take as there is little financial risk. While on the face of it I lost, the case only cost me £50.00 and yet because Neill Millard chose to be represented by a solicitor and barrister he faces a bill of several thousand pounds". Millard a director of Cavanagh Wealth Management is known to hunt monitors in Sussex as "mad dog" because of his fiery temper.

Thank you to the other groups that have supported us.



SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



This is a list of people currently imprisoned for their involvement in animal rights activity.

UK PRISONERS

Jonny Ablewhite (A5750AH)
HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6QS.

Gregg Avery (A4874AD)
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX

Natasha Avery (A5180 AD)
HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ.

Mel Broughton (A3892AE)
HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Oxford OX25 1WD.

Tom Harris (A8086AX)
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DF

Gavin Medd-Hall (A3624AD)
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX

Heather Nicholson (A3158AJ)
HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN

Dan Wadham (A5705AA)
HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5PB

Kerry Whitburn (TB4886)
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA

Sarah Whitehead (VM7684)
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 3JZ

OVERSEAS PRISONERS

Nathan Block #36359-086
FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA.

Walter Edmund Bond 37096-013 **08.04.2011 New Address**
Nevada Southern Detention Center, 2190 E Mesquite Ave, Pahrump NV 89060

Kevin Kjonaas 93502-011
FCI Sandstone, P.O. Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA.

Marie Jeanette Mason #04672-061
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzalez
Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison, Mexico.

Eric McDavid 16209-097
FCI Victorville, Medium II, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
USP Marion, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA.

Steve Murphy # 39013-177
FCI Beaumont Medium, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 26040, Beaumont, TX 77720, USA.

Joyanna Zacher #36360-086
FCI Dublin, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th St – Camp Parks, Unit E, DUBLIN, CA 94568, USA.

Planning on moving?

Save us some dosh!

if you are, please let us know

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 additional 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



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.....



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

HUNT SABS & THE LAW: PART 4

Hunt Sabs and the Law - Part 4

This article will look at your rights and the extent of police powers to detain people and obtain people's personal details in situations likely to be encountered while sabotaging hunts, and during campaigning activities such as information stalls and demos. An article such as this cannot be exhaustive, but it is intended to give the most useful and relevant pieces of information activists are likely to need. A future article will focus on how to deal with the police in similar situations. The important police powers for activists to know about are:

- Stop and search
- Stop and account
- Arrest
- Requiring people to remove face coverings
- Stopping vehicles on a highway
- Requiring people to give their details

These will be dealt with in turn below. This article will also look briefly at the abuse of police powers for intelligence gathering purposes. The full texts of Acts of Parliament, including amendments, are available at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Stop & Search

The statutory power[1] of stop and search is a power to detain a person for the purpose of searching him or her. That means that a person undergoing a lawful stop and search is not free to leave and must comply with the search; attempting to leave or failing to comply would constitute the offence of obstructing a police officer in the course of their duty. However, the important word there is "lawful", and many stop and searches are unlawful. This is because in general, the police have no power to search you. The power to search a person only arises if the police have a "reasonable suspicion" about that person that enables them to search him or her, or if some authorisation is in place in a particular area allowing the police to search people at random (i.e., without any reasonable suspicion). In relation to activists, the police usually exercise the power of stop and search when reasonable suspicion is lacking (and when there is no authorisation in place), thus making the search unlawful.

The statutory search powers that require reasonable suspicion are:

1. Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). This gives the police power to search you and your vehicle if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that you are carrying stolen or prohibited articles, or articles with a sharp point or blade (which it is illegal to carry). Prohibited articles are offensive weapons (articles made or adapted for causing injury or carried with the intention of causing injury), and articles made or adapted for use in committing burglary, theft, fraud or criminal damage, or carried with the intention of committing these offences. It is not illegal to carry an article with a sharp point or blade if it is a folding pocketknife and the blade or point is not more than three inches long, i.e. carrying a Swiss army type penknife is not illegal.
2. Section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows police to search anyone they reasonably suspect to be a terrorist for evidence that he or she is a terrorist.

In order to exercise these powers, the police must have a reasonable suspicion that if they search you, they will discover the items they are searching for. If the police have no reasonable suspicion either that you are carrying one of the articles defined above, or that an article you are carrying is one of the articles defined above, they cannot lawfully search you or detain you for a search. Any arrest made for not complying with an unlawful search will itself be unlawful. PACE Codes of Practice- Code A (available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk) gives guidance on what constitutes reasonable suspicion. A reasonable suspicion is one that has an objective basis relating to facts, information or intelligence about a person or a person's behaviour. Reasonable suspicion cannot be based on personal factors, such as:

- A person's physical appearance (unless the police have a description of a suspect)
- Previous conviction
- Generalisations or stereotypical images of certain groups or categories of people
- Any of the nine "protected characteristics" defined in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation. It is worth noting that, following the judgement[2] in the case involving former hunt sab Joe Hashman, veganism and animal rights are "beliefs" for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

Such personal factors cannot be used, either alone, or in combination with each other or with any other factors, as the grounds for searching a person. Reasonable suspicion must exist before a person can be detained for a search; there is no power to detain a person to find grounds for a search, and grounds for a search cannot be provided retrospectively by questioning during detention, or by a refusal to answer questions during detention.

Stop and Search is a favourite power of the police for the purpose of harassing activists, and to do this they will make up nonsensical grounds to justify their search. Common spurious grounds given by police to justify a search are:

- Riding an expensive bike/ driving an expensive car in a high crime area;
- Being dressed in black;
- Refusing to give your details (when you were not required by law to give them) or tell them what you're doing;
- They've had a lot of burglaries in that area recently, or they're making tackling burglary a priority in that area;
- Walking around at night;
- You're carrying something, and they don't know what's in it;
- You're not local (I jest not).

Notice that none of these are objective facts that would lead someone reasonably to suspect that you are carrying stolen goods, prohibited

articles or articles with a sharp point or blade, or that you are a terrorist. Examples of objective facts that would lead someone to such a suspicion are (1) that you match the description of someone seen carrying a knife, (2) that you are walking around at night while looking through peoples windows and over fences, or (3) that you are wearing a black mask over your eyes and a black and white stripy T shirt, and you have a bag over your shoulder with "swag" written on it. The police often conduct searches of sabs for offensive weapons either because they can see whips and sprays in sabs' pockets, or because they suspect sabs of carrying these items. Whips and sprays are not offensive weapons because they are not articles made or adapted for causing injury or carried with the intention of causing injury, nor do the police have reasonable grounds for suspecting that these items are offensive weapons, so these are not reasonable grounds for a search. The fact that the police say they don't know what's in the sprays is irrelevant; what is relevant is whether the police have any reasonable suspicion that you intend to use the sprays as a weapon, and they don't have such a suspicion. There will be more on this in a future legal article in HOWL.

The statutory search powers that do not require reasonable suspicion are:

1. If a Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 authorisation is in effect, police can stop and search anyone (including drivers, their vehicles and their passengers) in the area covered by the authorisation. Such an authorisation can only be issued by an officer of or above the rank of inspector, and can only be in place for up to 48 hours. These authorisations should only be issued if the police reasonably believe there is a risk of serious violence or that people are carrying offensive weapons. In principle, if these conditions do not apply, any Section 60 authorisation, and any search conducted under it, are unlawful. However, in practice it would be difficult to show that any particular Section 60 authorisation was unlawful because the conditions are rather vague, and the police hand these things out like confetti. A Section 60 authorisation can be issued in writing or orally. Under Section 60, you can only be searched for offensive weapons and articles with a sharp point or blade.
2. If a Section 44 Terrorism Act 2000 authorisation is in effect, police can stop and search anyone for items that could be used in connection with terrorism. They can search pedestrians, vehicles, and drivers and passengers in vehicles. However, Section 44 has been found to be illegal by the European Court of Human Rights[3] and so should not be used any more.

Section 2 of PACE lays down additional requirements for a lawful search; these requirements apply to any search, regardless of the statutory power being exercised. Before the search commences, the officer must take reasonable steps (i.e. they must try) to tell you:

- His or her name and the name of the police station to which he or she is attached.
- What he or she is looking for.
- His or her grounds for making the search: this means an explanation of the statutory power he or she is using to search you, and if the power requires reasonable suspicion, his or her grounds for suspecting you.
- That you are entitled to a record of the search if you ask for one within 3 months. Normally the police make a record of the search on the spot and they should offer you a copy immediately. They are not required to make a record immediately if it is impractical to do so; however, in this case, they should make a record as soon as practicable afterwards.

In addition, an officer not in uniform must show you his or her warrant card. Failure to comply with these requirements renders the search unlawful, regardless of whether the police had the power lawfully to search you in the first place. You do not have to give your details if you are searched, even if you want a record of the search, although the police will ask for them. If you refuse your details, the police should put a description of you on the search record. Finally, if the search takes place in public view, you can only be required to remove an outer coat or jacket, gloves and hat. Depending on the object of the search and the grounds for it, the police can require you to remove more clothing, but this must take place away from public view and such a search should only be conducted by an officer of the same sex.

Stop & Account

This is a strange one. The police have made up a new power for themselves, which they call "stop and account", and which they think allows them to stop anyone they like and ask them what they're up to, i.e. to account for themselves. However, there is no such statutory power; that is to say, there is no power to detain you in order to ask you to account for yourself. Obviously, the police can come up to you at any time and ask you what you're doing and where you're going; in fact, anyone can do this to anyone else, although it would generally be considered rude and you might get punched. However, you are free to go UNLESS you are being detained lawfully for a search or for some other reason, such as to obtain your details or if you are arrested (see below). Stop and account is basically the police wanting to have a chat with you; they don't have grounds to search you and they don't reasonably suspect you of an offence, but they want to find out what's going on. In the terminology of PACE Code A, this is referred to as an "encounter not governed by statutory powers" and means that the police have no lawful power over you. In such circumstances, you do not have to stay and chat with them. If they physically restrain you when you walk away, that is both assault and unlawful detention. PACE Code A, paragraph 2.11, says the following, which seems to be aimed at the so-called power of stop and account:

"There is no power to stop or detain a person in order to find grounds for a search.
Police officers have many encounters with members of the public which do not involve detaining people against their will. If reasonable grounds for suspicion emerge during such an encounter, the officer may search the person, even though no grounds existed when the encounter began. If an officer is detaining someone for the purpose of a search, he or she should inform the person as soon as detention begins."

In other words, when you are being detained for a search, this should be explained to you, and if it isn't, you're not detained (obviously, if you are detained for some other reason, that should also be explained to you).

There are so-called pocket guides to your rights available in relation to stop and search and stop and account, particularly at police stations. I have seen a number of these and they have all contained lies and misinformation. There is also misleading information available on police websites, and children are similarly misled in so-called citizenship classes. The pocket guides, websites and citizenship classes emphasise the police powers of stop and search, rather than the important bits which are the well defined limitations to these powers and the duties incumbent upon police when they exercise them. They imply that the police can stop you at any time without any reason and you have to talk to them and let them search you. My advice would be to disregard any such guide unless you are sure it is reliable.

Power of Arrest

The power of police to arrest without warrant is defined within Section 24 of PACE, and is quite wide ranging. A police constable may arrest without a warrant anyone he or she has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be:

- about to commit an offence;
- committing an offence;
- guilty of having committed an offence.

In each scenario, there are actually two parts to the reasonable suspicion. Firstly, the constable must have reasonable grounds to suspect that an act that is about to be committed, is being committed or has

been committed amounts to a criminal offence. Secondly, he or she must have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person they arrest



is about to commit, is committing or has committed that act. Unless there are reasonable grounds for suspicion in relation to both elements, the arrest and subsequent detention would be unlawful.

This reasonable suspicion becomes quite complex in relation to offences that themselves contain several elements. Suppose, for example, a hunt supporter makes a complaint to the police that a hunt saboteur has disrupted a hunt, and this hunt supporter gave a description of the person allegedly involved. The potential offence here is aggravated trespass, which has several elements. To arrest a person for this offence, the police officer must have reasonable grounds to suspect that:

- the person described was trespassing;
- a lawful activity was taking place or was about to take place on that land or on adjoining land;
- whilst trespassing, the person described carried out an act;
- the person carried out that act with the intention of disrupting or obstructing the lawful activity, or of intimidating those taking part in the lawful activity so as to deter them from taking part in it;
- the person they intend to arrest is the person described by the hunt supporter.

If reasonable grounds for suspicion do not exist in relation to any one of these elements, the arrest and subsequent detention would be unlawful.

However, under Section 24 there is a further condition that must apply before the power of arrest can be exercised. A constable may only exercise the power of arrest if he or she has reasonable grounds for believing that it is necessary to arrest the person in question for one of the following reasons:

1. to enable the name or address of the person in question to be ascertained;
2. to prevent the person in question causing physical injury to himself or herself or to any other person, suffering physical injury, causing loss of or damage to property, committing an offence against public decency, or causing an unlawful obstruction of the highway;
3. to protect a child or other vulnerable person from the person in question;
4. to allow the prompt and effective investigation of the offence or of the conduct of the person in question;
5. to prevent any prosecution for the offence from being hindered by the disappearance of the person in question.

In arresting activists, the police normally rely on reasons 1 and 4. This means that reasonable suspicion that a person has committed an offence does not automatically lead to arrest. Often, in the case of minor offences, the police will try and ascertain the person's name and address in order to deal with the offence without making an arrest by way of reporting the person for summons (i.e. sending a file to the Crown Prosecution Service, who then may or may not charge the person by post) or fixed penalty (a so-called on-the-spot fine). In such a case, they would only arrest the person if he or she refuses to give his or her details, if the police suspect that the details that are given are false, or if it is impractical to obtain that person's details (for instance if they're running away). If it is necessary in any case to arrest that person to investigate the offence, they will arrest them for reason 4.

Power to Require People to Remove Face Coverings

There are two types of authorisation that allow the police to require a person to remove a face covering. These are Section 60 and Section 60AA authorisations, both of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Section 60 has already been covered: it is one of the powers that allow the police to stop and search without reasonable suspicion. A Section 60AA authorisation can only be issued by an officer of or above the rank of inspector in writing (i.e. it takes more time to issue than a Section 60 authorisation, which can be issued orally) for a maximum of 48 hours. Furthermore, a Section 60AA authorisation can only be issued if the police reasonably believe that activities may take place that are likely to involve the commission of offences, and that it is necessary to put the authorisation in place in order to prevent or control the activities. However, as with Section 60, this is a rather vague condition, and it would be difficult to show that a particular Section 60AA authorisation was unlawful.

If a Section 60 or Section 60AA authorisation is in place, the police can require any person to remove any item which they reasonably believe that person is wearing for the purpose of concealing his identity, and can seize any item they reasonably believe any person intends to wear for that purpose. It is important to note that to exercise this power, there must be a reasonable suspicion that a person intends to conceal his or her identity. If a person does not remove an item of clothing when required to do so, he or she commits an offence. PACE Code A, paragraph 2.15, explains that there is no power to search for items that may be used as disguises. However, if an item that may be used as a disguise is discovered whilst lawfully searching for something else, and there is a Section 60 or 60AA authorisation in place, the police may seize that item.

The Power to Stop a Vehicle on a Highway

Under Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, the driver of a motor vehicle or a bicycle must stop if a police officer requires him or her to do so. The police do not need any reasonable suspicion to exercise this power; however, in deciding which vehicles to stop, it would be unlawful for the police to discriminate against drivers based on any of the nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 (which are given under stop and search powers above), including philosophical beliefs such as animal rights or veganism. This principle applies equally to any other power that does not require reasonable suspicion, i.e. all police powers must be used in a way that does not discriminate based on any protected characteristic.

Power to Require People to Give Their Details

It is standard practice for the police to ask activists for their details. However, just as under normal circumstances the police do not have the power to stop and search you, so under normal circumstances they do not have the power to require you to give your details. The circumstances under which you do have to give your details are described below.



If You Are Driving a Vehicle on a Highway

If you are driving a vehicle on a highway, under Sections 164 and 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, the police have the power to require you to give your name and address, the name and address of the owner of the vehicle, and your date of birth (but no other information). If you fail to give these details, you are guilty of an offence. This means that if you are driving someone else's vehicle, you must always know their name and address. Under these sections, the police also have the power to require you to produce your driving licence, insurance certificate and MoT certificate at a police station nominated by you within seven days, and failure to do so is an offence. Passengers in the vehicle are not required to give their details under road traffic legislation unless the police reasonably suspect them of driving a vehicle at the time of an accident or to have committed a traffic offence. However, the police will often ask passengers for their details.

If You Have Been Arrested.

Strictly speaking, the police do not have the power to require you to give your details when you are under arrest, i.e. it's not an offence not to give them. However, the police will hold you until they can identify you, so it's in your own interest to give your details. However, an exception to this occurs when you have been arrested to prevent a breach of the peace. Normally in this situation, the police will hold you until the threat of a breach of the peace has subsided, and then release you with no further action taken. In that case, the police cannot hold you for not giving your details because they do not need them.

If the Police Reasonably Suspect You of Committing an Offence

If the police have reasonable grounds to suspect you of an offence and they want to deal with it by way of reporting you for a summons or issuing a fixed penalty, they can require you to give them your details. Again, this is not strictly a statutory power to require you to give your details in the sense that you do not commit an offence if you refuse to do so. However, refusal to give the police your details will then give them the power to arrest you, so this power to obtain your details is actually a consequence of the statutory power of arrest under Section 24 of PACE. Consequently, in order to require you to give them your details, the same conditions apply here as apply to the power of arrest: the police must have reasonable grounds for suspecting both that an offence has been committed and that you have committed it.

If the Police Reasonably Suspect You of Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is defined in Section 1 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as behaviour that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, harassment or distress. There is no criminal offence of anti-social behaviour, so you cannot be arrested, reported for summons or issued a fixed penalty for it. However, under Section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002, if the police reasonably suspect you of anti-social behaviour, they can require you to give them your name and address (but no other information), and failure to do so is an offence. Although offences under Sections 4A and 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 3) also involve behaviour likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress, anti-social behaviour differs from Section 4A and 5 offences in





that the latter also involve being threatening, abusive or insulting, and also involve a particular intent. Regardless of the legislation in which they appear, the terms "alarm", "harassment" and "distress" take their ordinary English meanings as defined in dictionaries. The Oxford English Dictionary defines them as follows:

- Alarm anxious or frightened awareness of danger;
- Harassment the tormenting of someone by putting constant pressure on them or by saying or doing unpleasant things to them;
- Distress great anxiety, sorrow or difficulty.

The definitions of these words show that in order for behaviour to be anti-social, it must be likely to upset people quite a lot; we are not talking about mildly annoying or slightly worrying them. Just because someone doesn't like what you do, it doesn't mean you are behaving anti-socially, and it is worth remembering this.

Intelligence Gathering

The police always want to gather intelligence on activists so as to be able better to harass, intimidate and maliciously prosecute them. However, as mentioned above, in general, the police do not have the power to require you to give them your details. The police therefore resort to skulduggery, and abuse their various powers to require you to give your details. For example:

- The police will often make up some grounds to search you and then say they need your details to fill in the search record. You do not need to give your details if you are searched, but many people are unaware of this.
- If you are in a vehicle, they will pull you over to find out the driver's details. They will then ask the passengers for their details. Although passengers do not have to give their details, many people are not aware of their rights or police powers and will give them.
- The police will claim that they suspect you of an offence and make up some half-arsed justification for it, and then say they need your details. The key thing here is the reasonable suspicion required that you have committed an offence; if no reasonable suspicion exists, you do not have to give your details and if the police arrest you for the alleged offence because you refuse to give your details, the arrest is unlawful.
- The police will claim that they suspect you of anti-social behaviour, particularly on demonstrations, but remember that holding a peaceful and lawful protest is a guaranteed right and is not anti-social behaviour.

Disclaimer

Nothing in this article is intended to incite, encourage or condone illegal acts. The author is not a solicitor; the information contained in this article is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice, always seek the services of a trusted solicitor recommended by activists (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 1).

1-This means a power granted by statute, i.e. by Act of Parliament.

2 - Hashman v Milton Park (Dorset) Ltd t/a Orchard Park ET 3105555/2009. Reported in Employment Law Bulletin, Issue 26, available at: www.blandy.co.uk/furniture/cms/documents/Employment Law Bulletin Issue 26.pdf

3 -Gillan & Quinton v UK; Application no. 4158/05, Strasbourg, 12 Jan 2010.

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

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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

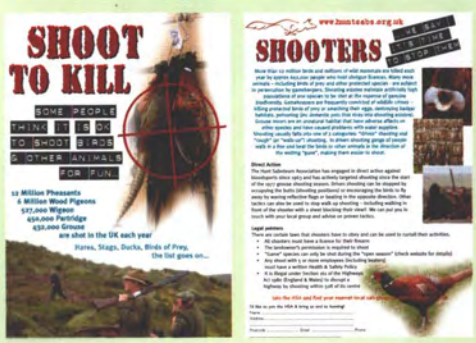
Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
C/o FRIEND, 89 Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, TN12 5LJ
info@shac.net www.shac.net

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/

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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)
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