The 100th Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

Spring 2012



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HOWL 100

Cover image - All things HSA

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

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 100th issue of howl. Hope you enjoy it. Congratulations to the Forest of Dean hunt sabs who won the photo competition (see back cover) and to the author of the winning article 'New Forest Buckhounds'.

There have been loads of brilliant photos sent in by lots of different sab groups. As many of them as possible have been included.

Check out the group news inside, it's inspiring to see how many groups are having such success, helped of course by all our supporters and people working hard behind the scenes.
Keep it up...

Check out our 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

Committee Posts

As the hunting seasons drawers to a close the committee looks towards our AGM and re-election of committee members. We have a number of rules regarding committee members and so if you are considering standing for election as a committee member you need to meet the following criteria:

1) You need to be a member of the HSA for at least one year at the time of nomination

2) During March you need to send in writing, a letter at least two Members, being a Proposed and a Seconder, exclusive of other candidates for election to the Executive Committee or Members proposing any other candidate for election to the Executive Committee, stating that you wish to stand for election.

And that's it, if more than 12 people stand of election we then hold a postal vote so you would be asked to write a shore piece outlining why you are standing and why you should be voted for.

Like hunt sabbing, acting as a committee member can be a thankless task, but as we all know, someone has to do it. If not you, who?

HSA

Enclosed Letter for you to send to David Cameron

Many of you will have heard of Jim Paice, the 'hunting and shooting' minister, who is actually Minister of State for Agriculture and Food. Jim's brief includes farming, food, animal health, and forestry but we feel he has his wires crossed and in effect just supports his farming buddies and ensures any useful piece of animal welfare legislation gets blocked!
He has accumulated quite a list of failures and we think it's time he resigned!

Please either copy the enclosed letter and circulate widely or even better write your own to send to Mr Cameron.

If we can show the public has lost faith in Mr Paice we might be able to make his life a little more akin to that of the thousands of animals he condemns to cruelty.

Thanks

BADGER NEWS SPECIAL

BADGER TRUST LAUNCH LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE CULL



The Badger Trust has lodged a claim in the High Court to seek a Judicial Review of DEFRA's decision of 14th December 2011 to kill badgers in England. The Trust continues to do all it can to prevent the proposed 'DIY' farmer-led cull, which will not benefit badgers, cattle, farmers, rural communities or the tax-payer.

This action to have the decision quashed follows extensive legal and scientific advice as well as correspondence and meetings with DEFRA to clarify its position on the many issues of concern to the Trust. The Badger Trust and a majority of the public consider that the cull poses serious risks to cattle and badgers. The methodology for evaluating any results from the cull is also defective. Before now it was unclear what DEFRA had actually decided, and what remained to be decided following the 'pilot' culls planned for late 2012 in Gloucestershire and Somerset. In light of DEFRA's various responses, the Trust has now concluded that the decision is unlawful and should be quashed.

The Trust will ask the court to overturn DEFRA's decision on the basis of three grounds:

1. The Secretary of State has authorised Natural England to issue licences to reduce the rate of new incidences of bovine TB (although she expects a mere 12-16% reduction in bTB after 9 years at a huge net cost to the farmer). However, 'reducing incidence' is not the purpose for which the legal power was granted. The culls proposed will not meet the strict legal test of "preventing the spread of disease" in the areas being licensed, and may in fact amount to a recipe for spreading the disease. DEFRA's own evidence confirms that the proposed cull would in fact prompt the spread of disease in and around the cull zones. The Badger Trust considers that this is entirely antithetical to the aims in the strict test set down in section 10(2)(a) of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
2. The cost impact assessment underpinning DEFRA's decision is flawed, as its cost assumptions are based on the farmer free-shooting option (this is estimated to be approximately ten times cheaper than cage-trapping badgers before killing them). However, after the first year of piloting the cull plans, the free-shooting method may be ruled out for being inhumane, ineffective or unsafe to the public. In that case, farmers will find themselves legally obliged to continue the cull on the much more costly "trap and shoot" basis until the end of the 4-year licence. This is a significant cost risk for farmers, yet it is not properly reflected in the cost impact assessment which underpinned DEFRA's decision. The Secretary of State did not ask herself the right questions so as to obtain crucial information on costs. The Badger Trust considers that this renders the decision entirely unlawful. Given the poor cost-benefit prognosis for the cull, the Trust also hopes that Parliament and the farming community will now carefully reconsider DEFRA's 'Big Society' DIY cull plans.
3. Guidance which DEFRA issued to Natural England is invalid. Under section 15(2) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 the Secretary of State may issue guidance to Natural England as to how Natural England should exercise its functions. However, killing badgers is not one of Natural England's original functions, which are mainly focussed on maintaining biodiversity. Even though DEFRA is making Natural England responsible for the licensing arrangements, under section 10(2)(a) of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, culling badgers 'for the prevention of spread of disease' remains the Secretary of State's own function. Thus, she had no legal power to issue section 15 guidance to Natural England in these circumstances.

The Badger Trust's decision to bring this challenge arises from the following convictions and obligations which flow from them:

- Culling badgers as proposed (whether by free-shooting or trapping and shooting) can make no meaningful contribution to the eradication of bTB and risks making matters worse. Stricter cattle measures - as 10 years of taxpayer-funded independent research have concluded - will beat the disease.
- The badger appears to be a scapegoat for an industry that underrates the risk of cattle-to-cattle transmission, and one which has reportedly experienced a significant number of incidents of poor animal husbandry, fraud and flouting of cattle management regulations.



The Trust's solicitor, Gwendolen Morgan of Bindmans LLP, said: "We have identified some serious flaws in the way by which the Secretary of State reached her decision to cull badgers. Given that DEFRA's proposals come at an enormous cost to farmers, and threaten to prompt rather than prevent the spread of disease, we hope that this ill-conceived decision will be struck down by the court."

Pat Hayden, vice chairman of The Badger Trust said: "Despite opposition from the majority of the public who responded to the Government's consultations and stark warnings from many eminent independent scientists, it is astonishing that DEFRA has given the green light to a badger cull. The Badger Trust will exhaust all peaceful, legal avenues of challenge to prevent this wrong-headed cull from going ahead."

Viva! unearths evidence that hunts may spread Bovine TB

The Government has announced two trial badger 'culls' in England to be carried out in the West of England this autumn. Even on its best estimate, annihilating 70 per cent of badgers will reduce the incidents of TB in cattle by just 16 per cent over nine years. Blame for the other 84 per cent (at least) is ignored and the anti-badger juggernaut continues to trample over science, common sense and reason.

Unreliable testing, the movements of millions of cattle across the country, intensified farming and bad biosecurity are largely to blame for TB in cows – not badgers. Viva! exposed the contempt in which biosecurity measures are held at three cattle markets with undercover filming in 2011.
To this list of reasons for how the disease is spread can be added another. By piecing two sets of data together Viva! has uncovered a potentially significant link in the chain which hasn't even been mentioned by either Government or the farming industry. Could hunting with hounds carry some of the blame?

Hunting foxes with dogs has been outlawed since 2005 yet around 172 hunts with dogs still operate across England and Wales. Tellingly, the areas which have the most hunts are also the areas which have the highest bTB infection rates - the Southwest and West of England, South Wales and the border between Wales and England.

By overlaying visual illustrations of the two sets of statistics there is a clear correlation: the greater the number of hunts, the higher the rates of bTB, higher than in other areas of the UK.



A hunt will typically be made up of 20 horses, 20-40 dogs and several quad bikes, which race across the fields of about five farms on each outing and often operate over such wide areas that it can include two counties or more. They go out up to three times a week and vary their courses.
bTB bacteria can survive in cow pats for up to eight weeks and even longer in the soil. This onslaught of rampaging feet, hound's noses and tyres almost certainly acts as a disease and muck spreader on an enormous scale.

Viva! has written to English and Welsh Governments with their research and have asked them to seriously consider hunting as a major vector for the spread of bovine TB. At the moment the Westminster government is hell bent on repealing the Hunting Act, which will inevitably increase the threat even further. Wales is still undecided on what course it will take over 'culling'.
The scapegoating of badgers is a diversion from the real reasons for the spread of bTB, which includes incompetence, ignorance, indolence and laughably inadequate controls. We can very likely now add another human-caused reason to the list.

Welsh Badger Cull Scrapped



The Welsh government has dropped plans to cull badgers, it is thought that the decision was influenced by concerns the cull would not survive a legal challenge under the Animal Health Act 1981. Environment Minister John Griffiths said he had instead opted to vaccinate the animals after carefully considering the scientific evidence. Mr Griffiths told AMs in the Senedd chamber "At present I am not satisfied that a cull of badgers would be necessary to bring about a substantial reduction in cases of TB in cattle".

A review of the science involved in controlling bovine TB was commissioned after last year's assembly elections. The previous government had planned a pilot cull of badgers in west Wales. Instead, a five-year vaccination programme will start in the intensive action area - the TB hotspot in north Pembrokeshire where the cull was due to take place. Officials hope to start vaccinating within two to three months. Badgers will be trapped in cages and marked so they are not vaccinated multiple times. Other areas where vaccination might contribute to TB eradication will be considered. The cull was drawn up under the previous Labour-Plaid Cymru coalition Welsh government. At last May's election, Labour said it would take a science-led approach to the policy. The previous government first announced a cull of badgers in April 2008, but it was halted in the courts after an appeal by conservationists. The plans were revived last March, before being put on hold by Labour when it commissioned a scientific review.

OUR COMMITTEE

OR HOW STUFF GETS DONE

Flicking through the pages of Howl it's clear to see that the HSA saves lives, but what exactly happens behind the scenes? The HSA is a limited company and with so many local groups to support, a lot of background work is required to achieve our success. The HSA has no paid staff and a committee of twelve active sabs who put in a lot of hard work in their spare time. The committee members vote on how best to run the HSA, raise funds to get sabs out in the field and work to communicate to our members and the public.

To get the best out of our volunteers, the committee is split into many different roles.

The task of putting Howl together every few months involves a lot of hard work from our committee members. As you can see, we try to communicate a great deal of information in each edition. To achieve this we have a Howl Editor to source articles, gather information and edit all of the group news. Our HSA Designer also works hard putting Howl together as well as creating and sourcing new merchandise, all promotions, campign & stall material as well as designing all our leaflets. Our Web Designer is in charge of our website as well as keeping it up to date with news and information.

With our HSA membership list growing we have a Membership Officer to keep our database up to date. This involves adding new members to the database as well as updating any changes in details. The Membership Officer will also send out membership renewals and also send out each edition of Howl to all of our members. Our Post Officer deals with all other post requests sent to our BM box and will also pay money into the HSA bank account.

The HSA has a Merchandise Officer to deal with all of our merchandise. This involves keeping all of our stock up to date, which is quite a task given there is no official HSA office to store everything in. Our Merchandise Officer will deal with all merchandise requests taken through the website and then send them out, they will also organises sending stock out to groups doing stalls at events and veggie fairs.

A lot of fundraising is required to keep our sabs active in the field, so we have an Events Officer who is in charge of promoting and organising all HSA related events, such as getting bands to play at gigs and the AGM. Our Treasurer helps keep all HSA finances in order by managing the books, invoices, submitting yearly accounts and paying any grant requests.

To get the most out of our sabs, the committee needs to communicate with groups across the country. We have our Northern and Southern Press Officers who gather information directly from sabs in the field to release official press statements in the media. We have an Education Officer who works closely with colleges and universities to set up local sab groups and we also have our Contacts Officer who is in contact with all current sab groups. This keeps all groups up to date with relevant news and also deals with all grant requests. For all Legal advice within our local groups we have our Legal Officer, who has also written articles for Howl.

The committee meet every six weeks to discuss fundraising ideas and grant requests from groups, making sure that all money is shared amongst groups fairly and efficiently. To oversee the committee and chair the meetings and yearly AGM we have our Chairperson. As the HSA has no offices, our volunteers travel from all over the country and have achieved a lot by putting in this extra work.

In the last three years alone the HSA has been given enough money to pay for fifteen Landrovers, allowing more sabs than ever to go out in the field and save lives. Our sabs in the field do a fantastic job, but without the support and hard work from volunteers in the committee we would not be so effective.

We may not always answer the telephone or deliver merchandise orders on time, but please bear in mind that we're all volunteers, we're all active sabs and the HSA committee is our second full time job.

PRESS

The following are some suggestions. They are no guarantee that a story/incident will make the press. We are all unpaid volunteers, not professional press officers such as are to be found in the Countryside Alliance. But the public are generally with us.

Local papers

Step 1..... Get to know local journalists

If you keep an eye on stories reported in your local paper you may spot the journalists who are possibly going to be more sympathetic to our cause. Give them a ring and ask if they would like you to give them hunt incidents when they occur. They may even direct you to the best journalist for such reporting on their paper. Make sure you get their direct line and e-mail address.

Step 2.....Do a press release

A press release should be short and sharp, relating what happened, when and where. Don't go into any long-winded rants about the hunt or hunting no matter how frustrated you feel. Keep it all concise and to the point. A final sentence can state that this is (for example) the 3rd time that hounds have been all over the main road this season.

Step 3.....Get the story to them promptly

No papers are interested in stories that are more than a day or two old – unless it's something very special. E-mail your story on the same day and follow up your e-mail by ringing the journalist. Papers get hundreds if not thousands of e-mails and faxes. A personal call and a chat will lift your e-mail out of the list or your fax off the floor! It will bring your incident to life.

Step 4.....Don't get despondent and give up

We must remember that although our stories are the most important in the world to us, the papers don't always see it that way, especially the nationals. But local papers will generally jump on a local story that contains that magic mix of animals and chaos – or violence. If they don't, don't give up. You will get something in eventually.

Step 5.....The reader's letter

If your story hasn't gone into the paper by Tuesday and the incident happened on Saturday it's very unlikely to appear. So get something into the reader's letter page. It's probably the most read page in the paper after the headlines. The public think that fox hunting is finished. Let them know it isn't and the antics the hunt gets up to so they can keep killing. But again, don't ramble on for too long. Look at other letters to see the style they tend to print.

All the above will apply to national papers too, although as we have press officers it would be best to liaise with them as we don't want confused stories going to journalists. If you can get to know any journalists on the nationals, that's a bonus. We all need to pull together to make the papers and the public realise that the hunt are the violent ones who are breaking the law. In the past too many reports have pointed the finger at us.

And remember – ZERO TOLERANCE. We may have got used to being driven at, ridden at, attacked, pushed, abused etc. but if it were happening to anyone else it wouldn't be tolerated. When you report an incident to the police and get a reference number, a journalist is more likely to follow it up.



SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

UK prisoners

Mel Broughton (A3892AE)
HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Oxford OX25 1WD.
Mel was remanded on 14 December 2007 and was sentenced on 13th February 2009 to 10 years.
Birthday: 5th July
You can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Gavin Medd-Hall (A3624AD)
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX
In January 2009 Gavin was sentenced to 8 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of the UK SHAC 7)
Birthday: 20th March
What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); Self-addressed envelopes, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gavin's name and number and sender's details on reverse. (Please remember that Gavin has poor eyesight and will appreciate if you write in clear, large writing). Also you can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Heather Nicholson (A3158AJ)
C1-01, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Send, Surrey, GU23 7LJ
In January 2009 Heather was sentenced to 11 years in relation to charges in connection with HLS campaigns. (One of the UK SHAC 7)
Birthday: 30th January
What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMPS', Write Heather's name and number on the back. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards, no parcels. Also you can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Luke Steele (A5023CK)
HMP Leicester, 116 Welford Road, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE2 7AJ
Birthday: 16th October

Sarah Whitehead (A8369CE)
HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD
Sarah is one of the second UK SHAC 6 trial campaigners and has been sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 6 years on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS. Sarah has been in prison since 30th June 2008, after being sentenced previously to two years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was kept muzzled in a wooden cage and regularly beaten.
Birthday: 12th February
What you can send: Postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; an SAE. Write Sarah's name and number on the back. Also you can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

International prisoners

Nathan Block, 36359-086
FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA.
Sentenced 7 years and 8 months
Birthday: 6th March
Email support: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

Walter Edmund Bond, 2011-03339
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA
Walter Bond was arrested by federal agents on 22nd July 2010 after his brother informed on him and he was sentenced on 11th Feb 2011 for burning down the Sheepskin Factory in Glendale, Colorado. On 14th Oct 2011, Walter was sentenced to a further 87 months in prison for the ALF arsons in Utah. This new sentencing will run consecutively with his time in Colorado. This gives Walter a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf.
Birthday: 16th April

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzalez, a Mexican university student of 21 years, has been sentenced to 7 years 11 months and five days (he was detained February 2010) at the Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison in Mexico.
For more information or to send letters of support, email his support at: libertadparaadrian@hushmail.me

Jordan Cade Halliday, 15922-081
FCI La Tuna, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 3000, Anthony, TX 88021, USA
On 9th January 2012, animal rights activist Jordan Halliday began a 10-month prison sentence for criminal contempt of court.
In 2009, Jordan was found in contempt of court for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury investigating fur farm raids in Utah. After more than 3 months behind bars, he was released but was then charged with criminal contempt. "It is believed to be the first time in two decades, and only the third time in U.S. history, that someone has been imprisoned for criminal contempt of court after already serving prison time for civil contempt" (greenisthenewred.com).
Birthday, 11th August

Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
Marie is vegan. Please drop Marie a line. If you are writing a longer letter, we recommend you photocopy it, in case she is moved again by the time it arrives. This way you can resend it again later.
Marie was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions.
Birthday: 26th January

Eric McDavid, 16209-097
FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, PO BOX 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA.
Eric was sentenced to just under 20 years imprisonment for conspiring to think about actions! (Part of an FBI sting operation)
Birthday: 7th October

Daniel Gerard McGowan, 63794-053
FCI Terre Haute - CMU, P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808, USA.
Sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his part in two arsons and his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy.
Birthday: 2nd May

Steve Murphy, 39013-177
FCI Beaumont Medium, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 26040, Beaumont, TX 77720, USA
Steve Murphy has been charged with a 2006 E.L.F. action in Pasadena, CA. and was recently sentenced to 5 years on April 5th, 2010 after previously pleading guilty. Steve is also an animal rights activist and vegan.
Birthday: 3rd September

Viktor Padellaro
Institution Kumla, 692 81 Kumla, Sweden
Viktor was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for arson at a McDonald's in Gothenburg, for smashing windows at a restaurant he believed to be serving shark-fin soup, and for sending allegedly threatening letters to fur store owners, AstraZeneca employees and others involved in animal abuse. Viktor has been detained on remand since his arrest in August 2011.
You can also send emails of support to: S.GBG.VEGAN@gmail.com and they will be printed out and sent to him.
Birthday: 27th December

Justin Solondz, 98291-011
FDC SEATAC, Federal Detention Centre, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA.
Justin Solondz is currently awaiting trial in Seatac, Washington. He is being accused of actions under the Earth Liberation Front/Animal Liberation Front. Briana Waters, his former comrade and friend turned informant will be testifying against him this September.
Birthday: 3rd October.

Victor VanOrden, 6916264A
IMCC, 2700 Coral Ridge Avenue, Coralville, IA 52241, USA
Victor VanOrden was sentenced to 5 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in Woodbury County District Court (USA) to releasing an animal from an animal facility and attempted third-degree burglary (even though no mink were released and there was minimal damage).

Joyanna L Zacher, 36360-086
FCI Dublin, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th St - Camp Parks, Unit E, DUBLIN, CA 94568, USA.
Sentenced 7 years and 8 months
Birthday: 25th January
Email support: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

SABBING THE NEW FOREST BUCKHOUNDS 1991-'97



This article was written fifteen years ago after the historic folding of a once-Royal deer hunt. Lots of individual campaigners worked tirelessly to make this happen. Direct action in the heart of hunting country was blended with political lobbying; a war of words was fought in the streets and through the press; a wonderful coming-together of folk really did work wonders!

Since 1991 virtually every meet of the New Forest Buckhounds has been attended by hunt saboteurs. Now, in late 1997, this will be unnecessary. Fallow buck are no longer chased for up to five hours over miles of forest and moor, they won't be jumped upon by hunt thugs, or held with their heads under water, or savaged by hounds, or escape their tormentors only to die slowly from hypothermia and exhaustion.

This won't happen anymore because the New Forest Buckhounds have disbanded.

In an historic announcement made by the Buckhounds Mastership this summer, they pre-empted their inevitable demise and called it a day voluntarily. The subsequent ban by the Forestry Commission of deer hunting on its land only reinforced the Buckhounds' decision.

Throughout the summer of 1991, sab groups in the South enjoyed a fine run of non-violent direct action against the Ytene Mink Hunt. Mass hits were the norm, week in and week out. The courage, inspiration and friendship that developed amongst activists were carried on in the New Forest, with the Buckhounds receiving sabs' attention.

Knowledge of this hunts peculiar ways were quickly learned in the hunting field and through the study of old hunting literature. Sabs soon sussed out the quirks and foibles of this unique form of hunting. Consequently countless buck were saved by their actions. The hunt was followed by sabs entirely on foot. Open public access and a lack of roads made this the best way. Anti-mate, hunting horns and whips were all used in the traditional style: cover the scent of the buck with a spray, use the voice and whips to rate (shout and crack at) the hounds, then horn 'em off in the other direction. CB radios were essential in the Forest too and employed with coded language to scupper pro-hunt scanners and earwiggers.

Sabs also organised kennel blockades with military-style precision. Hundreds of sabs turned out on these occasions and prevented the hunt from leaving its Brockenhurst kennels. Sabs vans would sandwich the hound van, making its progress impossible and the day would be won! Strange Forest by-laws meant that frequently the police were rendered powerless. Time and time again during the early 1990's sabs were getting the upper hand.

One hound van ambush that sabs executed for the Opening Meet in 1992 resulted in criminal convictions for five of the sabs involved. But the blockade was a huge success, with over two hours of hunting lost and no kills on that day. It made national news headlines. However, court appearances became more frequent. Obscure New Forest bye-laws were employed. These often prevented sabs from interfering with the hunt in any way. The police and Forestry Commission Keepers would be quick to report anyone seen sabotaging the hunt. Although not serious, continual convictions for breaking bye-laws were a pain in the neck.

It wasn't just sabs getting done, though. John Stride, the Huntsman, was convicted of assaulting hunt sab Steve Glintenkamp in the Southampton law courts. Sabs were empowered. Week in, week out, they were there. Sometimes in large groups, other times with just one or two. Mondays and Fridays in the Forest became a way of life for some.

The hunt was getting annoyed. The life-saving work of sabs was attracting the attention of many hunt thugs. They were using violence, as all heavies do, and they were succeeding. The hunt themselves began to kill more buck. This was identified as a knee-jerk reaction to effective hunt sabotage: the hounds would be diverted off the scent of a tired buck, only to kill a fresh one. Sabs received this with utmost suspicion. Talk of chaperoning deer and dodgy cowboy-style activities was rife. Something had to be done.

In 1994 there were not many active sabs left concentrating on the Buckhounds. With a recent increase in hunt violence and buck kills morale was low and sabs were desperately looking for new tactics. The work of other anti-hunting groups in the New Forest was noted. They tended to simply monitor the hunt with video cameras. Their stand-offish, non-confrontational tactics afforded them some freedom from the heavies and respect from the police. In other words, they got away with it! However, no serious cases of cruelty by the Buckhounds had yet been recorded.

The remaining few sabs downed their traditional sabbing tools and, with money raised through weekly street collections, purchased video cameras.

Days were still spent on foot, running with the hunt. Now though, they would not interfere. The hunt was allowed to continue as normal. Of course this did mean that many buck were killed. There was much criticism of this form of sabbing at the time and, although it proved to be ultimately ill-judged, it was hurtful. It goes against the grain to stand aside while atrocities are being committed against wildlife. For those sabs still active in the Forest, these were not easy days.

But their efforts were not in vain. Over the next four years the Buckhounds were to be exposed for cruelty time and time again in a relentless campaign which was waged by hunt sabs who literally ran the New Forest Buckhounds into submission.

In 1994 three hunt followers were filmed standing on an exhausted buck prior to its death. After that, scenes of carve-ups were filmed, with money appearing to be exchanged for 'trophies' (bits of dead deer). Buck were held under water in streams before being shot. Twice sabs also filmed buck being savaged by the hounds with no hunt personnel in attendance. Even the textbook kill, where a tired buck is held at bay by the hounds and then shot, was turning the stomachs of a nation of TV viewers who were seeing these scenes on local news and in documentaries.

The pressure on this hunt was intense. The Forestry Commission, whose offices were ambushed and occupied by sabs, was forced to suspend the Buckhounds twice after hounds were filmed savaging deer. Public opinion turned against them. MP's clamoured to make their disapproval official. Co-ordinated action between sabs and their allies was unprecedented. From raw footage out of the woods to questions being asked in the House of Commons, everyone opposed to the cruel sport of deer hunting was working together at this time.

When the Labour Party announced their intention to ban hunting on Forestry land the end was near. Despite rallying calls from hunting apologists, the Labour landslide forced the buck-hunters into submission. When they disbanded on Monday 28th July 1997 it marked the happy conclusion to a long and dangerous battle against the New Forest Buckhounds.

Thanks must go to everyone who went out there over the years!

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VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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bloodsports

VERMIN

Andrew Mullen, 37, of Uddingston South Lanarkshire, who organised illegal badger-baiting dog fights has been banned from keeping animals for life. Mullen, admitted keeping five counts of dogs for the purposes of animal fighting. He was arrested following an inquiry by the Scottish SPCA's Special Investigation Unit. They tipped off police about his activities, and he was caught with 340 photographs on a laptop showing dogs fighting with wild animals. Photographs stored also showed him and other associates digging up badger setts and causing terriers and lurchers to fight with foxes and deer. Vets found Mullen's elderly lurcher with multiple scars over his face, muzzle, cheeks and legs. The dog was also missing a number of teeth and had scarring on his gums as well as deformation of his tongue. A second lurcher had white flecks of hair on one side of his face as a result of multiple puncture wounds, and an elderly terrier had scars to her lower jaw and tearing to her ears and body – marks that are consistent with wounds left by badger baiting. Mullen denied actively using his dogs for blood sports, but accepted he allowed others to use them and knew the dogs he kept were to be used on badgers. He received the ban when he appeared at Lanark Sheriff Court on 1/3/12. The sheriff also imposed a six-month curfew and ordered Mullen to carry out 200 hours' community service.



Police caught two men hare coursing after they were seen hunting illegally on a farmer's field. Colin Morrell (51) of Bishop Road, Stoke-on-Trent and Simon Jones (30) of Recorder Grove, Stoke-on-Trent admitted breaking the 2004 Hunting Act when they appeared at Loughborough magistrates on 4/1/12. The court heard how a local farmer watched them through binoculars, he watched two dogs which appeared to be lurcher or greyhound types hunting or chasing and one appeared to have caught a mammal, the other was circling it. Morrell, admitted hare-coursing and told officers that he had left two hares under a hedge. Morrell told the court: "This is something I've done all my life, like my father and his father before him. Someone needs to get a hold of this and take it by the reins. A new law came in, in 2004, which I don't understand. I can't believe what's gone on over something as trivial. Morrell was fined £65 and ordered to pay £40 in costs and a victim surcharge. Jones was given a conditional discharge for six months and told to pay £20 costs. Speaking after the case Morrell said: I've done it all my life. I don't know any other. My dad used to breed lurchers and greyhounds. They won't stop me doing this till the day I die.

A gamekeeper who poisoned four buzzards has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service. David Whitefield, 45, admitted poisoning the birds with chloralose baits at Coulter Allers Farm, Biggar. On 5/1/12 Lanark Sheriff Court heard how he was caught after Scottish SPCA officers and police searched the farm. The court previously heard how Whitefield was the only gamekeeper employed at the farm. Scottish SPCA officers and police searched the land and buildings at the farm and Whitefield showed them the carcasses of four buzzards in varying states of decomposition. He said he had sprinkled poison on the baits to reduce the number of buzzards over the previous six months. A coffee jar and a bucket containing poison were found inside an unlocked shed in the grounds of the keeper's cottage where Whitefield stayed. After he was sacked and evicted from his tied cottage, however, Whitefield said he had been asked to reduce the number of buzzards in any way he saw fit, although he had not been specifically told to kill them. He later pleaded guilty to a contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The conviction is Whitefield's second for wildlife offences. In October 2008, Whitefield was fined £300 after pleading guilty to trapping a buzzard for at least 48 hours, and failing to meet its needs whilst it was in the trap.



An investigation into the suspected poisoning and shooting of red kites led to the discovery of breaches of regulations dealing with pesticides and firearms at a farm. But it was accepted at Preston Crown Court on 6/1/12 there was no evidence that Allan Armistead, 74, was in any way connected with the deaths of the birds. Armistead, who lives at Hulleter Farm in Oxen Park, Ulverston, was fined £7,000 and ordered to carry out 140 hours' unpaid work. He admitted seven offences in relation to pesticides, plus three other firearm-related offences. The court heard a search warrant was executed at the farm where chemicals were found, most of which were unlawful to possess, due to regulations which had come in more than 10 years ago. Some of the pesticides were 60 years old. Two rusting tins had a chemical capable of producing cyanide gas on contact with air or water. When one of them was open in safe lab conditions, some of that gas had already been produced. Other pesticides were also found. Among them was a bag containing bottles of crystallised hydrochloride strychnine. There was also a bottle of strychnine hydrochloride – a highly toxic poison used for controlling moles. Armistead was also told to pay a total of £2,300 costs, plus a £15 surcharge.

A huntsman has pleaded not guilty to raping a woman at a hunt ball. John Norrish, 67, and a member of the Tiverton Staghounds, denied the charge during a brief hearing at Exeter Crown Court on 10/1/12. Norrish, of Mouseberry Farm, East Worlington, is accused of raping a woman at the event in the Crediton area. The judge adjourned the case for a trial which has already been fixed for 14/5/12.



Two men who caused a fight between two dogs and a snared fox have been given suspended prison sentences. Gamekeeper Chris Carter, 49, and his work experience apprentice Luke Byrne, 19, who filmed the fight and two others on his mobile phone, were not banned from keeping dogs. Carter, of Westacre Estate, Gayton Thorpe, was sentenced to three months in prison, reduced to eight weeks for his early guilty plea, suspended for 12 months, 150 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £1,000 costs, at West Norfolk magistrates on 11/1/12. He had previously admitted one count of causing an animal fight, at Gayton Thorpe, in July 2009. Byrne, of Mill Houses, Lynn, was sentenced to four months in prison suspended for 12 months, 150 hours unpaid work and £500 costs. He had previously admitted causing fights between a rat and a terrier in June 2009, two dogs and a fox in July 2009 and a dog and a fox in June 2010. He had also admitted possession of three dead wild birds - a heron in November 2010, a cormorant in February 2011 and a buzzard in May 2011. The offences came to light after Byrne sold a mobile phone over the internet containing footage of some of the fights and the woman who bought it contacted the RSPCA.



At Lanark Sheriff Court on 12/1/12 Cyril McLachlan, 63, was fined £635 after admitting to the possession of Carbofuran, a toxic pesticide banned in 2001. The gamekeeper, with 40 years' experience, was arrested during an operation by Strathclyde Police, the National Wildlife Crime Unit and the Scottish Government in January 2011, when a plastic bottle containing the illegal substance was discovered in his vehicle. McLachlan claimed to have got the chemical "off a friend". Police were first alerted to the area in November 2010 when a member of the public reported finding a dead buzzard whilst walking near Loanhead Farm, Lamington in South Lanarkshire.

A gamekeeper found guilty of trying to illegally trap birds of prey to protect grouse has had his appeal against conviction dismissed. Glenn Brown, who was convicted by North Derbyshire magistrates of catching a sparrow hawk and four counts of causing unnecessary suffering to other birds in June 2011, had his appeal dismissed at Derby Crown Court on 24/1/12. The court heard that the 39-year-old was employed by a National Trust tenant in the Upper Derwent Valley and operated a cage trap on various dates. Brown, of Derwent Valley, was convicted of seven offences under the Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981, relating to the cage trap. The court ordered Brown to pay a further £7,000 costs.

A man was been given an Anti-Social Behaviour Order and a driving ban after being caught hare coursing in Fenland. Daniel Bibby, 59, and eight other men were arrested after police were called to Ibberson's Drove, Benwick. Bibby, of Schole Road, Willingham, was summonsed to appear in court where he pleaded not guilty to hare coursing. He was found guilty in December, following a trial, and was sentenced at Huntingdon magistrates on 26/1/12. He was banned from driving for six months, fined £150, ordered to pay £200 court costs and a victim charge of £15, and given a two-year ASBO. Bibby's son William, 31, also of Schole Road, Willingham, and six other men and a 16-year-old boy were also found guilty of hare coursing offences. William Bibby was fined £200 and ordered to pay £200 court costs and a £15 victim charge.



A gamekeeper caught using a live pigeon to lure other birds into his sights has failed in a bid to keep his gamekeeper licence and his job. Craig Barrie used a live pigeon as a decoy to attract other birds on Aswanley Estate in Aberdeenshire. The 30-year-old was fined £520 after he admitted the breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. He appealed the sentence, arguing that unless he was admonished or granted an absolute discharge he would lose his gamekeeper licence and be left unable to work. Two appeal court judges have rejected the argument on 1/2/12. Barrie, of Glass, Huntly, has resigned from his job at the estate between Huntly and Dufftown but the post had been kept open for him in case the appeal was successful.



A gamekeeper sparked a major health scare and forced the closure of part of a city after claiming he ate cyanide in a bid to die "in a blaze of glory". A housing estate was cordoned off for several hours over fears that the cyanide Graeme Thompson, 29, said he swallowed could kill hundreds of residents living nearby. Dozens of emergency service workers cut off an area around Thompson's Perth home because of the ultra-lethal nature of the poison involved. The operation to isolate the gamekeeper involved six police vehicles, 14 police officers, eight ambulances, seven paramedics and seven specialist medics. Thompson, of Primrose Crescent, Perth, admitted depriving the public of emergency service workers by making false claims he swallowed razor blades and cyanide. He also admitted blocking the streets as a consequence. Thompson stated this was to kill himself when the razor blades burst the bag in his stomach so the poison entered his system. He gave the officers a suicide note and said he wanted to go out in a blaze of glory. Thompson and the officers were eventually transported to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee under an escort and they were taken to the decontamination unit for tests. On 2/2/12 Thompson was remanded in custody pending sentence and the case was continued for the preparation of social work reports.

On 9/3/12 three travellers were fined after admitting hare coursing at a farm in Mortimer. Thomas Small, 21, Michael Connors, 23, and a 17-year-old who cannot be named, all from the Paices Hill traveller site near Aldermaston. The three appeared at Slough magistrates to admit hunting a wild mammal with dogs and participating in a hare coursing event. Small and Connors were fined £50 each, ordered to pay £30 each in costs and will both pay a £15 victim surcharge. The 17-year-old was fined £50, and told to pay £25 in costs and a £15 surcharge.



Two Chesham men were jailed and given a lifetime ban from keeping animals after admitting a series of offences related to illegal dog fighting. Javed Jahangir, 28, and Sajid Mahmood, 29, were both sent to prison for 20 weeks at Reading magistrates on 2/3/12. A raid on Jahangir's home in Milton Road led to officers finding a pit bull terrier type dog and a computer containing footage showing the two men fighting dogs in fields thought to be close to their homes. Mahmood of Batchelors Way was identified from the footage and this led to the RSPCA searching further properties in Chesham that he had links to. There, officers found another pit bull terrier type dog, muzzles, leads, computers, phones, cameras and media storage devices - all of which were seized. Jahangir admitted four offences linked to animal fighting and one of having an illegal dog at an earlier hearing, while Mahmood pleaded guilty to three fighting-related charges and to having an illegal dog. As well as being jailed, both men were barred from keeping animals for life. Jahangir was ordered to pay £5,000 in prosecution costs and Mahmood £1,500.

GROUP NEWS

Cumbria hunt sabs have enjoyed a sustained and hard earned period of success against the local hunts since our last report. With very few sabs (thankfully we've had help from the Lancaster sabs, and other groups on occasion) we've managed to hamper and frustrate the efforts of the Blencathra, Melbreak, Ullswater, and Cumberland farmers packs on a regular basis.

The Blencathra have received most of the group's attention over the last couple of months, and have provided us with some of the most memorable moments. Most notably, because it'd never been sabbed before, was the prestigious New Year's day 'Carrock' meet. Joined by the Lancaster group, ten sabs forced Barry off Carrock Fell away from the massed hunt support, easily exceeding 150 people, and had him on the run from the late morning onwards! He ended the day, confused and beleaguered in Mosedale valley, where sabs continued to harass and harry the hunt, taking control of the pack on more than one occasion. The inability of the Blenie to control their hounds is becoming more apparent with each passing week; most recently two sabs took control of the pack, much to Barry's frustration, whilst he was openly hunting on Bassenthwaite common. Early December witnessed hounds separated from the main pack hunting a cat just off Mosedale viaduct. Luckily for the poor moggy we were in the right place at the right time to intervene, thankfully saving their life, and capturing the incident on video.

The Melbreak foxhounds are proving as easy as ever to sab, their usual tactic being to pack up soon after we arrive. Two sabs had a very good day against this sorry lot at their 'Mellbreak' meet last November. Taking control of the pack four times within minutes of our arrival, we then chased the huntsman up and over Mellbreak Fell until he threw in the towel just before midday. A fantastic result in itself, it was made all the more pleasing when we got word that two other members of our group were having an equally successful day against the Blenie at the Derwent Lodge coffee morning!



Other incidents worthy of mention are John Harrison, Ullswater huntsman, throwing his toys out of the pram and calling in his buddies the police, when five sabs gave him a torrid time at the Kirkgate meet. All to no avail, no sabs were arrested, and a prolonged police presence ensured no hunting could take place. We're also pleased to report that for the first time in quite a while the group has begun to make inroads against the Cumberland farmers. This nasty bunch of scum had become very complacent in recent years, believing themselves untouchable due to a reputation for violence. They got the shock of their lives when we turned up at their meets, and hopefully the message will get out that we won't be intimidated by anybody.

All in all we've had a very successful season so far, long may it last. The addition of the Landy has proved invaluable to our group's success, enabling us to cover more ground, and attend more meets than ever before. We've also managed to engage the interest of the local press, and it's been refreshing to see some positive articles rather than the trash circulated by the Daily fail and other rags! Many thanks to all who have travelled to the fells to help us out, as we're a small group all your help is very much appreciated. Finally we'd all like to wish Howl and everybody associated with the mag' a very happy 100th issue, all the best, cheers guys!

Lancaster sabs - we now have a great if small core of people in the group and we get out sabbing when we can, although for various reasons this isn't as often as we'd all like, however when we do we more often than not team up with Cumbria and or Manchester. We have had some thoroughly satisfying days on the Blencathra when sabs have taken the hounds off the huntsman and whips on a few occasions with use of a gizmo. Our group members are all learning the do's and don'ts of sabbing and have gone home at the end of the sabbing days satisfied that we have helped to save lives. We will be out as often as we possibly can in the New Year and if anybody is interested in coming out with us send a message to Lancasterhuntsabs@hotmail.com



Manchester Sabs have seen our numbers continue to grow this season and our new motto is 'we're going to need a bigger van'. We have maintained an interest in hunts both near and not so near. A recent addition to our visits has been the Meynell and South Staffs hunt. An obnoxious bunch indeed we've seen some blatant hunting over the last couple of seasons but blimey this bunch take the biscuit and on joining with other groups on two visits sabs have had to be all over the hunt to prevent them killing.

A trip to Cumbria in early November as always reminded us not to complain too loudly about running across a few muddy fields when confronted with the fells that Cumbria sabs have to cope with week in week out. While there we struggled to find the hunt but we were more than happy to screw up their intended show piece of hunting a fox across the side of a fell in front of all their support by marching in to the middle of said fell and making the huntsman sod off in the opposite direction.

We have maintained our attendance at Yorkshire hunts. The highlight was a great day's sabbing on the Badsworth and Bramham Moor during the week. They don't like us at the best of times but ruining their day hunting on a weekday really upsets them. Ho hum. While we have continued with problematic policing an attempt by the NYPD to be 'impartial' has seen some strange sites – a police car parked up overseeing a fox earth to stop the hunt digging out, a junior officer justifying sabs carrying sprays to her senior, and recently an evidence gatherer running with sabs interested in the hunt NOT us. That's not stopped them with their bullshit searches, section 60s, etc. but it's better than nowt.

Our sabs were present during the infamous dig out attempt at the York & Ainsty South...an activity that hunts seem to engage in with alarming regularity. Considering some of the arrests that day we were pleased when charges against



all were dropped...maybe that's because disrupting an activity that is ILLEGAL isn't a reason for nicking people.' N'est pas rocket science' as they say in Yorkshire.

Pockets of sabs have been going out from the **Liverpool** area. Still have our eyes set on a new van and a more concentrated effort next season. We've had great success with the Holcome harriers this season. So much so, they have become a very secretive bunch once again, for the first time in years. Various members have joined up with other groups, over the course of the season.

Sheffield & Doncaster Sabs have sabbed the Meynell & South Staffs, the Burton, the York & Ainsty North, the Badsworth & Bramham Moor, the York & Ainsty South, the Brocklesby, the Blankney, the Quorn & a pheasant shoot since the main hunting season started. We've been out every Saturday and some weekdays and had no kills at the hunts we've attended. We've had to stop several dig-outs (some footage can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JWU8MUM0Kk) , stopped the hounds from killing numerous foxes, frequently taken control of hounds and had lots of unlawful arrests in North Yorkshire, that are one by one being dropped. We've met with other groups regularly and sabbed in groups ranging from about 8 sabs to about 45 sabs! Our full news report can be viewed here: https://northern-indymedia.org/articles/2349 . Please email sheffield-saboteurs@live.co.uk or doncastersabs@live.co.uk to get involved.



Notts sabs have been out every Saturday, and some mid-weeks, since the end of cubbing. We continue to support our Northern comrades with any particularly unpleasant hunts up their way but have also been disrupting the bumpkins closer to home. We've so far visited the Meynall, the Blankney, the Cottesmore, and the Quorn on a few different occasions. We also had a rare day out with the Per Ardua beagles who, as usual when we find them, stood around in a field for a couple of hours trying to decide what to do before legging it back to their kennels for an early tea. Our hunts continue to hunt blatantly right in front of us and we are saving foxes every time we're out.

Numbers have stayed high and we've had at least a full van every week, often having to use cars or jump in others vehicles (sorry Derby for any breakages, we try and stop the youngsters from fiddling with all your posh toys!!) Fundraising continues to go really well and it's all feeling really positive.

Big thanks and respect to all the Midlands and Northern groups we work with. Sabbing in these regions is going from strength to strength enabling us to hit more hunts more often and it feels great to be part of a movement that's got so much energy.

huntsabs@hotmail.com

http://nottinghamhuntsabs.weebly.com/

West Yorkshire sabs are still at it, hounding the local hunts every Saturday. We've had no kills, so a very successful season so far. We are still trying to fill some space in our landrover so please get in touch...especially if you are in the Leeds area. Look out for Huddersfield Sabs over the coming year - there hasn't been a group active there for some time but numbers are good so it's up and away, proving yet again the hunt propaganda about sabs being in decline is as much nonsense as everything else they say. We've got some amazing supporters out there...special thanks to Jo for knitting the whole group hats and scarves and Sand for the artwork. The good people of Yorkshire are sharing our outrage at the local hunts continuing to break the ban with dig outs and even bagged foxes a regular feature. In the absence of any action from the police we will continue to get out there and stop em.



On Friday 28th October 2011, **Coventry** sabs went to the Ledbury Opening Meet at Corse Lawn Hotel. Hounds were on the road around Tirley Knowle area. We were blocked in quite a lot. When we tried to stop hounds in full cry across a minor road, a 4x4 drove at speed close enough to brush past a sab and an elderly man got out, pushed the sab trying to stop the pack and broke another sab's camera when she came to defend her.

On Tuesday 1st November 2011, we went to the Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt at Apperley Court, Apperley. As usual hounds were out of control running through people's gardens and 5 hounds ran through the school playground. Later hounds were all over the road and traffic was ground to a halt including heavy lorries. Driving west along the A4213 we found not only one of the terrier men wearing a fox costume but hounds actually drawing along the main road back and forth. They went south and a fox cub was seen trying to cross the road. There were scuffles at Bridge house when the "owner" refused to allow sabs down a public footpath. A man in a blue 4x4 was waving a stave around which he eventually put in the front passenger seat.

During the rest of November we sabbed the Cotswold vale farmers, North Cotswold, Ledbury and the South Shropshire.

During December Coventry sabs visited the Ledbury where sabs were jumped on and whips taken, the North Cotswold where a sab was kicked in the kidneys and a fox narrowly saved by a super fast sab. We also sabbed the Ledbury, the Cotswold vale, the South shropshire and the Cottesmore which resulted in a sab being assaulted by a hunt supporter while intervening to save a fox being killed by hounds.

We have a benefit gig happening on the 21st April at the Wagon and Horses Pub in Digbeth, Birmingham. Eastfield are headlining and there will be vegan food available.

West Wales Anti Bloodsports has now been borne out of a LACS monitoring group. We spent a season last year performing nothing but the most minor interventions in illegal hunting, but soon discovered the two unpleasant realities: the Hunting Act is not strong enough, and the hunts know it. With it still being legal to take packs of hounds into coverts (trained illegally using live quarry, or legally using fox scent, to keep the hounds match fit for a repeal), and the ridiculous defence of "accidents", we realised the ban is at best a deterrent to the most blatant cruelty. The exception to this seems to be terriermen and their vile dig-outs, which by their nature are easier to catch on film.

So we duly crossed to the interventional side, and are growing used to the permanent fragrance of citronella which seems to waft around our persons. The cameras are still our main tool – not many hunts are brazen enough to invite a prosecution – but we are picking up other tools from our skilled friends in South Wales. And of course, should the Tories ever succeed in overturning the ban; the foxes will need all the help they can get. As far as we can see, the police should welcome us preventing foxes being killed, as we are essentially acting as Crimestoppers ™.

We focus on Simon Hart's old hunt, the South Pembrokeshire, which is keen to appear legal but do the opposite. Jaunts to the Carmarthenshire – very much a rural poor man's outfit in comparison, with a predilection for gun packs – are occasional, usually assisted by South Wales sabs.

It all kicked off on October 19th, when one of us was shot in the head with a projectile fired by one of six individuals present at a South Pembs dig out. A nasty wound right between the eyes resulted, but it could have been blindness in one eye – or worse. The police on this occasion were exemplary, and as far as we're aware, the CPS will be sent a file. If we don't get a prosecution, we'll try for as much media attention as possible. One entirely positive consequence of the event - the terrier boys have not been seen at a single hunt since, with the master claiming "the terrier fraternity" were just following the hunt (ha!). If they return, we'll be watching.

The hunt continue to chase any foxes they can find, however, and have trespassed on two wildlife reserves, terrified horses and livestock, and let their hounds run amok on busy main roads. An especially favoured area is an old airfield owned by the Ministry of Defence, where the hunt claim they can get a license even after the event! We have intervened directly to save several foxes, and stopped the chase of many others with the cameras. South Wales sabs have helped out on a few occasions, when we've really been able to keep up with them on all sides. The South Pembs used to claim about a hundred kills a season, with most of them dug out. The kills must be nowhere near that figure now. We hear through the grapevine that the field are getting increasingly fed up with standing around – if they don't like it, why don't they hunt legally then? We're still not sure who would be fooled by their daft attempts to pretend they are obeying the law (a red bag being dragged around after the hounds, or a supporter put into coverts where hounds are in cry, dragging a piece of cloth).



The nastiness and threats from assorted supporters has kept up, but we've got thick skins. We keep badgering the police to take the hunting ban seriously, and some officers are more pro-active than others. We wonder, though, if behind the scenes influences are holding back a more committed drive to bring these wildlife criminals to book.

We hope to spread ourselves around a bit nearer the end of the season, with the Tivyside and Carmarthenshire hunts having very little attention. We're not a big group, and sometimes struggle to fill a car (or even the back seats!), so any support always welcomed. Email us at westwalesantis@hotmail.co.uk.

South Devon Animal Rights numbers have been up this season making it easier for us to sab and harder for the hunt to hide. We spent most of it working on the Mid Devon Hunt and it seems to have paid off. Inside info tells us the huntsman Charlie Shirley-Beavan "Shirley" to us is resigning at the end of the season. We can't imagine why !!! Although this season was his first with us, sorry them, apparently he does not like the countryside - however, we would have thought Dartmoor is not very different from Northumberland which is where he came from before he came to us. Although he already wants to leave he will apparently see the season through to the end.

It will be interesting to see whether the whipper-in John Tulloch (who also carries the horn and uses it to better effect) will take over. If so, he will then be able to wear a red coat again - something he has been unable to do after the first week of the season as Shirley seems to want to stand out and be the only red coat in the hunt.

The Mid-Devon Hunt have been sabbed every Saturday but one so far this season, and monitored every Tuesday but one. They have hardly been out alone, except where their support is concerned. Now they only have a handful of car followers because, by riding over the hills and far away across the moor in an effort to escape from us, the followers have nothing to watch and see little point in going out.

We did the South Devon Hunt meet on Boxing Day. Their supporters' numbers too were really down on previous years. People who had been with them for years and went out every weekend seem to have disappeared. This has to be having some effect on them even if it is just depression.

The **Bristol** hunt sabs have had a great season so far. From early morning cubbing right through to the end of 2011, we have been out every week hammering the hunts and making sure no wildlife is



killed. With regular joint efforts with our sab pals from South Wales, Bath, Southampton, Pewsey, Coventry and beyond we have managed to hit several of our local hunts and also have been able to travel away on occasion to lend a hand to other groups. We have a mixture of both old and new sabs out in the field, with a great sense of community among us. We've been witness to some truly amazing moments including hunts packing up on the very sight of us, helping fox friends to safety and racist huntsmen getting taken away by the old bill. The bad news for our hunter friends is that we're growing in numbers and coming your way soon! If you want to join us, just get in touch!

www.network23.org/bristolhuntsabs
bristolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk

Pewsey Vale sabs started the main season with the opening meet of our local pack The Tedworth. We were joined by Southampton for a really good day. This meet is well known to sabs who split into two fast groups, the hunt could not lose us. Every attempt to hunt was instantly stopped by sabs; we also stopped hounds chasing a fox to ground in a badger sett. The Tedworths big day was well and truly spoilt, a really large mounted field as well, what a shame.

We joined Bristol, Bath, South Wales and Southampton for a day with The Cotswold Vale Foxhounds, they ran from us, we chased them, good day. We also met up with Coventry sabs for a North Cotswold Foxhounds meet.

From late November and through December we gave our attention to The Tedworth and The Vine & Craven Foxhounds, alternating between them. Both packs displayed elaborate sham attempts at trail hunting, the Tedworth hounds showing no interest in a trail virtually hanging under their noses and The Vine spending a good hour messing about laying a trail to then go in the opposite direction through a wood and pick up a fox. Sabs had to step in with whips and voice calls. Over six years of a hunt ban and these two packs (like every other) are still not able to manage the act of trail hunting but are very good at accidental 'real' hunting. Boxing Day we were joined by Southampton for The Tedworths big show. Not a single smile on their faces, they seemed to be sick of the sight of us which was not very festive at all. The one time that hounds got onto a fox the huntsman was nowhere to be seen and sabs had to call hounds out of a covert and away from a busy main road. Both huntsman and whipper in had no interest in their lost hounds but were quick to call out the police at the end of the day, blaming sabs for the loss of four hounds.

Our last sabbing day for 2011 was New Year's Eve. We joined forces with Bristol, South Wales and Southampton for The Wiltshire Infantry Beagles' (rarely sabbed) last meet of the year. As the hunt were about to walk out of the meet sabs walked in.. The huntsman took one look at sabs (not a pretty sight) and put the beagles straight back in their box. We all then stood around for an hour or so. The police were called; they asked to speak to our leader! (They still haven't got it). We were told by the police that the road from the meet would be blocked by police so we could not follow the hound van for fear of breach of the peace.The hound van was given a police escort away from the meet and back to the kennels. All the hares in the area stood up on their back legs clapping and cheering (that bit might not be entirely true).

Pewsey Vale Sabs have had a really good season to date and are hoping for more of the same in 2012.

Brighton hunt sabs,(otherwise known as Southdowns anti bloodsports..) meeting up with Hastings, Croydon and from time to time Guildford sabs, have been out and about visiting the usual bunch of inbred suspects on the Southdowns and Eridge. Following their attempts to get heavy at the end of last season they started this season in the same manner. The first meet of the season saw one twat in particular, fat boy Charlie getting a split lip whilst he attempted to get into the back of our landie. This ended in him ripping his shirt off and attempting to throw a lump of concrete through the window. The South Downs, under the instruction of Dave (i'll give you a fucking war) Fuller, and Carolin Fuller have been getting more and more violent in the last couple of seasons as they've teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. Given that Brighton sabs is by all accounts, among the longest running sab groups, you would have thought they would have sussed that violence and intimidation doesn't work. When sabs were attacked by heavies with wheel nuts fired from a catapult, we decided it was time to call a local hit. About 50 sabs turned up, you know who you are, the look on their faces as they climbed from the meet onto the downs to be greeted by 5 landie loads of sabs. We have also visited the Surrey Union, Old Surrey and Burstow and our other favourites, the Crawley and Horsham. We have had a few expensive problems with our land-rover, so many thanks to the HSA for the dosh, Nick our friendly mechanic and Hastings for coming and picking some of us up when needed. We've also got a web site up and running, put in South Downs sabs or Brighton hunt sabs and see what you come up with.... take care. North East London sabs got our vehicle in November. We have maintained pressure on the East Essex hunt and huntsman Gary ex Essex and Suffolk hunt in November when we had meets for them and stopped them killing even when they were hiding in a private estate. When we had no meets we sabbed the Essex and Suffolk hunt. This was the pattern through to December. We broke this pattern once to kennel watch the Essex hunt who were aggressive from the start when they first blocked in our vehicle. Having the most violent ex hunt employee in Essex with them has turned them into the most violent hunt. That day an off duty met police officer was out joining in with the support blocking our vehicles. She threatened to have us nicked and guess



what, she made up her false allegations and neglected to mention her own law-breaking and three sabs were taken away. The sabs left were exposed at a dig out. The bravery and heartbreak of sabbing were compressed into a few minutes of violence and threats of more from the terrier boys and their support. A SES sab was attacked and they attempted to break her wrist and she ended up with severe injuries. It was an amazingly brave attempt to stop a dig out when outnumbered and facing the most violent terrier men we face. An attack facilitated by misuse of the police. We next broke the pattern to sab the South Down and Eridge with other groups reported elsewhere.

The Xmas season saw mild weather so a full diary of killing for the scum. We had reports in the press and from locals of the Essex and Suffolk publicly trespassing in private gardens to kill a fox and the same of the Essex farmers and missing domestic pets.

We were given meets of the Essex farmers and stopped the killing on Xmas eve and the Wednesday after Xmas. Boxing Day we sabbed the East Essex at the Hedinghams. New year's we did the Puckeridge and they killed towards the end of the day and turned violent, whipping and throwing punches and typically threatening to call the police when the numbers of sabs willing to defend themselves showed them to be the cowards they truly are. Since then we tried to find the Essex farmers who had cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances but we found them the following week and stopped them killing.

Guildford sab group is going from strength to strength with many new members swelling the ranks, probably the strongest we have been for years. At the time of writing we have been out 25 times mostly at the Surrey Union, but with trips out with the Burstow, Southdown, Crawley and Horsham and even one encounter with the Bolebroke beagles, working with the Croydon, South-coast and Brighton groups. The Surrey Union have almost completely dropped the pretence of drag-hunting and are back to full time hunting with sabs spraying after foxes at nearly every meet .

One of our best days was the 10-12-11 when we sent our landrover full of sabs to the joint hit on the Southdown and still had 15 sabs in cars at the Surrey Union who got them off at least two foxes. We then had 22 of us going to our x-mas dinner and had probably the scariest moment of the season when we were presented with the bill! Boxing Day at the Surrey Union saw a hunt supporter ramming our landrover and firing a catapult at us (he was promptly arrested) and two days later sabs were attacked by terriermen prompting a huge police



response of 12 cars turning a quiet corner of Surrey into a riot zone, fortunately none of this has put off our new members. The highlight of the season was a chance encounter with the Bolebroke beagles who packed up as soon as they saw us unable to hide their illegal activities. We then had fun taking the piss out of the upper-class twits who informed us that they "didn't like us and we were scruffy!" which really hurt our feelings. We had the usual "get off private land" when we were on a footpath, they demanded to know our names which we gave as Lavina Trumpington-Jones and many other variations of this theme, best fun we have had all year.

East Kent sabs had a great day at East Kent foxhounds opening meet....5 sabs took on a very big hunt-lots of redneck support and riders, but no real problems.

Met some locals at start (who initially called us "bloodthirsty bastards" in a case of mistaken identity!). They showed us a badger sett that had been blocked with barbed wire by the hunt, and met a lady whose horses had been injured at an earlier meet when hounds invaded their land. Nice to know not everyone has their tongues up the hunts arse.

The hunt seemed to keep putting up hares, but the huntsman always pulled hounds off, due to our presence, and really kept on the run... Was pretty much main season hunting as before the ban. You sad sad fuckers. No kills that we knew about.

Our old friends The West St & Tickenham hit the news when they invaded the small village of Studdal at 8 am one morning. The hounds got onto a fox, which was chased through people's gardens, leading to a huge amount of damage. The fox was unfortunately then torn apart in a pensioners garden. The hunt responded by blocking the road in and out of the village with vehicles, and when the locals gathered together to express their outrage, they were met with a hail of abuse from the huntsman. Several residents called the police, and they did turn up...the next day. This hunt is now so poor, that they don't even have a kennels, so have eluded us for quite some time. However, due to them turning the whole village into rabid anti-hunters, we now have a lot more information on this hunt, and they will be seeing us again soon.

Another memorable morning was when two sabs were following a horse box up a motorway, when all of a sudden, what appeared to be a massive sheet of glass flew off its top, shattering across the motorway, leading to what I can only describe as a very near pile up as all vehicles swerved to avoid it...after calming down, we of course realised that it must have been a large sheet of ice (!), but as sabs know, it's not always in the field you're most at risk!!

Back at the East Kent Foxhounds...Sabs stayed on foot with the hunt all day, covering them from all angles, and certainly the hunt did try to stay clear of us, but we are certain that the fuckers didn't kill, and aside from one old codger supporter taking a swing at one of our sabs, it was a real sad day for a once huge lively hunt. Tiny field, few support, and a real miserable waste of time for them.

Xmas and New Year saw sabs dwindle away to foreign holidays and general rent a mob funded luxury, but even in 2s or 3s we struggled out-undercover if needed. One Saturday, 2 sabs watched a hunt that hasn't been sabbed for years hunting happily as normal all day, we called the police, who turned up very late just as the hounds were chasing a fox across a busy road. The hunt went crazy being caught literally "at it", and packed up immediately.

Thanks to all who have provided info about meets etc. and cheers to Joe H for liaising with the grannies.

Norfolk & Suffolk Sabs have been out every week since the middle of October and have had a very productive season so far. Some weeks the number of lives we have saved has reached double figures. This season the Waveney Harriers as well as going after hares, seem to have beaten their own record for the number of deer they have chased in a single day. One week we spotted a deer standing in the middle of a ploughed field and she just would not move. With the dogs approaching ever nearer, we were bracing ourselves to take action. We eventually spotted that the reason the deer would not move was that she had her fawn lying beside her camouflaged in the mud. After a few vocal words from us, the hunt turned the dogs back, so two other lives were saved. We hung about to make sure the hunt did not come back and the job was done.

We are certainly having an effect on the Waveneys as their behaviour is becoming all the more peculiar as the weeks go on. Not content with one piece of cloth, pretending to imitate a drag, they are now taking out two pieces of cloth and alleging to "dust" them across the fields. Who knows perhaps the two "ladies" with the pieces of cloth are Morris dancers who have lost their path! In any case, the Waveneys don't actually believe they need to drag the cloth on the fields to lay a scent, it seems having the piece of cloth up by your saddle all day does the job of laying a trail for the hounds! Yeah right!.

We had a very successful Boxing Day sab this year despite being very outnumbered. We have to say though that the class of hunt supporters out on Boxing Day left very much to be desired. We were also "honoured" to have the old plod out for the first time this season. Mind you I expect they probably thought it was a fox hunt and not a hare hunt. When asked if they had their cameras with them the response was "why do we need them?" If you want a job doing properly, do it yourselves hey.

For the sake of the animals let's hope the rest of the season is as successful. Stay safe everyone.

South coast sabs have found that since cub hunting and the start of the season, hunts in the south east have become increasingly violent in their reception of hunt saboteurs. Numbers of saboteurs have been growing and this cannot have gone unnoticed, as we actually have trouble getting everyone into the field. While attending the South Down & Eridge FH we had what we thought was a fairly normal day, a bit of verbal and some dangerous quad bike riding but the hunt appointed 'stewards', but nothing out of the ordinary. Then two men turned up and 'stewards' were overheard saying they had been called as they were 'up for a ruck'. These two lovely specimens proceeded to try and cause a fight by taking offence to anything sabs did, walking down a road became approaching them aggressively etc., All was filmed and it was noticed that one was hiding something in his pocket. Nothing further happened but when sabs were gathering to go home the same car turned up with the two occupants masked up and a wheel nut was fired at us from a catapult, hitting a female sab on the elbow. Police were called and earlier photos were shown of the two men. An investigation is proceeding.

Next up was a trip to the Crawley & Horsham (presently awaiting a court case next April on charges of illegal hunting), they did little but run away from us but at the end of the day we witnessed a marvellous rant from the huntsman at the police (all on youtube) with the classic line 'you've done nothing for 20 years and I'm sick of it'. They then proceeded to help matters by accusing a policeman of child abuse, referring to a rather portly female bumpkin who must be at least 15, who was they claim was caught on the edge of the pepper spraying incident last season.

Our friends at the Old Surrey & Burstow (& West Kent but it's becoming a mouthful, hopefully they won't merge with the C&H), were then the target of a south east joint hit. Surrey police swamped the area and to try and cover the reason for this arrested two sabs on very dubious aggravated trespass charges and then to top it all impounded the Brighton land rover saying the driver did not have the correct license, and charged him with using a CB radio while driving (not an offence). All charges are being opposed.

Due to the aforementioned 'catapult incident' a joint hit was called on the South Down & Eridge FH. A sensible hunt would, when presented with five land rovers and a people carrier full of sabs, have kept their heads down and just weathered the storm. Not so this lot, straight out from the meet a red coat tried to hit a sab with a whip and supporters blocked roads with vehicles. The meet was on the South Downs so most sabs stayed out of contact with the vehicles for most of the day. The South Downs is now a national park with public access areas and multiple footpaths. These laws are obviously some sort of 'commie conspiracy' which the hunt thugs were having nothing to do with. Three quad bikes spent the day 'buzzing' hunt sabs, driving fast and close and on one occasion pulling 'wheelies' as they revved towards people. All this was of course filmed. Finally there was stand-off at a gate where sabs were attacked by a gang of about 15 'boys' and a camera stolen. This became too much for one rider who started shouting at her people to leave us alone. This was followed by the same thugs making an attempt to force entry to sabs vehicles and assaulting any sab who resisted. A two page list of complains with supporting video has been submitted to the police who made no arrests on the day. A big thanks to all those who travelled many miles to help out on that day, much appreciated.

Over the Christmas period the Guildford sabs had their own catapult incident so we travelled to help them the next time out. It was great to watch the idiot accused of the previous incident nicked and his vehicle towed away for breaking bail conditions, but his friends were not to be outdone. On the first venture into the field we were blocked while travelling down a footpath, after a bit of shoving we got past and carried on, all became clear as we were close to the hunt. The supporters numbers were swelled by two quad bikes of terrier men with faces even a mother couldn't love. These friendly lads barrelled into sabs throwing punches and a general melee ensued. When the dust had settled we carried on in the direction we had intended, on the footpath which miraculously they agreed had appeared there. Complaints were made to the cops but as usual no arrests from assaults on the day but video of the attack has been submitted with complaints.





HUNT SABS & THE LAW: PART 5

The previous article in this series looked at our rights and the extent of police powers in situations likely to be encountered while sabotaging hunts and doing general campaigning. This article follows on by looking at how to deal with the police in such situations.

What Are the Police Like?

Bitter experience has taught me that, in general, the police are:

- Bullies
- Liars
- Biased against us
- Full of dirty tricks
- Acting dishonestly and maliciously
- Acting unlawfully



It's safe to say that, in any given situation, anything the police say to you will be a lie, an empty threat, a trick to get what they want and to do you harm, a trick to get rid of you or make you less effective, or any combination of these. Any contact with the police is likely to be an annoying, depressing and unpleasant experience, and is also likely to interfere with our ability to sabotage hunts or to carry out campaigning work. At the very least, it will be a waste of our time. At worst, it may result in a loss of liberty and/or injury. Most actions taken by the police against hunt saboteurs and campaigners are unlawful; however, proving that is another matter because the police generally lie and cover up for each other. The actions of the police towards hunt saboteurs and campaigners do not flow from a desire to uphold the law, but rather from a desire to assist animal abusers and to do us harm. This is not paranoia or a conspiracy theory; it is a simple statement of fact borne of experience. I do not know where this desire comes from, but I do know that it exists.



How Then Should We Deal With the Police?

Given the above, the sensible approach to dealing with the police can be described as Plan A and Plan B.

Plan A: Avoid contact with the police if at all possible. In the field, it is usually possible to stay away from the police because they don't like running across fields. The main problems arise on roads, and getting into and out of the field. It's best to get into and out of your vehicle away from the police if possible. It's also best to avoid walking along roads where possible because this makes you vulnerable to being unlawfully stopped and harassed by the police. The best tactic is to get out of your vehicle and into the field as quickly as possible. If you are on a road and you see the police on the road, it's a good idea to divert into the fields. Also, do not hang around near the police, either in or out of your vehicle. It is not an offence to run away from the police unless you are lawfully detained (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4). Of course, campaigning is different because you can't keep away from the police. However, you can avoid talking to them unnecessarily.

Plan B: if plan A is not possible, plan B is non-cooperation with the police as far as possible. Anything the police tell you to do at any given time will be for their benefit and will be to your detriment. Therefore, it's best not to cooperate with the police unless you are legally required to do so. In general, the more urgent and insistent the police are that you should do something, the more important it is that you do not do it. Also, in general, the more threats the police make about what they will do if you do not do something, the more important it is for you not to do it. In most cases these threats will either be empty, or they will be threats of unlawful action; if you keep your head, resist their threats, and collect evidence of the police's behaviour with video cameras, you should be able to take legal action against them later. Video cameras are discussed further below. The principle of non-cooperation applies at all times: in the field, in your vehicle, in the street, in the police station and in the courts if you are unlucky enough to get there. However, it is important to know when you have to cooperate with the police because you are legally required to do so (in other words, when the police are exercising one of their powers- see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4), and when you do not have to cooperate with the police.

Examples of Non-Cooperation with the Police

First and foremost, it's best to avoid unnecessary conversation with the police, friendly or otherwise. In general, you are under no obligation to speak to the police, or to answer any questions, so don't speak to the police unless you have to; walk away, or

better still don't let the police get near enough to speak to you in the first place. If you do have to speak to them, always record any exchange on a video camera. Remember- if the police are talking to you, it's for their benefit not yours, so don't talk to them unless you have to.
The police may ask you to give them or show them something you are carrying, but you don't have to. The police will often tell you to stop filming them but it is very important that you do not stop, whatever threats they may make. There is no law against filming the police and it is vital that we film them to gather evidence against them when they act unlawfully. The police will often ask you to get out of your vehicle or into their vehicle, but in general you do not have to do either. If the police ask to come into your house, do not let them in unless they have a search warrant. If the police try and photograph you, turn and walk away. If a police officer tells you to sign something, don't sign it. If a police officer tells you to go somewhere (e.g. towards them) or not to go somewhere (e.g. into a field), in general you do not have to obey them.

The Limits of Non-Cooperation with the Police
It must be emphasised that there are exceptions to some of the above when the police are lawfully exercising one of their powers. In one of these situations, not cooperating with them may be an offence. It is therefore important to understand police powers (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4). Here is a summary of these exceptions:

- If you're lawfully arrested, it's an offence to actively resist or run away (sitting or lying down is passive resistance and is OK). For an arrest to be lawful, you must be told that you're under arrest, told of the grounds for the arrest, and cautioned as soon as is practicable.
- There are certain circumstances where not to do what a police officer tells you to do constitutes the offence of obstruction of a police officer in the course of his or her duty. For example, an officer who reasonably apprehends an imminent breach of the peace may give a direction to a person in their duty to prevent a breach of the peace; not to comply with such a direction constitutes the offence of obstruction of a police officer. The police may also assist landowners in removing trespassers, and to resist the police in such circumstances is also obstruction of a police officer.
- You must stop your vehicle if you're on a highway and the police signal you to stop.
- You must give your details in certain situations (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4).
- You must let the police search you in certain situations (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4).
- You must remove a face covering or give the police something they believe may be used as a face covering in certain situations (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4).
- You must let the police take your fingerprints, DNA and photograph if you're under arrest.
- When you are released from custody, it's worth signing your bail sheet.

Voluntary Exceptions to Non-Cooperation with the Police
There are also rare occasions when you might choose to cooperate with the police. These are:

- If the police are taking an interest in policing the Hunting Act. It might happen, you never know.
- If the hunt commit some crime against you and you want to make a complaint. In general, such complaints don't go anywhere and are a waste of time, but a few succeed in obtaining convictions against hunt members.
- If you have a good relationship or an agreement with the police that is working in your favour. This is very rare because it relies on the police acting impartially and in good faith, but it has happened.
- If the police find you in possession of a whip or spray (see below under Stop and Search).



Giving your details
The police will often ask for your details, but in general you do not have to give them and you should refuse: the circumstances in which you do have to give your details are described in Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4. Police will often try to deal with minor offences by way of a fixed penalty notice (on the spot fine) or summons, rather than by arresting you, and so will ask for your details. This is because they know that if they do this, and it turns out later that there were no reasonable grounds to suspect you of an offence (which is often the case because the police are generally acting maliciously and dishonestly), you cannot sue them; you can only sue them if you have spent time in custody. If they say that they need your details because they suspect you of an offence, ask them what offence they suspect you of, and on what grounds they suspect you. Normally they will come out with a load of nonsense, and you should challenge them on that. If they say you have to give your details because they suspect you of anti-social behaviour, you should ask on what grounds they suspect you of anti-social behaviour. Normally when they say they suspect you of committing an offence or anti-social behaviour, they are lying; it is merely a trick to get your details.

However, if the police insist on you giving your details because they suspect you of an offence or of anti-social behaviour, you face a choice of giving your details and not being arrested, or not giving them and potentially being arrested. In these circumstances, it is only worth not giving your details and risking being arrested if you know the arrest would be unlawful and you can prove it, because then you may be able to sue them later for false imprisonment, assault and possibly malicious prosecution. It is important to video all arrests and the events leading up to them for this purpose. The arrest is unlawful if the police do not have reasonable grounds to suspect you of any offence, or of anti-social behaviour. You need to decide based on the circumstances whether or not to give your details. If they do have reasonable grounds to suspect you, or if they don't have reasonable grounds but you can't prove it, you should give your details and save yourself the hassle of spending the day in a cell.

Reasonable grounds for suspicion of an offence are that a genuine offence has been committed (i.e. not one dreamed up by the police by twisting the laws to suit their needs) and they have

reasonable grounds to think you have committed it (for example they have a complaint about you from a member of the public, or the police witnessed you committing it themselves). If you are arrested because they suspect you of an offence and you do not give your details, you do not get yourself into any extra trouble, even if they have reasonable grounds for suspicion. However, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect you of anti-social behaviour, you commit an offence by refusing to give your details, so that one's a bit more risky.

In this respect, there is a big difference between being on a demonstration and being out sabbing. On a demonstration, it's easy to show that arrests are unlawful. Normally the police are saying that something you are doing on the demonstration is illegal; it's easy to prove that it's not by videoing the demo. When you're sabbing, normally the police will be saying you've committed aggravated trespass. To prove they don't have reasonable grounds to suspect you of this, you need to show that the police should have at least suspected that the hunt was not a lawful activity. This is much more difficult, and therefore in that situation it's normally best to give your details and avoid arrest. This at least allows you to carry on sabbing for the rest of the day. There may well be situations, however, when you can show that the arrest is unlawful, in which case refuse to give your details. If you get a summons, you must get a solicitor as soon as possible. The police hand out fixed penalty notices like confetti; it probably makes them feel powerful. If you get a fixed penalty notice, it's therefore usually best not to pay it, but instead to fill in the form on the back of the penalty notice to request a court hearing. After this, they may or may not send you a summons. However, you should take legal advice on this.

Of course, if plan A is successful, the issue of the police asking you for your details does not arise.

Stop and Search

Under normal circumstances, the police have no right to search you. The situations when they can search you are described in Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4, and it may be worth referring to that article. The main point to remember is that unless a section 60 or section 47A authorisation is in effect, the police must have a reasonable suspicion that you individually are carrying something you shouldn't be before they can search you. Also, note that they cannot search you because they think you're carrying something that can be used to commit aggravated trespass (e.g. a whip, spray or horn) because items used to commit aggravated trespass are not prohibited articles (see Hunt Sabs and the Law Part 4). Searches of hunt sabs and protestors are normally carried out unlawfully. For example, in 2009 officers searched every activist entering the Camp for Climate Action under Section 1 of PACE. This was ruled unlawful because the officers did not have reasonable suspicion about each activist individually.

You should always challenge the police officer searching you. Ask them under what power they are searching you, and their reasons for searching you. If they are searching you under Section 1 of PACE, ask what they suspect you of carrying, and their grounds for suspicion. If you have been stopped and searched, you do not have to give your details (they will ask), but the police officer must give you a record of the search with his/her details and the reasons for the search. It's best not to carry wallets or other personal items that will give the police your identity if you are searched. However, it may be wise to give your details if you want to make a complaint about the search later. If you know that the search is unlawful and you can prove it, it is best not to cooperate with the search; if they arrest you for obstructing a police officer because of your non-cooperation, the arrest is unlawful and you may be able to sue the police. It is important to video all arrests and the events leading up to them, such as searches, for this purpose.

Police often stop and search sabs on the grounds that they believe the sabs are carrying whips and sprays, and that these items are offensive weapons. Sabs are also often arrested for possession of an offensive weapon for carrying such items. I believe this to be unlawful because in order for such searches and arrests to be lawful, the police would need to have reasonable grounds for suspecting that sabs intended to use the whips and sprays to cause injury to people, and I believe they have no such grounds. Typically the police say they don't know what's in the spray, and it may be harmful, but not knowing what's in the spray is not reasonable grounds for suspecting that what's in the spray is harmful. There will be more on this issue in a future issue of HOWL. Of course, in reality the police know these items are not



offensive weapons. They know exactly what the whips and sprays are for, and that's exactly why they want to take them off you. However, if you are found in possession of a whip or a spray and the police ask what these items are for, explain it to the police. We have a perfectly legitimate reason for carrying these items, which is to disrupt illegal hunting, and it is to our advantage to explain this; this is an important exception to the principle of non-cooperation. Why not spray yourself in the face with your spray? Having explained to the police what these items are for, and sprayed yourself in the face, it becomes more likely that if the police go ahead and arrest you for possession of an offensive weapon, that the arrest will be unlawful and you will stand to make money. This is because it helps to remove any grounds the police have (if they had any in the first place) for suspecting that you're carrying those items to cause injury.

However, once again, if plan A is successful, the issue of the police stopping and searching you does not arise.

Video Cameras

Video cameras are your friend and the police's enemy, and the police know it. Video cameras will protect you against false and malicious allegations (from the police and anybody else) and will prevent some of the excesses of police behaviour. They will also record evidence of the police's unlawful behaviour, and will therefore help you sue the police and make complaints. Contact with the police should of course be avoided where possible according to plan A. However, where this is not possible, it is best to record all exchanges with police and community support officers; I do not talk to the police unless there is a camera rolling. However, the police do not like having cameras pointed at them, precisely because it protects us by recording the truth and preventing them making up lies about us, and because it prevents them telling us lies or abusing their powers. They will tell you that you're not allowed to film them, that it's against their human rights to photograph them without their permission, that it's a security risk. These things are not true. They may threaten to seize the camera, but they are not allowed to do this unless they believe it contains evidence of an offence. They may try to physically stop you filming them, but this is an assault. You are allowed to video the police (or anybody else). However, beware of the following:

1. If you are arrested with a camera, the police will seize it and retain it as evidence. It is therefore a good idea, if arrests take place, that the cameraperson avoids arrest if possible, for instance by complying with any police directions even if they are unlawfully imposed. If you are arrested with a camera, it may be possible to hand it to someone else before you get carted away.
2. Even if the cameraperson is not arrested, the police have the power to seize anyone's camera if they believe it may contain evidence of an offence. The police often use this power dishonestly to confiscate any footage that might show they are acting unlawfully. Be aware that the police may suddenly grab any cameraperson or their camera for this reason. The more unlawful the police's behaviour is, the more desperate they will be to get their hands on any recording of it. The police can become violent in their attempts to recover evidence of their wrongdoing, but such evidence is worth thousands of pounds, as well as being important for achieving justice, and should be retained at all costs.

Being Stopped in a Vehicle

If you are driving a vehicle on a highway and a police officer signals you to stop, you must do so. The driver must give his or her details if the police ask for them. It is also sensible to answer questions related to the legality of your driving, e.g. whether you're insured or not, who the owner is, etc., but do not answer other questions. However, no passengers are required to give their details (unless the police suspect them of an offence or anti-social behaviour) or speak to the police. The driver does not have to get out of the vehicle, or open their door or window more than is necessary to speak to the officer. Typically what happens when an activist's vehicle is stopped is that the police will try to open the driver's door and remove the key from the ignition. They may also try to open other doors. This is unlawful unless they are arresting someone or have power to stop and search the vehicle or people in it.

Whenever you are stopped in a vehicle by the police, it is best therefore to lock all doors and remove the key from the ignition. Someone should video the incident from inside the vehicle. The driver should wind his or her window down about a couple of inches- enough to speak to the police but no more. If the window is opened any more, the police will reach inside and unlock and open the door. Let the driver do the talking; everyone else should stay quiet. The police may ask the driver for their driving licence. Normally it is OK if you are not carrying it; however, strictly speaking it is an offence not to carry a driving licence, so it may be best to carry yours if you are driving. They will probably ask who owns the vehicle, so if it is not yours, you must know the name and address of its registered keeper (it is sensible to answer this question). They may give you a ticket (known as a producer) that requires you to produce your licence, insurance certificate and MOT certificate at a police station within 7 days. Needless to say, any vehicle used for activism must be 100% legal and roadworthy.

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).



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, enclosed.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



HSA MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (*delete one)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (tick one)

❒ £15 waged ❒ £100 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the H.S.A.'s work

Name (Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr) .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

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

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

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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

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

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
www.powa.org.uk

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

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

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

Save us some dosh! if you're moving?

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

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

Make sure we know where you are!!

HSA PROMOTIONALS



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

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

BACK ISSUES OF HOWL
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)



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

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

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

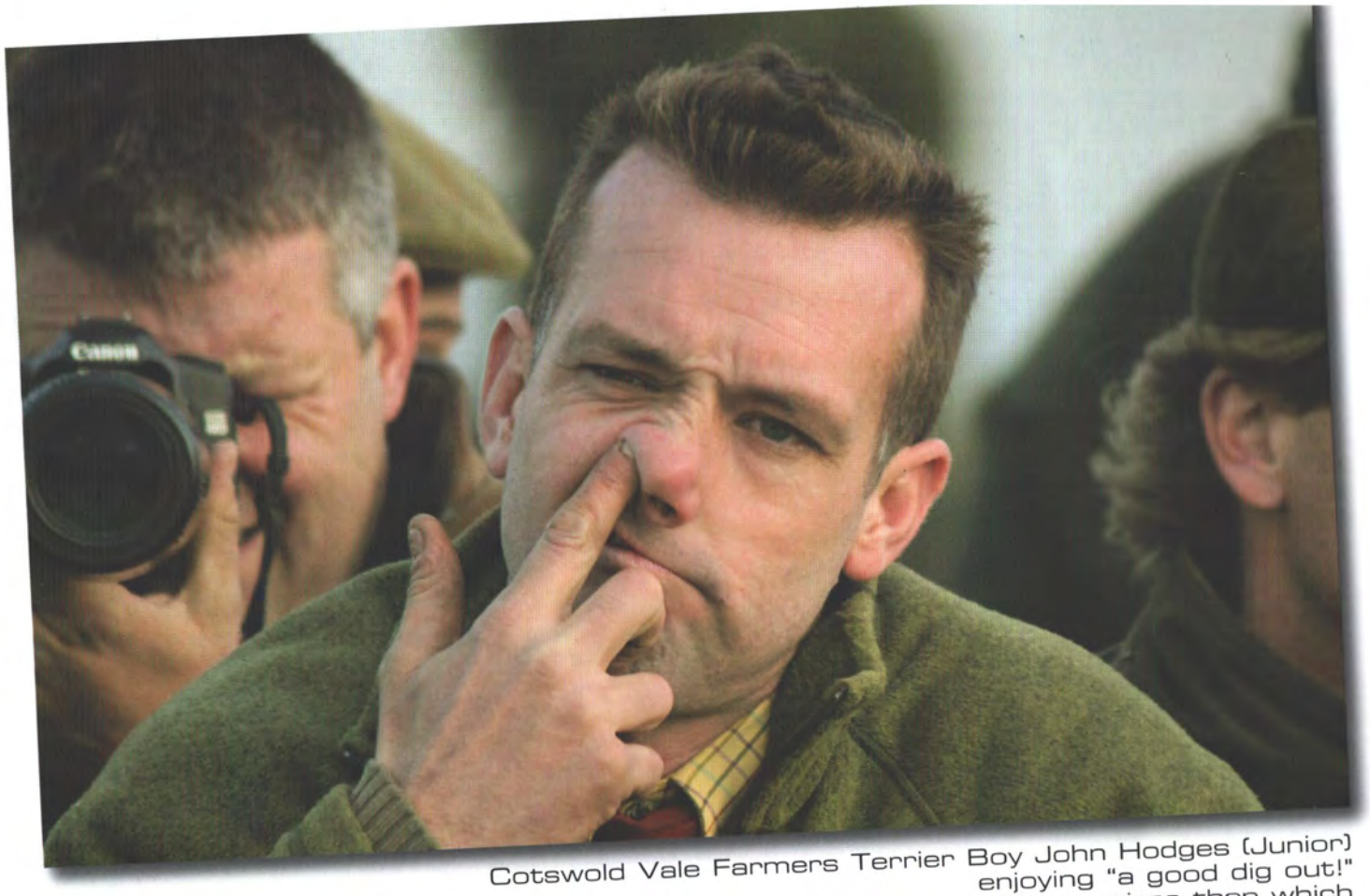


New Legacy leaflets

New legacy leaflets, help the HSA raise much needed funds.

'Legacy 12'
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)





Cotswold Vale Farmers Terrier Boy John Hodges (Junior) enjoying "a good dig out!"
It begs the question, if he entered the terriers then which hole will they emerge from! I'm sure he would love to see his pic in print as apparently he subscribes to Howl !!

Competition winner

Howl's 100th edition!

come & celebrate with us at SabFest / AGM 2012

July 28th 2012, Northampton

SabFest weekender and AGM, with bands, music, vegan food, workshops and a chance to meet other groups, exchange ideas and learn a few new tricks.
Camping onsite, catering by Veggies and Something Fishy.

More details to come.

www.huntsabs.org.uk