HOWL
SUPPLEMENT Summer 1979

HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE

The result of the recent Parliamentary Election was, without a doubt, a tragedy for the anti-bloodsports movement.

If the Labour Party had been returned to power stag and deer hunting and hare coursing would have been illegal activities within 5 years. The abolition of these 'sports' was part of Labour's manifesto commitment and the League Against Cruel Sports' donation of £80,000 to Labour's funds, just prior to the election, would have ensured that these commitments would have been carried through with great urgency.

Neither of the other two major parties was committed to abolishing any form of bloodsports and, when we consider the facts relating to the Conservative Party, it becomes quite clear why they, in particular, had no such commitment and why we can expect no anti-bloodsports measures to stand a snow flake's chance in hell of getting within a million miles of the Statute Books during the reign of the new Thatcher administration.



FACT 1

Mrs Thatcher has proved herself very susceptible to pressure from her blood-sporting colleagues by adopting at least a neutral role on abolitionist voting since being "got at" in 1975 (see Fact 7).

FACT 2

Her new 21 man Cabinet contains at least 2 members of the British Field Sports Society (BFSS)—Humphrey Atkins (Sec of State for Northern Ireland) and William Whitelaw (Home Secretary). One of Francis Pym's (Defence) closest relatives, living at the same address, is a member too. One of the objects of the BFSS is "to keep a watching brief in Parliament on everything likely to affect fieldsports; to promote legislation where necessary and to oppose legislation likely to be harmful to the interests of field sports".



Willie Whitelaw



Francis Pym

FACT 3

In addition to the last three names another 8 members of the new Cabinet have expressed support for hare coursing (John Biffen, Mark Carlisle, Nicholas Edwards, Sir Ian Gilmour, David Howell, Sir Keith Joseph, John Nott and George Younger) and of these 11 men 10 actually voted against the Labour Government's 'Hare Coursing Abolition Bill' during its passage through Parliament.

FACT 4

Of the 6-person list of Ministers not actually in the Cabinet Sir Michael Havers and Tom King both voted against the Hare Coursing Bill.

FACT 5

Of the 59 person list of Junior Ministers at least 5 are members of the BFSS (or live with people who are)—Adam Butler, Lord Rodney Elton, Nicholas Fairburn QC, Hector Munro JP and Viscount Thomas Trenchard and another 12 voted against the Hare Coursing Bill (Michael Alison, Kenneth Clarke, Alexander Fletcher, Douglas Hurd, Nigel Lawson, Neil Marten, Patrick Mayhew, David Mitchell, Geoffrey Pattie, Peter Rees QC, Nicholas Ridley and Jeremy Wiggen). To be fair, though, 5 of these ministers actually voted *for* the 'Bill' (Lynda Chalker, Reginald Eyre, Barney Hayhoe, Reg Prentice and Sir George Young).

FACT 6

Of the 6 Junior Commons Whips Mr Carol Mather is a BFSS member, as is the sister of Peter Morrison, another whip. Two more Whips, Anthony Berry and Spencer Le Marchant voted against the Hare Coursing Bill.

FACT 7

Peter Morrison's dad, Lord Margadale TD JP, of the same Fonthill House, Tisbury, Wilts address, is also a BFSS member and it was he who, you may remember (HOWL 12), suggested to the BFSS in 1975 that a good way of "getting at" Margaret Thatcher might be through her sister Mrs Cullen.

FACT 8

Dowager Lady Denham is a member of the BFSS. She's married to Lord Denham and he's Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

FACT 9

Of the 71 MPs in the last Parliament listed by the National Coursing Club as having expressed support for hare coursing 66 were Tories, 4 were Liberals and only one (John Ryman) was Labour.

FACT 10

Of the 217 MPs voting for the Hare Coursing Abolition Bill in a *free* vote in its important second Reading on 13 June 1975, 190 were Labour, 7 were Labour Co-op, 2 were Liberal and only 18 were Tories.

FACT 11

No Conservative MP has ever initiated any parliamentary move, via a Private Member's Bill or any other means, seeking the abolition of any branch of bloodsports. All such moves have come from the Labour ranks.

FACT 12

The Tories took 51 seats from Labour in the Election. 5 were lost by unknown Labour candidates replacing existing MPs (each of whom had voted for the Hare Coursing Bill) and 42 were lost by MPs who'd voted for the Bill. It would take too long and be too depressing to list them all but perhaps the saddest loss, on account of its closeness, was Arthur Latham's by 106 votes (the Workers Revolutionary Party took 117 votes in the Constituency). John Pardoe, one of the few Liberal MPs to have supported the Bill, also went down.

We cannot comment on the 3 Tory MPs who lost their seats to Labour in May as *interestingly enough* these seats were all previously Labour ones captured in by-elections in 1976 and 77 after the Bill was debated.

FACT 13

In a BFSS press release issued shortly after the Election they said "In no Party Political way, but purely for the good of field sports, we are absolutely delighted with the General Election result. It means that all fieldsports-men can breathe again for a few more years at least.

"Most of our strongest opponents have lost their seats in Parliament, partly, no doubt, as a result of their dogmatic criticisms of widely popular countryside sports".

(Oh yeah? In Penistone, where hunters staged a street march in defence of blood-sports in last year's by-election (HOWL 11) the Labour vote went up by 8,586 votes to give them an increased majority of 9,701—Ed)

While we appreciate that there are several Tory MPs and many in the rank and file of the Tory Party who are appalled by blood-sports we believe that even if they could be galvanised into pressurising Mrs Thatcher into considering anti-bloodsports legislation the pro-bloodsports faction in her ministerial ranks is adequately strong enough, and desperate enough, to resist any such move to the bitter end.

We believe that the facts quoted above lead to the unquestionable conclusion that, during Margaret Thatcher's reign, there will be no quarter whatsoever granted to the beasts of the chase.

The defence of these animals against the abuses of bloodsporting morons now depends more than ever before on the front line activists of the HSA.

GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTOS 1979

ANIMAL WELFARE ASPECTS

Conservative Party
The welfare of animals is an issue that concerns us all. There are problems in certain areas and we will act immediately where it is necessary. More specifically, we will give full support to the EEC proposals on the transportation of animals. We shall update the Brambell Report, the codes of welfare for farm animals, and the legislation on experiments on live animals. We shall also re-examine the rules and enforcement applying to the export of live animals and shall halt the export of cows and ewes recently calved and lambed.

Labour Party
Under Labour's new Council for Animal Welfare we will have stronger control on the export of live animals for export, on conditions of factory farms and on experiments on living animals.

Liberal Party
Support the demand of the General Election Co-ordinating Committee for Animal Protection for a Royal Commission on Animal Welfare. Ban the importation and manufacture of any product derived from any species whose survival is threatened, and work for a total ban on commercial whaling.

We also need a co-ordinated approach to the needs of food production and conservation of natural wildlife which recognises their interdependence.

Increase the number of abattoirs to EEC standards to discourage the export of live animals.

The 1979 Election was virtually unique insofar as the three main parties covered animal welfare in one form or another in their Manifestos. The tribute for this must go to the GECCAP campaign which, under the chairmanship of Douglas Houghton and secretaryship of Clive Hollands, managed to unite the various aspects of the a/w movement in a way never known before—it would be disastrous if the GECCAP structure were to fragment now that the election's over as the a/w movement must present a united front to the Thatcher Government if the amount of animal suffering is to stand any chance of being reduced.

Labour's proposed Council for Animal Welfare was virtually the Royal Commission being sought by GECCAP. It would have acted as a new watchdog body with the power to review present laws and recommend new ones. It would have been the most important step taken in the a/w field for many years.

Mrs Thatcher's Government currently have no commitment to any such bodies being set up. This is surely one target for pressure from a GECCAP type umbrella group and from individuals like all of you!

'ANIMAL LOVER' FINED

In August last year four men routed a fox from its earth, using terriers. This savage procedure is commonly used by hunts to 'bolt' foxes after they have gone to ground. The fox will put up a terrific fight, and both terriers and foxes are often badly injured ("wounds of honour" as hunting men say when talking of a terrier).

In this particular case one man, Christopher Hardman (appropriate name), an engineer employed by Birmingham University, carried the unconscious fox to his van, where it was found by police alerted by a local woman who had heard the fox's screams. The fox was in immense pain (and later had to be put down), but Hardman told the police ". . . that fox will get better. It's our sport".

Injuries to the fox included: Hind quarters and anal tract ripped open and bleeding badly; deep cuts to stomach, neck and throat; cuts and grazes to back legs; injuries to front leg; testicles ripped off.

In court, charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a fox, Hardman claimed he was an "animal lover" (as do many hunters). He was fined £107.

This man was, earlier in the year, given coverage by a Birmingham paper who extolled his virtues as friend to foxes by netting them in the suburbs of the city and releasing them to the wild. Readers were told how he puts down injured or diseased ones with a humane killer and that he started 6 years ago after hearing of an old woman terrified by foxes in her garden. He caught 236 last year!

ITEM—PNC

The infamous Police National Computor, claim the Home Office, does not hold information about your political beliefs but "occasionally information about association with an organisation is held for a limited period in the index of stolen and suspect vehicles when a police force has judged that it will assist in the prevention and detection of illegal activities".

So now you know!

THAT'S LIFE

"I feel bound to mention, for yet another year, the undesirable activities of the self-styled 'Hunt Saboteurs', who still persist in defiling the countryside wherein we enjoy our sport. Their record throughout the year has been quite deplorable, and although many of them are now living behind prison bars at the ratepayer's expense, their very presence at a meet is sufficient to ruin a day in the minds of many who love the country for what it is."
—self-styled Douglas Leslie in his Introduction to Baily's Hunting Directory 1978-79.

FORUM

FORUM is designed specifically for individual members to express an opinion about subjects that interest them and the views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those held by the Association.

OILING THE WHEELS

There are great many Conservatives in the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)–and HSA too, of course–without whose support the LACS would find the ground very much harder.

So is it right that the LACS Executive Committee pledged a gift of £50,000 of League money to the Labour Party General Election fund? Up to £30,000 was in addition pledged to help the Labour Party get public support for their animal welfare proposals. Can it be right that money donated for animals is used to boost political funds? The answer is not immediately obvious.

Most of us agree that the only way finally to get bloodsports banned is via Parliament. So how have the major parties fared to this end?

Certainly both the Conservative and Liberal Parties have many members whose regard for animal welfare can only be praised. But their views are not reflected in the upper echelons of the Parties.

By and large it is the Labour Party which has proposed and supported animal welfare moves (eg the banning of live exports)–and the Conservative Party that has, almost traditionally, crushed them. It was always Labour Party MPs who, time and time again, tabled anti-Hare Coursing motions . . . and always Conservative MPs who 'talked out' the Bills. It was the Labour Party which introduced a Government-backed anti-Coursing Bill so that it could not be talked out yet again–only to see it flounder and collapse at the hands of a few Lords in the Second House.

The General Election Co-ordinating Committee for Animal Protection (GECCAP) have done a marvellous job. They, and they alone, by their efforts were responsible for animal welfare proposals appearing in all 3 of the major manifestos. But it was only the Labour Party, of the 5 major parties approached, that supported GECCAP's proposals almost in their entirety, not only as official policy but also as part of manifesto promises. It was the Labour Party that put into action, before their defeat, the first of these–the formation of a Council for Animal Welfare.

Only a manifesto commitment can ensure that any future anti-hunting Bills do not suffer the same fate as the Hare Coursing Bill in the Lords. And, more relevant to the LACS, it was *only* the Labour Party who promised in their manifesto to abolish hare coursing and stag and deer hunting (and, by implication, fox and hare hunting).

We can look at the thoughts of Marcus Kimball, Chairman of the BFSS, "I must consider the 1.6 million members and associates of the Field Sports Society. We have had for many years a 'special relationship' with the Conservative Party at constituency level, the House of Commons, and within your office. We had support from Ted (Heath) and active encouragement in our tactical battles and help in a major way from Willie (Whitelaw) and you under Ted continued this support" (letter to Tory Chief Whip).
and later "I hope Margaret (Thatcher) will allow our special relationship to continue . . ."

So much for the BFSS. How about the hunting magazines? When reviewing the Labour Party proposals Shooting Times said, ". . . yet another attempt by our Socialist masters to curb the liberty of the individual".
". . . an in-depth investigation could be carried out. But then again this *wouldn't* do, would it? It's been done before and come out in favour of hunting, and we couldn't have that, could we comrades? No, let's go for the usual socialist course of action when the opposition looks threatening–the guillotine!"

The wording indicates opposition not just to the proposals, but also to the Labour Party.

Hunting *is* a political issue; we wish to get it banned by the political actions of Parliament. Unfortunately, perhaps (but true nonetheless) hunting has now become a *Party* political issue. Not because the League, or the HSA, or GECCAP wanted it that way, but because the Labour Party have taken our side and the hunters *themselves* chose to side with the Conservative Party.

In the Penistone by-election last year the hunters marched, proclaiming "don't vote Labour". Right up to the General Election the hunting magazines urged their members to vote anything but Labour. Horse & Hound even listed all the Labour, Liberal and SNP candidates that have publicly denounced hunting.

Again from Shooting Times, "We ask every single reader, every single hunter, shooter or angler, *NOT* to vote for the Labour Party should a ban be included in the Manifesto . . ." and a week before the Election, a letter in the same magazine pleads, ". . . I implore everyone to vote for a Conservative Government".

The hunters have long felt security with the Conservatives–it is nothing new. The past 18 months merely emphasised the division. The BFSS clearly support the Tories for the survival of bloodsports. Indeed it could be thought surprising that they have, unlike the hunting bodies, remained politically neutral, and consequently impotent, for so long. Moral support is one thing, financial another. And £80,000 is a lot of money. But let us see what else the League would have done with it. Kept it in the bank, where it is of no use to beast nor man? Or perhaps spent it, the way they have spent *£400,000* in the last four years, on a few acres in Somerset, to provide sanctuaries for hunted animals. Sanctuaries of dubious value–I have seen the hunt on some of them!! (£500,000 has also been spent on advertising–but hunting still continues.)

As the election drew close, the LACS committee were faced with a dilemma. Watch the Conservative Party get elected and watch their efforts come to naught, and the anti-hunting fight set back another 5 years (possibly more). Or do what they could to help the Labour Party win with a commitment to abolish bloodsports as a priority.

By helping the Labour Party the Committee knew they risked, win or lose, expulsion, and possibly even the prospect of paying the League back from their own pockets. Still, they pledged £80,000, timed to appear on the pages of the national papers and on radio and television just before the election. The message was clear "If you care about animals, vote Labour".

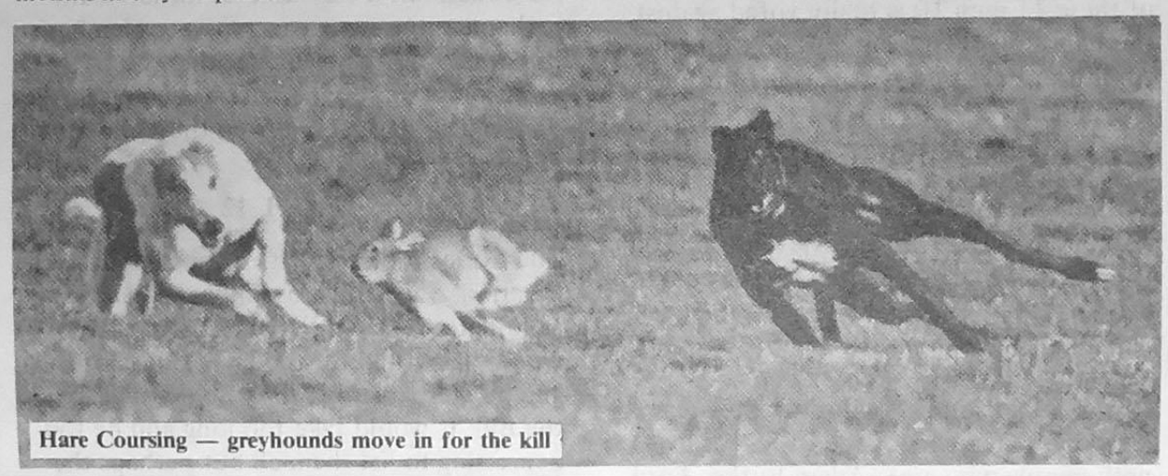
In the event Labour lost the election. But something new had to be tried; the old methods have been failing for 50 years. Remember 11½ million people, by implication, voted for the abolition of stag hunting and hare coursing and the money was not wasted–there are other manifestos yet to be written and the Labour Party will not forget that very generous and much-needed assistance.

Robin Howard

Notes 'Talking out' is a Parliamentary procedure, commonly used to defeat Private Members' Bills. PMBs are, if drawn, allotted a certain amount of time; if an MP waffles for long enough the Bill is 'talked out' of time and is defeated. This has scuppered a dozen Hare Coursing (Abolition) Bills in recent years.

It ought to be said that the LACS Executive Committee that passed the resolution is composed of members of varied political views.

(Ed–Future LACS policy will depend on whether the LACS Committee get an overwhelming vote of confidence or are given the bird at their AGM at Central Hall, Westminster, London on 21st July 1979 at 2.30 pm. This is why it is important for all LACS members who feel strongly about this issue to be at this meeting.)



Hare Coursing — greyhounds move in for the kill

WHITHER THE HSA?

The HSA has always maintained an impartial non-political approach in its campaigns up to now. This last election was a watershed though. After 15 years of HSA campaigning we finally had our goal really in sight with Labour's manifesto commitment. The Tory victory has blocked the pitch and it must be now up to us to clear that blockage as fast as possible to score that goal.

This means getting more politically aware and ensuring the early return of a Labour Government with a working majority and another firm commitment to the abolition of some (or preferably all) bloodsports.

To those of you who say "leave politics out of our fight" I say "yes the active fight must go on unabated". We have to ram animal rights down the hunters' throats until it hurts (and this means that a lot more of you who signed on as 'active' will have to make more of an effort to actually *be* active) but, however fine our actions are in themselves, there can surely be none of us who seriously wants to still be sabbing hunts at the end of the century. But without legislation that's what we'll have to be doing–hence the need for political awareness.

To those of you who say "leave *Party* politics out of our fight" I say "just read the 'House of Ill Repute' article again". In my opinion any HSA member who helped get a Tory MP elected in any of the 51 constituencies previously held by Labour should now consider him/herself no friend of the hunted animal. This particularly applies to any HSA member in these areas who voted Conservative "just for a change".

If these statements rankle don't write to me about it–drop your new Tory MP a line instead and see what he/she intends to do about abolishing bloodsports and whether he/she will urge the new Government to set up a Council for Animal Welfare on the lines of that proposed by the recent Labour Government.

Dave Wetton

THE NAME OF THE GAME

When asked whether a "Keep politics out of country sports" was in connection with a local issue over a football ground and the district council the car owner replied "No, the label is wrongly worded, we mean "Keep politics out of *bloodsports*"!!

IT'S THE SAME OLD SONG

1944/46–'The Field'–"If foxes could hear all sides of the debate on hunting, I think they would vote solidly for its continuance."

IS THIS FUR REGGIE?

Elton John (real name Reg Dwight from Pinner) continues to indulge in his extremely unsavoury pastime of purchasing real fur coats. Recently he spent £13,000 on ten 'second-hand' fur coats and hats, including white fox, coyote, civet and black lamb. One fur coat, claim Animal Activists, can consist of 300 animal skins. Yet Elton is "sympathetic" to the HSA! So it might be worth all of us writing to Elton at John Reid Enterprises Ltd,40 South Audley Street, London W1 asking how he can justify this glaring inconsistency.

It's a pity that more celebrities do not do more for animals considering the powerful public platform they have. That's why it's good to see Tom Robinson displaying HSA's name and address on his new LP, TRB TWO (EMC 3296). Cheers Tom!

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

The following extract from a letter in *Shooting Times* recently (1/3/79), reveals the **real** inclination of our hunting opponents.

"After watching a recent report on the Nationwide television network about badger baiting, cock, quail and dog fighting, I venture to draw a conclusion about the future of field sports in Britain.

"Should the antis have their way and country sports are abolished, there will be a great many people who, having had their legalised pleasures removed, will then turn to alternative pursuits, e.g., those already mentioned. If fox baiting is included, the fox could have an infinitely slower death, the badger would be considered 'fair' game, and many pet dogs could disappear off the streets to be used for dog fighting, etc."

POLLS APART

It wasn't only voters in the Lincolnshire constituency of Gainsborough who were intrigued by the mystery candidate who stood as Conservative Independent in the recent parliamentary election. The BFSS were intrigued too because the official Conservative candidate, incumbent MP Marcus 'Carcase' Kimball, is boss of the BFSS. Local BFSS hack Bun Cowey wondered whether the mystery man was "put up to the idea by one of the 'anti' organisations and whether they'd paid his deposit".

If they'd done their homework a bit better they'd have known that Robert August, the mystery man standing against their Chairman, is in fact Chairperson of the HSA.

The whole exercise, including the deposit and 25,000 leaflets cost approximately £500. The three week run-up to the election was extremely hectic–the addressing and stuffing of 25,000 election address envelopes taxed the 30-40 people involved to the limit but by 4.00 a.m. on Saturday 28 April the last leaflet was stuffed in the last envelope just in time to meet the Post Office's deadline that morning.

The local press kept the intrigue going in every issue and were quick to notice that Bob's A initial would give him first place on the ballot paper, relegating Kimball to fourth position. It was known that David Steel viewed Gainsborough as a potential Liberal gain as the Lib candidate had come second in both '74 elections–Kimball's majority had been greatly reduced in the October '74 one due in part to a door to door leafletting campaign by HSA and LACS members.

On the day of the vote count the arrival of Bob's party caused quite a stir amongst the other parties and counters, many of whom believed that Robert August didn't actually exist.

There were many HSA badges and tee-shirts in evidence in the Labour group's ranks and Kimball was seen to be sweating until it became clear that he would win.

The final vote was: Kimball (C) 24,040; Blackmore (Lib) 16,885; Bach (Lab) 10,335; August (Ind C) 570. There were at least 100 papers spoilt because people had voted for both Bob and 'Carcase'. Kimball's acceptance speech was drowned out by the catcalling of his opponents (something that, apparently,happens every election!).



Marcus Kimball, MP

Bob's 570 votes were a lot more than many other Independents, NF or WRP candidates received across the country–the political climate wasn't right at this election though.

However a lot more has been learned as to how best to conduct the next election campaign in Gainsborough so it would be unwise for Kimball to rest on his laurels (or whatever he uses as laurels).

BATTERY NUNS

Roman Catholic priests in the Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare have denounced an order of nuns for cruelty to chickens. The nuns, at Our Lady of the Passion Monastry at Badby, Northants, keep 11,000 chickens in tiny battery cages.

In 'defence' the American Mother Superior uttered these immortal words, "I think keeping hens in batteries is equivalent to keeping them in luxury flats. Chickens only walk around to get food or water. We provide it so they don't need to move around".

The Animal Liberation Front last year staged a sit-in at the battery house as a protest.

GOOD NUS

Following the Motion tabled by the Scottish Executive & Heriot Watt University concerning bloodsports and animal experiments, the National Union of Students (Scotland)'s Annual Conference, at the end of March, affirmed its belief:
(a) 'that bloodsports perform no useful purpose which could not be achieved by more humane methods and exist to provide amusement for a minority';
(b) 'that bloodsports should be prohibited by law' and
(c) 'that pending their prohibition by law, bloodsports can justifiably and effectively be opposed by non-violent direct action, as presently carried out by the Hunt Saboteurs Association'.

Conference instructed its Executive to affiliate to and support the National Anti-Vivisection Society and to establish links with us and to encourage formation of HSA branches within colleges to co-operate with existing local branches.

Bet Sir John Gilmour, Bt, DSO, MP (Chairman of BFSS Scotland) won't be pleased to hear that!