



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

PROTECT

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INVESTIGATE

Undercover heroes 06
.....
How our investigators get evidence of illegal hunting

EDUCATE

Shooting themselves in the foot 03
.....
Is the 'game' bird shooting industry falling apart?

PROTECT

Forever Autumn on our sanctuaries 15
.....
It's deer rut time on Baronsdown!



Cruel sports under fire

.....

Hunting and shooting under pressure from the League

Welcome

Hello – welcome to the new edition of Protect! I hope you survived the hot summer and are now joining us in moaning about the rain!

Summer is meant to be a relatively quiet period for the League, as the hunting season pauses for a few months. However, it's been as busy as ever – there's no rest for the virtuous!

One of the key things we've been working on is the shooting of 'game' birds. You'll know we've been campaigning on this for a long time, but we're now seeing some really positive signs that the industry is under pressure. The number of birds, particularly pheasants and partridges, bred purely so they can be shot, is horrendous. The industry has long claimed that the birds end up on the table – but this is not true for huge numbers of birds, so they suffer simply for 'fun'. The truth is starting to come out – not least from among the industry itself. Find out everything we've been doing to help the birds shot for sport over on page 3.

We've not been quiet on hunting either. As you'll have read in the last edition, poor hunting hounds – because of the way they are treated by the hunts – carry and spread diseases across the countryside. We've been very active in pushing that message out among farmers, vets, politicians and the media – read more on page 14 in League in Action, and take a look at what we've been up to on pages 10-11.

Many of you have asked to hear more about our investigators, so we've got a great feature on how technology works for us on pages 6-7.

Unfortunately, our efforts don't always pay off. Our experienced investigators, legal and intelligence teams have put together several prosecution packages over the last few months. It is recognised within police forces that the evidence we put forward is of the highest quality – but despite that, many of the cases have been dropped. We explain why that is, and what can be done about it on page 9.

There's plenty more in this issue too, including a roundup of our 2018 AGM, and a great new feature showing how you can get involved with our campaigns.

As ever, we thank you for your support. We're busy, we're winning – and it's all thanks to you!

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Shooting themselves in the foot

In terms of numbers, the shooting of 'game' birds is the biggest sport-related animal cruelty disaster we have in the UK.

FEATURES

Shooting Themselves in the Foot	3-4
Undercover Heroes	
How our investigators work	6-7
A year of Change and Progress	
Review of our AGM	8
'Laughable' failures to prosecute hunts	
It's no joking matter	9
Summer of Action	
Picture spread	10-11
Meet Clive	
'Why I'm leaving the League a gift in my will'	16

REGULARS

Mythbusters	
Understanding 'game' shooting	5
League in Action	12-14
Autumn on our Sanctuaries	15
Animal Advocates	18-19

It is estimated that at least 40 million pheasants, partridges, as well as 700,000 grouse are the victims of the shooting industry every year. This is a scandalous and sad toll on animal life.

The shooting industry is powerful, falsely claiming that the money 'game' shooting raises is important for local economies. There is, however, trouble in their own little paradise. The shooting industry has started to turn on itself. And we're proud to say that the League has helped in that regard!

The sheer number of birds being killed by the shooting industry is the very thing that has exposed them. In the past, if we have spoken to people – including politicians – about 'game' shooting, they'd say "well, as long as they eat what they shoot, then that's okay". We have always claimed that this simply isn't the case – there's no way that the amount of birds being shot will end up 'on the table'. It's becoming clearer that they know we are right.

Last year, the issue was highlighted when pro-shooting campaigner and ex-cricketer Ian Botham announced that he intended to give any left-over pheasants from his shoot 'to the poor'. Other than the dubious nature of his 'let them eat game' statement, this highlighted that the shooting industry are starting to become concerned about the amount of dead birds which are simply being dumped after they have been shot. More accurately, they were no doubt worried about the bad publicity they're getting about it.

This year, we've seen the formation of the British Game Alliance, an organisation set up to try and get more people to eat 'game' meat. Again, this was clearly a response to bad publicity and it highlights that there is a real problem here – the number of birds being shot is substantially higher than the demand for 'game' meat. The pro-bloodsports Countryside Alliance then did themselves no favours by releasing

“There isn’t the demand for all the game we are shooting and to carry on shooting 500 bird days is a terrible PR move” – Shooting Times

polling which showed that 85% of people had never eaten ‘game’ meat at home. While they tried to spin this as a ‘growth market’, it clearly shows that in the UK we don’t really eat ‘game’ meat – so it doesn’t matter how much they try to sell it to us – the demand simply isn’t there.



At the country’s major ‘game’ fair this summer, it was clear that this issue has been dominating discussions within the shooting industry itself. According to the Times newspaper, the editor of Shooting Times said ‘he was embarrassed by some of the industry’s excesses and criticised estates that offered even more birds for people to kill, in order to maximise profits, without thinking of the consequences’.

“There isn’t the demand for all the game we are shooting and to carry on shooting 500 bird days is a terrible PR move,” he told an audience at the Game Fair. “There is a greed that has crept into shooting. We try to go bigger and bigger to make more and more money. My readers want shooting to be something that their grandchildren can do.”

This laid bare the dilemma for the shooting industry – shooting estates want more and more birds available to be shot, as this brings them more money. Others are concerned that this greed will expose the reality of shooting – that most people shoot for ‘fun’, not for the table.

And they are right to be worried. Polling commissioned by the League and Animal Aid this summer showed that 69% of people are opposed to shooting birds for sport. That is a significant proportion and spells out that the shooting industry

has a huge problem.

The tide is turning against shooting. In Wales, a ban on the shooting of birds on public land could be a reality within months. Earlier this year, after a campaign by Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire’s Moors (BBYM), Bradford Council stopped allowing shooting on the famous Ilkley Moor. To mark the start of the grouse shooting season, the League and BBYM organised a large protest against the ‘sport’ in Hebden Bridge. Hebden Bridge has suffered from flooding, which experts agree has been exacerbated by the burning of grouse moors.

And during the summer, the League and BBYM have been busy with a new campaign calling on Yorkshire Water to stop allowing grouse shooting on its land. You can read more about all these stories in the League in Action section on page 12.

Shooting birds for sport is a despicable hobby. Millions of birds are bred simply so they can be shot. Breeding birds are kept in cages, often for their whole lives. Many birds will die of disease before they reach the ‘killing fields’. Huge numbers will be wounded rather than killed outright, so will suffer terribly. Masses of dead birds will be dumped or incinerated because there is no real demand for their meat – a desperately sad waste of life, all in the name of ‘fun’.

With our determination and expertise – and your support – the League will continue doing all we can to help these birds and bring an end to such a cruel sport.

Thank you

Changes to the shooting industry are coming, thanks to the work of organisations like the League. We couldn’t have done it – and can’t continue doing it – without you!

Take Action

You can help stop ‘game’ shooting by handing out our new leaflets, take a look at pages 18-19 to find out how to order our Campaigns Leaflet Pack.

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MYTHBUSTERS

THE TRUE COST OF SHOOTING

You asked us for some quick and easy guides to help you explain our campaigns to other people – so we listened! Here's our first Mythbuster guide – on shooting.



FACTORY FARMING

35 million pheasants and partridges are released annually on UK shooting estates, with at least 50% starting their miserable lives on factory farms abroad. Conditions are often worse than those allowed under the law for chickens, leading to injury, stress, mutilation and death.



CANNED HUNTING

What happens on the day of a shoot is little different to 'canned' hunting, in which lions are bred to be hunted. Birds that have been farmed and kept are then driven towards paying shooters to be killed in mass numbers.



TRAPPING AND SNARING

As well as the birds themselves, millions of other animals are persecuted by gamekeepers who set wire snares and traps to target animals deemed to be a threat. Many protected and endangered species such as badgers and hares, as well as beloved domestic pets get injured and killed in these traps.



WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime is embedded in the management practices of shooting estates, most notably in driven grouse shooting. Illegal persecution of birds of prey is so severe that the hen harrier is now on the brink of extinction in England.



ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Studies have linked grouse moor management with environmental degradation, river pollution and urban flooding. Pheasants are not a native species to the UK and there is concern that the annual mass release of these birds has an adverse impact on native wildlife.



OVERSTATED ECONOMICS

The industry claims that the 'sport' brings huge benefits to the UK economy but there are big discrepancies. Claims about the number of jobs are dubious while large tax-payer subsidies to shooting estates are included as benefits.

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Undercover heroes

The League has famously brought landmark prosecutions against hunts since hunting mammals with dogs was banned in 2004.

To do this, we've needed people with the courage, skills and expertise to gather evidence of illegal activity out in the countryside. Darryl Cunnington, a former police officer, who is Head of Investigations at the League, explains how his team works – and why it is constantly changing:

“A lot of the work we do takes place before we go out and sit in a bush in the rain. When we go to look at particular hunts, we've already had information that they are hunting illegally. This will perhaps have come from tip-offs from members of the public, or from the work done by our intelligence gathering team. We research the area they are hunting and the people involved; we also look at related evidence such as any interference with badger setts in the area – which is a sign that hunting is taking place. Basically, we do as much as we possibly can before going out.

Technology is extremely important for us. We use a lot of static, covert cameras – the day before a hunt, we

put them in places we can't really monitor in person, such as in areas where we would be seen. On the day of the hunt we go out, ideally in teams of four. We'll be equipped with powerful binoculars, HD quality video cameras, tripods, two-way radios and handheld GPS devices so we can prove where we are – which is often crucial when it comes to giving evidence.

We start early, as we want to get there before the hunt starts. It may seem strange but we often start filming a couple of hours before the hunt comes. This is so that if the hunt later claim that they had laid a trail across the land before the hunt started, we can show the footage of an empty field – *oh no you didn't!*

At the League we work covertly – basically undercover, unseen and staying out of the way. We are non-confrontational and don't interfere with the hunt. Ideally, they won't know we've been there. If the day passes and they've done nothing illegal, then that's fine – we just delete everything and we haven't interfered with their day. But if we have recorded illegal activity, then we've got all the evidence that we need for a prosecution, which we will give to the police.

We're not animal rights activists. We're professional evidence gatherers. We've all been trained in evidence gathering and conflict resolution, so we know how to react if we are discovered. If we're found while we're monitoring it ruins our day because they either pack up and go home – which they wouldn't do if they were hunting legally – or they will change their behaviour, for example bringing out a rag on a whip to pretend they are laying a trail. Occasionally, being discovered can lead to us being attacked, as myself and a colleague found out in 2016. This shows we need to be careful, and it shows that the hunts are acting illegally, as otherwise why would they react in that way?

As technology gets better we're able to do more. The hunts know what we do – I'm not giving away any secrets in this article, don't worry! But they go to a lot of trouble to try and detect us. We regularly see people from the hunt searching the hedgerows to try and find us. The benefit of this is that we can't be at every hunt, but they don't know which ones we're at, so they spend a lot of time looking for us when we were probably not there! Also, if they were actually laying a trail then they would want us to see it and would leave us alone.

The cameras are our most effective piece of equipment because unless we record things on video then they will come up with an excuse and say we're making it up. Using more covert cameras is great as we can put several cameras out at once. The cameras themselves are not expensive but the biggest cost is for the batteries and SD cards. The most we've had out at one time is 11 cameras, each with a battery costing £50 and SD cards costing £75, so it all adds up.

What do we need to improve? More cameras, bigger SD cards – the high-density ones cost £100. Also we'd like directional microphones, as if you've got one of these on the tripod you'll pick up a lot of sounds and evidence including hollers – indicating the way a fox has gone, which you wouldn't use if the hounds were following a trail – horn calls and cries. All that goes to prove that the hunt are chasing an animal and debunk the lie that they are laying a trail.

We also need better walkie talkies as the hunts try to listen in. We want to purchase encrypted radios so we can talk safely.

If it wasn't for our supporters, we wouldn't be able to do this. We couldn't buy the kit we need, because we always need to stay one step ahead of the game. And you can have the best kit in the world but without people like our supporters giving us information we'd be out filming empty fields. So thank you to our supporters from the investigations team – we know you're standing with us."

Thank you

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the wonderful donations, messages of support and encouragement that you have given to our Investigators. You have made it possible to equip our Investigators with the gear they need to carry out the courageous work that they do for defenceless animals. Thank you so much!




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A Year of Change and Progress

As a charity we hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) every year, and this year was no different. Our AGMs, as well as conducting official business, allows us to hear what YOU think, which is always valuable.

Here are a few of the highlights!

- Our CEO Andy Knott talked about how the League has been tightening up its spending, investing in staff and generally becoming a more targeted, efficient and effective organisation over the last few months
- Chair Iain Blake-Lawson – who stepped down after 25 years on the board - highlighted some of the League's achievements over the last year, including playing a significant role in reducing the threat of a potential repeal of the Hunting Act
- Supporters asked our investigators about the prosecution of the hunt supporters who attacked Darryl and Roger. They also asked about the technology our investigators use to record illegal activity (see the article from Darryl on page 5), and stressed the importance of strengthening the Hunting Act (see article on page 9)
- Our Head of Campaigns talked with supporters about our new Regional Campaign Managers who are allowing us to do more campaigning work locally – which has been very welcome. Supporters asked how they could get involved (see article on pages 18-19)
- It appears that Protect Magazine is very popular (thank you!). There were requests for a 'Mythbuster' type feature which can help you explain to people what cruel sport is. Your wish is our command – see page four!
- Our friends at Lighting Up Learning talked about programmes we're working on to help educate more young people about cruel sports. This will potentially include material for teachers to use in school, which received very positive feedback.
- Other discussions included asking if the League's Trustees could become more visible – they will be; and whether we work with politicians of all parties to try and bring change – we have done for a long time, and it's paying off!
- Finally, we should mention that there was some tension during the meeting, as only signed up members of the League were admitted. We'd rather it hadn't happened, but we suppose it's inevitable as we move to a new League that's better organised, better resourced and fit for the challenges of the future. The League is a charity working for everyone, and we will ensure that it's no longer just the loudest who have their voices heard. The message from the AGM was clear – we're doing well, we're moving forward, and the vast majority of our supporters are on board.

And we hope to see even more of you at the AGM next year!

Why we need the Hunting Act strengthened

'Laughable' failures to prosecute hunts is no joking matter

It should be simple enough – video evidence of a hunt taking place is presented to the police, and then the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), leading to the prosecution of the hunt. But sadly, more often than not, cases never even make it to court.

Over the last few months, we have seen several cases of what we would describe as 'clear cut' illegal hunting dropped. There's no doubt that the evidence that the League, and our colleagues the hunt monitors, present for prosecution is of the highest standard. Our Director of Investigations, Head of Investigations, Head of Intelligence and Head of Enforcement are all former police officers, so we know what we are doing. So, what's going wrong?

Here are some of the cases that have been dropped by police or the CPS:

- A hunt captured clearly on video catching and killing a hare, but who escaped punishment by saying it was a rabbit – despite expert witness from the Hare Preservation Trust
- A hunt clearly chasing a fox along a canal but let off as the case 'ran out of time'
- Another hare hunt where the case was dropped because police 'couldn't identify the hunters' – even though League investigators proved their identity within minutes
- A fox hunt which claimed to be 'trail' hunting in spite of video evidence showing a hunt member pointing towards the fox and the hounds chasing it with the Police saying no such thing happened
- Hunt workers dragging a dead fox out of a badger sett following a hunt and a Police Officer saying the Hunt worker was pulling up rubbish

These cases are in addition to two other major cases:

- Two men were found guilty and given suspended sentences for attacking two League employees who were monitoring their hunt – but Police have yet to pursue four other (masked) men who joined in the attack
- The South Herefordshire case which saw two fox cubs taken into a hunt kennels, before their lifeless bodies were brought out. The case initially 'ran out of time' due to false accusations that a police officer was having an affair with one of the complainants

Martin Sims, Director of Investigations at the League, a former Chief Inspector and Head of the police's National Wildlife Crime Unit argues that this has to stop.

"Some of these decisions are beyond belief," he says. "We obviously have to work within the legal system but the system can be very flawed. Some of these decisions are happening because the local bobby or the Crown Prosecutor assigned to the case simply don't know enough about the Hunting Act so don't understand what they are looking at. The hunts are also very good at getting top lawyers on their side who can intimidate and confuse people.

It's sometimes very disheartening when you know you've caught a hunt bang to rights, but then they walk away because someone in the system doesn't really know what they're doing. The League is working hard on this, providing advice where applicable, and campaigning hard to get the Hunting Act strengthened, which will solve some of these problems. But most of all we need some common sense and a fair playing field. Come on people – if it looks like someone is chasing a fox, hare or stag, then that's what they are doing – illegally."

Thank you

Thank you for standing with us, supporting us and giving a voice to animals. Together we strive for justice against illegal hunting, pushing forward to achieve victory for persecuted animals.



League On Tour



League President Bill Oddie and CEO Andy Knott at our annual reception



Getting foxy and badgering the public in Bourton-on-the-Water



Famous campaigner Peter Tatchell joining us in Hebden Bridge



Keeping the pressure on the National Trust at Fyne Court and Knole House, with National Dis-Trust



Warning against the disease risk of hunting hounds at Halifax Agricultural Show



Really banning fox hunting in Scotland



Grouse shooting protest at Hebden Bridge



Rupa Huq MP signs our #Huntingkills petition



Protesting at the Towcester greyhound derby

LEAGUE IN ACTION

SHOOTING UNDER PRESSURE

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

Carrying placards which read “Yorkshire Water: End Grouse Shooting”, nearly 100 campaigners from the League and Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire’s Moors (BBYM) gathered in a highly publicised protest against the utility company.

The protest came in the wake of a high-profile decision by nearby Bradford Council to end grouse shooting on

famed Ilkley Moor. Every local authority and nearly all utility companies now prohibit the practice on their upland estates, setting a number of successful precedents for Yorkshire Water to follow.

Nick Weston, the League’s Head of Campaigns, said:

“We are proud to stand alongside the residents of Hebden Bridge to protest against Yorkshire Water’s decision to permit driven grouse shooting on its land. Across the UK up to 700,000 grouse are shot every year for this so-called sport, and the practices used to ensure high grouse numbers cause devastation to the local wildlife, landscape and people.”

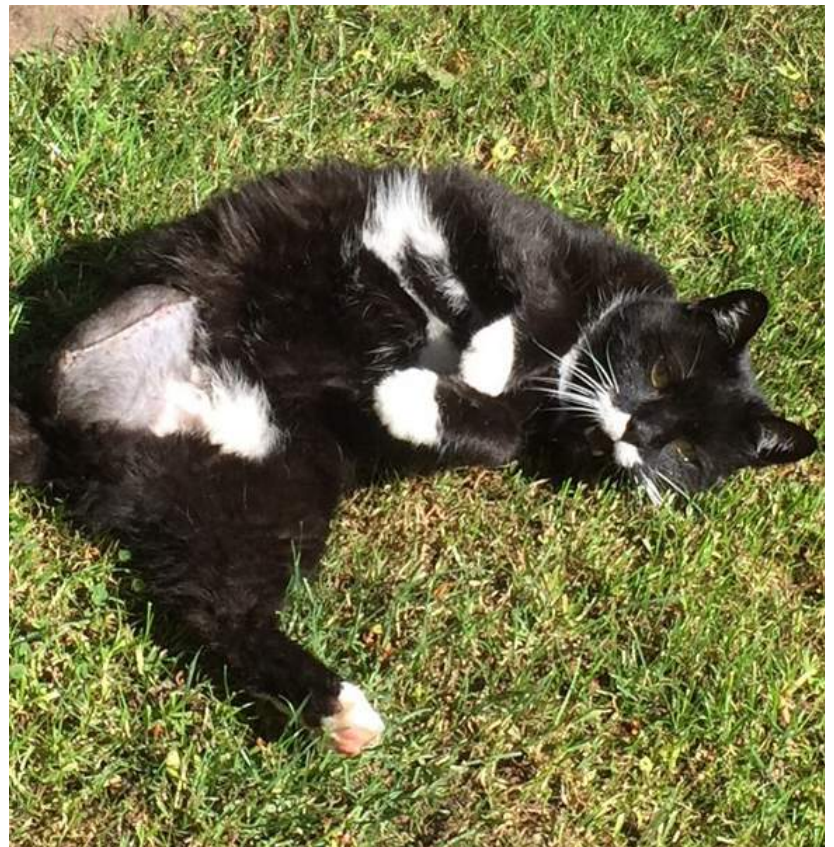
MIKEY LOSES A LEG IN SNARE

A Sheffield cat suffered terrible injuries and had to have his leg amputated after being caught in a snare – a lethal wire trap most often used by gamekeepers.

Nine-year-old Mikey went missing overnight only to turn up the next evening at his family home with injuries his owner Rosalyn Miller believes are consistent with him being caught in a snare.

Rosalyn reported the incident to the League’s Animal Crimewatch hotline where you can report animal cruelty and snaring incidents.

The League is campaigning for all snares to be banned in the face of opposition from the shooting industry which uses these cruel devices to kill the predators of the game birds it rears – indiscriminately killing other species of animals too.



WELSH GOVERNMENT TO BLOCK SHOOTING?

'Game' bird shooting could come to an end on public land in Wales after the Welsh Government stepped in during a public consultation, citing public opinion and animal welfare concerns.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which manages public land, held a consultation on shooting, but the consultation was criticised by the League and Animal Aid for potentially being pro-shooting. The Welsh Environment Minister jumped into the debate by stating that leases for pheasant shoots on public land should not be renewed.

NRW announced their decision, which was to allow shooting to continue – but then stated that they would be considering the Welsh government's wishes. Currently the position is uncertain, but potentially the decision may be to cease giving licences to shooting on Welsh public land. Current leases run out in Spring 2019, meaning shooting on public land in Wales could come to an end at that point.



GAME OVER FOR SHOOTING?

Pressure on the government to put an end to 'game' bird shooting is mounting after new polling shows that nearly seven out of ten people (69%) in Great Britain want the cruel 'sport' made illegal.

The YouGov polling was commissioned by animal protection groups, the League and Animal Aid.

Chris Luffingham, Director of Campaigns at the League, said:

“The shooting industry tries to paint pheasant and partridge shooting as some kind of traditional, idyllic activity which puts food on the table. That image has been blown out of the sky because people clearly don't believe it anymore.”

In addition, a fresh wave of MPs, including Alex Sobel (Leeds North West), Thelma Walker (Colne Valley) and Judith Cummins (Bradford South), are backing a ban on commercial grouse shooting.

Legal challenges to grouse moor practices are set to hit the courts, including a challenge to hen harrier brood management – which sees threatened birds of prey removed and reared away from shooting moors, before being released elsewhere.

The Shooting Times editor Patrick Galbraith has hit out at 'greedy' estates which place big bird bags before environmental considerations. Despite calls for restraint from industry lobbyists, some 'self-regulated' grouse estates are offering upwards of a 300 bag of grouse per shoot day, research by the League shows.

And the Labour Party have called for an independent review of grouse shooting. The move taps into recent Labour Party proposals to strengthen legislation based on the view that the suffering and killing of animals in the name of 'sport' is fundamentally unacceptable.

LEAGUE IN ACTION

DEATH OF 100 DOGS EXPOSES THE 'SECRET' THREAT OF DISEASE FROM HUNTS

A new, independent report revealing that 97 dogs were euthanised following an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) at a hunting kennels backs up the League's concerns that hunts are a major biosecurity risk.

The report, by researchers at the University of Edinburgh, also contains information which suggests both the Kimblewick hunt and Defra kept quiet about key aspects of the outbreak – such as claiming only 25 dogs were affected, rather than the actual total of 97.

Given that disease, not just bTB, is one of the biggest threats to the lives of farm animals and the livelihoods of

farmers in the UK, this raises grave concerns about the way biosecurity across the UK is being managed.

The League said:

“This story isn't about one kennel infected with bTB, it's about the way hunts routinely avoid even basic biosecurity and animal welfare measures, meaning their poor dogs are often living disease carriers.”

Following pressure from the League, the Kimblewick Hunt pulled out of the Thame Show after we raised concerns of potential disease spread.

SCOT'S GOVERNMENT ON THE HUNT

The campaign to really ban fox hunting in Scotland continues with the Scottish Government still to make a decision on the future of hunting following Lord Bonomy's review.

Despite assurances this would happen before Summer Recess there has been no announcement.

However, the latest cabinet reshuffle included a new ministerial post, promoting MSP Mairi Gougeon into the role of Minister for the Natural Environment with a remit for animal welfare.

HARE RAISING CAMPAIGN IN SCOTLAND

League Scotland's mountain hares campaign has gone from strength to strength.

Our exposé of mountain hare persecution in the Highlands has received overwhelming support from the public, the media and politicians.

We hosted a productive round table event in Holyrood where we revealed new polling on public opinion showing 83% of people in Scotland think mountain hare killing should be illegal or regulated. We are continuing to work closely with OneKind for full protection of this iconic species.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New CEO for the League

The League has a new Chief Executive Officer – Andy Knott. Andy, who has been serving as our Interim CEO for most of this year, has had a long and varied career both in the army and in the private sector. He is an experienced international executive, recognised for taking people and organisations from “now to next” and achieving cultural change. You can read Andy's welcome message in the letter accompanying this magazine.

Welcome Andy!

Hot dogs

Campaigners from the League and greyhound welfare group Greyt Exploitations joined forces during the summer to highlight that greyhounds were being raced during extreme temperatures. The extreme conditions the dogs were raced in put them in danger of heatstroke and flew in the face of advice being given to animal lovers caring for their own pets during the heatwave.

Dangerous dogs?

The League has contributed to a government inquiry into Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) and the Dangerous Dogs Act. The League believes that BSL, which means certain dog breeds are banned for being potentially dangerous, does little to protect the public and should be replaced with legislation which focuses on responsible ownership.

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Forever Autumn on our Sanctuaries

Paul Tillsley, Head of Conservation, talks about the arrival of Autumn on the League's wildlife sanctuaries, after a long, dry, but not particularly hot summer.

“Here on Exmoor we have had a lot more cloud cover than in the east of the country and so the vegetation has stayed relatively green and lush. This has kept the deer that graze on the sanctuaries satisfied, even if it has been a bit frustrating for the human residents.

Now the days are getting shorter, the deciduous trees that have stood so proudly on the sanctuaries throughout the summer, resplendent in their green, leafy coats, have finally decided they have had enough for the year. As they withdraw their resources to save for another time, we are treated to a magnificent display of yellows, reds, oranges and browns before the leaves finally fall to the ground in the inevitable autumn gales. Meanwhile, the conifers that stand resolutely determined to see out the winter in full leaf, provide valuable shelter for birds and other animals.

Some of the wildlife that lives on the League's sanctuaries, such as hazel dormice and hedgehogs, will be having their last meals of the year and hoping that they have put on enough fat to sustain them through whatever the coming winter throws at them. Cold winters, like the last one, are actually better for these animals, as they are more likely to stay dormant until the spring, rather than waking up mid-winter when there is little food for them.

The main event of the autumn on the League's sanctuaries is, of course, the Red Deer rut. Mature stags can travel some distance to get to the place where they know that the female hinds are coming into season. Unfortunately, to get there the stags have to run the gauntlet of people trying to hunt and shoot them, just so they can have a trophy for their wall. The League's wildlife sanctuaries provide some of the very few places where the stags can get on with the business of breeding without being disturbed. The number of mature stags in the area has reduced in recent years, due to the combined pressures of deer hunting and shooting, and the growth of commercial pheasant shooting, but some stags always make it through. One thing that always amazes me is how many deer hunt supporters, who despise the League's presence, still try to get onto the League's Baronsdown sanctuary to see the rut.”



A better place for wildlife

We caught up with long-term member of the League, Clive Nancarrow, to find out why he made the decision to include a gift to the League in his Will.

“Having worked as a trustee for the League Against Cruel Sports for numerous years, I have seen first-hand how staff go the extra mile every day. Because they are not just professional, but passionate about defending persecuted animals.

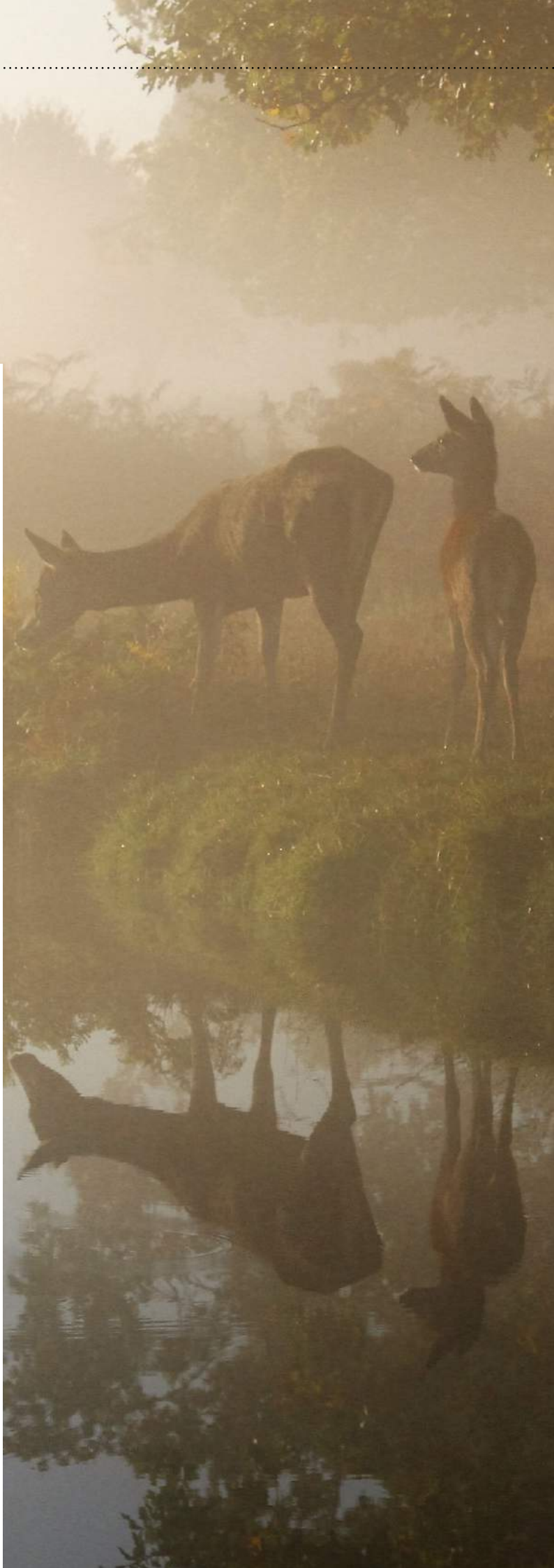
What made me decide to leave a legacy to the League was their forward-thinking nature. They not only offer protection for animals today but greater protection in the future too.

Right now, the League’s sanctuaries are offering a safe haven for thousands of otherwise persecuted wildlife. Meanwhile, their investigative team are out in the field, gathering evidence of illegal fox hunting and other forms of wildlife crime.

But looking forward, their growing educational programme is focussing on changing attitudes and achieving greater protection for animals. This work will one day help to both strengthen our legal system and improve humanity in future generations of society.

I believe the League is the organisation best placed to make a difference for animals – not just now, but importantly in the future. And that’s why I feel confident that the gift I’ve left the League in my Will, one day, will go on to help protect even more animals from cruelty.”

Leaving behind a gift in your Will, after you’ve taken care of your loved ones, is a powerful way of helping ensure a better place for wildlife. You can find out more by requesting a Guide to Gifts in Wills pack today. Simply call 01483 524 250 or email legacies@league.org.uk.



Tough Challenge, Big Feat

Martine has taken part in numerous challenges to raise money for the League in recent years – from abseiling down the landmark Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth to completing the Tough Mudder obstacle course for the League (which is exactly how it sounds). This August, she took part in Tougher Mudder and raised a whopping £1,000 for the League! Martine talks to us about how it went.

What motivated you to raise money for the League again?

I believe that prevention is better than cure, and the League have a big impact in strengthening the law, changing beliefs and identifying offenders so that animal abuse can be prevented in the first place. I don't want to avoid anything out of fear, so each year I challenge myself and use that as an opportunity to also raise funds.

What was your most memorable moment?

There were some lovely moments, such as seeing a deer step out from the woods near the course, and a fellow participant calling out "Great cause!" when he saw my League vest. But perhaps most memorable was hanging from two wooden pegs on a near-vertical slope, unsure of my next move. Momentarily, I thought I might be destined to hang there forever – or slide back down to the bottom!



Do you have any tips or advice for raising money?

Persevere and keep putting your cause out there. Leave a sponsorship form somewhere with high footfall, such as a gym or office reception - preferably with someone who'll advocate what you're doing. If you don't ask, you don't get...

But also have faith in the generosity of strangers. I was overwhelmed by the donations I received from League supporters who don't know me personally but who saw what I was doing on social media. It's an uplifting reminder that we all support the same cause!

Get involved

Why not organise your own fundraising challenge in aid of animals? Get your free Fundraising Pack today!

Visit League.org.uk for more information.

Animal Advocates

At our AGM in July, many of you told us you wanted to be equipped with tools to help spread the word about cruelty to animals in the name of sport.

So, we are pleased to unveil Animal Advocates, a segment dedicated to letting you know how to get involved, how to campaign and how to order resources to enable you to 'mythbust' the people you are talking to.

Thanks for your support; here's to defending animals persecuted in the name of so-called sport.

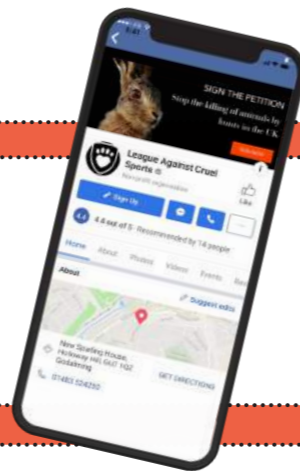
TAKE ACTION NOW...



SIGN THE HUNTING PETITION

You can help stop the killing of animals by Hunts in the UK by signing our online petition and sharing on social media to encourage your friends and family to sign it too.

www.league.org.uk/huntingkills



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Hit the 'like' button on our Facebook page and your daily feed will feature updates on all the work we are doing. Don't forget to share the posts to help spread the word about animal cruelty: [facebook.com/LeagueAgainstCruelSports](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueAgainstCruelSports)



DISTRIBUTE CAMPAIGN FLYERS

campaign@league.org.uk

You can spread the word about trail hunting, cub hunting, the disease spread by hounds, shooting, greyhound racing, horse racing and dog fighting by ordering our series of leaflets to distribute in your local community. You could ask your local cafes and community centres if they would display some of the leaflets to help spread awareness.

JOIN A SUPPORTER GROUP

www.league.org.uk/supporter-groups

Are you interested in actively campaigning in your region to help us bring an end to cruelty inflicted on animals in the name of sport? Would you like to meet and work with like-minded individuals in order to do so? By joining one of our Supporter Groups we can take action together.



HELP EDUCATE VETS ABOUT DOG FIGHTING

campaign@league.org.uk

Do you think the veterinary community should be able to identify the signs of dog fighting, and know how to report it? You can order packs from us, which will provide vets with a useful guide, to take to your local vet. The pack includes posters for display at the surgery, and information leaflets, to help get the message out to the general public about what signs to look out for if they suspect a dog is being used for fighting.

JOIN US AT DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

league.org.uk/Pages/Events/Category/league-events

Come and make your voice heard! From hosting merchandise stalls at festivals, to demonstrations and protests around the regions, we make sure we maintain our presence around the country and we would love to see you at one of our events. Keep an eye on the Events page of our website for upcoming opportunities to meet with like-minded supporters and be the voice for animals.



FUNDRAISE

fundraising@league.org.uk

Why not organise your own fundraising challenge in aid of animals and become a League Hero? Whether you fancy running a marathon, hosting a bake sale or organising a pub quiz, get in touch with the fundraising team who can provide lots of ideas, support and motivation!

WEAR THE LEAGUE WITH PRIDE

www.league.org.uk/shop

Would you like to let the general public know about the League? Simply sip from a League-branded bamboo coffee cup on your morning commute, walk around your local shopping centre with a League-branded tote bag or send beautifully designed animal Christmas cards to your friends, colleagues and family this festive season! You can browse our Gifts Against Cruel Sports catalogue included or simply hop online and order today.



Get in touch

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League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533)



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

The League Against Cruel Sports is Britain's leading charity that works to stop animals being persecuted, abused and killed for sport. The League was instrumental in helping bring about the landmark Hunting Act. We carry out investigations to expose law-breaking and cruelty to animals, and campaign for stronger animal protection laws and penalties. We work to change attitudes and behaviour through education, and manage sanctuaries to protect wildlife.