

## Transcript – Video 1 (11/08/20)

Speakers:

Chairman: Lord Mancroft

Alice Bowden

Mark Hankinson

Richard Tyacke

Phil Davies

0:14

**Alice:** I think probably, Mr. Chairman, that everyone is here so we can make a start.

0:19

**Chairman:** OK, thank you, Alice, very much, good afternoon, good afternoon everybody or good evening rather and welcome to the 3rd, I think, training seminar on this lovely cool balmy evening. I hope you're not quite as hot as I am; I'm about to explode. The good news is that the entire panel behind their collars and ties are wearing shorts so I hope you all are too and I'm delighted to say there are 103 of you that have now joined this conference, this seminar, which is really good news.

I don't know how many of you are new Masters and how many of you are old Masters in office already, it doesn't really matter. Today is one of the most important training seminars that we do and I was just looking down at the subjects we are going to cover: **overt trail laying**, incredibly important not just that your hounds can lay a trail and can hunt a trail, they're seen to hunt it by the people like the antis and the police and anyone who happens to come past.

**Monitoring and stewarding:** we did a lot more of that last year, much more successfully, and we need to build on that this year.

**Evidence gathering and using evidence:** hugely important. The antis endlessly try and prosecute us but luckily they don't succeed very often. We do not spend enough time and effort prosecuting them. We could just get some proper complaints, have the evidence, get one or two convictions, it would make such a difference very quickly. You don't have to do it every day of the week, as it were. If every hunt that has antis made sure that they made one complaint and there was one prosecution a year, my goodness would it make a difference, but none of that would unless we have leadership planning and implementation. Please listen to what Rich has got to say about that and please too we need the right equipment. Alice will be talking about that at the end.

You will see at the bottom of your screens, you will see a Q&A button. If during the course of the presentations you want to ask questions, if you get up that button, you write them down, we'll probably do all the questions at the end. We try to answer as many as we can but if we can't we'll follow up afterwards. Please do ask questions and we'll try to get them if we can.

So, anyway, thank you for that and I'm going to hand over to start with to Mark Hankinson who is going to talk to you about overt trail laying. Mark, over to you.

2:57

**Mark Hankinson:** Chairman, many thanks for that. We are going to cover this in greater depth on Thursday so I think if we just run through some of the key elements here and **I think the most important thing that we need to bear in mind is that if you've got saboteurs out with you in any shape or form we need to have clear visible plausible trail laying being done throughout the day.**

**I don't think it's good enough just to have your huntsman ducking and diving trying to just give them the slip and leaving it at that, we need to have very clear evidence of trail laying.**

**In the old days we, when I say the old days I mean a few years ago, if you were caught out by the sabs and ended up in court you were bloody stupid and that the biggest problem were the League. That's largely changed turned on its head now we've had a lot of successful - when I say successful, *they've* been successful, we've been the ones that have been caught out - problems with the saboteurs and even just with little old ladies.**

We've rather forgotten now about the League largely because they've run out of money but they're still there and they have still had some success. Sometimes you may not see anyone but they could well be there lying in wait filming you and you won't [know] they're there until they either do the classic drive-by at the end of the day when they try and get a closeup of your huntsman's face or you get the inevitable phone call two or three months later when the police turn up at your door and say, 'Will you come and tell us what was happening'.

Do bear in mind that it's not just saboteurs on the day that you need to be careful of, the League is still very much out there and operating and they are a force still to be reckoned with.

**So, coming back to the overt trail laying, if you've got saboteurs out there, I'm a firm believer that you need more than one trail layer.** I always love Will Day, who will be joining us on Thursday, when he lays trails in the New Forest, he has emblazoned on the back of his sweatshirt 'Trail Layer Number 3'.

**5:12 It's a lot easier to create a smokescreen if you've got more than one trail layer operating** and that is what it's all about, trying to portray to the people watching that you're going about legitimate business. **Obviously, it's important for the trail layers to know where you're going to go. Give them a brief beforehand, tell them what your order of draw is and if it changes for any reason let them know.** You've got to have clear communication.

We're going to talk about communications later on but whether it's secure radios, whether it's telephones, someone needs to be liaising with the trail layers the whole time. Don't just leave it to the huntsman, he's got more than enough on his plate trying to deal with the hounds and trying to deal with the saboteurs without trying to marshal the trail layers as well, but you need them out in front clearly visible.

**6:05 It's probably just as well to have something foul smelling on the end of the drag just in case an anti leaps out from behind a gateway and grabs hold of it and says, 'This is just a clean hanky' or something and of course the other thing you don't want your trail layer getting mixed up with the, you know, stop at the meet or if there's a check or wherever the hounds are and he's stood in the middle discussing the next rule with the huntsman and the lure is just dangling down in front of Dreadnought's nose and he's paying no attention to it. Pretty obvious it's no good for anything, so that is another very important factor to bear in mind while you're doing all of this.**

A lot of people in the past have tried to say, 'Oh, we laid trails earlier' or 'we laid them the day before' - in a situation where you've got saboteurs out or antis or whatever that's not really going to work too well. We need to have clear and visible trail laying going on on the day and it needs to be as plausible as possible. That has got to be the key lesson in all of this. If you've got the saboteurs there we've got to have that evidence, both in case it goes to court but also to help the police. If you can show you have got a trail layer that's operating you're going to find it so much easier if you have to call the police or the police are called by

the opposition to say, 'Those are our trail layers, they're doing their job, we're going about our legitimate business' and it will help you immensely. Right, I think that pretty much covers what we need to say today as far as overt trail laying and saboteurs are; we'll obviously go into greater depth about this when we revisit this on Thursday. Chairman, thank you very much.

7:54

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mark, very much, that was pretty clear. Everybody do note what Mark said about Thursday because this is a very important subject, so come back and listen to it then. I'm now going to ask Phil Davies to talk to us, first of all about monitoring and stewarding and then secondly about evidence gathering and using evidence. Phil, over to you.

8:13

**Phil:** Thank you Chairman. Good evening ladies and gentlemen. For those of you don't know me I'm a retired Chief Inspector working now with the Countryside Alliance, for the best part of ten years now. Time flies. This presentation some of you may have seen it before but we're going to go through it again. What I'm going to talk about tonight is lawful and it's exempt hunting and trail hunting. OK, just in case somebody's listening that shouldn't be listening that's what I'm talking about. I'll take questions at the end like the Chairman said.

So, the first part of the presentation and this is key really that the hunt planned. Now you as Masters should discuss and have an agreed plan of action for when the monitors, saboteurs', covert monitors are present. Now that sounds quite straight forward but it does require some strong leadership and ownership from yourselves. That leadership and ownership sometimes involves you having to go and speak with somebody - a supporter, loyal member, about their behaviour.

Ownership is actually about owning this plan and having somebody responsible for it and seeing it through, making sure it does actually work. Couple of hunts I can name: Warwickshire, Fitzwilliam, Cottesmore, they really have taken it on board as far as ownership is concerned and quite a few other hunts are moving in that direction. That plan stands for, from a policing perspective, as everything you do has got to be proportionate, has got to be lawful, you will be held to account because you are being filmed at all times and was an action you took necessary? So the cornerstone of your hunt plan, general advice for managing the confrontation really, and this is the cornerstone.

The hunt must have a clear policy not to speak or engage with or provoke anti-hunt protesters. Now, if they to be spoken to I say your plan should be either to appoint an appropriate person who is briefed and knows what they are going to say so there's no point in [inaudible] doesn't know what he's going to say and what the appropriate brief is. To that person you must avoid, in my opinion, avoid the challenge that type of challenge whilst riding on a horse or wearing a red coat. Why do I say that? Well I think it creates a social media hit for the antis, creates a public perception of what we're about and it creates a bit of a PR disaster seeing somebody on top on a horse looking down on somebody telling them to get off the land. It would be far better if we had somebody on foot speaking to them and explaining why they have to go from the land. It just creates a better impression in my personal view.

Now the presence of the antis obviously needs clear communication firstly to the hunt, you need to know as soon as they arrive but also you may or may not be aware you also need to let Polly Portwin know via texting service and WhatsApp service she runs, because it's important to let your neighbours know when the saboteurs are with you. A) they at least know that the saboteurs are occupied and the monitors are occupied with that particular hunt or B) they could recognise that they can expect a visit later on that day and it's also some fantastic gathering for Polly and her team so please remember when you get them please let Polly know straight away now.

That's the cornerstone of the plan: when you see protesters the general advice is to start video recording and that's to everybody: your hunt supporters, your followers, the people on horseback, whoever is able to carry a camera my advice is - or with a mobile phone or with a video camera - is switch it on, stand there and video record.

You might record that golden shot of the saboteurs misbehaving or whatever they're doing, threatening and intimidating, which will prove an offence for us, OK, it's important that our people get in the habit of doing that. Now, if we're asked why we're video recording it's relatively straight forward, it's to prevent any false allegations being made against you as an individual because the saboteurs will do that if they get the opportunity, but it's also to prevent and detect any offences being committed, like we've explained, if you're video recording. It's too late to look for a camera when the incident has happened try and capture it on film, **the important point is you must also remember and must also brief your supporters and followers and your subscribers that they are being filmed at all times by us and by the saboteurs so you'll have to play for, to, the camera** and I'll expand on this a bit later.

The general advice continues, the use of video cameras - they're used by saboteurs, they've been used by saboteurs for years, why? Because they're so hell bent against hunting we can't take their word for any evidence they give unless it's corroborated by video evidence. Enforcement agencies use them, police, traffic wardens, bailiffs when they come to somebody's house to enforce a warrant, it provides corroboration and it's important that our people understand that, but we, you, know I always say when I do these presentations in live format that you people are the salt of the earth as far as I'm concerned, reliable witnesses but unfortunately you are biased towards hunting and the rules apply to you as they do to the saboteurs. You need corroboration to get our complaints relayed and get them before the court; without that we are going to struggle.

Please don't forget that the protesters are more experienced than you are in dealing with protests. They go to various types of protests from climate change to badger cull, whatever it may be, so they're always getting trained dealing in front of police officers, dealing with conflict. They know what to look for.

If you look at clips on YouTube you will see numerous clips of our people being interviewed by a saboteur on film about the legality of the hunt, what the trail is, what the scent is, whatever it may be. Please don't allow yourself to be interviewed or filmed by the monitors answering questions [inaudible] on film because they will trick us and they [inaudible]. If we are going to interview or speak to them we need to appoint somebody who knows what the intention of the hunt is for that day, to go and speak to them, and the only people who know the intention of the hunt on the day is the Master and huntsman, so why are we trying to answer those questions? I don't know why foot followers and people on horseback are trying to answer those questions.

If we are challenged as individuals, no matter what type of hunt you are or belong to, just tell them, 'We're hunting a trail or exempt hunting, leave me alone, take your evidence to the police' or 'I'm here to watch the hunt, take your evidence to the police, leave me alone' and that's the basic rule for everybody to tell the saboteurs unless you've been the appointed to go and speak to them for a specific reason. Just keep it simple. When you're asked question about what the hunt is doing - 'take your evidence to the police, leave me alone'. It goes without saying you should avoid any physical contact/confrontation and respect their personal space.

Now I've already asked [inaudible] recording people again you go on the hunt websites and sabbing websites you will see how people walking along with a video camera or a mobile phone and they will place the camera in somebody's face. For what reason? They're not gathering any evidence, all they're going to gather is the eyebrows and possibly the nose of the individual. What I want people to do is what I call the wedding shot: stand back - if you're

at a wedding you don't put the camera in the bride's face, you stand back and you take the wide angle shot of what's happening in front of you - that's what I want our people to do. Don't go in their personal space, stand back and record what's happening so we can take that evidence, if we gather it, and support our complaint. Now none verbal communication is important. I've already said twice that we're on film and we need to plague that film so when we talk to individuals: 'please get back', put your hands up, 'leave me alone, you're intimidating me, you're harassing me, please get away, take your evidence to the police' - by placing your hands up there you are being filmed and it shows you as being passive. You don't want any aggression, you're being lawful and it's the saboteur who is the aggressor, you need to practice that and get that process in place.

If someone points a finger at and I'm terrible at this, I tend to point a finger back, try not to, try to use an open palm, it's important that you state clearly that you find their behaviour intimidating or they're harassing or they're bothering you because what they are doing they are video recording and if nothing else you're contaminating their film with their behaviour because the rules apply to them the same as they do to us, they have to produce all the video evidence and we're complaining about being intimidated and harassed legitimately then they, then we are contaminating their film, and above all else if you feel that way then there's nothing stopping you from riding off into the distance there's nothing stopping our people walking away or backing off. Just move away from the confrontation, so that is the basic plan that I would say to you, the initial plan that you need to put in place or have in place for everybody within the hunt so everybody is doing what I've just asked.

They're not our friends, no small talk, no point in engaging with them, just monitor and see whether you can get the evidence from them.

Now, the second part is directed directly towards the hunt and it's the hunt plan and I strongly advocate that you have evidence gathering teams. It's a police term, EGT. Now their sole purpose, they'd be responsible to the hunt itself and their sole purpose will be to protect the hunt from false allegations and film offences being committed by the saboteurs. You can task them, you can send Phil Davies and his crew across the other side of the field and stand back and video record the saboteurs. They work in teams of two and a driver. A driver can drop them off, the one person can be watching the person filming watching his back or if need be be able to tell the saboteurs, 'please stand, back we're video recording to prevent and detect crime' and the camera man is a person who is there to video record. Now I really do like body worn video cameras.

People tend to forget they're there. You can ride a horse with it, you can stand there, just stand quite inconspicuous, the video is running all the time. Hand held cameras are good and also video cameras are also good but the point I'm making is that you must try and put in place, and I know resources are difficult, evidence gathering teams to be able to gather that evidence for you.

Now these people who do this work for you can be on foot, they can be on quad, they can be on horseback. I would like to think you would be able to get all three. If you're having somebody targeted in the field riding, picking on one individual every week, why not have somebody riding behind that person with a body worn video camera, just sitting there on a horse video recording the torrent of abuse they get. What better evidence could we have?

But what I said to you about ownership, it needs somebody to be appointed to oversee that type of operation. Just as there's a Field Master, you need somebody to be appointed to oversee that when that information then comes in, what do you do with the films? I say to you there's no point in keeping films of you riding across the countryside having jumps and that kind of stuff, no need to keep it. The only evidence you need to keep is the full evidence of a potential offence being committed by the saboteurs or if you're looking at civil trespass and civil injunctions and you need to build up that case, then you need to consider how you're

going to retain that evidence of proving that they are being continually trespassing on your land.

Like all information and data it has to come into a single point of contact, the information, data controller, to comply with GDPR, that storage and use of it to prevent and detect crime, and access to, and continuity of that evidence.

When you're filing please make sure that there's a time and date on it. If they're wrong then explain so on the film, say time and date is wrong on that particular film. These days digital cameras do it automatically. Run the film continuously during the incident now [inaudible] send me copies of videos and they'll send me a clip and sure enough it looks pretty bad on the clip and then you ask them to send the whole clip, then either before or after they've done something stupid which contaminates the video and the police will ask the same question.

You'll have to run the video through the entire incident and the police, if you make the complaint, will want to see the entire incident and the courts will want to see it or have the ability to see it so you cannot edit the footage, delete any series in a sequence of films in relation to a particular offence and don't forget adjusting the brightness contrast or basic edits and it could be classed as tampering with evidence.

If you can try to identify all the hunt monitors and their vehicles please don't use it as an excuse to harass your monitors or your saboteurs because they are video recording and they will be showing that video of you basically trying to intimidate or harass them with your video camera. It's difficult but we have to get in the habit.

When you task your evidence gathering team you obviously have to look after them as individuals and consider their safety, that's why we've said one camera person and one individual who will do the talking so they can look after each other, so they're not isolated by themselves, and a driver so that they can be picked up or they can retreat to the driver and get away.

I suggest that you identify the officials and the stewards and clearly identify them. Often we see video footage of people wearing country-wear with a flat cap proclaiming to be representing the hunt and telling people to get off the land. We need to identify ourselves either by using armbands, fluorescent bibs marked 'Hunt Official', all right, because that shows - and you'll probably be laughing now at duty of care that we have not only to our people in the hunting community but also the people who come onto the land - and we're concerned about their safety, that's why we ask to get off the land, that's why we're there as safety officers; we don't want them standing in front of jumps, we don't want them causing an accidental kill and we're there, that's the purpose of our safety officers and a real badge displaying 'CCTV in operation' so you're being perfectly transparent as to what you are doing. Ideally you should have a GPS marker on the film to show where you are filming so there's no dispute as to where that incident took place. If you can't then film specific areas that can show exactly where: church steeples, church villages, church halls, whatever it may be so you can identify where you are.

When you're picking your evidence gathering team it's important that they understand that they are going to have to go to court to give evidence and that evidence in the main would be that they were standing in a field and they took a video recording which they now produce to the court, unless they were subject to abuse themselves or attacked by the saboteurs. That would be the sum total of the evidence that they would have to provide, so it's important that they

A) are willing to give evidence, give witness statement and go to court to give evidence.

Now the other thing you to speak to them about is if they have been gathering this evidence for you they need to look at their social media setting on their Facebook pages

and whatever else they use because the saboteurs will try to identify who they are, who their business are and try to discredit them on social media and possibly, as we all know, try to interfere with their businesses, so it's an important job.

It's a difficult job but people need to be briefed and we need to take those precautions if they are going to do the evidence gathering.

The stewards trained or awareness trained - we'll come onto stewarding in a minute - are operating in teams controlled by one person. That can be the same person that controls the evidence gathering teams. Stewards, whether they are trained or not should wear body-worn video cameras and they are there to gather the evidence like everybody else and again they will be required to go to court to give evidence if may be.

What kind of stuff do we want these gathering people to record? [inaudible] I want them to record horn blowing, spraying, hollering, amplified hound music and interferes with the trail

A: because it's showing that they're interfering with a lawful activity, harassing us, they're causing us a problem - there may be offences within that - but also if we're accused of illegal hunting and we've got the saboteurs out on a day's hunting and there's horns being blown by them, they're hollering, they're playing amplified hound music, **what better than to produce a video to the court to say it wasn't us encouraging the hounds on, it wasn't our hounds in full cry, it was the gismo. It wasn't an accidental kill because they interfered with the trail.** Now you know more about hunting than the saboteurs or the courts will know **but what it will do is create that smokescreen or that element of doubt that we haven't deliberately hunted a fox,** so if nothing else you need to record that and it will help us provide a defence to huntsmen.

Secondly what we asking that evidence gathering to do is when you've appointed that individual who can speak to the saboteurs, that they record that approach and video record the individual talking to the saboteur and record any discussions, warnings given, for trespass or whatever the purpose of that conversation is.

Now you're doing that for two reasons:

- 1) to gather the evidence of being told they're trespassing and
- 2) to protect the person having that conversation, to show that they are acting lawfully, legitimately, they have been held to account because they're recording it and it was necessary to go and speak to them.

Now, when you finish the film or filming for the day the continuity of that film is important - who video recorded - and it comes back into the data controller and the data controller should record that Phil Davies as 'camera number one' and then data is downloaded onto your computers and retained for evidence for the police if need be. That is a lot of work for whoever is going to do that and you need your evidence gathering people to flag post if there's anything of relevance on there because believe you me I have watched plenty of films of horses running [inaudible] waited twenty five minutes before we actually get to the bit of evidence we need to see, so the evidence gatherer needs to flag post to say 'at two minutes past two to three minutes past two, that's the crucial bit', the rest of it is really irrelevant but it all needs to be retained.

OK, following an incident you need to decide if the police are going to be informed or not and I would say it's the Masters who need to at least know that there's, that there is an incident and the police have been informed. Please remember as part of your plan that all calls are tape recorded so when you make the initial call the police do check what you reported. When they turn up at the scene to take a complaint they will check what you initially recorded, identify what you recorded, location, the response, and obtain an incident number so you've got something to go back to, the officer's number, call number.

Now please deal with the police calmly. Please don't try to tell them what to do and how to do their job but do hold them to account if you're not happy [inaudible] police officers and initially I did defend them when I started this job but now I understand where you're coming from. I would run the body worn video camera whilst making a complaint and I would hold them to account.

Also please liaise with any incidents you do have - at the end of the day or before the Monday at least - let Polly Portwin and Eleasha Sallis know the details of the incident so that we can use that evidence, we can advise you on any press release statements. Polly and Adrian Simpson, they have a wealth of experience in dealing with that and giving you that 24 hours gap to be able to deal with the press, to give you that time to see what's actually happened and calling the statement, so when an incident does happen let Polly know, let Adrian know, and they will assist you with the wealth of knowledge they have in respect of getting that press release out, or statement out, as may be.

Very often I hear that I've made a complaint and the police haven't done anything about it. What does actually making a complaint mean? Well, you have to tell the police obviously you're making a complaint, you have to explain how it affected you, whether you were injured, whether you were harassed, whether you were alarmed, distressed or whatever it may be. If there is an offence the police should ask you two things: 1) are you willing to make a witness a statement and 2) are you willing to go to court to give evidence... [inaudible]... at the end of those questions the police will say thank you very much Mr. Davies, we've heard what you've got to say, we're going to speak to the saboteurs and... [inaudible]... on. You need a complainant to take it forward in most of the cases, now, if you've listened to what I've asked you to do you will have gathered the evidence on video and this will corroborate your complaint and you will have some hope of getting that complaint through.

Now, please remember tell the truth. Attempting to pervert the course of justice is a far more serious criminal offence than any hunting offence and please don't over-emphasise it, speak from the heart and speak the truth. If you haven't been intimidated or harassed it won't come across as such. If you have been genuinely been threatened and intimidated, it will come across. Right, so that's the basics of your hunt plans as far as evidence gathering and followers/supporters generally and your evidence gathering team, that's key.

You now have to decide if you are going to deal with trespass and how you're going to deal with it, this is a difficult area for police officers to deal with, let alone individuals who have had no training what so ever. When you become a trespasser, when you have been told you are trespassing, I can take my dogs for a walk across the fields on the belief that I had the right of way until the farmer comes up and tells me, or a person acting on his behalf, that I am told I am trespassing, then they're not trespassing. You have to be told you're trespassing, that approach has to be video recorded.

Now, trespass is a civil matter, not a police matter, and the police should attend to prevent a breach of the peace if need be when you are asking people to leave the land. Now, I know there is difficulty around that: resources, where you are in the middle of the countryside, etc. but so long as you put that challenge in, that element of the offence to prove is complete. If the police do turn up, in this day and age it's difficult, they may assist the police, may assist in the ejection of a land owner or the agent, but if you put this challenge in you must have the authority of the land owner.

We've had the letters with the Hunting Office that you can get the land owners to authorise the hunt, to act as the agent to the land owner, at their request. Please don't pretend you've got the authority because that's where you get your power to request the trespasser to leave.

Now, removal of the trespasser as I say is difficult, unless you've been trained we don't recommend the use of force, if trained or as a last resort you may have the right to physically



eject them from the land, property or premises. Now the law allows you to do this provided you use no more force than was necessary to remove the trespasser. Now, that is key and it's subjective. My idea of necessary use of force might be completely different to a young farmer who has just come out of YFC, OK? These untrained people, their perception of as much force as necessary could be to put somebody in a headlock and march them off the field whereas my use of force would be possibly put my hands out, palms facing forward, asking them to stop - that would be my use of force. It's a very difficult area and you'll see police officers getting it wrong in protests, pushing people over, getting nasty injuries, some people dying from those injuries; it is a difficult area. So, my advice is unless you're trained the use of force is a very difficult area. If you're using, if you do use a force, we recommend SIA training personnel but these people must be properly briefed as well because sending a person to run dopeless... [inaudible]... out into the countryside, they wouldn't know what hit them, they've never dealt with stuff like that before, they're used to working on doors, etc. and they have to be spoken to beforehand and they have to be briefed as to what to expect.

Again, you must have the landowner's authority or someone to act as their agent and again, there's no point employing stewards and spending a lot of money on stewards like we did up in Cheshire and then finding out that they're not prepared to go to court and give evidence and make a witness statement. They are professional witnesses just like PCSOs are, that's what they are there for.

Now, we have to have expectations and set the boundaries as to what we want them to do. Try to remove a bunch of saboteurs from the field, 30-40 acre field to the gateway, is very difficult, so we consider and we must consider as part of our plan, consider pinch points, gateways and actual boundaries where we can hold and retain them. We've achieved our objective, I know as a landowner you want them off your land but you have achieved an objective if you retain them and preoccupy them by the gateway.

Again these security people must be wearing body worn video cameras when they deal with trespass because they will be accused of assaults. If you intend using untrained volunteers, all those points I've just mentioned are applicable. These untrained individuals haven't been trained in restraint techniques, release or removal holds. When you catch hold of somebody the natural thing is to simply to pull away from you. If you leave go and they fall over and they hit their head they can have a contrecoup injury to the back of the head, then it is serious. We see it happening in public order incidents with the police and we're sending our people untrained to try and deal with saboteurs. We strongly recommend that untrained people do not use force and at the very most they stand in front of them, open palms, putting the challenge in you're trespassing, leave the land. And they need to have some training which we can offer.

Police tend to be less sympathetic towards our untrained people, when they see an SIA trained van they tend to think of it being a more professional outfit. So that's very briefly what it entails as far as your hunt plan.

What we do have are some emerging trends that you need to be aware of. We have had police interviews and enquiries by the police – **hope there are not police officers listening - there is no such thing as an off the record chat with a policeman.** OK, they will come up to you, put their arm round your shoulder, 'Come on my boy, tell me what's happened', don't fall for that trap, if you were cautioned with the words, 'you may not say anything but it may harm your defence', just latch on to 'you do not have to say anything'. We don't have to say anything or answer any questions, deflect answering until you know what the allegation is.

Try and find out what the allegation is, is it a hunting allegation, when was it, where was it? An assault allegation, try and get as much information as you can. Agree that you will be interviewed voluntarily, with a solicitor at a police station. Let the Master's know and the Hunting Office and we will arrange for some legal cover for you to attend. Please do not go to

a police station to answer questions for an allegation without being accompanied by a solicitor.

Now the last slide. We have some emerging trends that you need to be aware of as part of your plan. Police officers are now using community protection warning letters and notices to address hunt behaviour such as hounds out of control into people's gardens, hunting foxes across villages, all this type of stuff. Going across roads, they are using these notices and they should... [inaudible]... in the last 12 months, 18 months. One particular hunt had a community resolution order where the hounds were on the railway, in the railway, the trains were stopped and they ended up paying £13,000 in compensation for that. Disruption of the timetable. Police are now having pre-interview letters prepared sending to yourselves, trying to cut off our avenues of defence before you get to the police station. That is why you need a solicitor before you arrive. And very much covert monitoring, still very much in place. So that's the presentation. Thank you very much.

44:27

**Chairman:** Well thank you Phil, very much indeed for that. That was an awful lot of information and I know it's an awful lot for people to absorb. And those of you who want to go into this in greater detail, like to think about it again, do feel free, I'm sure Phil would be happy to come and visit you, individual hunts, have a meeting with you and your Masters and the monitors etc. etc. and stewards, to talk this through so do get in touch if you'd like to do that.

There are two points I'd like to make at the end of it, at the end of that, the first is about our own behaviour. **It's one thing defending hunts against accusations under the Hunting Act, and we do that and we're currently doing that, remind me, I can't remember if it's two or three or four, there are always a small handful of cases going on and most of them with a little bit of luck and care and attention, we win. Because we're getting better at it and we're getting better at exempt hunting. Trail hunting.**

**What really drives both of us up the wall is when we get people who have been prosecuted for some aspect of their behaviour, either for being abusive, threatening, punching somebody, hitting somebody with their whip, whatever it may be. I would just ask you all to remember that we are all responsible for our own behaviour as Masters and our hunt staff's behaviour and our hunt follower's behaviour. And so defending prosecutions or complaints about our behaviour is really not on and we can't afford to do it, and I don't think you can afford to do it either** so please, first step of all, make sure everybody behaves properly and doesn't encourage people to make complaints against them by their behaviour during the course of this season or any time in the future. Really important points.

And the other **point I'd like to make is towards the end of his presentation what Phil said is there are no friendly interviews with police officers. All interviews are under caution, the legal fees insurance provides that solicitors are provided**, so Masters, hunt followers or hunt staff are going to be interviewed by the police and they cannot, they must not, be interviewed until the solicitor is there. It's absolutely clear, no interviews without solicitors. We've had some questions, we'll move on and deal with those at the end. So thank you Phil very much for that, I would now like to ask Richard Tyacke to talk to you about Leadership, Planning and Implementation. Richard, over to you please.

47:07

**Richard Tyacke:** Mr. Chairman, thank you very much indeed. Good evening everybody. I apologise in advance if I do slightly overlap with Phil's excellent presentation but hopefully not too much. Now I'm going to start about talking about planning your day.

Beagle packs, I'll start with beagle packs. **Currently most beagle packs go home if sabs or monitors are present. This is the safe and sensible course of action. While that**

**can seem defeatist and it feel like they're winning it is far better than a court case and then they really are winning and just remember you're on foot and you're very very susceptible.** Depending on how aggressive and unpleasant they are you might consider hound exercise or hunting a trail if it is a place safe to do so, i.e. you are unlucky to bump into lots of hares or at the very least do hang around all afternoon and thus keep them from going and finding another hunt.

There are many more options to you including the trail hunting, hound exercise, taking off across the country than giving them a miserable day. Mark spoke about this earlier and gave great advice about having multiple trail layers. The nature of your country and the topography and the type and how many sabs or monitors you're dealing with will dictate your plan. What is not acceptable is to carry on regardless with them all around you as if they weren't there.

Whatever you decide, you must plan for this event. Even if your hunt has never seen sabs before, sooner or later they will turn up and you must have a plan and it's not acceptable to just the, ignore the presence of the antis.

I'm going to move on now to organising the troops. Whether you have highly aggressive sabs or peaceful monitors we now very, very strongly recommend they're not left unattended. Even the most peaceful monitors, if left to their own devices, will take more and more liberties and you will find them trespassing more and more and more, disrupting your day and potentially upsetting land owners.

Whether you choose to use passive monitors in the evidence gathering teams as Phil called them or if the sabs or stewards that actively present access, it is crucial that you have an organised team. There must be an officer directing operations. I don't mean an officer of the hunt necessarily, I mean somebody with organisational leadership skills who is prepared to do it and is not otherwise busy.

If you decide to go down the route of stewards actively preventing access, Phil's already explained moving people is not not really advisable but preventing people with open palms and a team of men to do it, or indeed ladies, is possible but if you go down that route the Hunting Office really very, very strongly advises again that you get Phil to come and train them or any volunteers who haven't had any training at all and Phil's very happy to do that.

The third thing is you do need good communication, preferably radio communication, between the monitoring and the stewarding groups and the Masters and the huntsmen, is absolutely crucial. We've jumped a slide now. Phil's explained about challenging and putting the challenge in and the stewards challenging them and it's not trespass until they've been challenged and he's also about the use of stewards and pinch points and it doesn't work unless you have a good officer directing the operations.

I've got a couple of examples. 1) The Heythrop used to have, not sabs, they had monitors who were at least there two or four days a week - they caused an awful lot of trouble, they were all over the countryside, and by the way don't fall into the trap of thinking monitors aren't a problem, just try putting yourself in the huntsman's shoes. Some years ago Heythrop came under new management and they put together a team of volunteers or evidence gathering team that monitor the monitors. It was very very, well run with an efficient team leader, good communications, which meant the huntsman was able to keep him and the hounds completely away from them. They had no footage of anything interesting and they were constantly filmed and followed by an army of Heythrop helpers. Within two seasons they had moved on to find an easier target.

It's all about organisation, so you can see how important it is for the huntsman to be involved and updated by radio or whatever, so that he can avoid them and keep out of the way and it's to everybody's benefit. He needs constant information so he can keep adapting his plan. If

sabs and monitors never see the hounds or never see them hunting they'll never have a chance to interrupt them and they soon lose interest.

Equally if you are going for a team of stewards they can be SIA trained, it's perfectly to get your volunteers SIA trained, it's not vastly expensive... [inaudible]... to prevent antis trespassing you need seriously good organisation and again the huntsman needs to be part of this, he needs to be part of the plan and he needs to buy into this. **We can't just pay stewards and think you can carry on and go hunting and they will solve your problem.** This is exactly what my old hunt tried to do last season. The first day a lot of sabs, about 40, 6 or 7 vehicles, turned up at the opening meet. We had some stewards and they were being driven around in one car, nobody really organising them, they didn't know what they were doing they were all in one car and the sabs ran riot we had a ridiculous situation where hounds were hunting in and out amongst all the sabs who were spread entirely... [inaudible]... the farm, it was amazing they weren't banned.

The pinch points that Phil described do work. Four or five stewards can stop a huge crowd, up to 20 or 30 sabs, gaining access. The pinch points need to be well planned.

The following Saturday after the opening meet fiasco I took charge and we had 4 stewards, 2 quads and another vehicle. We had our pinch points planned in advance. When the sabs arrived in 5 vehicles and all split up I phoned the huntsman and said, 'Don't go to Clawsons, go and wait at the T-junction up the road there'. If they're all over the place the easiest thing in the world, the most important thing is to get them into one place, and the easiest way to do it is to use the hounds, so the huntsman went and waited at the T-junction. His instructions were once the sabs are all around you and they're all gathered in one place, don't go to Rags Brook Gorse as planned, don't go in the normal gate to Rags Brook Gorse as planned, go further down the road through the wicket gate with the high hedge either side and the stewards will be lined up at that pinch point. If we fail to stop them there, we'll quad bike across the fields and down to the bridge where we will definitely be able to hold them, and by the way don't hang around at Rags Brook Gorse, push on to Riseborough and get yourself a couple of miles away from them. In this way he was able to have a very successful busy day of trail hunting, uninterrupted, and didn't see any sabs for several hours.

So what I'm trying to get at is the huntsman has to be part of this planning and he has to buy into it him and the hounds and where he goes and where he leads them is absolutely crucial to the use of the pinch points, as us using quads or buggies to get the stewards ahead of them if they do break through.

I know we try and discourage quads, too many quads, but this is a slightly different scenario. Last season the Cotswolds set up a very successful team of voluntary stewards and as Phil mentioned earlier they did it brilliantly and it was highly organised and proved incredibly successful.

Just a little bit of advice about horn blowing: those of you who are hunt hounds or are going to hunt hounds or perhaps advising your huntsman, don't get into a ridiculous horn-blowing contest with the sabs. I well remember scenes from the 1980s, us standing one end of the field and the sabs at the other with confused hounds running backwards and forwards in between not knowing who to go to. If you're trying to gather your hounds and there's a sab blowing, ride up to him, stand next to him, and let him blow. He'll soon stop blowing and you can blow for your hounds and when they're all around you you simply ride off whistling and hounds will all follow you having worked out that he's an imposter; it's very very simple and it saves an awful lot of embarrassment. You will of course need to be careful if you think they are going to spray the hound's faces, most don't, that's pretty rare.

I'm now going to move on to followers which Phil has covered quite succinctly but I will just mention it again. They will try and engage you and your followers in friendly conversation and they trip you up. It's very hard not to continue a conversation once you've started it and the

questions will get tougher and tougher and you end up looking a complete idiot. Or they just try and abuse you into a reaction. It happens time and time again and they record everything, you will always come off the worst, and especially the hunt staff, the hunt staff must not engage talking to them at all. It's so easy just to ride off out the way. The hunt staff and followers should be instructed by the hierarchy of the hunt, the officials, not to speak to them at all. It's very very frustrating for them if you refuse to engage and this is what we want.

The only people in the hunting field who should speak to sabs or monitors are the stewards and the officials who are putting the challenge in, as Phil has already described. You must get this message across to your car followers especially, I would suggest meetings but obviously this year won't work. Or failing that emails, speeches at the meet or hand out advice cards to the followers, it will be very helpful. The message is simple: do not engage. Thank you very much.

59:22

**Chairman:** Thank you Richard very much indeed, that was excellent stuff. And thank you to all the presenters for everything you've done. Now we are going to move on to Alice who is going to talk to us about equipment. Alice, please.

59:52

**Alice:** Sorry. Good evening everyone, I'm going to speak very, very quickly about equipment and where it might be sourced from and I'll try and be very, very brief.

First thing is radios. Two distinct for the radios, the first is for communications between key members of the hunt on a hunting day, for example the huntsman communicating with the Master and the Field Master. Very efficient for communicating about operations during the day and the movements of the antis and the saboteurs. For this purpose it's essential that the radios are secure, i.e. they need to be encrypted and then can't be listened to by any outside persons, and that's really, really important. The second use for the radios is for communications between the monitoring team itself and to aid locations and movements and assist the evidence gathering.

In an ideal world these radios would also be secure but it's less essential, however if they are not secure the team using them need to know what they should or should not say if they are communicating via unsecure radios. Radios can be purchased online, the unsecure radios, or unencrypted, can be bought very easily from Amazon or anywhere online, just look at the distance that the communications work on. You could, can, buy very expensive ones but just be aware of costs if lots of different people are using the radios. If you've got difference evidence gathering teams each week it's very likely that the radios will get damaged, lost or broken so just be aware of that if you are looking at costs and you needn't necessarily buy the expensive ones. There is Adur Communications, a very good company that supply radios to a lot of Hunts. They can supply secure radios and they can rent them to Hunts for the season which is actually incredibly useful. You then give them back at the end of the season and the following year you get up to date new models that are all working and correct. It's a very good company to use if you, we can easily give you their details and this chap is happy to help.

The next thing just briefly talk about scanners. These can be used by both us and our opponents so just be careful of that but they are, they look like a radio, and they can radio frequencies within a specific area and you can tune in and listen to the antis radio communications if they are using unencrypted radios. But vice versa to that they can also do the same, so the antis will also have scanners and they will listen conversations that are going on by our teams if they are on unsecure networks, so it works both ways.

Cameras, there are loads of different cameras around, we, as Phil was saying, we definitely advise body cameras, there are loads of different types, there's just a couple of examples on this slide – body cameras secured by chest harness or a camera hook which clips on to the front of the shoulder. The square one shown in this slide is a very good one, it's quite expensive but it has a really, really good battery life and it's pretty robust, and it basically it films all day. So if you've got people who don't really know how to use the cameras you can stick it on with a chest harness and you can press record and it goes for about 5 hours, so it's quite good if you don't want people fiddling with when they should and shouldn't be recording. The smaller clip on camera at the top of the slide is a lot cheaper and is probably not as robust and has a shorter battery life but it's quite good for sticking in people's pockets and they can whip it out when they need to record or just store it away if it's not needed.

As Phil mentioned, everyone has to be aware that every Smartphone, everyone has a Smartphone in their pocket and every Smartphone can be used as a camera, so please encourage your followers and your subscribers to get their mobile phones out, it's really important if they see an incident or they are in a position to record, please encourage them to do so.

Phil also mentioned it, evidence is really important, who filmed the, who took the footage of a particular incident and what happened to the camera in between the incident and handing it to the police. It's important that that is recorded.

The next slide is just talking about how you can store the data. Videos footage takes up an incredible amount of data storage which is a general rule of thumb is about a ten minute video clip, it takes up about 1GB of storage, which is quite a lot. That can vary hugely depending on video quality, source, size, etc. But if you're storing a lot of video evidence over the course of the season you need to be properly using hard drives or clouds that are about 500GB or 1TB of storage because unedited raw footage really does take up a lot of storage.

Having said that if you've got someone who is consistently viewing the footage and only keeping the relevant data, that will hugely reduce the amount of storage that you require, but that is a big job in itself so just bear that in mind. Raw data does take up a lot of space. You can store the data in the cloud, via Dropbox or iCloud accounts. Probably with the amount of data you are storing you will need a paid account on Dropbox or you can buy hard drives to store it on - so it's a physical drive that is plugged into the computer that you can then store the data on.

From a storage point of view I would say that the key is to keep on top of the storage by constantly extracting the footage from the cameras. Don't let the camera get full and then try and do a couple of weeks at a time because you just forget what was going on when, and also it's quite important to get any footage of incidents to the CA and start dealing with them relatively quickly. You don't want to only start deciding whether it's an incident that you want to take to the police, or take to the CA, two weeks after it's happened. So yes, extract the footage from the cameras regularly, ideally every day, and secondly, really, really important - this seems obvious - but label it immediately. If you've got a Dropbox or an iCloud account or even just on your computer hard drive, label it with the date and the name of the meet so that you can refer back to it very, very easily. It's really difficult to be trawling through months and months worth of footage if it's not labelled correctly.

The last bit I'm just going to mention, just draw your attention to, some of the equipment that some of our opponents use and that we need to be aware of. We've seen quite a few occurrences of trackers being placed on Hunt vehicles and Hunt staff vehicles as well as subscriber vehicles as well, so please make sure that quads, trailers, Hunt vehicles, are checked regularly for trackers. They're often placed just below the tow bar or under the chassis at the side of the car. So do please keep checking regularly. The two middle pictures of this slide are examples of trackers. Hidden cameras are also used a lot by our opponents, they're placed in coverts on a non-hunting day and then retrieved a couple of days later and

our opponents have got no business placing hidden cameras on private land, private ground, private woodland. So please make sure that you check for those regularly. And that's really important. Thank you very much, that's it.

1:09:21

**Chairman:** Brilliant. Well thank you very, very much for that Alice. And to our presenters too. That brings us to the end. We're going to try and answer some questions and deal with what we can. We'll start, the first one I'd like to start with is the last one that came up from Philip Cowan which is about the equipment that Alice was just talking about. I don't know if you've got that in front of you, Alice? If you've got anything to say to Philip on that?

1:09:50

**Alice:** I'm just reading the question, sorry.

1:09:53

**Chairman:** Basically Philip is wondering if Phil Godbold who has sold Adur Communications. I don't know if you've become aware of that?

1:10:02

**Alice:** Ah, OK, I didn't know that. At all.

1:10:05

**Chairman:** In which case everybody needs to be a bit careful until...

1:10:08

**Alice:** We will....

1:10:08

**Chairman:** ....a bit more about him..

1:10:10

**Alice:** We will look into that. We will look into that.

1:10:13

**Chairman:** OK, thank you Alice. We will look into that and we'll let you know. Going back to the first question which again was from Philip Cowan, and I suspect that's a question that's rather more for Philip and Phil Davies to discuss between themselves about Leicestershire police. We're not going to try and answer that now. **It particularly relates to Leicestershire Police and their conduct going forward.** So I'll ask Phil to talk to Philip about that later. And the second question comes from Pat Leigh-Pemberton, Old Berks, and he is asking if it's possible to have a copy of Phil's Power Point? Can we do that, Alice?

1:10:49

**Phil:** Yeah, no problem as far as I'm concerned, Alice.

1:10:53

**Alice:** Yeah, if Phil's happy, we're happy, yeah.

1:10:55

**Phil:** As long as they don't share it...

1:10:56

**Chairman:** We'll make sure that's available to everybody...

1:10:59

**Phil:** As long as they don't share it, you know, it's not shared out to the wide open public. It's for the Hunt's information.

1:10:05

**Chairman:** **Please take that on board everybody. It's... anything that comes out of these meetings is to be kept amongst ourselves... it's not for general coverage.** Les Evans asks 'Which way is the best way to keep evidence that complies with GDPR?' That's one for Alice or Phil.

1:11:25

**Phil:** I can send you, I can send Alice, guidance on evidence collection and preservation. And basically it's a central point where that individual retains that evidence. It's used by the Fitzwilliams, a process the Fitzwilliam's endure, I can share that with you, Alice, and you can circle it to everybody. It's quite a lengthy document. It's really in a nut shell, it's about continuity of the evidence, who took the film, where did that film, where was that film stored, and how was it stored and was it interfered with? So it basically entails you having a secure storage area and they recommend the cloud and then there's a process as to make sure that we retain that continuity of evidence. What you retain is only what needs to be kept for the evidence. If you're just recording people crossing the fields and stuff, they're not doing anything, then in my personal view there's nothing, there's no need to retain it.

1:12:30

**Chairman:** Thank you Phil very much. How long do we need to retain the footage? Claire Haw is asking.

1:12:37

**Phil:** Depending on the nature of the offence that we have recorded. If it's anything to do with supporting the hunting allegation, six months. If it's an assault allegation I'd retain it until the case has been completed.

1:12:53

**Chairman:** Ok, thank you...

1:12:54

**Phil:** ...depending on the seriousness of the offence, basically.

1:12:57

**Chairman:** Ok, I hope that answered your question. And lastly Christopher Menton is asking, he is concerned about the risk that body cameras might record accidents in which hounds appear to be hunting live quarry. Could film be used in a discovery process in a legal case and are recordings capable of really permanent deletion?

1:13:17

**Phil:** My view on that Chairman is that body worn video cameras, they've got a lovely big red button on them or you can have it on the button coming down your sleeve, and you can be selective as to when you turn the video recorder on and video recorder off. And the answer if anybody does ask why you're doing that, well you're.. preservation of the camera and the battery life of it, and secondly, you don't need to prove what your job is to gather the evidence of the hunt saboteurs and their misbehaviour, if we happen to look at proving lawful activity then the video footage will be taken of the Hunts following a trail and... [inaudible]... stopping the hounds if they're on pursuit of a fox.

1:14:03



**Chairman:** Well I think that's pretty comprehensive, I think with the exception of Phil Cowan's question about Leicester Police I think we've answered everything which...

1:14:12

**Phil:** I can answer that, I can answer a little bit of that if you want, Chairman?

1:14:15

**Chairman:** Say again?

1:14:16

**Phil:** I can answer a little bit of that question if you want?

1:14:19

**Chairman:** Yes, by all means, if you want to.

1:14:21

**Phil:** Yeah, other than a trespass it comes down to convincing the police that you're carrying out a lawful activity. Now, I have a great sympathy with Philip and the area, not Leicestershire itself, but dealing with the police, and I'm afraid that the hounds are, a trail is being laid and they can see the scent trail being laid. You know that the hounds are following that particular trail and that then the saboteurs have come down and interfered with our process. Other than a trespass, in some forces it is proving difficult.

1:15:01

**Chairman:** OK, Philip, I hope that answers it for you but if not do speak to Phil. I know it is a difficult area, all these areas are difficult, there's no one answer to any of them. But I hope that Phil has given most of you most of the answers you need. We will make this presentation available, and obviously use it discreetly, as I said earlier if any of you would like for Phil to come and see you and go through some of this stuff in greater detail privately Hunt by Hunt then please let us know and we'll make that available.

So, I hope we've helped you today, I hope we've covered quite a lot of subjects and I know these things are complicated but anyway I'm very grateful to Mark and Richard and Phil and Alice for putting this together. Can I remind you that one of the most important parts of today, and Phil's just said it again a couple of minutes ago, that it all works well if you can trail lay and demonstrate that you are trail laying to the police and to anybody else who may be watching. So can I suggest that you all tune in to this same wonderful channel on Thursday evening and tune into our seminar on Trail Laying, which will answer more questions about the important points of trail laying which we have really got to focus on this season. But until then everybody thank you very much for joining us, thank you to the panel and we'll see you all soon. Thank you and goodnight.