

## END HUNTING

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Discover how we, through picnics, are changing the landscape of hunting on National Trust land.

## END ANIMAL FIGHTING

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Giving a voice to animals in Parliament by increasing the custodial sentencing for animal abuse.

## END SHOOTING

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Pulling the plug on grouse shooting on Yorkshire Water land.





# WELCOME

## A letter from Andy Knott, CEO

Working with others has been the highlight of the last few months. In June I was privileged to bring together a delegation of my fellow animal charity CEOs for a meeting with Lord Randall, Special Advisor on the Environment to the former Prime Minister, to bring forward the long-delayed Animal (Sentencing) Bill. The final reading was delayed due to Brexit legislation taking priority that very day, but we will try again.



With Lord Randall for a meeting on animal welfare.

We are also focusing hard on a subject that is gaining increasing traction amongst the public; the shooting of millions of gamebirds in this country together with the cruelty to other creatures, by snare, poison or shot, that comes with it. On my recent visit to Bird Fair, the determination to protect birds from the needless cruelty of the shooting industry was palpable. I am delighted to include a message from our great friend, Chris Packham CBE, in this edition.

In other great news, we have recently been accepted in to the Wildlife and Countryside Link organisation ([www.wcl.org.uk](http://www.wcl.org.uk)), perhaps the most powerful coalition of NGOs in the sector. We will play our part well.

**Andy Knott MBE**  
Chief Executive Officer

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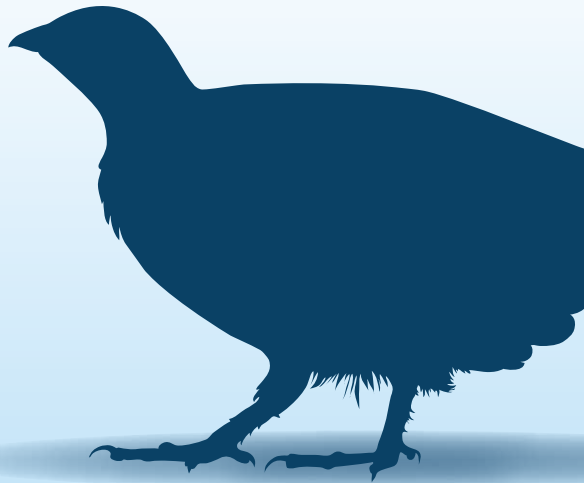
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# PULLING THE PLUG ON GROUSE SHOOTING

**The utilities company** Yorkshire Water is one of the largest landowners in Yorkshire. It leases eleven sections of moorland for grouse shooting, which has overwhelming animal welfare consequences. If it were a numbers game, then no other cruel 'sport' in the UK would have such a devastating impact as shooting. Thousands of grouse are being shot for entertainment, simply because shooters enjoy killing living creatures for fun.

As daunting as it may seem, united we can alter the horizon for birds on Yorkshire Water land.



## A NEW FLOCK

We know that it is only by being united that we can truly effect change and make cruel 'sports' a thing of the past. The League is working in partnership with Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire's Moors (BBYM), along with the support of thousands of people across the country, to raise awareness of the animal welfare and environmental consequences of grouse shooting on Yorkshire Water land.



## GOING AGAINST NATURE

On shoot days many birds are not killed outright by the shot, rather they hit the ground suffering from painful injuries, including missing wings and broken limbs, only to be killed by having their necks broken or being hit over the head with a beater's stick.

Gamekeepers strive to maintain an unnaturally high density of grouse so that shooters have as many birds as possible to hit. Maintaining these volumes, which can be as high as 200 to 500 grouse per square kilometre, is approximately 100 times the natural density.

As a result, animals native to moorlands are relentlessly targeted by gamekeepers to prevent them competing for food or space, and to prevent predation to ensure the unnaturally high concentrations of grouse. Of the eight moors that have been surveyed, over 350 wildlife traps have been found. Animals such as foxes, stoats, weasels, corvids, birds of prey and hare are targeted by gamekeepers using a wide range of trapping and snaring devices, as well as shooting. It has been scientifically proven that snaring causes prolonged suffering and injuries.

## CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE TO SUIT THE SHOOT

Grouse shooting has a significant negative impact on the environment. Burning is used extensively across all eight moors to provide a diverse patchwork of cover and food for grouse. The practice of burning areas is highly controversial. It damages blanket bog and peat-forming vegetation such as sphagnum moss, generates carbon emissions, depletes carbon stores, pollutes catchment water which is costly to clean and may contribute to flooding in the valleys below moorland.

All this environmental destruction just so there are more birds to be shot for 'sport'.

## TIME FOR CHANGE

Given the scale of the animal welfare issues uncovered and the associated environmental issues, together with BBYM we are calling for an immediate end to all grouse shooting on Yorkshire Water's land. Yorkshire Water has responded by announcing a review into the future of grouse shooting on moorland in nearby Calderdale, which BBYM and the League have welcomed as a small step in the right direction.



## TAKE ACTION

If you would like to get involved and show your support, please write to Yorkshire Water's new CEO Liz Barber asking the company to end shooting on their land. Please send your letter to: [liz.barber@yorkshirewater.co.uk](mailto:liz.barber@yorkshirewater.co.uk) or Yorkshire Water, Western House, Western Way, Bradford BD6 2SZ.

# PICNIC ANYONE?

With the protection of animals at the heart of everything we do, we employ a variety of strategies to prevent animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'. While strengthening the law remains the ultimate goal, it does very little in the short term. So, we are focusing on 'land denial'. If there is no land to hunt on, then hunting can't take place.

 **National Trust**



League picnics provide a wonderful education opportunity.

The League has been campaigning for the National Trust to stop licencing 'trail' hunting on its land, as 'trail' hunting is nothing more than a cover for animal cruelty. Since then, increased publicity and pressure generated by us and you, our supporters, meant the number of National Trust licences applied for in 2018 was down by two-thirds on the previous year. But we haven't stopped there.

## NO ORDINARY PICNIC

To help raise awareness of 'trail' hunting on National Trust land, we have been holding picnics as an education opportunity – a way of celebrating the beauty of wildlife and raising awareness of the need to protect it.



League supporters raising their voices for animals at Glastonbury Tor.



Our HR Manager Kelly Hack shares with us her experience of her first campaigning event at the League.

“On Saturday 3rd August I attended my first League supporter event as a member of staff. This was a great opportunity for me to meet the supporters who are fundamental in giving animals a voice.

A lot of people at Glastonbury Tor were National Trust members, some were unaware of the ‘trail’ hunting licences and were justly appalled. Some thought that the National Trust’s argument that this was a legal activity was a reasonable response, that is, until they heard that hunts were given 24 hours’ notice for monitoring, which meant any illegal activity would never be found. Opinions were mirrored by non-members and we had 100 percent agreement from everyone we spoke to that they would like to see an end to ‘trail’ hunting on National Trust land and in fact an end to hunting for ‘sport’ everywhere.

This was a beautiful family-fun afternoon in the English countryside but also very productive in spreading the League’s aims. Lots of people signed their name to ask the National Trust to stop licensing ‘trail’ hunting, they signed up for campaign updates, donated money and we were thanked many times for our work towards a kinder society for animals”.

Thank you to everyone who attended, it is only by having feet on the ground, signatures on petitions and kind donations that we can continue our crucial work. We can end hunting on National Trust land.



HR Manager, Kelly Hack at the event in Glastonbury.

## TAKE ACTION

Over 90 percent of people oppose hare hunting and hare coursing. To show your support of strengthening the ban and ensuring better protection for vulnerable animals, please sign today: [www.league.org.uk/huntingkills](http://www.league.org.uk/huntingkills)

# A TRAIL TO CRUELTY



Introduced as a result of the Hunting Act 2004, we share with you the truth about 'trail' hunting



## The lies

'Trail' hunting is an invention, which was triggered as a result of the Act which banned the hunting of mammals like foxes, hare and deer using dogs. It was designed as a cover up for illegal hunting, and should not be confused with drag hunting, which is a non-lethal activity nearly as old as fox hunting.



## The excuses

'Trail' hunting claims to follow an animal-based scent trail which has been laid in areas where foxes or hare are likely to be. The huntsman does not know where the trail has been laid, so if the hounds end up following a live animal scent the hunt can claim that they did not know.

Drag hunting uses a non-animal-based scent, never laid in areas likely to have foxes, and those controlling the hounds always know where the trail was laid.

This is why in drag hunting, 'accidents' when live animals are chased are very rare, while in 'trail' hunting they are very common.



## The evidence

Of all those prosecuted for illegal hunting under the Act, over half claimed to be 'trail' hunting.

In comparison to the previous season, last season alone we saw a 36 percent increase in calls from the public to our confidential Animal Crimewatch line, recorded a 52 percent increase in fox hunting incidents and there were 268 reports of illegal hunting activity with 43 reports of fox kills.

**How you can help:** Fox hunting is illegal, so please report it to the police on 101 and always insist upon receiving an incident number. You can also use our confidential, supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service. Call **01483 361 108** or visit: [www.league.org.uk/animal-crimewatch](http://www.league.org.uk/animal-crimewatch)





# OUR COMMUNITY



We would not be able to protect animals if it wasn't for you. Standing on the side of animals, we are always humbled by the commitment of our supporters and their determination to inspire change, even in the pouring rain! This was evident at our Yorkshire Water protest where at least 100 supporters rallied together in the name of protecting animals against cruel 'sports'.

## Rallying together

Working in partnership to achieve bigger impact and to provide a louder voice for animals, the demonstration was jointly organised by the League and the campaign group Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire's Moors.

Held just days before the so called 'Glorious Twelfth', the traditional start of the grouse shooting season, we raised awareness that Yorkshire Water leases eleven sections of moorland across the county for grouse shooting, which leads to thousands of game birds being shot.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone that stood by our side. Nick Weston, our Head of Campaigns, sums up perfectly the impact your compassion has:

**“This rally has shown Yorkshire Water how passionately its customers want it to stop issuing grouse shooting licences on its land. Yorkshire Water will, we know, listen carefully to what their customers are saying, and we ask that they end shooting now and protect the region's rich natural heritage...”**

Your continued loyalty takes us one step closer to ending grouse shooting on Yorkshire Water land. If you would like to discover the various ways you can get involved, please visit:  
[www.league.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.league.org.uk/get-involved)

# THE **VOICES** OF ANIMALS ARE **HEARD** IN **PARLIAMENT**

Animal abuse is currently only worthy of a pitiful six-month custodial sentence; this is not a realistic deterrent. Together with other leading animal charities, we called on the Government to increase the sentencing to five years.



Andy Knott brings together a delegation of animal welfare organisations.



## Time for change

Passionately campaigning against dog fighting, we have always been horrified by the notion that the brutal treatment of dogs only warranted a disgraceful six-month sentence. Bred for the sole purpose of being repeatedly forced to fight, man's best friend suffers daily at the brutal hands of dog fighters. Extensively trained, they are forced to run on treadmills until they are exhausted and kept in isolation which denies them the freedom to socialise. They will be repeatedly forced to fight, with many dying in the ring or soon after from their injuries. Simply put, six-months is not enough and together we set out to change this.

Leading the delegation of animal welfare organisations, together with Chris Sherwood CEO at RSPCA, our united front to bring forward this legislation was accepted. With a lack of progress in the last eighteen months since the draft sentencing bill was published (24th June), we presented a letter to the Prime Minister's Special Advisor on the

Environment, Lord John Randall, which urged the government to act as quickly as possible to pass these vital animal protection laws. We are pleased to say that the legislation was formally presented to the House of Commons for debate on 26th June.

## A powerful message

Sending out a powerful message of hope and determination to those with the power to affect the biggest single change in animal welfare for many years, has led to us being thanked in Parliament by the Animal Welfare Minister and by the Shadow Environment Secretary.



## THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you. We do not receive any government funding so it is only thanks to your generous donations and support that we can effect change and campaign for a kinder society for animals. United, we can inspire change. To donate, please visit [www.league.org.uk/donate](http://www.league.org.uk/donate)



# A ROLLERCOASTER OF A SUMMER

A haven to an array of animals, it is only thanks to your donations that our sanctuaries continue to flourish. Paul Tillsley, Head of Conservation, reveals why this summer has been like a rollercoaster ride for the wildlife on our sanctuaries.

The fine weather early on helped the Blue Tits, Great Tits and Pied Flycatchers that nest in the bird boxes in Barlynch Wood to produce large and healthy broods, but the cold snap that coincided with the arrival of Barn Swallows and Swifts convinced many of them to not bother nesting at all and to concentrate on their own survival.

Butterflies have had a great year, with twelve species recorded in just a few minutes one day in August, while looking at a patch of brambles on Baronsdown.

Foxes have beaten the odds and they have bred successfully on at least four of our sanctuaries, but the combination of the constant war against badgers and another dry summer has seen their numbers crash.

We are doing our best to help the badgers on the sanctuaries by introducing a vaccination programme, but unfortunately, we can't protect them once they step outside our boundaries. The red deer on Baronsdown look spectacular in their rich red summer coats and there are a good number of calves trotting alongside their mothers. During high summer they are perfectly concealed in the long grass but when the hay is cut they are suddenly exposed. The stags have been off in some secluded place growing their new sets of antlers and now they have returned in preparation for the autumn rut.





It is always gratifying to help our friends at Secret World and RSPCA West Hatch to release animals that they have spent a lot of time and dedication rearing. Recent additions to the sanctuaries' fauna have included a couple of hedgehogs that were born at West Hatch and a couple of very lucky young pheasant poults from Secret World.

The deer, fox and hare hunting seasons are already in full flow and so we need to be constantly on our toes to guard against incursions by the hunters, who would love to chase and kill the animals we are trying to protect. It is quite incredible that we still must spend time policing the sanctuaries on hunt days, more than fourteen years after the Hunting Act 2004 came into force.



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SANCTUARIES

If you are a butterfly admirer, bird enthusiast, or carer for nature we have some wonderful volunteering opportunities that may interest you. For further information please visit [www.league.org.uk/animal-charity-jobs](http://www.league.org.uk/animal-charity-jobs)



# POET IN RESIDENCE

With the successful launch of his anthology of poems, 'For the Silent', Poet in Residence Ronnie Goodyer shares with us a thought-provoking piece about grouse shooting, by Sheila Aldous.

“A wonderful book... truly fantastic. I shall order more as gifts for others.”

Audrey Ardern-Jones

“What a great joy to receive the wonderful FTS anthology.”

Tina Negus



## A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT

We are extremely grateful to Ronnie, a proactive League supporter, and his partner Dawn for publishing this book, as the League receives £2 from every book sold. So far we have received £720 in donations from book sales. If you would like to order a copy of 'For the Silent' please visit: [www.indigodreams.co.uk/for-the-silent](http://www.indigodreams.co.uk/for-the-silent)



# The Bag

by Sheila Aldous

The Red Grouse lies low,  
his call a warning for her to stay  
in what is left of burnt heather,  
to not follow whatever happens.

She looks for his handsome eye,  
his red cap, his feathery claws;  
in grey shadows she hides  
in the moorland hollows.

She will know him, his scent  
blown on a glass mist, his red  
stripe that makes him hers,  
the strength of his wingbeats.

At first light she will hear him  
rise up, leave swift and low;  
he will not heed her warning  
to go back, go back.

She will yield to the moss  
crouch down in the upland bog,  
wait his return, his cackling call,  
hide from the shooters.

Even in the blaze of the rising  
sun, he will refuse a blindfolded  
eye to armed men intent on a kill,  
as he flies towards their fire.

At the beaters' whistle  
she too will lift herself up,  
speed to the wave of flags  
towards the line of guns.

And when the small bores  
are spent, spent with fun money,  
she will rest again in wait for him  
shrug off the stain

The stain of what she is to them,  
sink into the slough of  
the shooters' inglorious bag,  
into her silence.



# AN UNFORGETTABLE PRIZE

In her own words, Mary Patterson, winner of the Marvellous Mammals category of the League's first annual Photography Competition, shares with us her prize experience at Baronsdown.

Little did I think that on a freezing plateau in the Cairngorms a year ago, my photo portrait of a mountain hare would lead me to winning the mammal category of the first photographic competition of the League Against Cruel Sports. My prize was a day spent at the League's stunning wildlife sanctuary, Baronsdown in Somerset and spending time with the singular legend, Bill Oddie.

Andy Knott, CEO of the League, met me as I drove into the sanctuary. Over a few cups of tea and lively conversation about the current projects of the League, we waited for Bill to arrive from London on the train. My expectations of meeting Bill Oddie, such a 'renaissance man' of many talents did not go undiminished. He arrived with a big smile on his face and a few jolly jokes.



My few hours with Bill and Paul Tillsley, Head of Conservation and Education at the sanctuary, went by so quickly. We toured the sanctuary in the League's Land Rover, Bill in the front seat asking conservation questions. After a few minutes we came upon a large herd of red deer with juveniles. A wonderful sight to behold in the now golden fields and a fitting way to end this most memorable day. It is incredibly uplifting to see a charity that is so focused on protecting animals.

Mary's prize-winning photo of a Hare in Snow features in this year's Christmas card range. Available to buy now at [www.league.org.uk/shop](http://www.league.org.uk/shop)





## LEAGUE IN ACTION

### THE SHOCKING SCALE OF GREYHOUND DEATHS IN THE RACING INDUSTRY HAS BEEN REVEALED BY NEW FIGURES RELEASED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE.

A total of **932** racing greyhounds died or were destroyed last year



Of these, a total of **242** died or were put down at the racetrack.



The figures also report **4,963** injuries were sustained by racing greyhounds last year.



#### The breakdown of the deaths is:

- **242** euthanised at track side on 'humane grounds'
- **324** for which treatment was deemed too expensive, there was 'no viable option' away from the racecourse or no home was found
- **190** were killed due to being 'unsuitable for homing'
- **72** died from 'sudden death'.

Chris Luffingham, our Director of Campaigns, said:

“With approximately 14,000 greyhounds racing every year, these figures show the proportion dying or suffering injuries is appallingly high.

Greyhound racing is essentially unsafe and cannot be reformed. It needs to be phased out and the greyhounds found good homes where they can live long and healthy lives.”

We are doing everything to raise awareness of these new figures, calling on the Government to ban greyhound racing. Since the statistics have been released, we have pushed for media coverage with our biggest piece being published by the Guardian. View the article here [www.bit.ly/2kG5LYh](http://www.bit.ly/2kG5LYh)





## LEAGUE IN ACTION

### BANNING DRIVEN GROUSE SHOOTING A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS PACKHAM CBE

Throughout my life I have campaigned to protect animals from cruelty. Creatures deserve our respect and the senseless killing of them, often for fun or the interests of just a few, diminishes us all. We at Wild Justice ([www.WildJustice.org.uk](http://www.WildJustice.org.uk)) are calling on the Government to end the practice of driven grouse shooting in this country. We all know that it can be done, as the League has already achieved a landmark ban on pheasant shooting on National Resource Wales land, passed by the Welsh assembly a year or so ago. The University of Wales, a large landowner, followed suit and your campaigns on Yorkshire Moors and Scottish Grouse Moors ([www.revive.scot](http://www.revive.scot)) are attracting considerable support across the country. Now, more than ever, there is a collective determination to achieve our shared goals.

With your support we recently achieved our target of 100,000 signatures to ban driven grouse shooting, with the final push for the last 20,000 coming just a few days after we asked for your help. These beautiful grouse don't deserve to be shot for 'sport' and your support of this petition has taken us a vital step closer to ensuring they are protected.

Thank you for continuing to lend your weight to this petition and for amplifying the voice of animals through your support of the League. It's a voice I have seen grow ever more powerful, and that achievement is thanks to supporters like you.



Andy Knott with Chris Packham at this year's Bird Fair.



# LEAGUE IN ACTION

## COLLABORATION AND COALITION

We are pleased to share with you that the League Against Cruel Sports is now a member of the Wildlife and Countryside Link ([www.wcl.org.uk](http://www.wcl.org.uk)), a unique coalition of charitable organisations concerned with the conservation and protection of wildlife and the countryside.

Joining with other charities including Greenpeace, the RSPCA and the WWF is a fantastic achievement for us and a direct reflection of what we have achieved together in recent years. Being a WCL member will not only support our credibility as a charity, but will also provide us with a platform to further increase awareness surrounding animal cruelty in the name of 'sport'.

Membership will also provide us with opportunities to work in partnership with likeminded organisations, so that together we can create a kinder society for animals.



Wildlife and  
Countryside

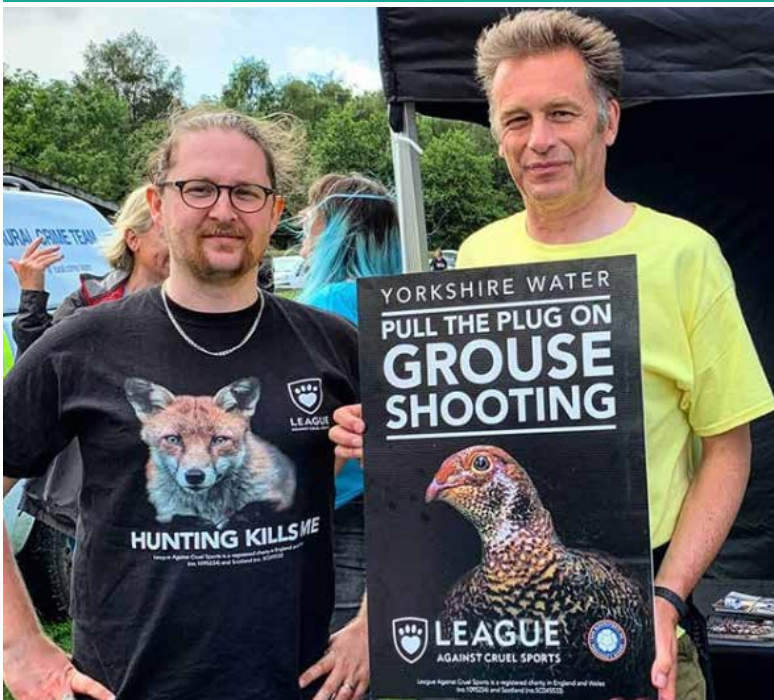


## THANK YOU

It is only thanks to your feet on the ground, your signatures on our petitions and of course your generous donations, that we have been recognised as a charity that is a catalyst for change. Thank you.



# LEAGUE ON TOUR



Head of Campaigns, Nick Weston, with Chris Packham at Hen Harrier Day.



League fox delivering our Impact Report to Jacob Rees-Mogg.



League advert van at Yorkshire Water protest. The demonstration was jointly organised by us and the campaign group BBYM.



League Regional Campaign Manager, Emily Lawrence, at this year's Countryfile Live event.

The power of kindness is seen throughout all generations.

League fox with two of our youngest supporters at one of our National Trust picnics.



# ANIMAL ADVOCATES

Without your continuous support we would not be able to protect animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'. This section is dedicated to letting you know how you can become further involved, as well as highlighting key supporter achievements. Thank you.

## Get Involved

[www.league.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.league.org.uk/get-involved)

There are numerous ways for you to boost the considerable ambition to make this world a compassionate place for animals. You can donate, fundraise in the community, join a supporter group, host an event or attend an event. Your League, your way! Please visit our Get Involved web page to find out more.



## A gift for everyone

[www.league.org.uk/shop](http://www.league.org.uk/shop)

We are delighted to share that our shop, Gifts Against Cruel Sports, is now open. Here you can purchase a wide range of items from Christmas cards to tea towels, stainless-steel travel mugs to hard-back notebooks.

There is a special gift for all your loved ones this Christmas. Simply visit the website above or call 01227 811 620 to place your order.



## Join our online community

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up-to-date on all the work we have achieved together, news about future campaigns, appeals and opportunities, as well as helping us increase awareness of cruel 'sports'.



## Join the lotto



[www.league.org.uk/league-lotto](http://www.league.org.uk/league-lotto)

The purpose of the League Lotto is to help us raise funds to protect animals from cruel 'sports'. With three prizes of up to £50 each month, you receive one chance for every £1 you spend. But you can have as many chances as you like. Good luck and thank you for your support.

## Be inspired

Martine, an avid supporter of the League, recently completed the Tough Mudder SW Classic (10 miles of mud and obstacles) to raise money to protect animals.

“There was a bitter wind that was brutal - I thought I was going to die of exposure! But I stuck out the course to the end”.

Martine has raised an amazing £1553 for her gallant efforts and we will use every penny to help end hunting, shooting and fighting of animals for 'sport'. Thank you Martine for your ongoing commitment!



If you would like to get active and raise money for the League, contact us at [fundraising@league.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@league.org.uk)

# GET IN TOUCH

## League Against Cruel Sports

New Sparling House

Godalming

GU7 1QZ

01483 524 250

[supportercare@league.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@league.org.uk)

[www.league.org.uk](http://www.league.org.uk)

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



## LEAGUE

AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

