

FREE

RAISON



REN

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Produced by anarchists in Hastings.



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SMASH SOUTH AFRICAN
BUSINESS DAY.

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ANTI-ANGLING.

●
MORE ON LORD SAM'S.

●
And more on life in
general Ugh!

ANGLING - THE NEGLECTED BLOODSPORT.

Were it announced tomorrow that anyone who fancied it might, without risk of reprisals or recriminations, stand at a fourth storey window, dangle out of it a length of string with a meal (labelled 'free') on the end, wait till a chance passer-by took a bite and then, having entangled his cheek or gullet on a hook hidden in the food, haul him up to the fourth floor and then batter him to death with a knobkerry, I do not think there would be many takers.

Most sane adults would I imagine, sicken at the mere thought. Yet sane adults do the equivalent to fish every day: not in panic, sexual jealousy, ideological frenzy or even greed - many of our fresh water fish are virtually inedible, and not one of them presents a threat to the life, love or ideology of a human on a bank - but for amusement. Civilisation is not outraged at their behaviour. On the contrary: that a person's hobby is fishing is often a guarantee of his sterling and innocent character.

The above was first published in the Sunday Times in 1965. It was written by Brigid Brophy, author and playwright, who was the national patron of the Council for the Prevention of Cruelty by Angling (C.P.C.A.), which is now known as the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (C.A.A.)

However, despite the efforts of Ms. Brophy to draw our attention to the cruelty of fishing, it was not until April 1981 that the C.P.C.A., the only organisation solely dedicated to opposing angling, was established.

The C.P.C.A. was founded less than a year after the publication of the Cranbrook Report (now the Medway Report) on shooting and angling. At long last, anti-anglers could point to scientific evidence which showed that fish feel pain like other animals, and that angling is basically cruel.

Consequently, there is now considerable doubt (even among fishermen!) that angling is the harmless pastime that it has always purported to be.

Common sense tells us that to impale a sentient being with a sharp metal hook, drag the creature from its natural environment, handle it with fingers which to the animal feel like red-hot poker, removing protective scales in the process, then either to throw it unceremoniously back into the water with such force so as to cause stunning and disorientation, or to toss it into a crowded keep-net, thereby encouraging disease to spread, must cause pain and suffering.

Yet many millions of people between the ages 3-90 indulge in this 'bit of fun' nearly every week without pausing to consider the torment they are inflicting on those they pursue. There is no doubt in my mind that angling is a bloodsport. This disgusting activity which some have the nerve to call 'sport' kills and maims thousands of fish every week.

The fishermen of course see things differently. Many of them argue (and I to my eternal shame was once one of them) that fish do not feel pain because if this were so then they would not struggle so defiantly when caught and that besides, most fish are not killed but returned to the water - no doubt to live happily ever after!

In reply to these somewhat standard arguments in defence of fishing, I would put it to the reader that if you were in the (admittedly hypothetical) position of having a large hook embedded in your mouth and were at the same time being dragged underwater to a certain death by drowning, that you would not simply give up and allow this to happen! Your inherent will to survive would be to great.

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Angling continued.....

Secondly, it is quite correct to say that most anglers do in fact return 'their' fish to the water, but at what cost? The 'accidental' removal of scales by the angler and the injury caused by the hook may lead to infection and ultimately death.

How many fish are there dying in lakes and rivers throughout the country with hooks embedded in their mouths as a result of the anglers line snapping? How many fish have died as a result of having their innards ripped out because they (much to the anglers annoyance) 'swallowed' the hook?

As the reader will be aware it is not just fish which are suffering at the hands of Britains anglers. Wildfowl become entangled in lost or discarded line and tackle and countless numbers of swans have died of lead poisoning through ingestion of lead weights.

This carnage is going on all around us. How many of us know of a stretch of water which is not fished on a regular basis at some time of the year? However there is hope! Many people, not just vegetarians and vegans, who oppose angling for principally moral reasons, are becoming aware of the darker side of angling through the efforts of organisations such as the C.P.C.A. the Hunt Saboteurs Association and the National Animal Rescue Association.

In recent months, fishing tackle shops have been the target of attacks by the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.). Shops have had their locks glued and 'Fishing IS a bloodsport' daubed on their windows in red. Anglers themselves have started to question aspects of their 'sport' which until recently had been considered acceptable practices such as using live fish to catch predator species (pike for example), the use of keep nets and lead, and cancer-causing maggot dyes.

However, anti-anglers have a long way to go before angling is recognised as the despicable activity which it really is, and is eventually banned. There must be much more emphasis on education in order to ensure long term success. In the short term those who abuse animals must be stopped!

RICHARD FARHALL.
DIRECTOR
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF ANGLING.
C.A.A.
P.O. BOX 14,
ROMSEY.
SO5 9NN.

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Thanks very much for that contribution.

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We have received the following letter.....

Dear Poison Pen

after reading the article about Lord Sām's in a recent copy of the P.P. I thought you might like to hear a few other points about the place.

Apparently Andrew Stradis owns an Alsatian dog which is kept in a tiled hallway all the time the restaurant is open. The dog, whose name is Arry, is made to sit all that time and if he moves then Stradis makes sure he regrets it.

Somebody threw some crabs in through the door of the restaurant (not a very nice thing to do to the crabs in the first place) Elanah Stradis picked up the live crabs and to dispose of them she dropped them into a bucket of bleach.

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