

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Kevin Hill

Kevin Hill

Hunt Monitor, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Interview date

08.05.2006

Brief description

Describes the volunteers that helped to observe hunts and the campaign methods of IFAW.

Duration

3mins 20 secs

Interview extract

Kevin Hill: They came from all walks of life. Um, here were secretaries, there was people that draughtsmen, there was even one chap from the hydro-graphic office Taunton. But they were people from literally all aspects, painters, builders, anybody, it was, it was just a mix of people. I suppose like you get in all campaigns, um, a mix of people who felt that there are some things people just should not do and that's why they joined this campaign and you can't um, you can't do a university degree on campaigning. You know it has to be in you, to want to do it I suppose and we had this, people from various backgrounds. Some were very, very wealthy. But we always had this central point of view that what the hunters were doing whether it was fox, hare or deer was wrong and that brought us all together. So this is, this idea that our campaign was based on class or wealth is totally wrong because even now I've got, I've got friends um who are millionaires and we get on fine because we agree on what should and should not be done with animals, particularly wildlife, so this idea that it was a class issue, it was never a class

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issue at all for the people campaigning. Um, I guess this is probably, the class issue is, has arisen because in the end you have to get Parliament to change a law, you know, Kevin Hill can't change a law, I wish I could overnight, but I can't. And you have to go through the right measures and the right measures are, you bring it to the public's attention, what you want to be changed, with your film and your articles. In turn the general public will then get on to their MPs and say this isn't right, can you do something about it and our strength was in the Labour Party. We had many more people who had, MPs who were prepared to support us in the Labour Party than they did in the other parties although I've got to say, you know, that one absolute gem for our campaign has and will always been Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative MP. She's absolutely brilliant how she speaks. She can think of what she's got to say and instead of waffling on for you know ten sentences she'll say it in one. So it's not been, it's not just been the Labour Party against the rest, we've always been prepared to have people supporting us from wherever they come from. But it's, towards the end it kind of got the tag of being a class issue but many of us who have been campaigning for a very long time felt quite offended by the other side saying that because you know, we were always very, very sincere in what we wanted and it was never ever a class issue or a wealth issue for us.

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