



Poaching Charges

Hindon Petty Sessions

James Lander, dairyman, of Mere, Thomas Lander, carpenter, of Mere, and John Waters, dairyman, of West Knoyle, were summoned for unlawfully being in pursuit of game on lands in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Gough on the 16th January.

William Ranger stated: I am assistant gamekeeper to Sir H. Hoare and live at West Knoyle. About half past two o'clock in the afternoon of the 16th of this month, I saw the three defendants on land in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Gough at West Knoyle. They had three dogs and each carried a gun. They beat several hedges, and James Lander shot at something, but I could not tell what it was. I saw him re-load his gun, and they then went on beating other hedges. When they observed me coming towards them, they all ran away. In answer to the Bench, witness swore positively to the men, as he knew them all quite well.

Mr. George Chitty appeared for the defendants and contended that his clients only crossed certain fields, as a near cut to a field in the occupation of the Landers' father, to shoot blackbirds. Ranger, however, swore that they had with them a greyhound, a setter and a retriever, all sporting dogs, and that they beat several hedges over 700 yards. The magistrates were of the opinion that the case was clearly proved and fined them £1 each and costs 12s.

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