

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We've Come A Long Way Baby!

July 1991 is our 10th anniversary and we plan to celebrate our first decade of activity not only with our annual Birthday Party (now one of the highlights of the London SM Calendar) but much more. Thanks to the co-operation of The Block, we're pleased to announce that this year we'll be holding our Big Birthday Bash at The Opera on the Green, Shepherd's Bush. That will be on Wednesday 17 July, so mark it down in your diary NOW.

SM Gays has come a long way since our first small meeting in a front-room in Brixton in July 1981. We want to party, party, party to affirm what we've done, and to look ahead to another 10 years of action and excitement. We're still open to suggestions for party games and diversions, so if you want to volunteer ideas then talk to a group organiser soon. There is also a strong possibility that we will be sponsoring several cultural events, including film screenings, in the weeks near to the Party. If you would like to help with these, or have suggestions to make, then we'd be glad to talk to you. Watch out for further details as the third week in July approaches...



Looking for Leaders

SM Gays is always looking for ideas for topics to be included in forthcoming programmes. If you would like to volunteer to lead a discussion or know someone who has some special expertise to share, then contact one of the organisers at a meeting. We'd be particularly interested in talking to people who would like to lead discussions on: Hoods and Gags; Outdoor Scenes; Scat and Watersports; Suspension and Immersion; Health and Safety. Think about what you can *contribute* to an SM Gays meeting.

Finally, don't forget Gay Pride...

We'll be there, as always, our banners flying, on this year's Gay Pride March. Why don't you come along and help raise the profile of the SM community in the wider gay community - it's fun, affirming, and helps let vanilla queens and dykes get to know us! The March is scheduled for Saturday 29 June. Watch the gay press for details closer to the date...

RECEIVED 26 APR 1991

SM GAYS

February - July 1991

STOP PRESS!
Show Judge Rant what YOU think of him. Join the protest against the Operation Spanner Trial. Details on Page 2.

PROGRAMME

SM Gays is an informal social and discussion group for gay men interested in consensual, sexual sadomasochism. Our aim is to encourage safe lawful SM practices through the sharing of information among people with similar interests.

All gay men are welcome to come to our meetings irrespective of experience. SM Gays does not operate any dress code or restrictive membership system and we endeavour to make newcomers to the SM scene particularly welcome.

We always meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings, which are currently attended by around 120 people, are divided into two parts. They begin with an introduction to a particular SM subject by either a speaker (or speakers) from within the group or specialists from outside.

Following this talk there is time for discussion on the given topic and an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences with other people. After this there is time to socialise. Our private bar is open before the meeting and again when the discussion has finished. The relaxed atmosphere is ideal for people to chat and meet others.

SM Gays is a non-profit making, campaigning group which has been meeting monthly since mid-1981. We cannot meet people outside of the group's meetings, nor do we offer a penpal or counselling service.

We meet in the Basement Bar at the London Lesbian and Gay Centre (LLGC), 68 Cowcross Street, London EC1. The nearest tube is Farringdon. Non-members of the LLGC must pay a day membership of 60p (30p unwaged) to gain admission to the building. All SM Gays meetings start at 8.00pm. Running costs for the group are covered by an entry charge of £1.50 (75p unwaged with proof).

The LLGC has a fundamental philosophy that it is "open to all lesbians and gay men who are anti-sexist, anti-racist and anti-fascist". SM Gays fully supports these aims.

SM Gays, BM SM Gays, London WC1N 3XX

Don't Let The Bastards Throw an Operation Spanner in the Works!

Come along and have a good old...

RANT & RAVE

Show them that we're not going to take this lying down!

MARCH against Operation Spanner, Clause 25 and Paragraph 16. Join us under the SM gays banners at NOON, Saturday 16 February 1991 at the Embankment, London. Dress to Impress!

20 February: A Trip to FantasyLand

Our fantasies are the seedbed for our SM activity. But all too often SM scenes don't live up to our expectations. Do we keep our wildest fantasies to ourselves, and only engage in SM activities that we think is acceptable to our partners? Have you ever had any secret fantasies that you'd never tell anybody else about? Well maybe you'll pluck up courage at our discussion — and maybe you'll find that other people have similar fantasies too!

We'll also discuss ways of incorporating fantasies into SM sex. There is no limit to our imaginations, but how limiting is reality? Do you really have to have a well-equipped playroom in the basement of your house to have really exciting SM sex? And what if your fantasy involves a cast of one thousand slaves, a la Cecil B DeMille? Would a low budget production with a couple of extras and a bunch of grapes really suffice?

And then there's the dilemma about whether making your fantasies come true, kills them. There'll be a lot to discuss in FantasyLand — if you bring a few ideas with you.

GLOSSARY:

Operation Spanner: A police investigation that resulted in the conviction of 15 gay men for consensual SM activities.

Judge Rant: A man in a wig and a frock who delivered the judgements.

Clause 25: Proposed laws against soliciting, procuring and indecency that will criminalise us for kissing, fucking, flirting & introducing gay lovers.

Paragraph 16: Proposed laws against gay and lesbian fostering/adoption.

20 March: CP

In the not too dim and distant past CP was pursued with vigour in many institutions — from the widespread practice of flogging in the armed forces to the use of the birch on inmates in various borstals, prisons and schools. In middle class Victorian households, as well, domestic correction was an acceptable part of the daily routine, and eagerly indulged in.

While most state institutions have generally moved away from these activities, recent government initiatives have implored us to return to Victorian values. Here we present tips on how to get erotic pleasure from CP activities. Our experts will explain which instruments are the best for the job, and which parts of the anatomy are no-go areas. Remember, a good beating never hurt anyone!



17 April: Back to Basics

Many beginners believe that the expense involved in setting up a scene is prohibitive. This need not be the case. Our speakers will help with tips on inexpensive and easily available materials to use, as well as provide ideas on how to get a scene started and how to sustain it.

So whether you're interested in bondage and discipline, titwork, cock and ball play, or just plain all over fun, come along and find out about the remarkable adaptability of clothes pegs, washing lines, boot laces, candles and do-it-yourself furniture modification. If you're so new to the scene that you're not sure about your particular needs, there's sure to be a wealth of stimulating ideas from "old hands" at the meeting to get you started.



15 May: Trading Places

A special evening of practical skills and participation all centred on the idea of developing a few tools of the trade. We'll start with our very own SM Gays Trollope Cards — handy forms that you can fill out that help explain your special interests to people you might meet at the group, or elsewhere. Bring along a pen or a pencil so you can fill them in.

We'll also discuss codes — the signals you can give out at gay meeting places that help define your special SM interests — such as coloured handkerchiefs. And there will be an opportunity for you to bring along pieces of equipment that you might want to trade with others. The more unusual your trade, the better. This will be one of the trading places you'll want to get along to — you never know what bargains you might pick up!



19 June: The SM Traveller in the USA

Our first travel guide for gay SMers kicks off with a look at the SM scene in the US — where are the best places to go and what to expect. We're aware that this is a BIG topic and hope that members of the group — and newcomers — who are experienced US travellers will come along and share their knowledge with us. We'll also present tips on what to take with you — whether to take a whole leather or rubber wardrobe, and maybe a few ropes wouldn't go astray — and what to look out for when you go shopping. We hope the SM Traveller will become a regular feature at SM Gays, and look forward to hearing from anybody with knowledge of other countries or cities who'd like to share their experiences with us. If you know about the gay SM scene in Sydney or Rio or Moscow (*shurely shome mistake — ed?*) then don't keep it to yourself — there are sure to be others who are planning to go there and would welcome a little advice.