

Next Meeting:

8pm SHARP

Wednesday
23rd April
above the
Union Tavern
Pub,
Farringdon Road,
Kings Cross

Sexual Freedom Coalition

PO Box 4ZB London W1A 4ZB

Minutes of 9th Plenary meeting of 26-3-97 at 8pm above the Hope Pub

1 & 2. Attendance

The attendance list was circulated and signed by 20 people. Introductions briefly around the room and preliminary remarks by the Chair.

3. Minutes

of last meeting were agreed. Ivor asked about progress on his redraft of the aims. It had been decided at the meeting on 26-2-97 that any discussion of the aims should be limited to the Annual Conference in May.

4. Provisional Agenda

was agreed. Any proposed changes to the draft leaflet (or any other publicity) should be sent to the PO box address ASAP.

5. Reports

a) Secretary - Mary was currently on vacation and Karen acted as Secretary in her absence.

b) Treasurer - Antony reported a bank balance of £2145. Most of this money was advertising and fundraising revenue for Consenting Adults and would be used in its production, the balance is desperately needed for leaflets, flyers and stickers to be printed for the march in June and for more general purpose leaflets.

£42 donations had been received since the last meeting and there had been an expenditure of £50 on postage.

Ted suggested that we refer to *The People vs Larry Flynt* article in *TimeOut*, which listed wealthy people in the sex world, for some possible sponsors.

c) National Petition - the draft Bill to be presented to the Home Secretary on 21st June was more or less finalised. It was emphasised that the Home Secretary must be the first person to see the draft Bill and therefore the petition would only include an outline of the Bill. The Working Group had some further work to do on the wording of the petition which would be done in time for the next meeting. Ted was thanked for his work on the bill.

d) Prostitution and the Law

Helen Buckingham reported that the Bill was near completion. There had been depressing feedback at the International Conference on Prostitution in Los Angeles from Melbourne, Australia where the law had been changed, but it had not seemed to improve working conditions for streetworkers but only for the top-end workers. In the state of Victoria streetworkers were having to clock in and out of places and were being moved out to industrial areas. Licences were only being given to larger groups who take on prostitutes as employees.

Options should be available for sexworkers to either be employed or self-employed - it shouldn't be illegal to set-up a private apartment with colleagues, etc.

The Sexual Freedom Parade in June will include Prostitution Pride. There would hopefully be two floats, courtesans through the ages and A Midsummers Night Dream.

Ted asked who was behind the stickers on phone boxes saying '*Prostitution causes AIDS*'. If anyone knows who is behind this please let us know.

Our Sexual Freedom Bill requires further work to make sure street walkers are not left vulnerable to law enforcement.

e) Sex Maniac's Ball and Erotic Oscars

Tim thanked all the coalition members who had helped with the Ball. The ball was attended by about 1500 people and a good atmosphere prevailed. The Oscars had helped to promote excellence in the sex industry. Tuppy felt it was a great moment when a session with a sexworker of their choice was given as the first prize in the raffle, this along with the inclusion of sexworker of the year in the Erotic Oscars this year would hopefully help influence a change in attitudes towards sexworkers.

The Erotic Oscars press night had been successful and a lot of networking had occurred.

Tuppy was congratulated on her efforts.

—TEN MINUTES BREAK—

f. Sexual Freedom Parade

will take place on Saturday 21st June - from Soho Square at 3pm to the Home Office 4.30-5pm followed by a picnic in adjacent St James Park. Tim had met Sergeant Alan Yates of Area 1 to discuss the route and a map was circulated with the proposed route from Soho Square through Soho down to the Home Office. Alan Yates had reservations about Old Compton Street and will look into it.

An additional problem was the question of floats. Yates maintained that lorries and people do not mix. Hand-drawn carts were suggested. Meeting agreed to appeal against the decision on floats to the Commander of Area 1.

Spencer said that a Pony club had cart equipment that had been passed to Sharon and that we could maybe use.

Alastair mentioned that SM Gays had a couple of floats that we may be able to use that had been used at Gay Pride and would speak to Chris Butler.

Another suggestion was that we have floats at the beginning of the march and they then drive seperately to the end of the march to meet everyone there.

Ivor proposed that we delegate to Tim the power to negotiate with the authorities on our behalf. This was agreed unanimously. Spencer mentioned that it would be a great pity if we lost the option to go through Soho.

Tim was elected unopposed Event Co-ordinator, Antony similarly as Chief Steward. Alastair, Ishmael and Ivor volunteered to be stewards. Tim had told Alan Yates that we would have a minimum of

16 stewards and would try to maintain a ratio of at least 1 steward to every 50 people. Stewards would also be posted at the corner of vehicles.

The prostitution working group had agreed on 4 publicity designs to be put up in prostitution areas.

Dick objected that the poster design was gender-specific. Spencer suggested the SFC man also be included on the poster. This was agreed (2 against).

Tuppy said that we would need 4 sizes of publicity material. We were short of artists to help with the publicity material.

g. General Erection night SFC benefit

to be held on Thursday May 1st, 8pm - 2am at H2O, 130 Balls Pond Road, Islington. Dick mentioned that Oi were keen to be involved. Jeff and Antony volunteered to help with the event.

Tuppy asked if there were any volunteers for other fundraising events. Ivor proposed that he organise a comedy benefit night.

Helen Buckingham suggested that we subscribe to the Golden Circle, a pyramid selling scheme, in order to raise some funds.

h. International Conference on Prostitution in Los Angeles

was large and successful event attended by Tuppy, Helen and Cynthia. Helen Buckingham reported that it was the first conference she had attended where academics were present but Tuppy was said this had not worked well, especially as academics had been paid to attend whereas prostitutes had to raise their own funding.

Helen agreed to write to Cynthia Payne to try and involve her in our Parade.

6 Charter 88 affiliation

Charter 88 were pressing for three main areas of reform - written Constitution, a Bill of Rights and a Freedom of Information Act. Agreed to seek written information and a representative to come and speak.

7. SFC Annual Conference

to be held in May. We will produce a report of activities during the year. The Conference should be fun as well as business, with a possible party in the evening. The Union Tavern Pub was proposed.

There was also a suggestion of including workshops. Tim would look into the possibility of using the Union pub on a Sunday in May for the Conference, with video facilities.

8 & 9. AOB and next meeting

We will try to record the next meeting for ease of minute writing. Geoff suggested that we need a campaign mobile telephone. It was agreed that Tim/Tuppy/Antony should make a decision on a mobile phone after costing the various different options.

Melanie's message proposed a trip to the cinema to see *The State v Larry Flynt*. Ivor proposed a telephone tree.

The next Plenary meeting will be held on **Wednesday 23rd April at 8pm above the Union Tavern Pub, Farringdon Road, Kings Cross.**