

# **Minutes of the Members' Meeting Monday 31st November 1998**

**Above the Plough,  
Museum Street, London WC2**

1) **Introductions** were made briefly around the room

2) **Agenda**

The agenda was agreed and adopted

3) **Treasurer**

Reported that the SFC had a balance of £3,096, £760 of which had recently been raised by paper sales outside Erotica, by a rota of hard-working volunteers

4) **Secretary**

Nothing to report

5) **Editor in Chief**

It was planned to make a new edition of our paper, *Consenting Adults*, available within the next six months. She has been busy writing about the SFC campaigns for *Parliamentary Monitor* and *Gay Times*

6) **Press Officer**

The level of press on recreational sex has been high. Our parade, however, had received very little publicity. Although Panorama sought our contacts, no comment was invited for the programme itself. The BBC programme about Viagra which included our Parade and campaign had been censored and perhaps shelved.

7) **SFC Membership Scheme**

Membership is offered to volunteers who have worked loyally on at least one SFC project, as determined by the SC as was agreed at our AGM. We currently have approx 100 members

8) **Working Group Reports**

**Steering Committee**

The members of the committee were named. They meet monthly and, since the AGM have planned:

the Sexual Freedom Weekend, including the Gala Film Night, the Parade and Symposium

an all-night beach party for members

a campaign against West Midlands police seizing the Mapplethorpe book from the University library

a stall at the University of East London conference Sex Work Re-assessed and put on a social afterwards The Real John School, where the Sex Workers' Show'N'Tell was performed

the Arcadia III party

a stall and presentation at the Anarchist Bookfair

a serious delegation to deliver the second batch of our petitions (over 1000) at the home office, with speeches

the tea and food stall at the Rubber Ball workshops at Conway Hall

the plans for Arcadia IV

an enormous amount of press liaison, assistance and interviews

sales of Consenting Adults outside Erotica Festival, Olympia

### **Internet**

5-6 e-mail enquiries arrive each day, and the website gets approx 2,500 hits per day

### **Millennium**

Working group has not yet been set up

### **Arcadia III**

We took £3,000, spent £1,000 so made £1,000. There was an enormous problem with the phonenumber being jammed, due to popularity and in future we'll use two lines with digital answerphones. It was a bit too crowded so the next one will have more limited publicity

### **Arcadia IV**

To take place on 12 December with new rooms (more space for S/Mers and new arrangements for couples only) and more stewards

### **9) Future Plans**

*It was agreed* that the SFC shall participate in the **G8 Reclaim the Streets** demo in the city, on 18th June 1999.

*It was agreed* that **speakers** shall be arranged for future meetings and/or members speak and/or perform so that we get a better idea about what's going on, within the Coalition and with other groups. Melanie offered to do a turn next time. Ian suggested we should

investigate the possibility of forming **The Vice Girls**, with a single to raise money for the SFC

It was agreed that the SFC will support **SM Pride** on April 17th 99

A **summer party with a psychedelic theme** was suggested

A summer event was discussed, with the favoured proposal of holding an **Erotic Soho Festival** and public rally. It was agreed that the Steering Committee shall research all possibilities

Other suggestions included **erotic life drawing classes, performance events** in a gallery, another **event at the Lux** (Colin to ask Helen) **simultaneous parties** linked by cars

**Strategies** were discussed with some members favouring radical direct action and others a more dignified approach.

#### 10 **Show**

Tuppy did her speech for the **Oxford Union debate** "This House believes that Pornography of consenting adults may be beneficial in Society" with the slide show and described her victory won by a two-thirds majority

#### 11 **Next Meeting**

To be announced in next SFC Newsletter, on the phonenumber (0171 460 1979 and website: [www.sfc.org.uk](http://www.sfc.org.uk) Late Feb/early March suggested.