

SFC MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES

of 1st March 1999

above the Plough, Museum St, WC1 at 8.00pm

1) **Introductions** The upstairs room of The Plough was packed with enthusiastic members and we were pleased to sit in good lighting, unlike last time. Chair (Tuppy) reminded us that it had been agreed at the last meeting that we all make longer, fuller, self introductions of up to 5 sentences, describing where we were coming from politically, sexually and any other way, if we wanted to. This worked very well.

A student who is not a member turned up (she's planning to do her anthropology degree dissertation on the SFC) and was allowed to stay, but we should remind members that these meetings are NOT open and guests may only be brought along with prior arrangement with the Steering Committee.

2) **Minutes** of last meeting of 30th November 98 had not been circulated and that's why you're getting two sets this time.

3) **Agenda** Provisional Agenda on page 1 of Newsletter # 2 was adopted.

4) **Reports** i) **Officers**

Treasurer (Antony) reported that we currently have £1006, Ivor urged avoidance of the factors that led to our loss of £2000 at the Arcadia IV benefit event. Discussion reported a donation promise of £500 by the house owner.

Secretary not present with apologies.

Editor (Tuppy) proposed a rota for selling *Consenting Adults* at the **Fantasy Show** at the 26/27/28th March weekend at the Wembley Exhibition Centre. **More volunteers welcome please !**

Press (Jeff) gave a report of recent media successes particularly on Radio and recurring problems of TV selective censorship of our campaigning features. Barry of SM Pride reported the hypocritical but necessary apology by **News of the World** to avoid complaint to the

Press Council. The **Bolton Seven** had their Community Service sentences rescinded - hooray! and a Bournemouth University student making a critical film about television censorship has contacted us.

Membership (Robert) reported our current membership of volunteers is 96.

ii) **Working Group and other Reports**

Steering Committee We meet monthly at Jeff's and the officers work very hard to keep the SFC run in a democratic and dynamic fashion. We are short of people, especially a secretary and seek to fill this post as soon as possible. Tuppy is currently writing to people who volunteered to help on their Arcadia ticket stubs.

Internet (John) reported our developing links with other websites.

Home Office Review of Sexual Offences the draft response by Tim & Tuppy was available for inspection, seeking further personal responses from members.

Prostitution Pride The South London Press has been exposing curb crawlers. As a result of recent crackdowns around the Seven Sisters Road (a red-light district since World War II) we have been asked to collaborate with the Haringay Solidarity Group. Antony will monitor & liaise. **SM Bis** — Grant will speak at their meeting of 11th April on professional SM.

Bisexual Pride March Tim reported 44 loud & attitudinous supporters (only 3 SFC!) assembled at Whitehall Place at 10.30am marching to ULU for a successful, break-even **Bifest** with displays, stalls, performance by Tom Robinson etc, huge growth anticipated.

SM Pride Barry reported the history since Countdown on Spanner re-launch following defeat of the European Appeal.

-----10 Minutes break-----

5) **Future Plans**

Most of these events are listed on our new SFC colour leaflet — please help distribute this around the country for us.

Erotic Oscars Strippers' Semi-finals Tuppy reported that this will be a spectacular night out promoting creativity and pride in the art of striptease. It will take place on Wednesday 31st March at Improv, 161 Tottenham Court Road, near Warren Street Tube.

SM Pride March Saturday 17th April, assembling at 10.30am at Whitehall Place, SW1, departing at 11.15. Stewards needed! Thence to the pansexual **PerveFest** 1pm at Conway Hall organised by Spencer, where the SFC will be doing the Tea Stall (volunteers required please!) and hopefully a workshop on stewarding. This will be followed by evening event at **Trendz**, phew!

International Cannabis Coalition Tim reported that on May Day Saturday 1st May a celebration march to End the Prohibition of Cannabis will assemble at 12 noon at Rush Common at the base of Brixton Hill, SW2, departing at 12.30pm to a **Cannabis Festival** with music, stalls, speakers, food etc, probably at Clapham Common linking up with similar events in 6 other countries. Stewards needed.

Sex Maniacs Ball Tuppy reported date of 31st March "Eastern Promise" 10pm-4am at the Pleasure Rooms, 604 High Rd, Tottenham N17.

G8 Summit/RTS in the City Friday 18th June. Tim suggested a brief orderly photoshoot from 2-3pm tba advising continuance of organised tactics based on SFC Aims that came between the usual sterile polarities of either being legitimate, predictable and boring or of being illegal, confrontational and dangerous to us and our reputation. Grant suggested City gents in bowlers for our men, grey City women too said others. Of mediagenic slogans, only the sexual ones were preferred. Rona is to be invited to be crowned "Bonk of England". No other actions were proposed.

Pride March Saturday 3rd July organised by Pride London, resolved that SFC will organise a contingent and a static display & leaflets pitch near the beginning of the march, so we are noticed by all.

Sexual Freedom Parade Tim reported the cancellation of Pink Weekend in St Anne's Churchyard, Soho this summer, to which he had hoped our Parade could lead, suggesting our Parade could be a separate entity within the Pride March. Or the Rubber Ball weekend said another. Discussion focused on winning the media and heavily favoured our own separate Summer event, planning referred to next Steering Committee.

SFC AGM/next Members' meeting mid-June tba.

SFC Supporters Rally Monday 28th June, 7.30pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 "Sexual Freedom - How & When", speakers on non monogamy, facets of sex in Britain, getting busted and exposed, with floor discussion, admission charge and pre-publicity.

BiCon 1999(Bisexual Conference) 16/18th July in Edinburgh. Details from BM BiCon, London WC1N 3XX bicon99@bi.org.

<http://bi.org/bicon/bicon99>

BicCamp September. Will have cheap transport to the site. More details from Grant later.

6. Presentation

Jeff spoke of his recent involvement in a documentary which was entitled Swinging even though that was not the initial topic described to him and was not what the programme was about either. It was made by Cicada Films, a company which normally makes wild-life films (and they should stick to what they are good at!). The programme portrayed all men as bastards, all women as victims. It selectively censored out all the sexual politics which Jeff had been led to believe would be the main focus. Members were enraged and there was a lively discussion.

Ideas for future presentations at the members meetings are welcomed.

-----CLOSE OF MEETING-----