

Hon. Chair: Tim Summers
Hon. Secretary: Mary Marshall

SUPPORTERS:

Individuals:

Helen Buckingham
Ray & Pat Bowden
Dr E. Chigier
Ermanuel Cooper
Dr Betty Dodson
Mark Dyer
Dr Patricia Gillan
Professor Jim Haynes
Phillip Hodson, Broadcaster
Dr Hazel Jones
George Melly
Dr Robert L McGinley
Frank Moore
Helen Ludbrook, editor of
Health and Efficiency
Dr Tuppy Owens
William Prosser MBE
Robin Ray
Nabil Shaban
Dr Robin Skynner
Annie Sprinkle
Barry & Rona Stock
Peter Tatchell
Revd Chad Varah CBE

Clubs & Groups:

Black Widow's Web, Sweden
The Garden of Delight, Dublin
Gummi
The Firm
Flash Productions
Lady O Society
Lives of Secular Saints (S/M
Archive)
The Nurtist Society
New Zealand Swing Club
PM Club
Priapean Circle
Red Stripe Club
Rude Food Dining Club
Sadie Maisie's
S/M Bisexuals
S/M Dykes
S/M Gays
Torture Garden
Tribal Rhythms
Club WideWorld, USA
Club Whiplash

Law reform/Pressure groups:

Cal-ACT
Campaign Against Censorship
Conservatives Against Sex
Censorship
COYOTE
Disablement in the City
Feminists for Free Expression,
New York
Freedom First
The Eros Foundation,
Australia
The Invisible Language
Society, Amsterdam
Israel Rehabilitation Society
Libertarian Alliance
National Campaign for the
Reform of the Obscene
Publications Acts
Outrage, Northern Ireland
OutRage!
The Spanner Campaign
Society of Swingers

Organisations:

The Coventry Gallery
Cul D'Or magazine
Delectus Books
Fetish Times
Forum magazine
H.G. Publications
The Lifestyles Organisation
Lifetime Vision Ltd
Marquis
Paramour magazine
Olympia Press
The Private Case
SchlagZeilen Hamburg
Spectator, San Francisco
Starkers
Sussex Mailbox
Thud magazine
Miss Vera's Academy for
Boys who want to be Girls
Wicked Women, Australia



Sexual Freedom Coalition

PO Box 42B
London W1A 4ZB
Tel (0171) 737 6289
Fax (0171) 493 4479

AIMS

- fight hypocrisy & puritanism
- combat police interference on clubs, erotic events and productions
- improve press reporting of police action & sexual issues
- get the 'morality' and 'obscenity' laws changed

Third meeting of the Law Petition Working Group on Wednesday 19th February 1997

- 1) Minutes of the Last Meeting
- 2) Matters Arising
- 3) Prostitution Laws in the Sexual Freedom Bill
- 4) Spanner
- 5) Internet
- 6) Other amendments to Bill
- 8) Petition
- 9) Prostitution Pride on the Sexual Freedom
March on Sat 21st June 1997
- 10) Media
- 11) Next Meeting

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AGENDA

Provisional Agenda for 8th Plenary Meeting of SFC
Wednesday 26th February

at 8pm sharp at The Hope (upstairs Wine Bar)
15 Tottenham Street, London W1
(20 feet behind Goodge Street Tube).

Please bring this and the minutes with you.

- (1) Introductions, briefly around the room
- (2) Minutes of the last meeting 22-1-97
- (3) REPORTS: Secretary and Treasurer
 - (a) Secretary
 - (b) Treasurer
 - (c) Newspaper *Consenting Adults*
 - (d) Sexual Offenders Bill and Register

Working group recommendation: "We oppose the insidious attempts of Michael Howard to include consenting adults on the Sex Offenders Bill's Register, and support the work of Liberty on this matter".

- (e) Prostitution & the Law & Prostitution Pride at the Sexual Freedom March

TEN MINUTES BREAK

- (f) Office Space at Jeff's
- (g) Strasbourg Court judgement on Spanner Case
- (h) Media Liaison & Aims Redraft by Ivor (who cannot be present):

- Passing of a Sexual Freedom Bill that recognises society's pansexual nature

- Replace hypocrisy and puritanism with a positive attitude to sex based upon consent

- Legal and democratic status for sex workers

- Sexual education, sexual health and safe sex.

- (i) National Petition SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
- (j) Social: May 2nd General Election ?

- 4) Other business, reports, ideas, inspirations

- 5) Date and venue of next meeting

Please make every effort to attend — there is so much to do and so little time!

See you on 26th. Tim Chair, SFC

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Next Meeting:

8pm
Wednesday
26th Feb
at The Hope
15 Tottenham St
London W1

NB If you can't attend plenaries you can still volunteer on working groups

Twenty seven people signed the attendance sheet.

1. **Introductions** briefly around the room.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** agreed and appreciated.
3. **REPORTS**

Treasurer's Report

Antony reported that our Stallion's Night of Nostalgia raised £1,034.00. Prostitution Pride Rally, venue-hire & printing costs offset by our door admission charge overall cost us £20.00.

Bank balance currently £1,167.00

SOCIALS & FUND-RAISING.

Stallion's Night of Nostalgia of 30-12-97 was a great success, attracting many of the original people involved in the genesis of Fetish-clubbing at that venue in 1983! Mistress Clare & Colleen hosted the event, Ivor was a superb master of ceremonies, and Brian gave a short history of the Scene and presented awards to a series of organisers of the early events. Jahnnet & Alastair were great on the door, Sam kept us in order and Brian video-recorded some moments.

Antony & Stuart were DJs, and Antony's mother did the raffle. Well done everyone - a great night and we netted over £1,000.

The Mildmay Tavern has kindly offered us their venue, so how about a "General Erection" night on May 2nd 97?

CONSULTATION with COPS & CUSTOMS etc.

Tim reported our correspondence and various replies, declining to meet us. Discussion focused upon the lesbian and gay dialogue achieved with the Police Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officer, etc. Some thought our letter-head statement of aims too aggressive to be useful in such efforts and Ivor agreed to redraft them for our next meeting.

NEWSPAPER "CONSENTING ADULTS"

Tuppy proposed that with enough finance raised by Stallion's Night and sponsorship through advertising, we should independently self-publish Issue No 2 @ 10,000 copies of 24 pages to include the National Petition, soon. The meeting endorsed the proposal with enthusiasm, and ideas & volunteers were welcomed.

PROSTITUTION & THE LAW

The second meeting took place in Conway Hall on Sunday 19th March, one hour prior to the public meeting. Discussions revolved around the Prostitution Pride march to the Home Office and it was agreed that the event should be educational. The title was questioned and "Sex Pride" was proposed. Since then, the title "Prostitution Pride on the Sexual Freedom March" is being discussed.



Sexual Freedom Coalition

MINUTES of the 7th Plenary meeting of the SFC of 22-1-97, 8.00pm above the Hope pub

Tuppy announced that an ex-prostitute has offered her large house for a party after the March, and everyone will be invited.

It was agreed that the laws on soliciting should be abolished but kerb crawling and the nuisance factor were to be matters for further discussion before the Sexual Freedom Bill can be finalised.

The Small Hall had been decorated with purple balloons, banners and posters promoting prostitution rights and soon filled up with people, with Channel 4, Rex Features, Ritual / Hot Stuff and our own cameramen taking stills and video recordings. Some sex workers arrived of both genders, and representatives from the Network of Sex Workers and Anti Slavery International.

Jeff spoke of the need for the SFC and Sexual Freedom Bill, John Blandford, the lawyer, spoke of the difficulties involved in law reform. Helen spoke on the ways all the laws make a nonsense of trying to earn a decent living, and Tuppy spoke on the wide ranging topics being covered at the forthcoming conference on prostitution in Los Angeles, and outlined her paper "Disabled People Make the Best Clients" which she will deliver there. She ended by saying laws that restrict access to sex workers to disabled people are inhumane.

Questions came from the floor at a steady pace. Topics discussed were the Spanner case and the legal position on domination, tenancy agreement wording, the reluctance of prostitutes, especially rent boys to "go public" and campaign, the advantages of paying tax, the need for clarity in the law and the importance of teaching people that sexual pleasure is the most important thing in their lives.

The Revd Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans spoke on several occasions in favour of abolishing the laws surrounding prostitution. When one discussion concluded that gutter press exposés are usually responsible for prostitutes getting busted and for the hypocritical laws not getting struck off the statute books, he stood up and told us that he could never understand why people would want to read the drive in those papers, and if they could look at hard core porn, they wouldn't bother.

The speakers summed up and Tim Summers concluded with a fab "Goodbye Mary Whitehouse" speech promising to keep everyone informed of progress with regard to our march to the Home Office.

The event was covered in the South London Press but nowhere else, even though all the national TV and newspapers had been faxed a total of 5 A4 pages of advance publicity. Discussion focused on our need to improve our media coverage. Volunteers, Jeff, Ishmael, Iain, Tuppy, Karen, Miki, Robert, Maurice, Dik, Antony & Tim will meet to propose improvements to our act.

Volunteers to speak to the media were Jeff Peacock, Ishmael, Iain, Jeff, Tuppy, Karen, Miki, Robert, Maurice, Dik and Antony. Tuppy invited all these people to let her know in writing exactly WHAT areas they are prepared to speak on, on TV/Radio/with other press.

Confidentiality was sought and assured

NATIONAL PETITION "SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH!"

Robert reported that a first draft of all sex laws in need of change or abolition will be circulated to legal and campaigning experts for advice, hoping to have 10,000 copies of the double-sided A4 petition sheets ready to follow the General Election, sorry Election, for presentation at the end of our march. Tim drew attention to the massive work ahead for us to achieve a credible amount of signatures in such short time. Tuppy said the Petition covered all major sex laws, but not peripheral laws such as "transsexuals' right to marry".

OTHER REPORTS, IDEAS, INSPIRATIONS

Michael spoke of the work of the c40 people under the aegis of Liberty to moderate rather than oppose the **Sexual Offenders Bill** currently in the Parliamentary pipeline. A working group to make proposals to the next Plenary attracted the following volunteers: Antony, Michael, Iain, Dik, Peter and subsequently Alastair.

(Liberty's resolution on the Sexual Offenders Bill had been circulated to all supporters, but expired its deadline before the SFC could endorse it.)

Tuppy reported that the **British Entertainments and Discotèque Assoc (BEDA)** is actively campaigning against the proposed laws on drugs in clubs. It was unanimously agreed that the SFC should seek the support from this group, although we agreed that SFC does not advocate the taking of drugs.

A draft letter proposing legal prostitution and opposing **Streatham's residents-only traffic bollards** (designed to eliminate kerb-crawling) was agreed for immediate dispatch.

Jeff kindly offered us **office space** at the ground floor rear of his shop, and volunteers to set this up were Karen, Ivor, Dik, Richard, Caroline & Tim. Although several people confirmed that groups can be run by a rota of individual volunteers from a small office, Maurice warned that having an office doesn't always bring progress, and can bring collapse to organisations.

DATE of NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 97 at 8pm

Venue

Tim reported on the Wheel (Women's Centre), Holborn and its costs and restrictions, and was told to keep looking! We'll stay at The Hope unless anywhere better turns up. END.

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