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BULLETIN

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FEB 89



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NORTHERN ANARCHIST NETWORK

To begin with, apologies for this bulletin being so brief but I was unaware that Bradford were expected to produce this bulletin. Also apologies to Huddersfield A.W.G. whose article will have to appear in the next bulletin rather than this one. The Bradford N.A.N meeting was poorly attended and therefore nothing of any significance was discussed. I have only received the article overleaf so apart from this all I can put in this bulletin is the date of the next meeting which will hopefully be better attended and a brief report on anarchist activities in Bradford.

Bradford A's have been involved in local activities against the Poll Tax, individuals are also involved in the recently set up Bradford Campaign Against the Economic League, Bradford Hunt Sabs. are sabbing locally regularly, support has been given to recent Anti-Fascist leafleting at Elland Road, Leeds. Action against the recently-lected Tory council in Bradford has been carried out with support of local anarchists.

Finally the 1 in 12 Club in Bradford needs your support - membership is constantly on the increase as is the workload needed to run the place. The club is available for use as a venue most of the time, so come along.

NEXT N.A.N. MEETING: SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY: 12 NOON,  
SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY, OCTAGON CENTRE.

Future correspondence to Bradford A's should be addressed to: Bradford A's, c/o The Anarchist Society, University of Bradford, Great Horton, Bradford 7, W. Yorks, not the 1 in 12 Club.

The Campaigns against the Poll Tax and the Economic League can be contacted c/o 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford, BD1 2LY.



Sheffield Class Struggle Group Report For NAN Bulletin

We set up the group in Sept '88 to provide a context for class struggle anarchists in Sheffield to work in. At present there are 11 people involved, 5 of whom have been involved in other towns until recently. We hope not to be just a discussion, propaganda, or action group ( we think no one feature can be really effective without the others ), so we'll try to combine all three by having regular meetings, producing a paper, and providing support for people in struggle wherever possible. We would like to make links with other groups similar to ours in politics and organisation so please drop us a line if you think the same or if you'd like to see our aims and principles and statement of organisation, or would like to know more about what we are doing ( our address is...

Black Star  
PO Box 446  
SHEFFIELD

S1 1NY This address is also to be used for Sheffield Black Cross, Pirate Press, and anything for Blackberry Anarchists though Blackberry is no longer operative. Please mark any correspondence in the top left hand corner if it is for any specific group ).

There are lots of reasons why we set up the group, but the main one was that we felt there was a need for a more POLITICALLY COHERENT anarchist group here. Many of us have felt frustrated working in broad based groups, as we've generally found that disagreements and conflicts in such groups ( between socialist + individualist, pacifist + non-pacifist anarchists etc ) have stifled political action and discussion. We can't be so 'pure' that we end up talking to ourselves and in our group there are still disagreements ( two of us are in the Anarchist Communist Federation, two of us are in the Direct Action Movement, and some are not in any national organisations ) but the differences we face are over details, not fundamentals, and because of this don't stifle us. To make sure we don't get held back by fundamental disagreements, we drew up some shared aims and principles, and involvement with the group needs agreement with these. I also feel that it is important to openly acknowledge that we are a political group, by giving ourselves an explicit political identity in this way.

We also felt it necessary to give a formal and acknowledged structure to the group, so that the informal power of individuals and factions within it can be contained. Many of us have found that the loosely structured nature of most anarchist groups we've worked in has encouraged rather than prevented informal power systems forming. We wanted to make sure that the group is controlled by EVERYONE in it, not just those who talk loudest or wear the trendiest docks, if you know what I mean! By giving ourselves an explicit structure, information and decision making is fully open and accessible to everyone. It also means that all group members have greater responsibility and accountability to the rest of the group.

Regardless of disagreements within the group as to the usefulness of national organisation, none of us would like to see anarchists who are fed up with the incoherence of many local groups rushing off to the nationals for the sake of it, without having a local base to work from. National groups, whatever you think of them, can not provide the same impact on a local level for revolutionary class struggle anarchist ideas. Local groups will not have an impact either unless they are politically coherent and organisationally strong. Organisation as long as it is without authority, is the only way we can all take an equal part in the creation of a new society.

With love

SHEFFIELD CLASS STRUGGLE GROUP.